

ARTIST; R. David Simpson

Plan; Touring production

My works: the past twenty years has been film work, over 170 of varies genre. The past ten years on writing a dozen film scripts and seven novelettes and the past two and half years on stage scripts and my first stage production. I am soon to be 74. I am faced with a time frame that requires careful consideration and planning.

Specific project: 2021-2022 - Over the pandemic, I changed my screen play (Cleopatra, Queen of Exile') to a stage play and over 11 months – hired and rehearsed with ten actors to prepare and finally perform in Victoria over April and May of 2022, successfully. This play centers around the lead actress who plays Cleopatra and her entourage.

For the next step in 2023. I wish to showcase this production in a few Canadian cities or a least a few times in Vancouver and then bring the production to Greece or and Italy's 2500-year-old amphitheatres for one show, late 2023. This is where I need help, In gaining funding and finding the right stage manager. My approach to working with the actors and or stage manager, is to take in what is being offered and if it makes sense, go with it. Teamwork, character and acting ability are the three core things that I seek from the cast and staff.

As for myself, this is a bold new challenge. This is my first time to produce a stage production and act as Director. I will be learning more and more about my role and responsibilities I move along. I feel that my production will enhance Canadian stage 'works of art' that are presented to the public and present a famous, past international figure that still has, even after 2030 years, a hold on the public's imagination and give a window to the power of women still empower those of today.

My inspiration for this work is my love of history and my three daughters. I consider this plan to be a part of my artistic legacy. My hope and goal is to find the right person or people to make it all happen.

Are you interested in making this happen with us? Please feel free to contact me if so. Thank you !

See the actors; Stage; <https://www.facebook.com/cleopatraqueenofexile/>
Rehearsal film ; You tube; <https://youtu.be/ND9ejtKbrzl>

Thank you

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Cleopatra Log and Synopsis

Log:

Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, faced by certain death from her bother- husband, is forced to flee Egypt, collect an army, then returns to Egypt to reclaim her throne with some help from the Roman- Caesar.

SYNOPSIS: Queen of Exile

This is a story about a Infinitely vain highly intelligent QUEEN CLEOPATRA 7th, who lives in a very 'man controlled world', very much a lonely position, where a woman needs to be cunning, a gambler, beautiful, seductive, and mother and a killer if need be. It's a story where she struggles to hold onto her crown, wary her husband-brother Ptolemy Advisors and their schemes to take her from the throne.

But, when it looks like she will soon lose her head, she gets her servants to spirit her out of her palace at night – hidden in a rolled-up rug. Once safely on the road in the desert with a small contingent of loyal servants, she struggles to raise an army to retake her throne. Cleopatra, unused to desert life is forced to put up with hardships and indignities her privileged upbringing has ill prepared her for. On top of that, she's forced to stoop to dealing with the lowly desert King AZAR to find an army for her cause.

Just when she succeeds in raising an army, Cleopatra learns that the Romans, led by Julius Caesar, have intervened in Egypt. Carried in the rolled-up rug, Cleopatra returns to throw herself at Caesar's mercy.

Main Characters

- 1- Cleopatra –Queen of Egypt- LEAD
- 2- Diogenes - tutor to Cleopatra
- 3- Jahi – her tutor .
- 4- Iras- A maid to Cleopatra
- 5 Charmion- Maid to Cleopatra.
- 6- Appolodorus -Male Servant to Cleopatra.
- 7 - Arab King Azar –Arab king of many nomadic tribes

Bit Characters

- 1- Ekmata- Female Royal Guard, -
- 2- Pothinius- Advisor to Boy king Ptolemy.
- 3- Achilles – Captain of the Royal guard to Boy King Ptolemy.
- 4- Arsinoë - Is the half-sister of Cleopatra
- 5 - Gabinius; - Governor of Syria under the command of Pompey.
- 6- ISIS -Goddess of Love and family.
- 7- Arab leaders -varies background voices

ACT #1

PREDULE TO ACT 1

SPEECH BY A WISE OLD SOOTHSAYER

SOOTHSAYER (FRONT OF STAGE)

! IMAGE-PALACE #1 -music - file #1-(V/O= 28sec.)

Two thousand years ago, in the ancient land of Egypt, a newly crowned young queen, Cleopatra the 7th- was under pressure from her people to alleviate their suffering caused by the lack of Nile waters, which blessed the lands. She, alone, as their pharaoh was responsible for bringing back a full, fertile Nile River, but her time was running out.

SCENE #1

SETTING: THE GREAT HALL.

PRESENT: CLEOPATRA, GROUP OF CITIZENS, JAHI, DIOGENES.

AT RISE: CLEOPATRA *sits on a throne surrounded by her advisors. A citizen stands before her.*

CLEOPATRA

(Firm but kind)

As I understand it, you are petitioning for an exemption from the sacred tax as your crops have failed. You feel you have already been punished by our beneficence the harvest goddess Rene-nu-tet, by the loss of your third son.

Citizen bows quickly -

CITIZEN Yes, my
Queen.

CLEOPATRA

You are exempt.

(Exclamation of SHOCK from the room)

DIOGENES

My Queen, the taxes are mandatory, for all the people!

CLEOPATRA

Do not question me! I AM my people, and when they suffer - I suffer. Do you wish me to suffer?

(Diogenes bows his head) -

DIOGENES

No, My Queen - may her great divinity forgive this one.

CLEOPATRA

All taxes are to be revoked for growers of grain and farmers of cows, until we are again blessed with rains sufficient to flood our life-giving Nile River.

(Turns to Advisers)

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)

Bring me the paperwork later.

(Addresses the room)

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)

Let it be known from henceforth that concludes this day's affairs.

(Stands to leave - agitated - Citizens fall prostrate - Advisers bow deeply - looks left and right - SHE strides majestically out of the room - people follow)

(END OF SCENE)

PS; THE LAY OUT OF THE SCRIPT IS A BIT DIFFERENT- AS IT WAS USED ON ZOOM DURING THE PANDEMIC AND HELPED ACTORS UNDERSTAND WHO WAS WHERE AND WHEN.

A few select photos from the play when shown in Victoria



(AN EXERCISE IN PERSEVERANCE)

CLEOPATRA

QUEEN OF EXILE

THIS IS AN ORIGINAL PRODUCTION ABOUT QUEEN CLEOPATRA THE VII, QUEEN OF EGYPT. IN THIS TALE, SHE IS FACED WITH CERTAIN DEATH FROM HER BROTHER-HUSBAND AND FORCED TO FLEE EGYPT, COLLECT AN ARMY, AND PLANS TO RECLAIM HER THRONE WITH SOME HELP FROM THE ARAB LEADERS AND ROMAN, JULIUS CAESAR.

DIRECTED BY R. DAVID SIMPSON

Total proceeds to
Ukrainian Relief
<https://www.ccfoundation.ca>

fb: cleopatraqueenofexile

OCE STAGE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

AT SALT SPRING ISLAND APRIL 03/2 PM

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AT CCPA VICTORIA MAY 21/7PM

[TICKETS.CCPACANADA.COM](https://tickets.ccpacanada.com)

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