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Briar Rose: An Opera Fantasy and Prologue in Three Acts Program [1940]

Gorham Normal School

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Briar Rose

An Opera Fantasy
in
A Prologue and Three Acts

Gorham Normal School

Eight o'clock, Saturday evening, June 15, 1940
Directed by
Miriam Eunice Andrews
SYNOPSIS

When the lovely Princess Briar Rose was born to the King and Queen of Lorovaine, there was great rejoicing. But because the thirteenth fairy, the wicked Renaulda, was not invited to the christening feast, she decreed that Briar Rose should die at the age of fifteen by the prick of a spindle. The gentle Fairy Queen, whose gift had been forestalled by Renaulda's curse, mitigated the dreadful doom by decreeing that Briar Rose should sleep for many years. The King ordered all spinning wheels within the kingdom to be burned.

On the Princess' fifteenth birthday Prince Florizel of Tuscany, with whom a marriage had been arranged for Briar Rose, came to Lorovaine. He was accompanied, among others, by Drago, son of the evil Renaulda, and her tool in carrying out her designs on Briar Rose. In the guise of a gardener, Florizel won the love of Briar Rose, allowing Drago to assume his personality. Because of her love for the supposed Beppo (Florizel), Briar Rose refused to plight her troth to the Prince, and aided by her faithful jester, Jorian, she fled from the betrothal. Beppo, too, flees to escape the King's wrath. Returning to the garden late at night, Briar Rose is induced by Drago, who pretends that, as Florizel, he has abandoned his suit for her hand, to climb to the ramparts for a word with Beppo. She comes upon the Tower Room, and a little old woman, spinning at the only wheel left in the kingdom. Having coaxed the Spinning Woman to let her have a try at the wheel Briar Rose pricks her finger, and so fulfills her doom, falling at once into a deep slumber. At the same time, every living creature within the palace walls succumbs to drowsiness.

When the children who had rejoiced at Briar Rose's christening were middle-aged and grey-haired, Florizel, kept magically young and handsome by the power of the Fairy Queen, returns to the garden, now isolated behind a thorny hedge, to essay, at a charmed moment, to find his way to his sleeping love. Again Renaulda intervenes by the help of Drago, who sets the villagers on Florizel, claiming he is a bandit. Florizel fatally wounds Drago. With his death Renaulda's spell is broken, and Florizel, still aided by the magic of the Fairy Queen, makes successful venture of the thorny wall, just as the matin song banishes the powers of darkness and evil.

Entering the Tower Room, Florizel restores Briar Rose to life with a kiss. The whole household awakens from its long sleep, and rejoices with Briar Rose in life, and love.
PROLOGUE

SCENE I
Open space before the Royal Palace in Lorovaine.

SCENE II
The banquet hall.

SCENE III
Courtyard of the Palace, at night.

ACT I
A garden terrace near the Palace.

ACT II
Same as Act I.

ACT III
SCENE I
Before the wall of the garden terrace.

SCENE II
Same as Act I.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CLOVIS, King of Lorovaine  Harold Charlton
CLOTHILDE, Queen of Lorovaine  Doris Whiteley
BRIAR ROSE, the Princess  Mary Skillin
FLORIZEL, Prince of Tuscany  Richard Goodridge
MADAME LUCETTE, Nurse to Briar Rose  Eleanor Parker
MIGNON, Lady-in-waiting to Briar Rose  Evelyn Ward
RENAULDA, the wicked Fairy  Irene Perreault
DRAGO, Son of Renaulda  Donald Lindsey
MESSER JACOBUS, the King’s Major Domo  Wilmer Van Blaricum
JORIAN, Jester to the Royal Family  Lewis Pillsbury
FAIRY QUEEN  Olive Conary
AMBROSE, the King’s Cook  Gordon Parritt
FRANZ, the Gardener  William Carey
PETERKIN, the Gardener’s Boy  Leslie Whittemore
TALLYWICK, the Royal Tailor  
Mytyl, Kitchen Maid  
Spinning Woman  
Katinka  
Marie  
Anna  
Villagers  
Dirk  
Johann  
Elias  
Dietrich  
Cornelis I, II, a Small Boy  
The Archbishop  
Martin, a Courtier  
Prince Balareaux  
Prince Gargonzola  
A Small Girl  
Scissors  
Thimble  
Beeswax  
Emery  
Tallywick’s Assistants  
Paul Roberts  
Barbara Blanchard  
Norma Butterfield  
Charlotte Reynolds  
Anita Dale  
Mary Dodge  
Harold Aikens  
John Cambridge  
Reginald Dodge  
Owen Hill  
Robert Emery  
John Brush  
Fred Jeffery  
Lawrence Pelton  
Fred Jeffery  
Sarah Packard  
Roberta Holbrook  
Mabel Murphy  
Phyllis Hennessey  
Ruth Edwards  

ATTENDANTS TO FLORIZEL  
Earle Young  
Thomas Corrigan  
Alfred Cereste  
Evelyn Brown  
Eunice Shevlin  
Cook’s Assistants  
Dorothy Sanborn  
Lillian Fernald  
James Bowman  
Harold Bent  
Leland Gile  
Lawrence Pelton  
Eugene Jorgensen  
Alan Paine  
Edward Race  
Emissaries  
John Graves  
Donald Cressey  
Violet Gagne  
Dorothy Walker  
Lady of the Court  
Emma Libby  
Janet Tiberetts  
Lawrence Pelton  
Margaret Richardson  
Priscilla DeCoste  
Joyce Kate  
John Graves  
Laura Meserve  
Helen Brown  
Madelyn Buck  
Fern Browne  
Priscilla Bent  
Constance Furbush  
Elizabeth Pinkham  
Patricia Brannigan  
Jane Clark  
George Sanborn  
Villagers  
Eleanor Gould  
Christine Welch  
Kenneth Hawkes
Virginia Foster
Arlene York
Ruth Furrough

**Frogs**

Lucile Jones
Muriel McAllister
Rita Luja

**Fairy Attendants**

Marjorie Davis
Ruth Kimball
Julia Daggett
Helen Morris
Jean Pride
Mary Vanier

**Choirmen**

Dean Evans

**Accompanist**

Abbott Mosher

Virginia Hall