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PREVIEW: DON'T MENTION THE DRAGON

By

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Cast of Characters

SIR SHINING:	An old knight with a repertoire of adventures all ending horribly. Despite this, he is still sure of himself and all are sure of him. He speaks confidently, responds aggravatedly because ‘why weren’t you listening the first time’?
WULDBY:	The thirteenth squire of Sir Shining, and the most unsure so far. Is being a knight really as honorable as they make it out to be? Even with knights and heroes for good, happily ever afters are in short supply– maybe it’s up to him to change that…
PRINCESS ADORA:	Daughter of the most high king and she knows it, at least she thinks she knows until a ‘Dragon’ she thought was a good idea makes her think otherwise.
LADY PRIM:	The most trusted lady in all of the land, her world revolves around ‘her highness’ and ‘her highness’ can do no wrong. Nothing in this world more important than the princess!
TINY:	Life can be hard for a dragon, everyone thinks you’re out to get them…which isn’t wrong. Tiny hates anyone, anything and will stop at nothing to destroy all! Right after he’s had his turkey leg and tarts…
TRUTHFOOL:	Fools are a surplus, but good jesters like Truthfool are in short supply. Never missing a chance to make a mockery of any situation. No matter the severity.
YOUNG SHINING:	This is the young version of Sir Shining, a real upstart! Although, a majority of his bravery is definitely bravado– his mentor ‘Sir Charming’ never really taught him much besides polishing armor. But no one else can know that!
KING ADONAIS:	Slayer of Dragons, Mutilator of Malicious Beasts, Nightmare of Wyrms… there is none braver, none more just and none more almighty than he. He is the greatest King there has been and ever will be.

COMMON JACK:	His favorite stories involve unfortunate and untimely deaths. It’s a finely curated kind of humor non-peasants wouldn’t understand.
COMMON JOE:	Similar to his best friend, a story is no good unless someone dies in it. And a ‘happily ever after’ ending is a waste of time…right?
TAVERN TARA:	Owner, operator, and no nonsense tavernkeeper. She’s seen adventurers come and go and heard just about every story–especially when it comes to patrons not paying their tab!
DAISY:	As a castle servant she feels most unseen, but this is okay because she’s rather shy anyway. Though she dreams of a day where she too could be a princess.
ROYAL CHEF:	The most renowned chef in the realm, he doesn’t talk much, instead, he lets his cooking do the speaking for him. Is it good? Of course it’s good, the Royal Chef made it.
STAFF:	Truthfool, Royal Chef, Daisy, and any optional castle servants for ensemble.

Synopsis

An old knight tells the story of how he once knew a princess that broke her father’s most important rule. A rule about dragons specifically, something she should have known better than to break since her father is the ‘Dragon Slayer.’ In her defense, he did start off small and cute…though he certainly doesn’t stay small and cute! Things go from bad to worse as a knight, a lady in waiting, and a host of colorful characters attempt to rescue the princess without mentioning the dragon!

Note

Biblical Reference: This is a story I felt compelled to write, as someone who struggles believing that God’s love outweighs his hate for sin… yet Romans 8:31-39 is a reminder that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. We are forever loved, even after our shortcomings.

Setting: A fantastical medieval adventure, inspired by dark fantasy stories like Legend and The Dark Crystal. The stage is presented in three parts; the tavern, the corridor, and the Princess’s bedroom. The wing of Stage Left should be the tavern(wood beams, a cupboard of medieval eatery, a counter for Tara to stand at), the wing of Stage Right should be the Corridor (cobblestone wall, torches…a castle hallway) and the center stage should be the Princess’s Bedroom (we featured a canopy bed as our centerpiece, and lots of royal decor).

Costumes: Most costumes can be crafted according to the Director’s vision. Though it’s imperative that Young Shining and Sir Shining’s costumes match up to 75% (Same base chain mail shirt, and surcoat, but Sir Shining may have a cape, fancy belt

and helmet). Tiny is again, up to the Director’s decision, in the debut production, Tiny had a dragon mask, gloves, wings and tail over black clothes, for the “large” Tiny, we created a dragon puppet head. King Adonais shall always present as a male king, though can be played by any gender. We had a female King Adonais, but she wore a beard and did absolutely phenomenal! Have fun with the costumes!

Ensemble: This script was created for a smaller theater group, though ensemble can be added in as royal castle staff or tavern patrons. Common Joe and Jack’s lines can be spilt up to share amongst a larger group, or mixed for a smaller group.

Props: Three swords (one for King Adonais, one for Young Shining and one for Sir Shining), Fake Food (especially turkey legs!), a small medieval book, and a large medieval book that Tiny can tear up for a glossary. There are extra props listed throughout the script that are optional, we ended up only using the swords, books and fake food. Highly encouraged to have throwable items for Tiny in the Princess’s bedroom. We had stuffed animals, fake pictures and pillows.

Intermission Readers: The readers during intermission can be any cast or ensemble members of the director's choosing.

Sound: Offstage cast or stage crew can make the sounds, or sounds can be selected and played according to the queues.

ACT I

Scene 1

[*Lights open on downstage left/wing]*

SIR SHINING

And that dear commoners…is the story of how my seventh squire perished…if only he had listened when I told him… “Watch out for that cliff.”

(Commoners all clap in awe)

COMMON JACK

Can we hear the one about the squire getting zapped by lightning again?

(Makes dramatic dying and frying noise)

COMMON JOE

I like the one about the squire that got squished by a giant!

(Mimics a stomping giant and squishing noises)

TAVERN TARA

My favorite is the squire that didn’t pay his tab an’ so he got left out in the cold and froze to death!

(All but WULDBY quickly give coin to TAVERN TARA)

That’s better.

WULDBY

Well, I don’t like any of these stories.

COMMON JACK

Why not? They’re hilarious!

WULDBY

They all end with horrible deaths.

COMMON JOE

Only the *squires* die horrible deaths.

WULDBY

I *am* a squire.

COMMON JACK

(Lke a wince)

Oh…

SIR SHINING

But he’s not just any squire, he is Wuldby Anyman, my *thirteenth* squire.

COMMON JACK & JOE: Thirteenth?

(Both laugh uncontrollably)

WULDBY

What’s so funny? Wait–You guys only laugh at horrible deaths, so why are you laughing now?

COMMON JOE

You’re squire number…*THIRTEEN*

COMMON JACK

The joke is actually writing itself and we’re here to witness it! You’re destined–

(SIR SHINING quickly grabs COMMON JACK and covers his mouth)

SIR SHINING

Destined for glory! Serving his great, honorable, humble, handsome, amazing, and fantastic liege– me, Sir Shining, on my various quests of which I have many stories that don’t include the death of a squire.

(Lets go of COMMON JACK)

COMMON JACK

But those are the best ones!

COMMON JOE

Like the one you told us about the squire getting–

(SIR SHINING quickly grabs COMMON JOE and muffles him with a hand as COMMON JOE uses visceral body language)

COMMON JOE

–and the giant eagle took what was left and flew away…

SIR SHINING

I don’t remember that one.

WULDBY

I’m gonna be sick.

TAVERN TARA

Oi! Sir Shining, you know one you *haven’t* told in a while? That dragon one!

(She walks over with a bucket and hands it to WULDBY)

COMMON JACK, JOE, WULDBY: Dragon one?

TAVERN TARA

Yeah, that one’s my favorite, tell it why don’t you?

COMMON JACK

Ooo! Is this another “squire gets eaten,” story?

COMMON JOE

Eaten by a dragon? Huzzahhhhh!

(WULDBY quickly ducks head into bucket and gets sick)

SIR SHINING

Oh stop it! Dragons are nothing to huzzah about! Have you ever seen a dragon?

COMMON JACK

Well… no

COMMON JOE

That’s cause dragons ain't even real…

SIR SHINING

I assure you, they are very real… and very dangerous. They come only to steal, kill, and destroy. You’re very lucky you’ve never seen one– for if you do, you best lock your doors and windows and pray that it leaves you be. Which is the exact opposite of what Princess Adora of the Old Kingdom did…

Scene 2

[Lights come up on downstage right/wing while lights stay up on downstage left/wing.]

(In the corridor YOUNG SHINING is seen standing with KING ADONAIS, TRUTHFOOL is leaned against the wall with a set of cards showing them to DAISY, ROYAL CHEF, and LADY PRIM as they listen in.)

SIR SHINING

Once upon a time, only a few years ago…

TAVERN TARA

Are you sure that’s only a *few* years ago? You look so young! I don’t even think I was born yet!

SIR SHINING

Alright fine, once upon a time, *long* long ago, in the Old Kingdom. Newly knighted, I had come under the employ of a King—not just any King, but King Adonais, the slayer of dragons big and small.

See, there was a time when dragons ran amuck. Stealing, hoarding, and destroying anything and everything. Dragons were gregarious like that.

Finally, King Adonais said enough was enough and slayed so many dragons that the kingdom feasted for years on dragon meat alone.

He then made a decree that if ever anyone saw a dragon… they were to tell him immediately so he may slay the beast, and if anyone didn’t…they’d surely die.

YOUNG SHINING

It’s an honor to be standing next to you your majesty, you’re the slayer of dragons— mutilator of malicious beasts, nightmare of wyrms—

KING ADONAIS

Yes! Yes, I am quite renowned…but as are you Sir Shining. I’ve heard of your feats as a squire assisting Sir Charming on his perilous quests. How *you* rescued princesses, saved damsels in distress, earned the favor of maidens everywhere.

YOUNG SHINING

Oh, that part wasn’t me, that was Sir Charming that did all that sire.

KING ADONAIS

…Then what did he tell me *you* did?

YOUNG SHINING

I polished his armor.

KING ADONAIS

That’s right! You polished the armor.

YOUNG SHINING

I also shined his swords and blades, buffed out scratches on his shield, kept his noble steed fed and watered… but I never personally assisted on a quest of his. He said I’d ‘dull his gallantry’.

TRUTHFOOL

Yawnnn, how’d you even become a knight? Slayed a nasty stain with some elbow grease?

(All STAFF laugh and playfully chide with TRUTHFOOL)

KING ADONAIS

Silence jester, he comes highly commended all the same. Sir Shining, I don’t need gallantries—in fact, a dutiful servant is preferred.

YOUNG SHINING

I am at thy service.

(Bows)

KING ADONAIS

I must journey to a neighboring kingdom, I’ve been asked to help clear out a dragon nest…while I am gone, I entrust my castle, my staff, but most importantly my daughter, Princess Adora, to you. Guard these things with your life Sir Shining.

YOUNG SHINING

These things you ask of me shall be done.

(Bows again)

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SIR SHINING

(Solemn; staring at tankard)

And so I did, and the hall went quiet. Staff did their chores, the Chef made meal after meal for that gluttonous beast, and Princess Adora…well, she stopped talking to anyone. Her door never opened again… at least not during my employ. I wrote my final letter, never mentioning the dragon, and when King Adonais returned…I could barely look him in the face.

(Passes another coin to TAVERNA TARA – COMMON JOE and JACK rise to leave)

WULDBY

No. No. no…that’s not the end of the story, that can’t be! You two

(Points to Common Joe and Jack)

Sit back down! It’s not over!

SIR SHINING

Alright how’s about this

(Clears throat to start again)

I got paid, then I left and never looked back, that’s the end.

(All but WULDBY clap)

WULDBY

That’s the end? So to this day, Princess Adora could still be locked up in her chamber with a dragon and no one is going to do anything?

(All shrug)

SIR SHINING

What is there to be done? She doesn’t want help.

WULDBY

But you’re a knight, in shining armor, you’re supposed to help princesses!

SIR SHINING

No, that was Sir Charming, and even he wasn’t that charming because he had halitosis.

COMMON JOE

My mom had that.

COMMON JACK

My condolences.

COMMON JOE

She’s still alive!

(Both rise to leave and push past WULDBY to go offstage)

WULDBY

Well, if you’re not going to do anything– I will!

SIR SHINING

Oh please, you? Slay a dragon? Rescue a princess?

(WULDBY grabs Shining’s sword and runs offstage–SIR SHINING follows)

Scene 9

[Lights black out, then rise blue on center stage and downstage right/wing]

(PRINCESS ADORA stands trapped by a dragon’s tail–a dragon's body is seen by the bed, but no head)

WULDBY

(Runs into the corridor and desperately begins banging on the door)

Princess Adora! Are you in there!? Don’t worry, I’m going to save you!

SIR SHINING

Are you mad Wuldby!? That’s a dragon in there! A Dragon you idiot!

(Begins pulling WULDBY - WULDBY fights back)

WULDBY

I don’t care! I’m going to save her– even if you won’t!

SIR SHINING

Wuldby, She’s probably already dead! Long been dead– dead, dead, dead!

(KING ADONAIS enters without their knowing)

KING ADONAIS

Who’s already dead?

WULDBY, SIR SHINING: King Adonais!

(SIR SHINING takes a knee, WULBY returns to the door to break it down)

WULDBY

Your daughter your majesty!

KING ADONAIS

My Daughter? What’s the meaning of this Sir Shining? It’s been years since I’ve seen you, but here you are as your squire charges in banging on my daughter’s door.

SIR SHINING

Forgive me your majesty, I told a story about my time working here– I may not have been totally forthcoming in the letters I sent.

KING ADONAIS

Most were very mundane–well except your final letter.

WULDBY

(Rushes up to KING ADONAIS)

What did it say? The final letter…did he tell you?

KING ADONAIS

Not that you need to know Squire, but he told me of how the Princess never wished to speak to me again, nor leave her room, and he was none the wiser as to why.

WULDBY

That’s what you wrote in your final letter?

SIR SHINING

Well, I– what was I supposed to do?

(*Stands)*

KING ADONAIS

Ever since then, my daughter hasn’t stepped foot outside of her chambers. I came home with gifts for her, and she told me to ‘go away’. It’s been years… there’s not a moment that passes where I don’t think of her. I wonder Squire, what story did this knight tell you that he failed to tell me? What tale could make a wimpy knave such as yourself– charge through a castle and attempt to break down a princess’s door?

WULDBY

(Looks over at SIR SHINING–who shakes his head)

The princess…has been trapped in her chambers by a dragon.

KING ADONAIS

What!? All this time?

WULDBY

Yes.

KING ADONAIS

Sir Shining, is this true?

SIR SHINING

It is your majesty, and I wanted to tell you– but the princess begged me not to.

KING ADONAIS

She did? And why’s that?

[Dragon Roar soundFX]

[Lights go red]

TINY

(Rears head from stage left)

Because She’s the one that invited me in, if you can believe it– your own daughter has been hiding me in her room for years.

(KING ADONAIS goes to step in)

TINY

Ah ah ah, come any closer and I’ll squeeze her lights out!

KING ADONAIS

And suffer my wrath?

TINY

Ahh, you’re right. Maybe I’ll let you do the honors, after all–

PRINCESS ADORA

‘Whosoever does not tell the king of any dragon spotted, will surely die.’

TINY

And I think I was a surprise, wasn’t I? So you know what that means, adieu Adora!

(KING ADONAIS stumbles up to his daughter, in disbelief and grieving over her state)

WULDBY

Not if I can help it! Foul beast!

(Runs in with sword drawn and goes to attack)

SIR SHINING

Wuldby, no!

(Choreo'd Fight)

Scene 10

TINY

You pest! Stop that!

(Knocks WULDBY back with a thud–WULDBY lands incapacitated)

SIR SHINING

WULDBY!

(*Goes to WULDBY's side as TINY rears head over them)*

TINY

Thirteenth Squire? Hah, that's rather on the nose isn't it? Always destined to die weren't you?

WULDBY

(To SIR SHINING)

You said I was destined for Glory–

SIR SHINING

And you are– you’re going to be Sir Wuldby Anyman, rescuer of princesses and slayer of dragons. Something I never was. I’ve never had a squire become a knight…until you.

WULDBY

But I’m not a knight.

SIR SHINING

Not yet, you have to stay alive to be one. We’ll just patch you up and–

WULDBY

I don’t really want to be a knight…I think I want to be a storyteller…like you. Except I’ll tell stories with happy endings.

(Goes faint–SIR SHINING is saddened over him–TINY laughs)

KING ADONAIS

Adora, what have you done…?

PRINCESS ADORA

I’m sorry father, he started off harmless, but then he grew and he became too much. I know I should have known better– and now you’ll have to kill me, according to your decree. And I won’t fight you because I deserve nothing less…

KING ADONAIS

Oh my dear Adora, is that what he’s told you? Dragons come only to Steal, Kill and Destroy. When I said, ‘Whosoever does not tell the king of any dragon spotted, will surely die.’ It’s because *Dragons* kill, not I. I come so that you may have life and have it abundantly.

[Growl SoundFX3]

TINY

Sappy! I hate sappy, all of you– the wimpy squire, the washed up knight, the sickly princess, the–

(KING ADONAIS stands firm in front of the dragon head/TINY)

KING ADONAIS

Go ahead beast, say what you will about me, we both know it won’t be true. You thrive off of lies and secrecy. Hiding your face from me because you know, with one word from my lips, you’ll vanish, melt into nothing.

TINY

And so what, you’ve got enough love to forgive a treasonous daughter but not enough to absolve me? What if I wanted love and acceptance?

KING ADONAIS

But you don’t want love and acceptance, Dragons never do. They want destruction.

TINY

Guilty as charged.

[Thunder SoundFX]

(TINY goes to attack but is slain by KING ADONAIS, Head and Tail quickly slide from the stage, leaving PRINCESS ADORA laying on the floor–weakly trying to stand)

PRINCESS ADORA

Father?

KING ADONAIS

Adora!

PRINCESS ADORA

I’m so sorry Father.

KING ADONAIS

I know you are, but open your eyes, and see the shame is no more. And while there will always be Dragons… I will always be here to slay them.

[Lights black out all leave stage, lights open on downstage left/wing]

(In the tavern, sitting with a cast is WULDBY, there's TAVERNA TARA, COMMON JOE and COMMON JACK all listening to his story as he reads from a book and a quill)

WULDBY

So even though the Princess broke her father's most sacred rule, it didn't change his love for her–and when she finally confessed her father was quick to forgive her. And while there will always be Dragons, he will always be there to slay them. For her, for me, and for you…the end.

(Closes the book)

(All clap)

COMMON JOE

You know, I guess happy endings ain't all bad– am I supposed to have a warm, fuzzy, feelin' in the depths of my bein' though?

COMMON JACK

Aw— if you're gonna barf do it that way!

COMMON JOE

I ain't gonna barf! I don't feel sick! I feel…good…like maybe life *could* be roses and fancy rats.

COMMON JACK

Hey, I'm feelin’ that way too! Are you sure you ain’t sick? Cause whatever you got, I got and that’s how sickness works.

WULDBY

That’s also how hope works.

TAVERN TARA

Yeah, that’s the word. Hope! I’m feeling hopeful– how’d your story do that?

WULDBY

It’s not so much my story, it’s the retelling of the age-old story… about a Savior whom death could not hold, who saves us not only from the schemes of evil, but from ourselves. And not only does he save us, but he loves us. That savior is Jesus Christ, and in his own words *‘The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.’*

(SIR SHINING enters)

SIR SHINING

Wuldby, it’s time to go.

COMMON JACK

I thought you gave up on bein’ a squire.

WULDBY

(Starts packing to leave)

I did, but someone has to write down the heroic tales of '*Sir Shining the Knight in Shining Armor'*

(SIR SHINING clears throat)

'Sir Shining the Knight in Shining Armor and Mentioner of Dragons.'

SIR SHINING

Never again shall I let a dragon go unmentioned, for I have a King who is quick to slay them, and I know that now. Speaking of kings, Wuldby, I've been called upon for a quest, but the journey is perilous so I might need you to do some 'squire' work…as well as writing.

(*Goes offstage left talking to WULDBY as Tavern group returns to their idling)*

[Fade to Blackout – cast go center stage]

[Lights rise center stage for curtain call]

[Fade again to Blackout]

END



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