

**PERUSAL SCRIPT**

**The Snow Queen**  
A One-Act Play  
by **Mahonri Stewart**



Newport, Maine

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## **THE SNOW QUEEN**

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**LBT ORDER #3318**

***For Hyrum and Charlotte***

*It's not quite Frozen, but it's actually closer to Hans Christian Andersen's original story than Disney's version. However, I think even Uncle Walt would have appreciated the difference, as he loved the original fairy tale and had an unfulfilled dream to make a version of his own.*

## **Production History**

“The Snow Queen” was originally written as part of the full length play about world mythology, *Manifest*, which has yet to be performed, although there are plans to do so. It was then separated from *Manifest* as its own one-act when Zion Theatre Company premiered it on November 18, 2011, as part of the set of short plays called *Jinn and Other Myths*, in conjunction with the Off Broadway Theatre in Salt Lake City. It performed with the following cast and crew:

## **CAST**

*Gerda*: Jyllian Petrie

*Kai*: Shea Potter

*The Snow Queen*: Heather Jones

## **CREW**

*Director/Multimedia Director*: Joel Petrie

*Producers*: Nathaniel Drew, Mahonri Stewart

*Lights*: David Bellis

*Sound*: Joel Petrie

**THE SNOW QUEEN** by Mahonri Stewart CAST SIZE: 3 (2 f, 1 m) RUN TIME: 20 minutes The classic fairy tale of Hans Christian Andersen’s The Snow Queen is retold with humor and pathos as the young Kai comes under the Snow Queen’s cold numbing influence and cruelty, and it is up to Gerda to save her friend with warmth, compassion, and love. This is also included as a segment of the full length play *Manifest*. Originally produced by Zion Theatre Company at the Off Broadway Theatre in Salt Lake City in 2011.

## **ORDER #3318**

**Mahonri Stewart** is an award winning writer and educator. He has written over two dozen plays, most of which have been produced throughout the U.S. and Europe, including productions in Los Angeles, Scotland, and Switzerland. In 2004, his premiere play *Farewell to Eden* won the Kennedy Center’s American College Theater Festival’s National Playwriting Award (Second Place) and their National Selection Team Fellowship Award. Since then he has also received numerous other awards and honors and continues to expand his writing into various mediums, including screenplays, graphic novels, poetry, and novels. He received his MFA degree in Dramatic Writing from Arizona State University, where he wrote both the stage version of *Jimmy Stewart Goes to Hollywood*, as well as a screenplay version. He received his Bachelors degree in Theatre Arts from Utah Valley University. He’s a former Playwright in Residence at the Noorda Regional Theater for Children and Youth.

## **REVIEW EXCERPT:**

“‘The Snow Queen’ – a story that follows young Gerda . . . and Kai . . . in a parable about good versus evil, the power of love, and the lie that is pessimism . . . The plays were well acted, always well staged, and left me with questions and a lot to discuss with my date. I recommend this show as a stimulating experience for all.” – **Jocelyn Gibbons**, *Utah Theatre Bloggers Association*

## The Snow Queen

*A bright day. KAI places his hands over GERDA's eyes. They both take on the demeanor of children. Multi-media screens dot the stage.*

**KAI:** Guess who?

**GERDA:** It's—Suzie Smith.

**KAI:** Suzie Smith!

**GERDA:** Okay, Anya Samuelsen.

**KAI:** *(At first in an unintentionally high voice.)* Do I ...

*(Lowering his voice.)*

...do I sound like an Anya to you?

**GERDA:** *(With a mischievous smile.)* Maybe you do.

**KAI:** You know perfectly well who I am! You—you—stupid girl!

**GERDA:** Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.

**KAI:** Gerda, stop it! You're ruining the game! Now tell me who I am.

**GERDA:** *(Pause.)* You're the boy I love.

**KAI:** Ewww! Gerda, that's gross!

*(KAI takes his hands off GERDA's eyes and steps back, horrified.)*

**GERDA:** Oh, Kai, you're just like a boy.

**KAI:** I sure am! That was totally, totally, totally, totally gross. Gross times infinity, that's how gross it was.

**GERDA:** It's not gross, Kai. It's romantic.

**KAI:** Take it back.

**GERDA:** No.

**KAI:** Take it back.

**GERDA:** I said no.

**KAI:** Take it back!

**GERDA:** I won't! You're the boy I love and there's nothing you can do about it.

**KAI:** Take it back, or I won't be your friend anymore!

**GERDA:** You don't mean it ...

**KAI:** I sure do. If you don't take it back, I'll—I'll make a club. The "Boycott Girls Who Like Boys Club."

I'll get all the boys to join, and the only girls we'll let into the club are the ones who don't like us.

**GERDA:** You wouldn't dare.

**KAI:** Unh-huh.

**GERDA:** Nuh-uh.

**KAI:** Unh-huh.

**GERDA:** Nuh-uh!

**KAI:** Unh-huh!

**GERDA:** Well, it would be a stupid club. I would make my own club. The “Girls Who Will Always Like Boys Club.” We’d set up our club right across from your club and make lovey dovey faces at you and send you valentines and sing romantic love songs to you all day!

**KAI:** Okay, stop it. That’s totally scary.

**GERDA:** I’d do it, too. We’d even try and kiss you!

**KAI:** Gerda, don’t ever, ever, ever, ever kiss me! I would like explode or shrivel up and all that would be left of me is ear wax and snot.

**GERDA:** No, silly, you wouldn’t explode or shrivel into snot. If I kissed you, you would kiss me back.

**KAI:** Pfh! Not in a hundred-thousand-million-billion-trillion years. Times infinity. Anyways, nobody would join a stupid club like that.

**GERDA:** I don’t care. Listen to me Kai and listen good: no matter what you do, no matter what you say, no matter how wrong you are, I will always love you.

**KAI:** Well, that’s stupid.

**GERDA:** It’s true.

**KAI:** What if I put worms down your shirt, or cut off all your hair or spilled ink on your favorite dress?

**GERDA:** I would still love you.

**KAI:** What if I never loved you back?

**GERDA:** *(Beat.)* I would cry my eyes out of their sockets and then I would still love you.

*(KAI considers this.)*

**KAI:** Wow. Okay, if it’s like that, you can love me.

**GERDA:** Really?

**KAI:** But don’t never tell nobody. All the kids would laugh at both of us.

**GERDA:** *(She relishes this.)* Okay. It will be our secret. Kai . . .

**KAI:** Yeah?

**GERDA:** I’ve got something I want to show you . . .

**KAI:** It better not be a kiss.

**GERDA:** It’s not a kiss.

**KAI:** Or a thimble. I've read *Peter Pan*, you can't trick me.

**GERDA:** It's not a thimble either, but it's something nearly as good.

*(GERDA goes to a hiding spot where she has hidden a small, potted rose bush and brings it out to KAI. Soft music is heard.)*

**KAI:** Hey, that's cool.

**GERDA:** They're roses.

**KAI:** They're really pretty.

**GERDA:** Kai—am I pretty?

**KAI:** You? Sure.

**GERDA:** *(Genuinely pleased.)* Cool.

**KAI:** For a girl, Gerda, you're really pretty. But these flowers—wow, they're something else. Oh, hey, that reminds me! My dad gave me the coolest stuff! I left it over here. Come on!

*(KAI and GERDA go off stage and pull out several oversized cardboard boxes.)*

**GERDA:** Totally wicked!

**KAI:** Yeah. This one was a refrigerator box and this one was from a dryer and this one, well, it must have been from a time machine.

**GERDA:** And that one?

**KAI:** That one—that one held the devil.

**GERDA:** Kai, my Mom said never to talk about the devil.

**KAI:** Well, in telling you to never talk about him, she talked about him, didn't she?

**GERDA:** Kai ...

**KAI:** Well, okay, we won't call him the devil—we'll call him the— devil-troll!

**GERDA:** That's better.

**KAI:** In fact, all of these boxes were part of his kingdom. These boxes are hell boxes ...

**GERDA:** Kai, my mom says hell is a bad word.

**KAI:** Well, your mom doesn't let you chew gum either.

**GERDA:** Kai . . .

**KAI:** Oh, okay. These boxes are Heck boxes. The great boxes of Heck!

**GERDA:** Thanks.

*(KAI and GERDA start to construct "Heck" with the boxes.)*

**KAI:** This one is the bathtub that's always too hot . . .

**GERDA**... and this one is the toilet that never flushes . . .

**KAI**... and this is the bed that's never comfortable . . .

**GERDA**... and this is one is the toy box that's always empty . . .

**KAI**... sure sounds like Heck to me!

**GERDA**: And this one, this one is the punishment chair. The devil-troll calls it his throne, but it's really where God put the devil in Time-out.

**KAI**: I hate Time-out.

**GERDA**: And so did the devil-troll. He was so angry ...

**KAI**: Can I be the devil-troll?

**GERDA**: Only if it's just pretend.

**KAI**: Of course. Just pretend. So I, the devil-troll, am so angry! But then I thought, what's so fun about being angry?

**GERDA**: Yeah ...

**KAI**: So I thought to have some fun and show God that I didn't care about being put in Time-out. So I—I—I—I made me a special mirror.

*(One of the screens lights up. KAI goes to it and looks in it. The screen reflects KAI's image, but makes KAI look distorted. He laughs.)*

**GERDA**: I don't get why you're laughing.

**KAI**: What a funny mirror I made! Look it can make what normally looks good into something that looks bad! It can make what is already ugly even uglier! A man could have a freckle and it would look like it covered his whole face. A woman could have a small hair on her chin, and it could make it look like she had a full beard! It's brilliant! Absolutely hilarious! Come look at yourself in it, Gerda!

*(GERDA looks in it, but she isn't nearly as pleased by her distorted appearance.)*

Wow! Look how ugly it makes you!

**GERDA**: What did he call it?

**KAI**: Hm. I think I'll call it—satire.

**GERDA**: I don't like it.

**KAI**: That's because you don't understand it yet! You've got to be clever to get it.

**GERDA**: Well, then I'd rather not be clever.

*(The screen starts to show KAI's story, but instead of being KAI and GERDA, we see more accurate devils depicting the story.)*

**KAI**: Well, this devil-troll, he was clever, not like some silly girl who had nothing but kisses and romance in her head. And he showed it around to all his devil friends and they thought he was very clever, too, and they all laughed. And he had all sorts of girls who fell in love with him because he was so clever, but he



couldn't care less because it was more important to be clever than to be loved by silly girls ...

**GERDA:** Kai, I don't like this game ...

**KAI:** ... and finally the devil-troll, who was really the devil and didn't care what the mothers of silly little girls thought about him, finally the devil had the idea of getting out of this stupid Time-out, out of Hell, not Heck, and he thought to bring the mirror to heaven ...

**GERDA:** Really, I think we should play something else ...

***6 MORE PAGES TO THE END***