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FOLKWOOD

by

Max Bush



Dramatic Publishing Company

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

Dedication

To Phil and Lydia Huber

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Dramatic Publishing Company
311 Washington St.
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Folkwood

Characters

People

Shelly, 13

Carly, 10, Shelly's sister

Andy, 13, Shelly's friend

Jenna, 18

John, 18, Jenna's boyfriend

The Other Folks

Mag, the Russet Hag of Autumn

Alya, Leader of The Other Folks

Kort, one of The Other Folks

Elana, Protector of the Pond

Lura, Other Folk

Tana, Other Folk

March and **Ez**, Protectors of The Other Folk

Time and Place

Early evening, this fall, in a deep forest

Folkwood was co-commissioned by Portland High School in Portland, Michigan, and Springside School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It opened in Portland on February 22nd, 2001, with the following cast and crew:

Shelly	Amolia Star Moore	Tana	Krystal Roberts
Carly	Megan Husch	Lura	Autumn Rock
Andy	Sam Oberg	Pitch	Amanda Auge
Jenna	Raquel Lynn Brace	Knot	John Theuerkauf
John	Jordan Brace	Cog	Kristen Adams
Mag	Audrey Marks	Taug	Eric Stevens
Alya	Sarah Mathews	Swump	Dave Reed
Elana	Sara Thelen	Cork	Mike Traub
Kort	Rex Rainey		

Director Phil Huber
Assistant Director Jennifer Beard
Costumes Mrs. Ginger Lehman
Scenography/Choreography Mrs. Lydia Huber
Set Construction Consultant Mr. Brad Wills
Lighting Technician Todd Stump
Lighting Operators Dan Thelen, Jessie Moyer
Sound Technicians Mathias Hoppes, Sanya Clark
Properties Master Michelle Scochin
Properties Crew Esther Robb
Stage Manager Andrea Hall
Cover Design Rex Rainey
Running Crew Jennifer Beard, Corey Otis, Lisa Chissus, Michelle Scochin
Make-up Jessica Reed, Sarah Segerlind
Set Crew Audrey Marks, Megan Richey, Jarrod Shankle, Tabitha Richey, Nikki Zimmerman, Alicia Brace

Folkwood opened at Springside School, Philadelphia on February 25, 2005, with the following cast and crew:

Shelly	Mackenzie Hill-Strathy
Carly	Kingsley Delacato
Andy	Tyler Eldridge
Jenna	Shelby Green
John	Will Ferraro
Mag	Katherine Roberts
Alya	Zoe Greenberg
Elana	Katie Wisniewski
Kort	Justin Purnell-Anglin
Tana	Leah Spalding
Lura	Emily Walkenstein
March	Jyllian Hardy
Ez	Ali Aversa
Forest Folk	Marissa Rohner, Liz Mitnick, Devon Winter, Leah Silverman, Liz Bondelid, Elizabeth Yaffe, Falon Seibert-Burns, Robert Evans, Ashley Griffin, Nakia Page, Carrie Andrews, Whitney Levitt, Kelli Parks, Nicky Lynn

Faculty Production Team: Jessica Bender, Erik Dreisbach, Ellen Kruger, Maryann Domanska, Teresa Hamilton, Kyle Dandridge

Technical Direction Charlie Grogan, Todd Sager

Head Stage Manager Brittany MacLean

Assistant Stage Managers Julia Stepanuk, Becca James

Set Crew Ryan Prendergast, Tyler Clarkson, Calli Sobolow, Laura Chisholm, Averie Blanks, Jenn Arciadiacono, Rober Evans, Brandon Jackson Riley, Leah Silverman, Falon Seibert Burns, Stevie Dandridge

Lighting and Sound Crew Caitlin Silk, Jenny Sternfeld, Chantal Waeger, Nicole Carbone, Charlotte Lowry, Rebecca Payne-Passmore, Meg Speight

Costume Crew Katie Fitzkee, Erica Swan, Maddy Conner, Caroline Philips, Emmy Hehmeyer, Whitney Levitt, Kelli Parks, Marissa Rohner

FOLKWOOD

As the play opens we see a deep forest with a number of large trees. Mayapples grow in a clump, left, near a large pond. The colors of autumn fill the ground and air.

Tana, one of The Other Folks, runs on from left, hides behind a tree. Andy runs on from right, moving cautiously from tree to tree. Tana watches him. He jumps behind a stump, then looks around until he spies the clump of Mayapples. He begins cautiously moving towards them. He gets to center when he hears John calling offstage.

John: (Off.) Jenna!

Startled, Andy looks for a place to hide, runs near pond. Elana's long arm and claw reach out, trying to grab him. Andy dodges them, moves away and hides. Tana shifts to another tree. Lura runs on, hides, opposite Tana. John enters, still calling.

Jenna? . . . Jenna, answer me! Where are you?

He whistles, waits. No response. To himself.

I told you not to come out here again.

On stump; to the forest.

Jenna, it's John, where are you? (Jumps down, to himself.) Why didn't you take me with you?

Lura: *Another of The Other Folks, peering around a tree, in a soft voice.*

John. Help me.

When he turns, she jumps back.

John: Jenna? What's wrong? Where are you?

Tana: (Peering around tree, in a soft voice.) John, where are you? (She jumps back.)

John: I'm here; I'm right here. Why can't I see you?

Lura: Help me.

Tana: Help me, John.

John: Jenna?

Lura comes out from behind the tree, stands, waiting for John to see her. She wears a simple earth-toned dress. When he does turn and see her, she quickly runs off, followed by John.

Wait! Where's Jenna? What have you done with her? Come back here!

Andy steps out, watches John exit. Andy starts toward Mayapples again, gets to the same spot, center, when a faint, yearning MUSIC stops him again. [Fiddle, flute, or recorder with drums or tambourine].

Andy: Listen to that.

Tana moves up unseen behind Andy. She wears a simple, earth-colored dress.

Shelly better not come this way. And I better get out of here.

He turns and sees Tana. At first he's startled, but then sees she's pretty and she's just looking at him. As she slowly circles him:

How do you do? . . . Who are you? . . . Is your name Jenna? . . . Are you one of The Other Folks? *(She smiles at him.)* You're not all ugly and looking like a troll-queen. *(She holds up her open hand.)* For me?

She blows a light colored powder into his face.

Ah! *(His face burning, he turns away.)* Why'd you do that? What did I do?

He staggers right.

Ah! Stop it! What did I do?

Tana: *(Pushing him off left.)* This way.

Andy: You don't even know why I'm here.

He tries to move the other way again.

Tana: *(Pushing him.)* No, this way.

Jenna runs on from the opposite side of the stage, carrying a bag over her arm. Jenna is dressed something like The Other Folks in a simple, autumn shaded dress. She stops behind a tree, looks behind her, catches her breath. She looks up, hearing the music.

Jenna: *(Calling quietly.)* John . . . John!

She whistles. No response.

John, it's Jenna. Where are you? *(Excitedly, beginning to open her bag.)* You won't believe what I have. Now I'll be able to help people in ways I never could before. I'll be able –

She stops when she sees Ez, who has just entered, and who stands in her path. She moves to go around him and March enters, blocking her way. March, a female, and Ez, a male, are dressed simply, like the others. They're fast, athletic, and love the chase. They've painted designs on themselves.

Mag enters slowly, carrying a large thornapple sprig. Mag is middle-aged, with long brown hair, a wise face with all the cares that wisdom has worn into it; intense, fixing eyes. Her robes are earthtoned. Jenna sees her.

Jenna: Mag.

She runs to another tree, puts tree between herself and Mag.

Mag, I'm sorry. I couldn't wait to learn everything for myself. It would have taken so much time. I needed to know now. Many people out here will be helped by your – *(Mag waves her hand and Jenna begins to lose consciousness.)* Oh . . . No, please, Mag, listen to me.

She begins sliding down the tree she's leaning against.

It would have taken me so long . . . so long . . . to learn . . . to learn everything . . .
Mag, please . . .

She sleeps. MUSIC ends. Mag moves to her, kneels, touches her face.

Mag: I did not believe you would do this. Now your talents are lost to you. And to everyone. Your powers will remain undiscovered. And dangerous.

Mag takes a pair of scissors from one of her two bags, cuts a lock of hair from Jenna.

I won't let you hurt us, again

Picks up the thornapple sprig.

Let this be a warning to you.

Mag places the thornapple sprig on Jenna's lap, then takes off her shawl and covers Jenna with it. Touching her face.

I could have loved you.

Mag moves off left. As she does, a number of large oak leaves float down, land on and around Jenna. March and Ez move off with Mag.

We hear girl's voices. Shelly and Carly enter, right. Shelly pulls Carly on by the wrist.

Shelly: Come on, you little, you little . . . girl.

Carly: *(At the same time.)* No, no, Shelly, no, no, no, no.

You know we're not supposed to be out here, Shelly. You know who lives here.

Shelly lets Carly go. Carly immediately moves back to where they entered, far right, and stands near the apparent safety of a tree.

Shelly: The Other Folks won't even know we've been here if we get the Mayapples and go.

Carly: You don't know what those Mayapples will do to you. And look at you; your face is white.

Shelly: Their Mayapples have medicine and magic in them.

Carly starts in, turns back to the tree in fear.

Carly: Why didn't you have someone else come out here and get them for you? – like Dad?

Shelly: He would never come out here, you know that. No one will come out here – they're too afraid. *(Holding out her hand to Carly.)* And I would be too if you weren't with me. You're braver than I am.

Against her better judgment, Carly moves to her, takes her hand.

Besides, today's the day I had to come here.

Carly: Why?

Shelly: I'm going to find something.

Carly: How do you know?

Shelly: Bet me.

Carly: Find what?

Shelly: Something . . . oh! *(She shivers in excitement.)* I don't know, but something big.

Carly: How can you know that?

Shelly: I just know it.
Andy runs on, hides, but he makes a sound. They both hear it.

Carly: Behind that tree . . . Let's go home.

Shelly: We haven't taken anything, yet. They'll leave us alone if we stay over here and we don't take anything.

Carly: We're in their part of the forest. They can do what ever they want to us and nobody back home would know.

Andy: (*Jumping out, screaming.*) Haaa!
The sisters scream and jump back. Andy slithers around like some space alien in a cheap movie.

Sssshshshshshshaaaaaahh!

Carly: Andy! It's Andy.

Shelly: You made my heart stop.

Andy: (*Laughing.*) You should have seen your faces. What did you think I was?

Carly: I know what you are, you jerk!
The sisters attack him, punching him and knocking him down.
The next three speeches are simultaneous.

Andy: Ow! Stop it, stop it, get off, get off me!

Carly: Why did you do that, you scared us to death.

Shelly: Don't ever do that again, you idiot, you, you, you boy!

Andy: Shelly?

Shelly: What?

Andy: Unless you're thinking of kissing me in the near future, get off me!

Shelly & Carly: Uh.
They get off, kick him one last time.

Shelly: When I asked you to come here you wouldn't do it by yourself.

Andy: I came here just before you did. There's a guy running around looking for someone named Jenna and there's music, but not good music, music that makes you want to jump in the pond. And there's this girl – she blew this stuff on me and burned my face and I didn't even do anything. You don't want to be here, Shelly. You don't know what The Other Folks will do if they catch you stealing their Mayapples.

Shelly: I bet you they won't hurt me.

Andy: I'm not betting you. You never lose.

Shelly: I'm going to get the Mayapples, now.

Carly: If they come, don't do anything weird, all right?

Shelly: Like what?

Carly: You know what I mean, any of those weird things—don't do them, ok?
Shelly: Ok. Are you coming with me?
Silence from Andy and Carly. Shelly turns to the forest, moves toward the Mayapples. She moves behind a tree, peers around it. She steps out.

Andy: Hey!
Shelly: *(Jumping behind a tree.)* What?!
Andy: If you hear music, you run. They're over there.
He points to Mayapples. But Shelly has spotted Jenna under the cloth and leaves.

Carly: There they are! Pick some and let's get out of here.
Shelly: Hey . . . Are you all right?
Carly: Shelly!
Shelly: Carly look.
Carly: Pick them and let's go!
Shelly: Carly, Andy, there's a woman.
Carly: What?
Shelly: Laying here. She's just laying here.
Carly and Andy join Shelly.

Andy: What's wrong with her?
Shelly: Lady. Hey, Lady. Are you all right?
Shelly uncovers Jenna.

Andy: Is she . . . Is she dead?
Shelly: I can see her breathing. She's just sleeping.
Carly: Is she one of The Other Folks?
Shelly: She smells like they're supposed to. *(Sniffs.)* Like sassafras.
Carly: Yeah, and look at the way she's dressed.
Shelly: I bet if I touched her I could tell.
Shelly carefully puts her hands on Jenna.

She's one of us.

Carly: What if she was trying to take their Mayapples and this is what they did to her?
Shelly: *(Shaking Jenna harder.)* Lady . . . Hey . . .
Andy: That guy called her Jenna.
Shelly: Jenna, are you all right?
Carly: It's a magic sleep. *(Running to exit.)* Let's get out of here.
Shelly: We can't just leave her.
Andy: We'll tell somebody about her.
Shelly: Maybe there's something in her bag.
Picks it up.

Carly: (*Running back to Shelly.*) What are you going to do? You don't know about this stuff.

Shelly: (*Looking in bag.*) Dirt. It's just dirt in here.

Carly: That's weird. Is that weird? Dirt in her bag? That's weird.

Shelly: I know what it's like to lay there – and you need help – and nobody can help you. You guys can go.

Carly runs to Mayapples, picks three.

But she probably needs magic help.

Andy: Carly, what are you doing?

Carly: (*Running to exit.*) Come on, I picked three Mayapples. Let's go!

Andy: (*Starting to pull Shelly.*) Shelly, we got to go.

Alya and Kort appear, followed by Mag. Alya is also dressed in a simple, earth-toned dress. Kort, strong and athletic, wears a simple shirt, breeches.

Kort: (*To Andy.*) Stop there!

Andy: Who are you?

Kort: (*To Carly.*) No further!

Shelly: (*Referring to Jenna.*) I was trying to help her.

Alya: What gives you the right to come into our land and steal our food?

Carly: Run, Shelly!

Andy and Carly run; Shelly doesn't know what to do.

Kort: Stop them!

Carly: (*As Carly and Andy run, March and Ez jump out and stop Carly.*) Shelly!

Tana and Lura enter. This time Tana throws powder into Andy's face, burning his eyes. He stops abruptly, goes to the ground.

Andy: Ah! (*He sits up and yells at Tana.*) Stop doing that to me!

Lura throws more powder in his face.

Ah!

Shelly: I need the Mayapples because I'm sick and I think they would make me stronger.

Alya: We don't understand why you chose to steal them.

Shelly: I didn't dare ask you for them. We understand you make people pay in strange ways.

Mag: You left nothing in return. What are we to believe about you?

Shelly: What should I have left? Tell me and I'll get it. We know so little about you.

Alya: Even worse, to steal from us without knowing us.

Shelly: Who are you?

Alya: I am Alya, leader of who you call The Other Folks. Who are you?

Shelly: Shelly. And this is my sister Carly. We didn't mean any harm.

Mag: (To Alya, about Shelly.) There is something in this one.

Alya: (To Mag.) What do you mean?

Mag: I can sense . . . something, but it feels . . . darkened . . . by fear. I would like to know more.

Alya: (To Shelly.) Why did you come here, today?

Shelly: For the Mayapples.

Alya: No, why did you come today? Why not tomorrow or yesterday?

Shelly: I thought I would find something today. And I did. Her. (Points to Jenna.)

Alya: Is she what you thought you'd find?

Shelly: Not exactly. I thought I'd find something . . . (Trying to find the answer, but can only say:) new.

Alya: Something new . . . Mag, what do you sense?

Mag: It all feels confused. I'll need more time.

Alya: Then I will find out who she is. (To Shelly.) Like most people, Shelly, you wish to take something sacred from us without giving something in return. Therefore, we will take something from you

Shelly: You may have anything of mine, but I haven't got much

Alya: You have her.

Carly: Me?

Shelly: My sister?

Carly: What?

Alya: You would steal our most important medicine, our life's food; we will take her. Life for life.

Carly: I'll give them back. Here.
She throws them to Kort, who catches them

One, two, three. That's all I took. (Kort gives them to Mag.)

Shelly: She only took them for me.

Alya: She stole our Mayapples.

Shelly: But for me, to help me.

Mag: She broke the law.

Ez: You will come with us, please. Until this matter is resolved.

Carly: Shelly?

Shelly: Run!
Alya and Mag do not involve themselves in the chase. March and Ez cut off Carly's attempts to escape. Shelly runs to Carly, stands with her. Andy runs, dodges, jumps over a stump, then exits with Tana and Lura chasing him.

Carly: You said they would understand.

Shelly: You should have bet me. Come on.
Shelly fairly tackles Ez and Carly runs free, heading off stage.
Go! Run home!
Tana and Lura re-appear, blocking her exit. She veers and moves away from them as Ez gets away from Shelly. Kort moves to Shelly, holds her.
Let me go. You can't take her! This isn't fair! She took those for me! Let me go!
Tana, Lura, and March surround Carly, herding her to the center. Ez picks up a net made of vines from behind a tree. Carly sees it, squeals, runs, but Ez throws net over her. The others hold the net down.

Carly: (*Struggling, but unable to get out of net.*) Ah, let me out! I gave the Mayapples back to you. Shelly!

Kort: (*To Shelly.*) Don't try to help her, now.

Carly: Get this off me! You can't just take me! I only took three Mayapples!

Shelly: Let me go!

Kort: (*To Shelly.*) If you stop fighting, we won't hurt her.

Ez: Come, now.

Carly: No – I can't – let me out of here!

March: Don't hurt yourself.

Carly: (*As they are carrying her off.*) Shelly! I bet you! I bet you can't stop them from taking me! Sheelleee . . .

They exit with her. Kort releases Shelly. Shelly tries to run by him, but he catches her wrist, carefully throws her back. She starts after Carly. Kort steps in her way. She moves to go around him. He cuts off her path. She tries to run around him again; again he carefully throws her back.

Frustrated, Shelly pushes at him with both hands, stopping short of Kort by two or three feet, but the blow seemingly lands. A light pulses as Kort goes rolling backwards.

Shelly: Ah!
Kort does a back shoulder roll, ending up gracefully on his feet.

Kort: (*Stunned, to Shelly.*) Did you do that?
Shelly runs toward place where they took Carly off.

Shelly: Carly!

Kort: Alya, did you see her?

Alya: (*To Mag.*) There is something about this one.

Shelly: Carly!

Alya: You'll never find her, now, unless we bring her to you.
Shelly picks up a large stick. To Kort.

Shelly: Tell me where she is or I'll knock your head in.

Kort: You would?

She swings it at him; he ducks. She swings again and again; he deftly moves out of the way. She swings again, and he catches her arm, curls into her, pulls stick from her hand, turns to her, bends to one knee, holds her hand.

I am Kort. It has been my pleasure to have met you, Shelly.

He kisses her hand.

Shelly: Ugh.

She gestures upward toward him with her hand, but her hand stops a foot away from him. Light pulse, and he jerks backward, as if he had been shoved. He gracefully rolls backwards, stands.

(Calling.) Carly! . . . Oh . . .

She suddenly gets dizzy, puts her hands on her knees to avoid falling over. She tries to catch her breath.

I can't . . . Carly . . . I'm sorry I . . . I'll find you . . .

She sits, holds her head, coughs.

What do I do to get her back?

Alya: *(Moving closer to Shelly.)* Violate no more laws and make amends. You must give something in return for her.

Shelly: What? What do you want?

Alya: If you don't know, there are ways for you to learn.

Shelly: Learn what? Why won't you just tell me?

Alya: Only you know what you will do to make amends and restore balance to your life. We cannot tell you.

Shelly: Yes you can, just tell me. What do I have to do?

Alya: There are ways here, now, for you to learn.

Kort: What Alya says is true; you can learn, now, what you need to know. I hope we'll talk again.

Alya: *(Quietly, away from Shelly, much more considerate.)* Mag . . . stay with her. Help her if you can. She seems . . . younger than her years.

Alya and Kort exit.

Shelly: I can't believe this. This is my fault. Carly . . . she must be scared to death.

Mag moves nearer to her.

Yes? Can you help me?

Mag: I don't know, yet.

Shelly: What will they do to her?

Mag: No harm will come to her, for now.

Mag looks into Shelly's eyes, takes her hand, looks at it.

What does your doctor give you for your sickness?

Shelly: Nothing that works.

Mag places her hand on Shelly's chest.

She doesn't think I'm sick. She says it's mostly in my mind, my emotions.

Mag: In your mind . . . Please accept this from me. *(She holds out a Mayapple to her.)*

Shelly: A Mayapple?

Mag: You are correct that it will help you.

Shelly takes it, bites it.

Shelly: Oh, is it good! I knew it would be. It tastes different than ours; sweeter.

Mag: It's our only medicine to heal the diseases that people bring. Without our Mayapples, we would sicken and die.

Shelly: I didn't know that. No one ever told me that.

Mag: Just as people understand little of their night dreams they understand little of us. And what they do know, they fear, or forget. Did I see Kort kiss your hand?

Shelly: Yes!

Mag: I can't remember the last time I saw him kiss a person's hand.

Shelly: Why did he do that?

Mag: Perhaps he found you interesting. You did, after all, swing a stick at him. "Tell me where she is or I'll knock your head in."

Shelly: He found that interesting?

Mag: You care deeply for your sister, that's interesting. And then you . . . pushed him away without touching him.

Shelly: Oh, I'm sorry, I know it's weird. I . . . try not to do things like that.

Mag: I see.

Shelly: *(Rising, finishing fruit.)* Who are you?

Mag: I'm Mag. A healer. Ah, some color has returned to your face. The Mayapple is working.

Shelly: Yes, thank you. Can you help me find my sister?

Mag: *(She opens one of her pouches.)* To help you, take this. *(Offers her a large leaf.)*

Shelly: *(Taking it.)* A leaf?

Mag: It has the power to undo our magic. I'm taking a chance; most people we invite into our forest turn against us, as you can see. *(She points to Jenna. She starts to exit.)*

Shelly: What do I do with it?

Mag: Now everything you need is here.

To herself, as she exits.

But you have a loyalty to your sister. And you knew to come today. And Kort

kissed your hand. This could be an interesting evening.

She exits.

Shelly: Mag? (*Runs after her.*) Are you leaving? Mag!
Shelly turns back, and sees she's suddenly alone. The forest is silent. She looks at leaf.
Sadly:

What do I do? . . . Carly . . .

Andy: (*After a moment, entering cautiously.*) Are they gone?

Shelly: They took Carly.

Andy: I was afraid of that. But hey, they didn't get me.

Shelly: They didn't want you.

John appears, walking up behind Andy. Andy doesn't see or hear him.

Andy: Even if they did, they couldn't catch me. They couldn't catch me.

John grabs him.

Ah! Who are you?

John: Who are you?

Andy: Let me go!

John: You're not one of The Folks. Are you some kind of idiot? Don't you know what they can do to you? They especially hate boys.

Andy: What are you doing here, then?

John: I'm a man.

Andy: (*Impressed.*) Oh, wow! Look, Shelly, it's a man.

John: And I'm looking for my girlfriend.

Andy: Don't you mean your womanfriend.

John: Yes, a woman, have you seen her?

Andy: Is that her?

John: Jenna?

He starts for her. Andy sticks out his foot and John stumbles over it.

Andy: Oh, sorry – man. (*To Shelly.*) It wasn't fair. He came up behind me.

John runs to Jenna.

John: Jenna. What did they do to you? Jenna!

Shelly: She won't wake up.

John: (*Carefully moving her to a more comfortable position.*) Jenna, it's John. (*No response.*)

Shelly: Why does she smell like one of them?

John: She's been with them. This is the third time. I told her: "You can't trust them; don't go near them, they're evil." Look at what they did to her.

Shelly: She must have done something.