

# EVERYMAN 2.0

*By Gwendolyn J. Kandt*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

This play is an updated version of the classic medieval morality play. Death has come for Everyman, but Everyman pleads for time to find a companion to accompany him and help clear his book of reckoning. One by one, those he treasures most abandon him to his deserved fate. In the end, only the Son can erase his debt. The play is a powerful depiction of the gospel story, a clear display of man's unworthiness and God's grace. The script borrows from the language of the original but gives us a modern take on the story with humor and emotion. The cast has thirteen characters, each of which can be flexible in gender. The script lends itself to a variety of styles and genres from very simple and abstract to very elaborate. About 35-40 minutes.

### **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

The original production took place on April 5-7, 2019, at Crystal Sea Drama Company in San Antonio, Texas. The original cast was as follows:

Everyman.....	Katherine Stone
Messenger .....	Joy Saine
Death .....	Ayanna Mulholland
Good Deeds.....	Mikayla Dannelly
Knowledge .....	Azucena Rocha
Strength .....	Sam Moellendorf
Senses .....	Faith Tonak
Discretion.....	Jessica Rathmann
Beauty.....	Ellie Moellendorf
God/Son.....	Christian Freitag
Fellowship.....	Joy Saine
Auntie.....	Ayanna Mulholland
Riches.....	Christian Freitag

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(Flexible cast of 13)*

EVERYMAN  
MESSENGER  
DEATH  
GOOD DEEDS  
CHORUS:  
    KNOWLEDGE  
    STRENGTH  
    SENSES  
    DISCRETION  
    BEAUTY  
GOD / SON  
FELLOWSHIP  
AUNTIE  
RICHES

## **SETTING**

The set can be very simple and abstract to very elaborate. The original production was in steampunk style. For the grave -- the back of our stage was draped with a black curtain. When the grave opened, Death pulled back part of the curtain and held it open, and a red light shone from the open space. When God/Son entered from there, the light turned to white; when Son, Everyman, and Good Deeds exited through the grave, the light went out and Death closed the curtain on them.

## **PROPS**

Scythe  
Reckoning book  
Bag of money  
Optional: liquor glasses  
Expensive clothes and jewelry  
Whip  
Large Bible  
Extra hair pieces and charcoal to dirty Everyman's face  
White robe

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*(AT RISE: EVERYMAN is UC, facing the back; MESSENGER DC; the other characters – GOD, DEATH, GOOD DEEDS, and the CHORUS – Knowledge, Strength, Senses, Discretion, and Beauty – are scattered on stage.)*

**MESSENGER:** I pray you all give your audience and hear this matter with reverence. In form...

**ALL:** ...a moral play.

**MESSENGER:** A play entitled, "The Summoning of Everyman" – version two-point-oh.

**KNOWLEDGE:** A play with an important lesson to be learned.

**STRENGTH / DISCRETION:** About the brevity of life.

**BEAUTY / SENSES:** About the certainty of death.

**MESSENGER:** About the best ways to spend your days on this earth.

**BEAUTY:** You humans love your sins and your pleasures.

**DISCRETION:** Your money.

**KNOWLEDGE:** Your companions.

**SENSES:** Your parties.

**STRENGTH:** Your fun!

**MESSENGER:** But in the end, all of these transitory things ...

**ALL:** Will fade from thee as flowers in May.

**MESSENGER:** For look and hear how Heaven's King calls Everyman to a reckoning.

*(MESSENGER, DEATH and GOOD DEEDS exit.)*

**GOD:** Look at them...my creatures are to me unkind!

They are drowned in sin...the people be blind!

In worldly riches is all their mind.

They clean forget the shedding of my blood red.

I healed their souls; thorns scourged my head.

To get them life, I suffered to be dead.

Yet each one...

**CHORUS:** Everyman...

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**GOD:** ...lives after his own pleasure.  
He grows worse from year to year.  
I must from him have a reckoning shown.  
For if I leave him thus alone  
In his way of life and wicked passions to be,  
He will become worse than a beast!

**CHORUS:** Verily!

**GOD:** And now I see that each one...

**CHORUS:** Everyman...

**GOD:** ...Thanks me not for the pleasure that I for him meant,  
Nor yet for his being that I to him have lent.  
He is cumbered with worldly riches, sooo  
I must needs upon him justice do.

**CHORUS:** Ooooo.

**GOD:** On Everyman living there, without fear.  
Where art thou, Death, thou mighty messenger?

*(DEATH enters.)*

**DEATH:** Almighty God, I am here at your will, your  
commandment to fulfill.

**GOD:** You see there, Death? That is Everyman. Call him. Tell  
him it's time. He's being summoned. He must come to me  
now and bring with him his book of reckoning.

**CHORUS:** Reckoning, reckoning, reckoning...

**DEATH:** As you command, my Lord. After all – that's what I  
do!

*(DEATH exits. GOD exits.)*

**SENSES:** Look at Everyman.

**BEAUTY:** Poor, poor Everyman!

**KNOWLEDGE:** Thinking about his riches...

**DISCRETION:** And friends...

**STRENGTH:** And pleasures...

**CHORUS:** He has no idea what's coming.

*(DEATH enters carrying a scythe.)*

## **End of Freeview**

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