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Dramatic Publishing

**Snow White
and the Seven Dwarfs**
**as Performed by Professor TJ
Barker's Troupe of Theatricals**

A Play With Music

by

ERNIE NOLAN



Dramatic Publishing

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“Produced by special arrangement with the
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Emerald City Theatre's production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs as Performed by Professor TJ Barker's Troupe of Theatricals* opened at the Apollo Theater, Chicago, September 30, 2006.

ORIGINAL CAST

Miss Josephine Gilbert Diana Lawrence
Mrs Fanny Barker/Queen Malvina Betsy McKnight
Mr. Charles Summers/Prince Darrian. Steven Montague
Miss Lydia Barker/Snow White Kelli Morgan
Mr. Ned O'Hanlon/Hershel Kurt Picklemann
Mr. Ted O'Hanlon/Heinz Matt Roben
Mr. George Stratton/The Huntsman Steve Tomlitz
Miss May Alexander/Enchanted Fawn and Mother
Kelly Yacono
Professor TJ Barker Lloyd Young III

Understudy Rachel Boller

PRODUCTION STAFF AND CREW

Director Ernie Nolan
Lighting Designer John Horan
Set Designer Christopher Ash
Costume Designer Katie Lennard
Puppet Designer Marc Dunworth
Stage Manager Katie Beeks
Assistant Stage Manager Kathy Heath
Associate Producer Adam Fox
Executive/Artistic Director Karen Cardarelli

AUTHOR'S NOTE

During its development process, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs as Performed by Professor TJ Barker's Troupe of Theatricals* grew into becoming a celebration of both the magic of theatre and the many incredible talents of its gifted cast. It all started during the audition process when I continued to notice how many actors listed musical instruments under "Special Skills" on their résumés. One actor even entered the audition room with a ukulele. Since the production concept of an acting company was already in place and we were also planning on incorporating other highly theatrical devices like puppetry, I started to experiment at the callback with the idea of using live musician/actors. Before I knew it, a ragtag orchestra was created that included everything from a saw and a concertina to a cello and a clarinet. Oddly enough, the actress cast as Snow White not only had a graduate degree in voice but also played the trombone. Eventually, each instrument was assigned to a character in order to create a kind of lietmotif during the performance. For example, the saw was played during the magic mirror scenes. The trombone announced the entrance of the huntsman. A Native American pan flute accompanied the first enchanted fawn scene. The actors played everything from scales, to plucks of strings, to melodies created in rehearsal, to even former high school band competition pieces. Part of the joy of the rehearsal process was creating the play's eclectic score with the cast... So any mix of instruments would most certainly do. It's my suggestion that at least one actor play the piano. (In the original production it was the actress playing Jo.) But if blessed with a group of actors that all play the piano, have the whole cast take turns tickling the ivories. In the words of theatre impresario Professor TJ Barker, "Anything can happen once upon a time."

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs as Performed by Professor TJ Barker's Troupe of Theatricals

CHARACTERS

Your Master of Ceremonies the Incomparable Prof. TJ Barker

Snow White Played by the Beautiful
Miss Lydia Barker

Queen Malvina Played by the Magnificent
Mrs. Fanny Barker

The Huntsman Played by the dashing
Mr. George Stratton

The Enchanted Fawn/
Snow White's Mother Played by the Talented
Miss May Alexander

Prince Darrian Played by the Handsome
Mr. Charles Summers

The Dwarfs Played by the Hilarious
O'Hanlon Brothers

Heinz	Ted O'Hanlon
Herschel	Ned O'Hanlon
Hubert	Peter O'Hanlon
Horatio	Paul O'Hanlon
Humphrey	Andrew O'Hanlon
Hampton	Tom O'Hanlon
Harlan	Marty O'Hanlon

Kitty Kitty, the palace cat Played by Luciano, the cat

Stage managed by the industrious Miss Josephine Gilbert

EXPANSION NOTE

Snow White was originally performed with a cast of 9 actor/musicians, but a larger cast could perform the play. Much of the doubling in the play could be split up. The roles of Snow White's mother and The Enchanted Fawn, currently doubled by one actress, could be played by two. The role of the Magic Mirror, voiced by Professor Barker, could also be performed by a different actor. Many stagehands, onstage crew, seamstresses and wardrobe crew, under Jo's watchful eye and leadership, could be added to scenes in order to help make magic moments occur as well as add to the ambiance of the theatre company. Depending upon the kinds of musicians that you have and cast, a separate piano-playing character could be created as well.

In the first production, a 20-minute pre-show occurred before the first line of dialogue was uttered. This helped introduce the characters and set up the play-within-a-play device. Any added characters could be introduced to the audience at that time.

Most importantly, any added characters should have a name and be listed in the program as part of Professor Barker's theatricals.

MUSICAL NUMBERS (melodies in back of book)

1. "Caro Mio Ben"
(*Giuseppe Giordano*)
2. "Life, Thrilling Life"
(*Music by George F. Root. Lyrics by Clara Louise Burnham*)
3. "The Winds That Roam"
(*Music by George F. Root. Lyrics by Clara Louise Burnham*)
4. "Ballade" (Op. 100. No. 15)
(*Friedrich Burgmüller*)
5. "Sleep Well, Thou Good and Sweet One"
(*Music by George F. Root. Lyrics by Clara Louise Burnham*)

Prologue

(A beautiful Victorian theater. It has the warm glow of gas lighting and the possibility of magic everywhere. Chandeliers hang low and covered. Before the show begins, onstage there are several trunks. Some contain costumes, others set pieces. As the audience enters, the Troupe of Theatricals unpacks the sets, costumes, and props from the trunks. They also stretch and warm up in front of the audience. Sometimes they ask audience members for assistance with costume pieces or with stretches. They take pages of text and ask for help remembering lines. JO hurries around with her prompt book making sure that everything is set. LYDIA and CHARLES innocently flirt with each other. MAY and RUTH giggle at the “lovers.” GEORGE flexes his muscles. MRS. BARKER warms up her voice and looks after LUCIANO, her cat. PROFESSOR BARKER makes sure that everything is accomplished. NED and TED practice their routines. When the company is ready to perform, JO tells PROFESSOR BARKER and he steps forward as the lights dim to half.)

PROFESSOR BARKER. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome! I am Professor TJ Barker.

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(He expects applause at the sound of his name. When there is silence, MRS. BARKER leads the company in applause.)

PROFESSOR BARKER *(cont'd)*. Thank you! Thank you! My troupe of theatricals and I are most excited to be visiting your lovely theater. We have traveled far and wide to be here today.

TED O'HANLON. How far have we traveled?

PROFESSOR BARKER. Last night, we were in Iowa.

THE COMPANY. Eeewwwwww.

PROFESSOR BARKER. But today we are in...we are in...
Where are we?

(The COMPANY looks at one another, confused. PROFESSOR BARKER turns to a young AUDIENCE MEMBER and asks...)

PROFESSOR BARKER *(cont'd)*. Kind sir/miss, what city are we in right now? *(The correct response is hopefully and eventually given, then...)* We've played *(location given again)* before.

MRS. BARKER. Wonderful audiences in *(location given)*.

CHARLES SUMMERS. There are lovely ladies in *(location given)*. *(He kisses a girl's hand in the audience.)*

LYDIA. And handsome gentlemen. *(She messes the hair of a male audience member and giggles.)*

PROFESSOR BARKER. Now, now, we are performing for all of you one of our company's most spectacular productions, *Snow White and the Sevens Dwarfs*. Let us begin. Strike up the orchestra!!! *(Nothing happens.)* Strike

up the orchestra! (*Nothing happens again.*) Why whatever is the...

(*JO runs onstage with a telegram.*)

JO. Professor Barker, this telegram just arrived for you!

(*PROFESSOR BARKER reads the message.*)

LYDIA. Papa, what is it?

PROFESSOR BARKER. Heaven's to Betsy! It seems the orchestra missed the train last night.

MRS. BARKER. Musicians. It figures! Hmpf!

PROFESSOR BARKER. We won't have them for this performance.

LYDIA. What will we do?

PROFESSOR BARKER. Don't worry, my child, we'll think of something...

TED O'HANLON. There are enough of us who play instruments to get on with the show.

GEORGE. I can play (*insert the name of the instrument the actor will play*).

MAY. And I can play (*insert the name of the instrument the actor will play*).

MRS. BARKER. I always travel with my (*insert the name of the instrument the actor will play*). Luciano loves it when I play for him. (*She pets LUCIANO the cat.*)

LYDIA. I'll get out my (*insert the name of the instrument the actor will play*).

PROFESSOR BARKER. A Snow White who plays (*insert the name of the instrument the actor will play*). This

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should be interesting. In fact, Jo, you play the piano, don't you?

JO. Me? Well...no...I mean a little...I...

LYDIA. Jo, you play beautifully.

JO. I can't play for the performance. Who'll take care of things backstage?

MRS. BARKER. Jo, my dear, don't you worry about us! We'll take care of ourselves for once!

PROFESSOR BARKER. That's just what we'll have to do. I've never canceled a performance in all my years.

JO. Places, everyone! *(She walks to the piano and drops the music onto it with a bang.)* Sorry!

PROFESSOR BARKER. Professor TJ Barker and his Troupe of Theatricals present *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*...

(JO plays a fanfare on the piano and continues to underscore the introductions.)

PROFESSOR BARKER *(cont'd)*. Starring the beautiful Miss Lydia Barker as the princess Snow White.

(LYDIA comes forward, curtsies, and then strikes a melodramatic pose.)

PROFESSOR BARKER *(cont'd)*. As our evil villainess, Queen Malvina, my magnificent wife, Mrs Fanny Barker.

(MRS BARKER comes forward, gives a grand curtsy and strikes a melodramatic pose.)

PROFESSOR BARKER (*cont'd*). The handsomest of leading men, Mr Charles Summers as Prince Darrian.

(*CHARLES comes forward, bows and strikes a melodramatic pose.*)

PROFESSOR BARKER (*cont'd*). And as those rascally dwarfs, the Seven Hilarious O'Hanlon brothers...Ted...

(*TED runs forward and poses.*)

PROFESSOR BARKER (*cont'd*). Ned...

(*NED comes forward performing gymnastics/tricks and poses.*)

PROFESSOR BARKER (*cont'd*). Peter...Paul...Andrew...

Tom... (*He notices the absence of the other O'HANLONS.*) Boys, where are your brothers?

TED. We've been meaning to talk to you about that, TJ.

NED. There's been a problem.

PROFESSOR BARKER. It looks that way, doesn't it!

TED. You see, last night...

NED. When we got into town...

TED. We were all so hungry...

NED. So we ate in the hotel restaurant.

PROFESSOR BARKER. Yes?

TED. There were oysters, you see...

PROFESSOR BARKER. Oysters?

TED. The others got food poisoning.

PROFESSOR BARKER. Food poisoning! But what did you two eat?

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TED & NED. Chicken.

(The COMPANY erupts in dismay. JO is upset the brothers didn't share their news earlier. MRS. BARKER is fed up with those rascally O'HANLON BROTHERS.)

PROFESSOR BARKER. Everyone, everyone!

MRS. BARKER. We might as well cancel the performance, TJ. How can we possibly do *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* with no orchestra and only two dwarfs?

RUTH. Next you'll expect us to do the performance for free.

MRS. BARKER *(gasps)*. Never for free, my dear. Never for free.

PROFESSOR BARKER. Now, everyone, I think that I can assuredly promise this audience that they will see seven dwarfs. After all, is this not the theatre? Is this not a place where anything can happen? *(He performs a sleight-of-hand magic trick.)* Where magic is always possible? *(A bouquet of flowers magically appears. He gives them to MRS. BARKER.)*

MRS. BARKER. Oh, TJ!

PROFESSOR BARKER. Friends, anything can happen
"Once upon a time..."!

(LYDIA runs, picks up one of her props and agrees...)

LYDIA. Once upon a time!

(MRS BARKER puts on her crown and takes her place.)

MRS. BARKER. Once upon a time!

(JO runs to the piano. Another actor picks up his/her instrument. Everyone takes there places.)

ALL. Once upon a time!

(JO starts the intro to “Caro Mio Ben.” The chandeliers light up and are raised. The set magically transforms into the castle...)

Scene One

(In the palace. SNOW WHITE'S MOTHER, played by MAY, sits doing needlework. NED has climbed onto TED's shoulders. TED holds a window frame in front of himself and NED drops “snow” behind it.)

(SONG #1: “Caro Mio Ben”)

SNOW WHITE'S MOTHER.

Caro mio ben,	<i>My dear beloved,</i>
Credimi almen,	<i>Believe me at least,</i>
Senza di te languisce il cor.	<i>Without you my heart languishes.</i>

PROFESSOR BARKER *(becoming the “king” alongside the queen)*. Once upon a time in the middle of winter, when snowflakes the sizes of feathers were falling from the sky, a queen was sitting and sewing by a window with an ebony frame. While she was sewing a gift for her husband, she looked out at the snow and pricked her finger with a needle. Three drops of blood fell and the

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red looked so beautiful against the white snow that she thought:

SNOW WHITE'S MOTHER. "If only I had a child whose skin was as white as snow, whose lips were as red as blood, and whose hair was as black as the wood of the window frame."

PROFESSOR BARKER (*revealing a baby doll*). Soon afterward she gave birth to a little girl who had skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony, and she was called...

SNOW WHITE'S MOTHER. Snow White. (*Sings.*)

Caro mio ben,	<i>My dear beloved,</i>
Credimi almen,	<i>Believe me at least,</i>
Senza di te languisce il cor.	<i>Without you my heart languishes.</i>

PROFESSOR BARKER. Unfortunately, the queen died after the child was born.

(*SNOW WHITE'S MOTHER exits. NED and TED exit as well.*)

PROFESSOR BARKER (*cont'd*). Her husband, the king, married another woman who was also beautiful...

(*Enter FANNY as QUEEN MALVINA. She steps forward and looks at the baby the "king" is holding* The "king" offers the baby to be held by QUEEN MALVINA.)

QUEEN MALVINA. I don't touch babies. (*She exits.*)

PROFESSOR BARKER. But, the new queen was cold and proud. Unexpectedly, the king passed away, and it

seemed as if sadness covered the kingdom like a blanket of new-fallen snow.

(Enter SNOW WHITE holding KITTY KITTY.)

PROFESSOR BARKER *(cont'd)*. The princess, on the other hand, remained a warm and joyful presence in the kingdom. Every year she grew more and more beautiful. SNOW WHITE. Do you know what today is, Kitty Kitty? *(KITTY KITTY "meows.")* No, it is not National Mouse Hunting Day! *(KITTY KITTY "meows.")* It's not Play with a Ball of Yarn Day, either! *(KITTY KITTY "meows.")* Yes! You're right! It's my birthday, and that means I get a birthday wish! Oh, what to wish for? Maybe we could climb to the highest tower and look at the view or swim in the moat? Or go on a horseback ride through the kingdom and picnic in the enchanted wood? But you know what I REALLY would love to do? *(KITTY KITTY "meows.")* I would love to go on an adventure! We never get to leave the castle, do we?

(KITTY KITTY "meows." A flock of birds puppeted by NED enters.)

SNOW WHITE *(cont'd)*. Oh, to be like those birds and fly beyond the castle walls...

(SONG #2: "Life, Thrilling Life")

SNOW WHITE *(sings)*.

Life, thrilling life,
You are dear to me today,

What a beautiful world it is—
All living creatures say:
Health, bounding health,
How you fill my veins always.
Best of glorious blessings thickly strewn along our
way.

(Spoken.) Imagine if we had others to sing with, Kitty Kitty. How fun would that be? I know, let's pretend that we're surrounded by friends. *(She closes her eyes and imagines very hard. She quickly opens them...)* Do you see them, Kitty Kitty? All of the friends. *(To the audience.)* You're my friends, aren't you? You'll sing with me, won't you? You too, Kitty Kitty. 1-2-3.

(The O'HANLON BROTHERS enter with placards with the lyrics on them. The mood becomes a grand sing-a-long.)

EVERYONE.

Life, thrilling life,
You are dear to me today,
What a beautiful world it is—
All living creatures say:
Health, bounding health,
How you fill my veins always.
Best of glorious blessings thickly strewn

(NED flutters one of the bird puppets onto SNOW WHITE's finger. The music stops. SNOW WHITE and the bird trill a cadenza together. It ends with SNOW WHITE hitting a grand high note and the music striking

back up with everyone finishing the last line of the song.)

EVERYONE.

along our way.

PROFESSOR BARKER (*acknowledging the COMPANY*).

The lovely Miss Lydia Barker and accompanying her Miss Jo Gilbert.

(*PROF. BARKER leads the audience in applause. Enter QUEEN MALVINA.*)

QUEEN MALVINA. What is this racket? What is going on here?

SNOW WHITE. I'm sorry, Stepmother, I was only...

QUEEN MALVINA. Only waking me up from my beauty sleep.

SNOW WHITE. I was celebrating. Today's a special day.

QUEEN MALVINA. Yes it is. I usually brush my gorgeous hair five thousand times a day, but today is Thursday and on Thursdays I brush it five thousand and one times.

SNOW WHITE. Well, that *and* because it's my birthday.

QUEEN MALVINA. Child, there's no reason to celebrate getting another year older.

SNOW WHITE. Well...I was hoping...I was...

QUEEN MALVINA. What do you want, child?

SNOW WHITE. I was hoping that for my birthday wish I could leave the castle and...

QUEEN MALVINA. And what, Snow White, run away?

SNOW WHITE. No, I was hoping to...