

THE GREAT WANDERINGS OF ODYSSEUS, STARRING CAMERON FITCH! By Greg Cummings

Copyright © MMXIX by Greg Cummings, All rights reserved.
ISBN: 978-1-61588-434-6

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Heuer Publishing LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Heuer Publishing LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC.*

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Heuer Publishing LLC.

HEUER PUBLISHING LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011

THE GREAT WANDERINGS OF ODYSSEUS, STARRING CAMERON FITCH!

By Greg Cummings

SYNOPSIS: Cameron Fitch cut class and skipped the quiz on *The Odyssey*. Now he has to write and present a play based on the classic starring himself as Odysseus and casting his class as the ship's crew, the Cyclops, the Lotus Eaters, and all the rest. The problem is that Cameron may be just a little too much like Odysseus for his own good.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(13 either)

CAMERON FITCH (f/m).....	Lazy, with anger management issues. Plays the role of Odysseus. (88 lines)
ALBERT (f/m).....	His best friend. Plays the role of a crew member. (24 lines)
JOHN (f/m).....	Friend. Plays the role of a crew member. (8 lines)
GARY (f/m).....	Friend. Plays the role of a crew member. (2 lines)
IAN (f/m).....	Friend. Plays the role of a crew member. (8 lines)
MACY (f/m).....	Classmate. Plays the role of a Lotus Eater. (4 lines)
ZOE (f/m).....	Classmate. Plays the role of a Lotus Eater. (6 lines)
KATIE (f/m).....	Classmate. Plays the role of a Lotus Eater. (4 lines)
EMMA (f/m).....	Classmate. Plays the role of a Lotus Eater. (4 lines)
DAVE (f/m).....	Classmate. Plays the role of King Aeolus. (5 lines)
ARTHUR (f/m).....	Classmate. Plays the role of Poseidon. (7 lines)

- MEGAN (f/m)..... Classmate. Plays the role of Circe. Note: If Megan is played by a male, her name becomes SAM. (5 lines)
- DR. ALEXANDER (f/m) Offstage voice. English teacher. (19 lines)

DURATION: 20 minutes

SETTING: A high school stage serving as Odysseus's ship.

TIME: English class. Right before lunch.

CASTING NOTES

ENSEMBLES – Ensembles may be formed to support Odysseus's crew and Lotus Eaters.

CROSS-GENDER CASTING – All roles may be cross-gender cast. Pronouns and proper nouns are used sparingly, and may be changed. NOTE: If you cross-gender cast Cameron (Odysseus) and Megan (Circe), (that is, if CAMERON is female, and MEGAN is male), you may change MEGAN'S name to SAM.

AUTHOR NOTE

The concept behind *The Great Wanderings of Odysseus, Starring Cameron Fitch!* is that it was written and designed by Cameron Fitch. Cameron is, at best, lazy. All production aspects should reflect this.

SET

The stage represents the ship of the Greek hero, Odysseus, designed and executed by Cameron Fitch. Cameron had no budget, he is not a set designer, nor did he put a lot of time or effort into the design. Center stage, the wheel of the ship (made of cardboard or other cheap material). Across upstage there may be something to indicate the ship's sail (a white bed sheet draped over a coat rack). Across downstage there may be something to indicate the ocean. Maybe a blue bed sheet.

COSTUMES

Over their school clothes, most characters wear bed sheets for togas. (Gary's bed sheet is fitted). Megan wears a dress. Lotus Eaters also wear bed sheets for togas and carry baskets of lotus flowers.

Each character wears a large sign with his/her character name: Odysseus, Odysseus's crew, Lotus Eaters, Poseidon-God of the Sea, Aeolus-God of the Winds, and Circe-Goddess of Sorcery.

Poseidon can have a long, white beard.

PROPS

- Baskets of flowers (lotus)
- Trident
- Ball painted to look like a Cyclops eyeball
- Handful of balloons
- Fan (hand or battery powered)
- Magic wand
- Optional: tambourines or finger cymbals for Lotus Eater dance

SOUND EFFECTS

- School passing bell

DEDICATION

*The cast and crew of the premiere production
at Dwight-Englewood School.*

Technical Director Extraordinaire, Leon DiLeone.

AT START: *Darkness. The click of an offstage microphone being turned on. Broadcast over the sound system, we hear the offstage voice of CAMERON FITCH.*

CAMERON: *(Announcing.)* And now, presenting, for your listening, viewing, and historical pleasure: *The Great Wanderings of Odysseus! Starring Cameron Fitch!* No, no, wait: Cameron Fitch in *The Great Wanderings of Odysseus!* No! Wait! I've got it: Cameron Fitch is the Greek hero Odysseus IN *The Great Wanderings of Odysseus!* Written, directed by, and starring yours truly, Cameron Fitch!

IAN: I still can't believe you're going to do this, Cameron! It's so epic!

CAMERON: Yes, yes, of course it is.

Lights slowly reveal the stage (Odysseus's ship). The following conversation is heard offstage, through the microphone.

CAMERON: *(Offstage.)* I'll show him epic.

JOHN: *(Offstage. Whispering.)* Uh... Cam?

IAN: *(Offstage.)* I don't know, Cameron. You cut his class, skipped the Odysseus quiz, and refuse to call him Zeus.

ALBERT: *(Offstage.)* Yeah, and look where that got us.

IAN: *(Offstage.)* Acting in your trippy version of *The Odyssey*. On stage. In bed sheets.

CAMERON: *(Offstage.)* Don't you think it's weird that he wants the entire class to call him "Zeus"?

ALBERT: *(Offstage.)* It's just until we finish *The Odyssey*. You're the only one who doesn't do it, Cam.

CAMERON: *(Offstage.)* Because it's odd! He's odd... and *The Odyssey* is 2,800 years old. Who wants to read something that is 2,800 years old? Nobody, that's who. Oh, he thinks he's soooo funny. Dr. Alexander probably thinks he is Zeus! *(Stewing.)* He probably thinks he's an actual Greek god! He's sitting up there in the light booth right now waiting to triumph over his puny civilization of English students! Waiting to judge me!

JOHN: *(Offstage. Whispering.)* Uh... Cam?

IAN: (*Offstage.*) Come on Cam, at least he's trying. Zeus just wants to make ancient Greece "come alive" for us. Learn lessons and stuff... you know: school!

ALBERT: (*Offstage.*) And his jokes are funny!

CAMERON: (*Offstage.*) His jokes are not funny! And stop calling him Zeus! And: stand back! I've got an entrance to make!

IAN: (*Offstage.*) Cam? Are those Spark Notes on your hand?

CAMERON: (*Offstage. Sarcastically.*) No, I studied for this! (*Laughs.*)

JOHN: (*Offstage. Whispering.*) Cameron!

CAMERON: (*Offstage.*) What is it?

JOHN: (*Offstage. Whispering.*) Your microphone!

CAMERON: (*Offstage.*) What about it?

JOHN: (*Offstage. Whispering.*) You never turned it off!

Pause. Sound of microphone clicking off. Pause. Sound of microphone clicking on.

CAMERON: (*Offstage. Announcing.*) *The Great Wanderings of Odysseus, starring Cameron Fitch.*

Sound of microphone clicking off. Enter CAMERON, as Odysseus, stage left, as if nothing has happened. He wears a toga over his school clothes, and an "ODYSSEUS" sign around his neck. He crosses to the wheel, grabs it, faces the audience, and acts like he is Odysseus commanding his ship. He sways from side to side. He tries to hide the fact that he is reading Spark Notes written on his hands. He's not a good actor but thinks he's amazing.

CAMERON: (*Reading his hand.*) I am Odysseus! That means I am strong, wise, and good-looking. Really good-looking. (*Calling off left, reading his hand.*) Men! My crew! Hurry aboard (*Gestures.*) my ship! The ship of Odysseus, your leader! We must escape the wrath of the Kikonians. We destroyed their temples! And the gods have blown us off course! And I, only I, Odysseus, can return us safely to Ithaca! (*No response, so he repeats, loudly.*) I said, Men! My crew! Hurry aboard (*Gestures.*) my ship! The ship of Odysseus, whom I might add is a strong, wise and really good-looking leader! We must escape the wrath of the Kik...

From left and right, enter ALBERT, JOHN, and IAN running, wearing bed sheets over their school clothes. GARY wears a pillowcase with head and arm holes, as a shirt and "ODYSSEUS'S CREW" signs around their necks.

IAN: *(To DR. ALEXANDER in the light booth at the back of the auditorium.)* Sorry, Zeus!

CAMERON: *(Whispers.)* Don't talk to him! *(Pause.)* You're late!

ALBERT: *(Whispers.)* Sorry, Cam!

CAMERON: *(Whispers.)* What's he wearing?

ALBERT: *(Whispers.)* Gary forgot his toga so I gave him a pillowcase.

CAMERON: *(Whispers.)* A pillowcase?

ALBERT: *(Whispers.)* It's all I had.

CAMERON: *(Whispers.)* He looks like a snowman!

GARY: "Snowman!" *(Bursts into tears, stops, closes his eyes, freezes in fear.)*

CAMERON: What the...

IAN: *(Whispers.)* Now you did it, Cam! You know Gary's terrified of snowmen! Ever since that early childhood trauma of his!

GARY: *(Reliving the trauma.)* Frosty's melting, Uncle Neddy! Frosty's melting again! Just like last year! And the year before that! Why does Frosty melt every year, Uncle Neddy, why? *(Sings, traumatized.)* "Frosty the Snowman..."

IAN: *(Scolding.)* Nice job, Cameron! Nice job! *(Comfortingly.)* Come on, Gary. Come with me, buddy. Nice and easy, here we go... *(To DR. ALEXANDER.)* Sorry, Zeus.

CAMERON: He's not Zeus!

IAN guides the still singing GARY off stage.

CAMERON: What a baby, right?! Am I right?!

ALBERT: Cam! *(Regarding DR. ALEXANDER at the back of the auditorium.)* Your play!

CAMERON: Right! *(Recovers, grabs the wheel, points ahead, and reads his hand.)* Now, look, crew of mine! The next stop on our journey: The Land of the Lotus Eaters. Now be sure not to eat the lotus, men. For if you do, you will be entranced by its drug-like effects. *(No response, so he repeats loudly.)* I said, Now, look crew of mine! The next stop on our journey: The Land of the Lotus Eaters. Now be sure not to... *(Whispers offstage.)* Lotus Eaters! That's your cue!

MACY, ZOE, KATIE, and EMMA enter stage right as Lotus Eaters. They wear bed sheets, Hawaiian leis, and "LOTUS EATER" signs around their necks. They carry baskets of lotus flowers. They cross to downstage center.

ALL LOTUS EATERS: *(In unison, smiling to DR. ALEXANDER.)* Hi, Zeus!

CAMERON: *(Whispers.)* Don't do that! *(Pause.)* You're late!

ALBERT: *(Whispers.)* Cam! Focus!

CAMERON: Right! *(Reading his hand, and "acting.")* So! Here we are! We have arrived in The Land of the Lotus Eaters! *(Pause.)* Tell me, O Lotus Eaters, what do you have there, in your Lotus Eater baskets? I hope it's not some of that sleep-inducing lotus I've read so much about.

MACY: *(Mocking.)* Where in the world did you get these plastic Hawaiian leis, Cam? Party City?

CAMERON: *(Whispering.)* What?

ZOE: I know, right? Plus, they itch!

CAMERON: *(Whispering.)* Quiet! *(Reading his hand.)* Avoid the lotus! Avoid the lotus, my crew!

ZOE: Plus, they're just not very complimentary.

KATIE: And you look good in everything!

ZOE: I know, right?

CAMERON: *(Whispering.)* Stop it!

EMMA: Plus... *(To MACY.)* Is it time?

CAMERON: *(Whispering.)* Time for what?

MACY: *(Checking the time.)* I believe it is!

CAMERON: *(Whispering.)* Time for what?!

ZOE: The Dance of the Lotus Eaters!

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

**THE GREAT WANDERINGS OF ODYSSEUS,
STARRING CAMERON FITCH!**

By Greg Cummings

**For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the
script, please contact us at:**

Heuer Publishing LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-800-950-7529 • Fax (319) 368-8011

WWW.HEUERPUB.COM