

# Excerpt terms and conditions



This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

You may view, print and download any of our excerpts for perusal purposes.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

*Dramatic Publishing*

# **The Gifts of Obidiah Oak (or The Magic Tree)**

**Book and lyrics by  
David F. Eliet**

**Music by  
Nancy Rosenberg**



# The Gifts of Obidiah Oak (or The Magic Tree)

*Musical. Book and lyrics by David F. Eliet. Music by Nancy Rosenberg. Cast: 4 actors, with doubling up to 12 (or more). Gender of the characters may be adapted to needs. Fantasy and reality mix as a little girl learns that giving is more magical than having all the toys in the world. This play is a musical for all times of the year, especially the holiday seasons of gift-giving. A little girl is unwilling to share her toys with anyone. She is so possessive, she doesn't want to ever leave her room or go to sleep for fear that someone will steal them, touch them, or even breathe on them. When her mother tells her she must give some of her toys away to those less fortunate than herself—or else—the little girl takes them into the woods and buries them under an oak tree. Only this is not an ordinary oak; this is Obidiah Oak, a magical talking tree who eventually teaches the little girl the true joy of sharing with others. Set: simple set design intended for quick transitions between interior and exterior scenes. Approximate running time: 35 to 40 minutes. Code: G95.*

ISBN-13 978-0-87602-406-5



The Gifts of Obidiah Oak  
(or The Magic Tree)



*Dramatic Publishing*

311 Washington St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098-330  
Phone: (800) 448-7469

[www.dramaticpublishing.com](http://www.dramaticpublishing.com)

# **The Gifts of Obidiah Oak (or The Magic Tree)**

Script and lyrics by

DAVID F. ELIET

Music by

NANCY ROSENBERG



**Dramatic Publishing Company**

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our website: [www.dramaticpublishing.com](http://www.dramaticpublishing.com), or we may be contacted by mail at: THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., 311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including, but not limited to, the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved.

For performance of any songs, music and recordings mentioned in this play which are in copyright, the permission of the copyright owners must be obtained or other songs and recordings in the public domain substituted.

© 1997 by  
DAVID F. ELIET

© 2002 by  
ANCHORAGE PRESS PLAYS, INC.

Printed in the United States of America  
*All Rights Reserved*  
(THE GIFTS OF OBIDIAH OAK (OR THE MAGIC TREE))

ISBN: 978-0-87602-406-5

## IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of the play *must* give credit to the author of the play in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the play and in all instances in which the title of the play appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the play and/or a production. The name of the author *must* also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and *must* appear in size of type not less than fifty percent (50%) the size of the title type. Biographical information on the author, if included in the playbook, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

“Produced by special arrangement with  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock, Illinois.”

For Kate and Michael T.  
Who made creating theatre such a joyous process

In Loving Memory of Josephine R. Abady  
One of the great women of the theatre,  
and a dear, dear colleague and friend.  
I will miss her always.

And for Anne,  
whose love sustains me.

## **THE GIFTS OF OBIDIAH OAK** (or THE MAGIC TREE)

was originally produced with the title *The Miser's Holiday* and was created for The Pershible Theatre. The show has subsequently been produced by the Cleveland Play House and the Merry Go-Round Theatre. The playwright David. F. Eliet, used the name Francis Elitzig for these productions.

The Pershible Theatre is located in Providence, Rhode Island and is under the artistic direction of Mark Lerman.

The original cast members were Peter Husovsky, Kate Lohman, Margaret Melozzi, and Michael Thiebault. The production was directed by Ronn Smith.



# Notes from the Playwright: David F. Eliet

## THE GIFTS OF **OBIDIAH OAK** (or **THE MAGICTREE**)

was written to be done as simply as possible, so that the transitions between the scenes can be handled quickly and smoothly, as well as to engage the children in the play by encouraging them to use their own imaginations to fill in the details.

A few brightly painted wooden cubes of various sizes can be used to create chairs, tables, a bed, hills, and to delineate the boundaries of the playing space. If they are built with hinged lids, they can also be used to hold the various props, costume pieces, musical instruments and/or noise makers required for the show. A long blue cloth can be used for a river; a white painter's drop for snow.

Obidiah Oak can be as real or as abstract as the production desires. The important thing is his transformation at the end, when he appears to shine with an inner light.

The music can either be live or taped, depending upon the theatre's resources. Noise makers and musical instruments can be employed to create various sound effects for the show and to punctuate the action. (Score available from Anchorage Press Plays, Inc.)

The play can be done with a cast of four with three of the actors playing several roles. The Narrator can play one of the Toy Pigs, one of the other children and Boy #2. The Mother can play one of the Toy Pigs and one of the other children. The Poor Girl can also be one of the Toy Pigs

The gender of the characters can be altered to fit the needs of the production. The Little Girl can be changed to a Little Boy, the Mother to a Father, the Poor Boy to a Poor Girl, Boy #2 to Girl #2.

The Narrator is intended to interact at times with The Little Girl and not merely be a passive presence in the play.

# THE GIFTS OF **OBIDIAH OAK** (or THE MAGIC TREE)

was created to be presented as a musical theatre piece with the score by Nancy Rosenberg. Non-musical productions will not be licensed, as requested by the playwright and composer.

## CHARACTERS

Narrator  
The Little Girl  
Poor Boy  
Mother  
The Toy Pigs (nightmare figures)  
Obidiah Oak  
Child #1  
Child #2  
Boy #2

## SONGS

Lyrics by David Eliet, Music by Nancy Rosenberg

Mine  
Hush Little Girl  
Hiding Place  
The Gift  
The Giving Tree

Music Score available through Anchorage Press Plays, Inc.

Running Time: 35-40 minutes

Play Title Choices: Permission is granted by the playwright to use the full title or choose from the two shorter titles i.e. *The Gifts of Obidiah Oak* (or *The Magic Tree*); *The Gifts of Obidiah Oak*; *The Magic Tree*.

# The Gifts of Obidiah Oak (or The Magic Tree)

(Lights Up)

NARRATOR

Once there was a Little Girl who had lots and lots of toys.

(The Little Girl enters with a basket full of toys)

NARRATOR

She had Barbie Dolls and Hot Wheels and tea sets and baseball bats and games galore.

LITTLE GIRL (Setting out and showing off her toys)

And they're mine. All mine. Mine. Mine. Mine. Mine. Mine.

POOR BOY(Entering)

Hey, Little Girl, you sure have a lot of toys.

LITTLE GIRL

Yep, I do.

POOR BOY

Could I play with one of your Hot Wheels?

LITTLE GIRL

Nope.

POOR BOY

Well, how about that teddy bear? Or that baseball bat? Or your hula hoop?

LITTLE GIRL

Nope. Nope. And nope.

POOR BOY

But how come? You're not using all of them.

LITTLE GIRL

Because your clothes are torn, and your hands are dirty, and your hair is greasy, and besides, they're mine. All mine. Mine. Mine. Mine. Mine. Mine. Now go away, and don't touch any of them.

(Poor Boy exits)

NARRATOR

As you can see, there was only one problem, the Little Girl didn't like anyone else, rich or poor, playing with,

(The Narrator reaches for a toy)

or even touching her toys.

LITTLE GIRL (Snatching the toy away)

They're mine. All mine. Mine, mine, mine, mine, mine.

NARRATOR (Tossing her another toy)

And the more toys she got,

(Turning Little Girl's attention to the audience)

the more she worried that some other child was going to steal one of them, or play with them, or just touch them.

LITTLE GIRL (Shouting at the children in the audience)

Go away. They're mine. All mine. Mine, mine, mine, mine.

NARRATOR

The Little Girl worried about her toys constantly. She was afraid to let them out of her sight. What if someone came into her room while she was out? At meal time, she didn't want to go to the dining room to eat.

MOTHER (Calling)

Dinner.

LITTLE GIRL

Why can't I eat in my room?

MOTHER

Because I said so, that's why.

NARRATOR

She didn't even like to leave them alone when she had to go to the bathroom.

LITTLE GIRL (Hopping around)

I don't have to go. I don't have to go. I don't have to -

(Tinkling bell sound. The Little Girl shakes out her pant's leg.)

NARRATOR

And when she had to go to school -

LITTLE GIRL (Calling offstage to her mother)

I think I'm sick. My head feels funny. My tummy hurts. There are spots in front of my eyes. I can't stand up. I can't keep anything down.

MOTHER (From offstage)

If you aren't dressed and downstairs in two minutes, young lady, it won't be your tummy that hurts.

LITTLE GIRL (Holding her bottom)

That's not fair.

MOTHER

Fair or not, that's the way it's going to be.

LITTLE GIRL

No!

MOTHER

Two minutes!

LITTLE GIRL (Starting to grab an armful of toys)

I'm coming. I'm coming.

MOTHER

And no toys!

LITTLE GIRL

MOM!

NARRATOR

And at night, she didn't want to go to sleep.

LITTLE GIRL

I won't fall asleep. I won't fall asleep.

(She yawns and begins falling asleep)

I won't fall asleep.

(The Little Girl falls asleep. The head Toy Pig\* enters and wakes her into her dream.)

LITTLE GIRL

Agh! Who are you?

I'm a Toy Pig. TOY PIG

You don't look like a toy to me. LITTLE GIRL

Not a toy pig, you ninny, a Toy Pig. TOY PIG

What? LITTLE GIRL

I pig toys. First I find them. And then I steal them. And finally I keep them all to myself. Which is a wonderfully piggy thing to do, don't you agree? TOY PIG

Oh yes, very piggy. But what are you doing here? LITTLE GIRL

What do you think we're doing here? TOY PIG

We? LITTLE GIRL  
(Noise from the other Toy Pigs)

We. TOY PIG

Just passing through, I hope. LITTLE GIRL

Nope. TOY PIG

You're lost, and you want me to help you find your way out? LITTLE GIRL

Guess again. TOY PIG

You came to steal my toys. LITTLE GIRL (Fearfully)

You guessed it! TOY PIG  
(The Music begins and the other Toy Pigs appear. They circle around the Little Girl.)

*\* The Toy Pigs can be wearing pig masks or just the snouts.*

LITTLE GIRL

No. Wait. You mustn't.

**SONG: MINE**

PIGS

MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE  
ALL OF THESE TOYS ARE  
MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE  
AND NONE OF THEM ARE  
YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS  
BECAUSE THEY'RE  
MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE

(The head Toy Pigs grabs the Teddy Bear out of the Little Girl's arms.)

LITTLE GIRL (Spoken - yelling)

Give it back to me. Give it back.

TOY PIG

LITTLE FUZZY BEAR  
WITH HIS SOFT AS VELVET HAIR  
CORDUROY TOES  
AND PLASTIC NOSE  
HE USED TO BE YOURS  
HE USED TO BE YOURS  
HE USED TO BE YOURS  
BUT NOW IT'S

PIGS

MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE  
ALL OF THESE TOYS ARE  
MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE  
AND NONE OF THEM ARE  
YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS

PIGS (Continued)

BECAUSE THEY'RE  
MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE

TOY PIG #2

LOOK, IT'S A BARBIE  
WITH LONG AND GOLDEN HAIR  
NEVER A MESS  
IN HER BLUE PARTY DRESS  
SHE USED TO BE YOURS  
SHE USED TO BE YOURS  
SHE USED TO BE YOURS  
BUT NOW SHE'S MINE

TOY PIG #3

HERE IS A TRAIN  
AND A BRIGHT AND YELLOW PLANE

TOY PIG

I'VE GOT A CAR  
AND A TOY GUITAR

PIGS

THEY USED TO BE YOURS  
THEY USED TO BE YOURS  
THEY USED TO BE YOURS  
BUT NOW THEY'RE

MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE  
ALL OF THESE TOYS ARE  
MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE  
AND NONE OF THEM ARE  
YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS, YOURS  
BECAUSE THEY'RE  
MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE, MINE

(The Little Girl screams and her mother  
comes rushing on.)

MOTHER

For heaven's sakes, what's wrong?

LITTLE GIRL (Grabbing for her  
mother)

They're stealing my toys.

MOTHER

Who is?

LITTLE GIRL

All these awful creatures and things. Toy Pigs.

MOTHER

Toy pigs?

LITTLE GIRL

No, not toy pigs. Toy Pigs. They pig toys. First they find them, then they  
steal them, and then they keep them all to themselves.

MOTHER

Oh, I see. That certainly is a very piggy thing to do.



LITTLE GIRL

Yes, and they were taking my toys and saying they weren't mine. But they are. They're mine.

MOTHER

But there's no one here but you and me.

(The Mother checks in each of the places the Little Girl names.)

LITTLE GIRL

Maybe they're under the bed?

MOTHER

Nothing there.

LITTLE GIRL

In my toy box?

MOTHER

Nope.

LITTLE GIRL

Behind the door?

MOTHER

Nope again.

LITTLE GIRL

How about the closet. Monsters are always hide in the closet.

MOTHER

No one. No monsters with big round eyes. No creepy, crawly, nasty things with a thousand legs. And no Toy Pigs. Most definitely no Toy Pigs whatsoever.

LITTLE GIRL

You're sure?

MOTHER

I'm sure. It was just a bad dream.

LITTLE GIRL

No, it wasn't. They were real. Really. I saw them.

MOTHER

You know you wouldn't have these bad dreams, if you would just learn how to share your toys with others.

LITTLE GIRL

No, I won't. They're mine. All mine. Mine. Mine. Mine.

MOTHER (Tucking the Little Girl in)

Sssssh. Now go back to sleep, and stop worrying about your toys. Nobody is going to take them from you.

(The Mother starts to leave)

LITTLE GIRL (Grabbing her mother)

Don't go! Don't go. Stay with me. I'm frightened.

MOTHER

Calm down. Calm down. I'm right here.

**SONG: HUSH LITTLE GIRL**

MOTHER (Rocking the Little Girl to sleep)

HUSH, LITTLE GIRL  
IT'S TIME TO SLEEP  
TIME TO SLEEP  
LITTLE JACK HORNER  
SLEEPS IN THE CORNER  
LITTLE BO-PEEP  
HAS FOUND HER SHEEP

EVEN THE DISH  
AND THE SPOON  
ARE FAST ASLEEP

HUSH, LITTLE GIRL  
IT'S TIME TO SLEEP  
JACK AND JILL  
BOTH REST ON THE HILL

THE SHEEP IN THE MEADOW  
AND THE COWS  
IN THE CORN  
ARE ALL FAST ASLEEP  
UNTIL TOMORROW MORN.

HUSH LITTLE GIRL  
HUSH LITTLE GIRL  
HUSH

(The scene changes to day time.)

NARRATOR

Then one day, the Little Girl came running up to her mother.

LITTLE GIRL

Guess what?

MOTHER

What?

LITTLE GIRL

Next week is Labor Day.

MOTHER

Yes, I know.

LITTLE GIRL

And you know what that means?

MOTHER

What does it mean?

LITTLE GIRL

Only four more months until Santy Claus day. I've already got my list of what I want.

(She pulls out an incredibly long list)

MOTHER

My that certainly is a long list.

LITTLE GIRL

You want to hear what's on it?

MOTHER

Not right now.

LITTLE GIRL

I want a Mickey Mouse wrist watch, and action figures, and a Barbie goes to the beach wardrobe, and -

MOTHER

I said not now.

LITTLE GIRL

Oh. You know what?

MOTHER

What?