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Dramatic Publishing
Redwall: The Legend of Redwall Abbey

A Musical in Two Acts
by
EVELYN SWENSSON

Based on the book Redwall
by
BRIAN JACQUES

Written for Opera Delaware
World Premiere – March 7, 1998
The Grand Opera House

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Redwall: The Legend of Redwall Abbey had its world premiere at The Grand Opera House, Opera Delaware, on March 7, 1998. The production was directed by Leland Kimbal, with music conducted and directed by Evelyn Swennson, and included the following:

CAST
1) Matthias Mouse ..................... Eric Miller
2) Abbot, a mouse ..................... John Dennison
3) Methuselah, a mouse ............... Kurt Bieg
4) Constance, the Badger .............. Lois Alt
5) Cluny the Scourge, a rat .......... Alan Wagner
6) Fangburn, a rat ..................... Carl Pouncy
7) Frogblood, a rat ............. Gerald Blanchard
8) Ragear, a rat ..................... Rob Hull
9) Mangefur, a rat ..................... Ray Murphy
10) Redtooth, a rat ....... Jack Hollister / Ensemble
11) Cheesethief, a rat .... Carlos Alicea / Ensemble
12) Darkclaw, a rat .... Justin Vye / Ensemble
13) Scummose, a rat .... Andrew Curtin / Ensemble
14) Wormtail, a rat .......... Kurt Bieg / Ensemble
15) Killconey, a weasel .... Brandon Burk / Ensemble
16) Jess, a squirrel .......... Marie Rose Gardner
17) Silent Sam, her son .... Conner Gardner
18) Brother Alf, a mouse .... Elliot Jones
19) Hugo, a mouse .................. Brandon Burk
20) Basil, a hare .................... Rob Hull
21) Capt. Snow, an owl .......... Jack Hollister
22) Julian, a cat ................. Ray Murphy
23) King Sparra, a bird ...... Gerald Blanchard
24) Dunwing, a sparrow .......... Stephanie Santer
25) Warbeak, a sparrow ........ Jennifer Zetlan

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26) Sela, a vixen ........................Tina Betz
27) Chickenhound, a fox .....................James Smith
28) Shadow, a ferret ......................James Smith
29) Ambrose, a porcupine ................Andrew Coonin
30) Winifred, an otter ........Dayle Joseph / Ensemble
31) Sister Clemence, a mouse . Melissa Daniels / Ensemble
32) Mr. Churchmouse ......................Kurt Bieg
33) Mrs. Churchmouse ................Lisa Dodson / Ensemble
34) Cornflower, their daughter ............Caitlin Ganc
35) Mrs. Vole ..........................Rupal Pinto / Ensemble
36) Colin Vole, her son ...........Thomas Anderson
37) Battlehawk, sparra warrior .......Caitlin Kerchner
38) Windplume, sparra warrior ...........Jessica Moss
39) Guosim, shrew leader .............Arwen Sheridan
40) Log-a-log, a shrew ...................Ryan Maguire
41) Voice of Asmodeus ...................Alan Wagner
42) Foremole . . Robby Williams: Voice . John Dennison

LADIES ENSEMBLE
1) Amanda Alicea
2) Gail Alicea
3) Nancy Bailey
4) Melissa Daniels
5) Deb Lehman
6) Heather Robb

STUDENT CHORUS
1) Julie Constantine .......................Sparrow
2) Kelly Curtin ..........................Sparrow
3) Caitlin Custer ........................Shrew
4) Caitlin Kerchner ....................... Sparrow
5) Jessica Moss ......................... Sparrow
6) Jessie Novotny ....................... Sparrow
7) Brittany Ramone ...................... Shrew
8) Tiffany Rerenauer ..................... Shrew
9) Meghan Shara ......................... Sparrow
10) Arwen Sheridan ...................... Shrew
11) Bethany Somers ...................... Sparrow
12) Caroline Sparks ...................... Sparrow
13) Thomas Anderson ..................... Shrew
14) Andrew Coonin ...................... Sparrow
15) Timothy Keeler ...................... Shrew
16) John Lasher ......................... Sparrow
17) Christopher Leck ..................... Shrew
18) Ryan Maguire ....................... Shrew
19) Patrick O’Hanlon ..................... Shrew
20) Logan Osberg ....................... Shrew
21) Ross Ramone ....................... Shrew
22) Robby Williams ...................... Sparrow
REDWALL: THE LEGEND OF REDWALL ABBEY

A Musical in Two Acts
For 10-20 characters or more, with children’s chorus

CHARACTERS

| MATTHIAS  | CLUNY |
| ABBOT     | REDTOOTH |
| CONSTANCE | CHEESETHIEF |
| METHUSELAH | FANGBURN |
| BROTHER ALF | FROGBLOOD |
| SISTER CLEMENCE | MANGEFUR |
| HUGO     | RAGEAR |
| JESS     | SELA |
| WARBEAK | CHICKENHOUND |
| JULIAN  | SHADOW |
| CAPT. SNOW | VOICE OF ASMODEUS |

Optional roles
BULL SPARRA, DUNWING, BATTLEHAWK,
 WINDPLUME, AMBROSE SPIKE, WINIFRED, MR. &
 MRS. CHURCHMOUSE, MRS. VOLE, DARKCLAW,
 SCUMNOSE, WORMTAIL, KILLCONEY, OTHER RATS

Children’s chorus (Mice, Shrews, Sparrows)
GUOSIM, LOG-A-LOG, FOREMOLE, TOBY, WALT, (optional:) COLIN, CORNFLOWER, SILENT SAM

*Less w/ doubling—see next page
*If Sparra Court is omitted, Warbeak can sing Dunwing’s #20.
Doubling suggestions for 8 men, 2 women:

ABBOT / METHUSELAH
BASIL / RAGEAR
BULL SPARRA / CHEESETHIEF
CAPT. SNOW / REDTOOTH
CLEMENCE / WARBEAK
CLUNY / VOICE OF ASMODEUS
HUGO / FANGBURN
JESS / SELA
JULIAN / MANGEFUR
SHADOW / CHICKENHOUND
ACT I

(MUSIC #1: OVERTURE)
(Orchestra. Music continues into Scene 1)

SCENE 1, Redwall Abbey. The Great Hall.

(Tapestry as backdrop.)

(REDWALLERS gather for the feast of celebration.)

(MUSIC #1A: SUMER IS ICUMEN IN)*

ALL (RATS sing onstage).
SUMER IS I CUMEN IN,
LHUDE SING CUCCU,
GROWETH SED AND BLOWETH MED,
AND SPRINGTH THE WINDE NU; (wind a-new)
SING CUCCU

AWE BLETETH AFTER LOMB
(Ewe a-bleating after lamb)
HOUTH AFTER CALVE CU:
(And cow for calf doth moo)
BULLUC STERTETH, BUCKE VERTETH
(Bulls are snorting, bucks cavorting)
MURIE SING CUCCU.

CUCCU, CUCCU, MURIE SING THE CUCCU
MURIE SING CUCU.

*John of Fornsete (1280) Monk of Reading Abbey
WINIFRED. I say, Matthias. Where’s that giant grayling you hooked today? I wish I could land a beauty like that!

MATTHIAS. Oh, thank you, Miss Otter. That’s quite a compliment from you, our champion fisher-lady. I believe that Friar Hugo is planning to serve it tonight.

(MUSIC #2: BROTHERS OF REDWALL)

BROTHERS.
WE ARE THE BROTHERS OF REDWALL
WE LIVE BY THE BELL ALL OUR DAYS,
WE SLEEP AND WORK AND STUDY
AND SING OUR SONGS OF PRAISE.

ALL.
ALLELUIA!

WE ROTATE ALL OF THE DUTIES
SO NO ONE WILL BE BORED.
WE LIVE A LIFE THAT BY OURSELVES
WE NEVER COULD AFFORD.

ALL.
ALLELUIA!

WE BAKE OUR BREAD IN THE OVENS
AND MAKE OUR CANDLES OF WAX,
AND GROW OUR FOOD IN THE GARDENS,
AND SEW OUR HABITS OF FLAX.

ALL.
ALLELUIA!
BROTHER ALF.
I AM BROTHER ALF
ASSISTANT TO THE ABBOT
I PREACH AND TEACH,
GIVE HELP TO EACH,
AND WASH THE ABBOT’S HABITS.

ALL.
AND WASH THE ABBOT’S HABITS.

HUGO.
I AM FRIAR HUGO.
THE KITCHEN’S MY DOMAIN.
I PLAN THE MENUS, COOK THE MEALS,
AND NO ONE DARES COMPLAIN.

ALL.
AND NO ONE DARES COMPLAIN.

AMBROSE.
I AM AMBROSE SPIKE,
A PRICKLY PORCUPINE.
I MAKE THE CHERRY CORDIAL
AND ELDERBERRY WINE.

ALL.
AND ELDERBERRY WINE.

CONSTANCE.
I AM CONSTANCE BADGER,
PROTECTOR OF THE SMALL,
MY FRIENDS CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME
TO HELP THEM WHEN THEY CALL.
ALL.
TO HELP THEM WHEN THEY CALL.

MR. & MRS. CHURCHMOUSE.
WE’RE MR. AND MRS. CHURCHMOUSE WITH OUR INGENUE.

CORNFLOWER.
THEY CALL ME CORNFLOWER. BECAUSE MY EYES ARE BLUE.
(She blinks her eyes.)

ALL.
BECAUSE HER EYES ARE BLUE.

MATTHIAS.
MATTHIAS IS MY NAME
I HAVEN’T BEEN HERE LONG.
I HEARD THE BROTHERS SINGING AND WANTED TO SING THEIR SONG.

ALL.
ALLELUIA!

ALL.
WE LOVE OUR FATHER ABBOT AND HONOR HIM TODAY ON HIS SILVER ANNIVERSARY AND SO WITHOUT DELAY—

BRING IN THE CLOWNS AND ACROBATS, AND YOU, MUSICIANS, PLAY!
WE’LL SING AND DANCE AND CELEBRATE THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY!

ALL.

ALLELUIA!

(MUSIC #2A: DANCE—Instrumental)
(Optional: Magician, Juggler, Acrobats)

(MUSIC #2B: THE LEGEND—Intro)

ABBOT.
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE MY SILVER ANNIVERSARY AS ABBOT OF REDWALL.
IT MAY SEEM A LONG TIME TO SOME, BUT COMPARED TO THE AGE OF OUR ABBEY IT IS A SHORT TIME INDEED.

ALL. Hurray! Hurray!

ABBOT.
LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR HERO, WHOSE BRAVE DEEDS FILL THIS MAGNIFICENT TAPESTRY.
MARTIN THE WARRIOR, IT WAS HE WHO MADE REDWALL THE PEACEFUL PLACE IT IS TODAY.
ABBOT.

REDWALL ABBEY IS A PLACE OF PEACE.
IN MARTIN’S TIME IT WAS NOT SO.
HE FOUGHT MANY FOXES AND GREAT WILD CAT
BUT THAT WAS VERY LONG AGO.

BROTHER ALF.

MARTIN, THE WARRIOR, WOUNDED IN THE WAR
LAY BLEEDING, DYING IN THE SNOW:
The brothers from the Abbey came and rescued him.
HE LIVED, BUT THIS WE NEED TO KNOW:

MARTIN, OUR HERO, PUT AWAY HIS SWORD.
OUR WAY OF LIFE TO HIM WE OWE.
HE TAUGHT US NOT TO HARM A LIVING THING, UNLESS,
INVADED BY AN EVIL FOE.

ALL.

REDWALL ABBEY IS A PLACE OF PEACE
IN ALL OUR TIME IT HAS BEEN SO.
WE FEED THE POOR, HEAL THE SICK, HELP THE WEAK,
AND BY OUR DAILY DEEDS WE SHOW THAT REDWALL ABBEY IS A PLACE OF PEACE.

HUGO. Good evening, Father Abbot. Congratulations on your silver anniversay at Redwall Abbey.
ABBOT. Thank you, Friar Hugo. Now, what is on the menu for the feast tonight?
HUGO. The main course will be the big fish that Matthias caught this morning. *(MATTHIAS bows. All cheer.)*

(MUSIC #4: THE FEAST)

HUGO. Let me tell you the rest of the menu.

FIRST, WE’LL HAVE SOME FRESH-WATER SHRIMP,
GARNISHED WITH ROSE LEAVES AND CREAM;
BARLEY PEARLS IN ACORN PUREE,
CABBAGE AND TURNIPS SUPREME.

CARROT CHEWS FOR THE DIBBUNS*, OF COURSE,
SUNFLOWER SEEDS AND KIBBLE,
CHUNKS OF CHEESE AND PLENTY OF NUTS,
APPLES AND RAISINS TO NIBBLE.

* Dibbins - Little animals

(TRUMPET FANFARE. TWO REDWALLERS carry in the Giant Grayling.)

HUGO. “My pièce de résistance.”
GRAYLING À LA REDWALL!
BAKED IN GOOSEBERRY WINE.
MINT AND HONEY AND BEECHNUTS, TOO
THIS DISH WILL BE DIVINE!

ALL.
GRAYLING À LA REDWALL
BAKED IN GOOSEBERRY WINE
MINT AND HONEY AND BEECHNUTS, TOO
THE DISH WILL BE DIVINE
(Oohs and abs then applause.)

ABBOTT. Let us sing the grace, then Hugo may serve his masterpiece.

(MUSIC #4A: THE GRACE)

ALL (chanting).
BLESS THESE NUTS AND HERBS AND FRUITS,
BERRIES, TUBERS, PLANTS AND ROOTS;
SILVERFISH WHOSE LIFE WE TAKE
ONLY FOR A MEAL TO MAKE. AMEN. *

* Words by Brian Jacques

(All cheer and begin eating and talking. SISTER CLEMENCE rushes in.)

SISTER CLEMENCE. Father Abbot! Father Abbot! A galloping horse just passed our gate. It was pulling a hay wagon full of rats! Huge, ugly rats!

ABBOT. Was there anything special that you noticed about the leader?

SISTER CLEMENCE. He had only one eye.

ABBOT. Can you recall anything about his tail?

SISTER CLEMENCE. He held it in his claw as if it were a whip.

ABBOT (pacing). Twice in my lifetime I have heard travelers speak of this rat. His name is Cluny the Scourge.

ALL (together). How terrible! What a mess! Maybe Cluny will spare us, etc.
WINIFRED. Oh, my whiskers!
SISTER CLEMENCE. Hadn’t we better pack up and move?
JESS. Maybe Cluny will spare us.
SISTER CLEMENCE. Oh, dear, oh dear—what shall we do?
MATTHIAS. Do? I’ll tell you what we’ll do: We’ll be ready!

(MUSIC #5: WE’LL BE READY)

(Marching information led by MATTHIAS)

ALL.

READY, WE’LL BE READY
WHEN THEY COME.
WHEN THEY COME!
STEADY, WE’LL BE STEADY
WHEN THEY COME!
WHEN THEY COME!

IF INVADED BY THE FOE,
WE WILL STAGE A COUNTER BLOW.

READY, WE’LL BE READY
WHEN THEY COME.
WHEN THEY COME.
WHEN THEY COME!

(MUSIC #5A: WE’LL BE READY—Playoff)