

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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