

Ariadne auf Naxos

Backstage, there is consternation that a comedy troupe is scheduled immediately following a serious new opera, *Ariadne*. Both must finish before the fireworks begin. The idealistic young composer is dismayed.

Chaos ensues when opera and comedy are ordered to be performed simultaneously.

Teno and Prima Donna bicker over who's part should be cut.

Zerbinett is sure her comedy troupe will easily fit into the opera's plot.

She reassures the composer, who is crushed by the destruction of his work.

Sharing an eternal moment, he sees the lonely girl behind the mask.

She finds the only man who understands her.

But as the opera begins the composer fears disaster.

Abandoned by Theseus on the island of Naxos, Princess Ariadne prays for death.

Naiad, Dryad and Echo watch over her.

When the comedy troupe fails to cheer Ariadne, Zerbinetta addresses her:

"Royal grief may be great, yet you must still have the heart of a woman.

Desert islands exist inside women even when surrounded by people, yet ...

When a new god arrives we surrender to his love wordlessly."

Ariadne silently retreats to her cave.

Zerbinetta dances with the men of the troupe, marveling at how wonderfully different all men are.

In the end she eludes them all preferring Harlequin who patiently waits for her....

Naiad, Dryad and Echo announce the arrival of a glorious young God- Bacchus!

Ariadne welcomes him as the messenger of death.

Bacchus immediately enchanted, kisses her declaring life is only beginning for them.

Waves of love transform Ariadne who still feels she is dying.

The Godhood of Bacchus is fully awakened-

He proclaims the stars shall go out before death can ever take Ariadne from his Arms!

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