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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 christen-

ing 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

Paul Roberts

MYTYL, Kitchen Maid

Barbara Blanchard

SPINNING WOMAN

Norma Butterfield

KATINKA }
MARIE } Villagers
ANNA }

{ Charlotte Reynolds
Anita Dale
Mary Dodge

DIRK }
JOHANN } Villagers
ELIAS }
DIETRICH }
CORNELIS I, II, a }
Small Boy }

{ Harold Aikens
John Cambridge
Reginald Dodge
Owen Hill

Robert Emery

THE ARCHBISHOP

John Brush

MARTIN, a Courtier

Fred Jeffery

PRINCE BALAREAU } who try to
PRINCE GARGONZOLA } climb the hedge
of thorns

{ Lawrence Pelton
Fred Jeffery

A SMALL GIRL

Sarah Packard

SCISSORS }
THIMBLE } Tallywick's Assistants
BEESWAX }
EMERY }

{ Roberta Holbrook
Mabel Murphy
Phyllis Hennesey
Ruth Edwards

ATTENDANTS TO FLORIZEL

Earle Young

Thomas Corrigan

Alfred Cereste

COOK'S ASSISTANTS

Evelyn Brown
Eunice Shevlin

Dorothy Sanborn
Lillian Fernald

COURTIER

James Bowman
Leland Gile

Harold Bent

Lawrence Pelton
Eugene Jorgensen

EMISSARIES

Alan Paine
Edward Race

John Graves
Donald Cressey

LADIES OF THE COURT

Violet Gagne
Dorothy Walker
Emma Libby
Janet Tibbetts
Margaret Richardson
Priscilla DeCoster
Joyce Katen

Laura Meserve
Helen Brown
Madelyn Buck
Fern Browne
Priscilla Bent
Constance Furbush
Elizabeth Pinkham

VILLAGERS

Patricia Brannigan
Jane Clark
Frank Catir

George Sanborn

Eleanor Gould
Christine Welch
Kenneth Hawkes

FROGS

Virginia Foster
Arlene York
Ruth Furrough

Lucile Jones
Muriel McAllister
Rita Luja

FAIRY ATTENDANTS

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

Elizabeth Frost
Catherine Hanson
Ruth Peterson
Betty Perneroy
Ada Senior

CHOIR BOYS

Dean Evans

Abbott Mosher

ACCOMPANIST

Virginia Hall