

PERUSAL SCRIPT

THE THEFT OF THOR'S HAMMER

A Tale from Norse Mythology

adapted by

Genevieve Aichele

Theatre Tales from Around The World *SERIES*



Newport, Maine

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THE THEFT OF THOR'S HAMMER

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CAST OF CHARACTERS — 6 f 5m 3 either + ensemble (m or f)

Narrator -M or F

Thor -M

Loki -M

Valkyrie Captain -F

Freya -M

Thrym, the Ice Giant -M

Sif, Thor's Wife -F

Heimdall -M

Goddesses (4) -F

Ice Giants (2) -M or F

Shadows (Goats, Servants, Falcon Wings, etc) -M or F

- Number of goddesses is flexible, or can be changed to gods as needed
- Script is designed for both speaking and non-speaking roles; however, Ice Giants & Goddesses can double as goats, servants, etc.

THE THEFT OF THOR'S HAMMER by Genevieve Aichele. TYA. 6f 5m 3 either + ensemble (m or f). Norse costumes or plain black clothes with accents. A fluid set with several locations. About 15 minutes. As Thor, the God of Thunder sleeps, the Ice Giants sneak in and steal his mighty hammer, symbol and source of his power and authority. The Gods and Goddesses set out to help Thor retrieve his hammer, for without it they all are weaker. Loki plays tricks, as usual, like dressing Thor up as a woman in order to 'betrotte' him to the King of the Ice Giants, thereby getting the hammer back. When that happens all Valhalla breaks loose. Part of the TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD SERIES. **ORDER #3134**

Genevieve Aichele is Founding Executive Director of New Hampshire Theatre Project in Portsmouth, and has performed, directed and taught theatre arts both nationally and internationally for over 35 years, including 20 years of directing the NHTP Youth Repertory Company.

Genevieve has written dozens of story theatre scripts for use both onstage and in the classroom. Her adult scripts include *Neighborhoods* (2001 Portsmouth Spotlight Community Arts Award); original adaptations of *Lysistrata* and *Finding the Prince*; and *Dreaming Again*, commissioned in 2011 by the NH Humanities Council.

As a storyteller, Genevieve performs with musician Randy Armstrong in *World Tales*. Their two CD's have won numerous national and international awards. Her first audiobook recording, *Forest Secrets* by Tracy Kane, was released in 2012. *Ocean Secrets*, her first novel for young readers co-written with Tracy Kane, was released in May 2014.

Genevieve received the 2001 New Hampshire Governors Award for Excellence in Arts in Education and the 2008 NH Theatre Award for her work with youth. In 2002, she received an award for Outstanding Achievement in American Theatre from the New England Theatre Conference.

PRODUCTION NOTES

- This script is intended to be done in story theatre style, with very simple costumes, props and scenery. As much as possible, the children should create the settings with their own bodies.
- A large plastic hammer is effective as the one real prop; everything else can be mimed.
- A bench or two chairs can serve as the thrones.
- Falcon wings could be hand held wings, with two other actors extending them from Loki's arms. Or the non-speaking actors can form the wings themselves. This is an interesting challenge because they all have to work together to coordinate the flying.
- Narrator should have a microphone so s/he can be heard over the music. Actors should not speak until the music ends.
- Fight should be in slow motion and carefully choreographed to minimize injury. Be aware that Thor and Loki will be fighting in their skirts (or working around thrown off costume pieces).
- Offbeat music like "surf guitar" can add to the humor of this piece.

COSTUMES

- Ensemble should wear a base story theatre costume in a chosen color or colors. All black is traditional, but blues, whites, silver & grey are very effective for this myth. Shirts and pants should be solid color.
- Decorated collars made of felt over base costumes works very well for this piece.
- Thor & Loki should be dressed simply in skirts and wigs, with a veil for Thor (don't try to literally create everything described by the narrator, like the belt with keys). Make sure these costumes can be put on and taken off easily.

Have fun!!!!

THE THEFT OF THOR'S HAMMER

NARRATOR: The Theft of Thor's Hammer, a tale from Norse Mythology...

(OVERTURE MUSIC plays as actors form the opening tableau on stage.)

...where the gods and goddesses were known as the Aesir, and they lived in Asgard. The strongest of all the Aesir was Thor, the god of thunder.

(SOUND OF THUNDER)

He had a magic hammer which smashed to bits whatever it struck. Thor had a temper as fiery as his bristling red beard, and the mere mention of giants and trolls made him furious.

VALKYRIE: Thor, the ice giants have escaped again!

LOKI: And the trolls have joined up with them!

THOR: What! I'll fix them for good this time!

NARRATOR: And off he would dash in his cart, which was drawn by two billy goats so wild they gnashed their teeth.

(MUSIC as THOR gets in his cart, continues under narration.)

Lightning flashed from their hooves and the wheels of the cart thundered over the leaden clouds. Thor would throw his hammer from afar and it would hurtle through the air and crush the stony head of a giant.

(SOUND OF HAMMER & CRASH as THOR throws hammer at THRYM's head)

THOR: And don't you ever come back near Asgard again!

NARRATOR: But at home on Asgard, Thor was kind and good-natured. He and his wife Sif liked to give big, noisy feasts in his enormous hall, and Thor loved to gorge himself with food.

(SCENE CHANGE MUSIC - ALL gather for feast)

SIF: What would you like to eat for dinner tonight, dear?

THOR: Oh, I'm not too hungry. How about a whole roast ox, six loaves of bread, and a couple of salmon?

(MUSIC - SERVANTS bring on food)

SIF: Will four kegs of mead be enough?

THOR: Better make it five.

(MUSIC - SERVANTS bring on mead)

NARRATOR: All the gods and goddesses of Asgard loved Thor and depended greatly on him. They had only to call his name and there he was, hammer in hand.

(THOR runs back and forth as he is called)

GODDESS 1: Thor!

GODDESS 2: Thor!

GODDESS 3: Thor!

GODDESS 4: Thor!

HEIMDAHL: Thor!

THOR: What??

NARRATOR: Without Thor, the giants might have won over them. They called him often.

(Again, THOR runs back and forth as he is called)

GODDESS 1: Thor!

GODDESS 2: Thor!

GODDESS 3: Thor!

GODDESS 4: Thor!

HEIMDAHL: Thor!

THOR: What??

(SCENE CHANGE MUSIC –All others exit and THOR sleeps with his hammer. THRYM and the ICE GIANTS sneak onstage and steal the hammer)

NARRATOR: Now every morning, when Thor woke up, the first thing he did was reach for his hammer.
But one morning...

THOR: *(waking up and reaching for hammer)* Hey, where's my hammer? Loki, come here!

LOKI: *(entering)* Coming, Your Thunderousness.

THOR: My hammer has been stolen.

LOKI: Oh no!

THOR: Sh! Don't tell a soul or the giants will hear.

NARRATOR: Just then Thor's wife Sif came in.

SIF: *(entering)* What's going on?

LOKI: Thor's hammer has been stolen.

SIF: Oh no!

THOR/LOKI: Sh! Don't tell a soul or the giants will hear.

NARRATOR: And then the Captain of the Valkyries came looking for Thor.

VALKYRIE: (*entering*) Hey, Thor, get your hammer and let's practice some giant bashing.

SIF: Thor's hammer has been stolen.

VALKYRIE: Oh no!

THOR/LOKI/SIF: Sh! Don't tell a soul or the giants will hear.

VALKYRIE: If the giants hear that Thor's hammer is gone...

ALL: They will attack Asgard!

SIF: What can we do?

LOKI: Let's ask Freya to lend me her swift falcon wings and I will fly off and look for the thief.

ALL: Good idea!

NARRATOR: So they all rushed to Freya's hall.

(SCENE CHANGE MUSIC – FREYA enters with her goddesses)

Freya was attended by all her maiden goddesses. She asked Thor.

FREYA: What's the matter?

THOR: My hammer's been stolen!

ALL: (*very loudly*) Oh no!

THOR/LOKI/SIF/VALKYRIE: Shh. Don't tell a soul or the giants will hear.

NARRATOR: Freya turned pale when she heard the terrible news.

FREYA: This is terrible news!

GODDESS 1: What will we do?

GODDESS 2: Who will protect us from the ice giants?

THOR: Now don't panic. We have an idea.

FREYA: Quickly, tell us, Thor.

THOR: You must lend Loki your falcon wings so he can fly off and look for the thief.

GODDESS 3: A wonderful idea!

GODDESS 4: You must do it, Freya!

FREYA: I would gladly entrust my falcon wings to Loki, even if they were made of gold. Only be quick and find Thor's hammer.

NARRATOR: So Loki took Freya's falcon wings and flew off like an arrow.

(SCENE CHANGE MUSIC - LOKI flies, THRYM and ICE GIANTS enter)

When he came to Jotunheim, land of the ice giants, he saw the giant Thrym sitting on a hill in a very jolly mood. He greeted Loki politely.

THRYM: Good day, master Loki, and what might be your errand today?

LOKI: Good day, master Giant. Do you by any chance happen to know anything about Thor's hammer?

NARRATOR: The great giant laughed.

(THRYM and ICE GIANTS laugh)

THRYM: I stole it while Thor slept, and I have hidden it eight miles underground. I will give it back to him, but only if the beautiful Freya becomes my bride.

LOKI: *(aside to audience)* This is not a good thing.

NARRATOR: So Loki flew swiftly back to Asgard where everyone waited.

THREE MORE PAGES TO THE END OF THE SCRIPT

GODDESS 1: Thor!

GODDESS 2: Thor!

GODDESS 3: Thor!

GODDESS 4: Thor!

HEIMDAHL: Thor!

THOR: What??

SIF & FREYA: Our hero!

(ALL Cheer wildly!)

NARRATOR: The End.

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