

**PERUSAL SCRIPT**

**Behind the  
Blue  
Door**

a ten-minute by  
**Eric Samuelsen**



Newport, Maine

© 2007 by Eric Samuelsen

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

**CAUTION:**

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that

**BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR**

being fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States Of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion Of Canada, and the other countries of the Copyright Union, is subject to royalty. Anyone presenting the play without the express written permission of the Copyright owners and/or their authorized agent will be liable to the penalties provided by law.

**Script and music copies must be rented from the Publisher and Royalty must be paid to the publisher for each and every performance before an audience whether or not admission is charged. A performance license must first be obtained from the publisher prior to any performance(s).**

Federal Copyright Law -- 17 U.S.C. section 504 -- allows for a recovery of a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$50,000 *for each infringement*, plus attorney fees.

The professional and amateur rights to the performance of this play along with the lecturing, recitation, and public reading rights, are administered exclusively through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be made. For all other rights, inquiries may be made to the authors through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS. Any adaptation or arrangement of this work without the author's written permission is an infringement of copyright. **Unauthorized duplication by any means is also an infringement.**

**FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS YOU MUST APPLY TO THE PUBLISHER OR YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW!**

The possession of this PERUSAL SCRIPT, does not constitute permission to perform the work herein contained, in public or in private, for gain or charity. Proper prior application must be made, license granted and royalty paid before a performance may be given. Copies of this SCRIPT and all other rehearsal materials may be rented from:

LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS  
P.O. Box 536 Newport, ME 04953-0536  
[www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com](http://www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com)  
Printed in the United States Of America

**THIS NOTICE MUST APPEAR IN ALL PROGRAMS, ON ALL POSTERS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND INTERNET ADVERTISING/WEBPAGES FOR THE PLAY:**

*"Behind The Blue Door is presented through special arrangement with Leicester Bay Theatricals. All authorized materials are also supplied by LBT, [www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com](http://www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com)"*

NOTE: Your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals limits you to making copies of this document for persons directly connected with your production. Do not distribute outside of your cast and crew. Following your performance run you must destroy all photocopies, preferably by shredding them. If we sent you the document in printed format, you must return that document to us. If we provided you with an electronic PDF file, simply trash that on your computer so that it cannot be recovered. The electronic document may only be on ONE computer -- it may NOT be duplicated. This is also a part of your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals.

***Cover Art of castle gate by Greg Ragland for Plan-B Theatre Company***

BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR by Eric Samuelsen received its world premiere May 19, 2007 as part of the fourth annual SLAM at Plan-B Theatre. Designed by Cheryl Cluff, Greg Ragland, Randy Rasmussen and Cory Thorell. Stage managed by Jennifer Freed. Produced by Jerry Rapier. The following cast was directed by Christy Summerhays:

Jesper the self-loathing jester/Hassan—**Jason Tatom**

Princess Mathilda/Jenny—**Daisy Blake Perry**

Prince Percival/Baskins—**Paul Mulder**

BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR was then revived as part of the tenth annual SLAM on May 4, 2013. The following cast was directed by Alexandra Harbold: Daisy Blake, Cooper Howell and Jason Tatom. Designed by Cheryl Cluff, Thomas George, Jesse Portillo, Greg Ragland and Randy Rasmussen. Produced by Jerry Rapier.

### **Cast of Characters**

**Jesper the self-loathing jester/Hassan**

**Princess Mathilda/Jenny**

**Prince Percival/Baskins**

**BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR** a ten-minute play by Eric Samuelsen 2m 1f. Setting: a blue door. Fantasy/modern costumes (or plain black) (*Suitable for all groups*) A Prince/Knight in shining armor, his fair maiden, and Jesper the self-loathing Jester shifts back and forth from fantasy to nightmare, knights and dragons to Iraq, and back again. What are we willing to do to conquer the monsters in our lives? How can we ignore the fact that there are so many — and that not all of them can be killed? Or that we even really know how? Premiered at Plan-B Theatre Company's SLAM 2007 in Salt Lake City, then revived at SLAM 2013. **ORDER #3259**

**Eric Samuelsen** taught at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio before joining the faculty at Brigham Young University in 1992. He became head of the Playwriting program at BYU in 1999. He has also taught as an adjunct faculty member in the Religion department. He retired from BYU in 2012.

As a playwright, Samuelsen has had twenty-seven plays professionally produced in Utah, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, and California. Some of his plays include *Gadianton*, which has seen three professional productions across the country, *A Love Affair with Electrons*, *Family*, *The Plan*, and *The Way We're Wired*. He is resident playwright at Plan-B Theatre Company in Salt Lake City, who has designated their 2013-14 season a 'Season of Eric, including productions of six plays.

He is a member of the Playwrights' Circle, and the Dramatists Guild. He is three-time winner of the Annual Award in Playwriting offered by the Association for Mormon Letters (AML) and he became president of AML in 2007. In 2013 the organization awarded him the Smith Pettit Award for his lifetime work as a playwright.

He has been a staff writer for the on-line satirical magazine The Sugarbeet. He was also featured in the book *Conversations with Mormon Authors*, edited by Chris Bigelow. He is a noted Ibsen translator, and has also published scholarly articles on 19th and 20th century Scandanavian Theatre, and more recently, on LDS drama and film. He blogged at Mormoniconoclast.com. Eric died in September of 2019 after a long battle with many illnesses. This has left a huge hole in the Theatre Community within, and outside of, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## **BEHIND THE BLUE DOOR**

*(Enter PRINCESS MATHILDA and JESPER, THE SELF-LOATHING JESTER. They look around.)*

**JESPER:** So, we're here, he's not. So, too bad, sorry, good luck, and thanks for a wonderful. . . .

*(Starts to leave.)*

**MATHILDA:** But, stay, good jester! You cannot mean to abandon me?

**JESPER:** I said I'd take you to him. I was told this is where he'd be. My job's done.

**MATHILDA:** But good sir. To leave me, a woman, unprotected, alone in this frightening place!

**JESPER:** You're safe enough. Look, Princess, I'm no warrior. If something attacks, I'm not going to be much good to you. And I know, the monster and all, but honestly. . . .

**MATHILDA:** The monster!

*(She clasps him in a very pretty fear.)*

**JESPER:** Well, that's why the prince came out here, right?

**MATHILDA:** To rid our land of evil!

**JESPER:** Well, he's the guy to do it.

**MATHILDA:** (Stares, then laughs uncertainly.) Sometimes, sir, you speak so strangely.

**JESPER:** Just, he's a Prince, you know? Son of a king, so what? So anachronistic: 'off with his head'.

**MATHILDA:** God is with him. He is God's own prince, God has placed him on his throne.

**JESPER:** Well, if you've got God working on this case, you *really* don't need me.

**MATHILDA:** Please, I beg of you. Grant me the boon of your merry company, until my prince appears. For the night is dark, and shadows beckon.

**JESPER:** Whatever, fine. I'll stick around.

**MATHILDA:** Bless you, good Jesper

*(Looks at him expectantly.)*

**JESPER:** What?

**MATHILDA:** Make merry! Bring cheer to this gloomy wood!

*(He groans.)*

You say you're no warrior. But your gift is laughter. Surely you would not deny me it.

**JESPER:** Jokes, huh? Fine, sure. Okay. What do they call a guy with no arms and no legs, laying in a pile of leaves? Russell. Get it? Huh? Huh? What do you call the same guy, six months later? Pete. No arms no legs, waterskiing? Skip. No arms no legs in the mailbox? Bill. Hanging on the wall? Art. What if he also doesn't have a tongue? Tasteless art.

**MATHILDA:** *(Desperately trying to keep up, laughing weakly.)* Yes, yes. . . . most . . . diverting.

**JESPER:** Between two buildings? Ali. On the edge of a green? Chip.

*(Enter PRINCE PERCIVAL.)*

**PRINCE:** My darling, my own!

**MATHILDA:** My prince, my liege, my life!

*(They showily embrace.)*

**PRINCE:** Your presence gives me courage!

**MATHILDA:** Your courage gives me strength!

**PRINCE:** Your strength gives me hope!

**MATHILDA:** Your hope gives me faith!

**PRINCE:** Your faith gives me. . .

**JESPER:** Gas.

*(Slight burp.)*

Sorry, something I ate.

**PRINCE:** Brave jester! My hearty thanks for escorting my love to me.

**JESPER:** So, we're done here?

*(They ignore him.)*

**MATHILDA:** Have you found the beastly monster?

*(JESPER, ready to leave, takes interest in this.)*

**PRINCE:** Indeed, I have not, though all the court spies said he was here.

*(JESPER gestures with his head to the blue door.)*

**MATHILDA:** But you are prepared?

**PRINCE:** No monster can match my stout heart, and sharp blade. If only I knew where the beast cowers!

**JESPER:** *(coughs)* 'the door.'

**MATHILDA:** It cannot hide forever!

**PRINCE:** Indeed not! I shall find its spoor, and then comes the battle, and the victory!

**JESPER:** *(coughs again)* 'loser.'

**PRINCE:** Have you aught to say, good jester?

**JESPER:** Do you even know anything about this monster?

**MATHILDA:** 'Tis fierce, 'tis dangerous!

**PRINCE:** 'Tis an eater of children, despoiler of maidens!

**MATHILDA:** 'Tis a threat to all we hold dear!

**JESPER:** So where does it live?

**PRINCE:** Well, indeed sir, that we do not know.

**JESPER:** I do. I know the monster you seek. And it's everything you say, fierce and dangerous, big claws and teeth. And the b.o. like something died in its armpit.

**PRINCE:** So?

**JESPER:** You're looking under rocks and in caves. It's there, right there. Behind the blue door.

**PRINCE:** In that forbidding palace?

**JESPER:** Look, it's a monster, fine. But it eats with a knife and fork, it sleeps on a mattress, under blankets. You're imagining, I don't know, something non-human, a creature. It has names.

**MATHILDA:** Names?

**JESPER:** Polyphemus, some say. Baal. I call it Cthulhu.

**MATHILDA:** But how do you come to know this creature?

**JESPER:** Believe me, Princess, you don't want to know.

**PRINCE:** But it can be killed?

**JESPER:** Killed? Wow, I don't know.

**PRINCE:** You'll see. One swift lunge with my keen blade, and I will spill its guts.

**JESPER:** You're going to battle a creature, knowing nothing of its habits, its properties, its religion.

**PRINCE:** No monster can truly believe!

**JESPER:** You don't even know enough to know what you don't know!

**PRINCE:** Well . . . I do know right! And wrong! And how to fight evil!

**MATHILDA:** My hero!

*(She embraces him, they freeze. JESPER moves away from them a little, becomes HASSAN. MATHILDA and PRINCE, slowly sit, separate. JESPER/HASSAN finally clears his throat.)*

**PRINCE:** *(Now BASKINS.)* Yeah?

**JESPER/HASSAN:** *(Arabic accent.)* Please. I was told to come here. I am looking for my son.

**BASKINS:** He ain't here.

**JESPER/HASSAN:** I was told he *would* be here. He was detained, yesterday.

**BASKINS:** *(Sighs.)* Where?

**HASSAN:** Our town. Outside Habbaniya

**BASKINS:** Where the hell?

**HASSAN:** By Fallujah. They said, a sweep.

## **2.3 MORE PAGES TO THE END OF THIS 10-MINUTE PLAY.**