

PERUSAL SCRIPT

A Whale of A Tale

a play in ten minutes

by

Harlan Baker



Newport, Maine

© 2013 by Harlan Baker
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CAUTION:

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that

A WHALE OF A TALE

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 purchased 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 whether bought or rented, 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 and license granted 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
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:

“A Whale of a Tale is presented through special arrangement with Leicester Bay Theatricals. All authorized materials are also supplied by LBT, 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.

ORDER #3367

CHARACTERS: 1m, 1f

Jody—a man in his late 40's who enjoys bicycling

Helen —woman in her mid 20s with a passion to save the whales.

Time: The present

Place: A small New England city.

Originally written for the Portland based Crowbait club. The play was performed as part of the 2013 Maine Playwright's Festival at the St. Lawrence Arts Center in Portland, Maine.

The cast: Jody - Jody McColman

Helen - Rebecca Cole

A WHALE OF A TALE a 10-minute play by Harlan Baker. 1m, 1f. Simple setting. Contemporary costumes. A man makes up stories to avoid making a donation to a young woman with a passion to save the whales. Premiered at the Maine Playwrights Festival 2013. **ODER #3367**

Harlan Baker is a graduate of Emerson College. He worked on the staff of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America AFL-CIO (Now UniteHere). He served in the Maine legislature from 1979-1988 representing part of Portland. He is an actor and director and has appeared with numerous theatres throughout New England, including the Portland Stage Company, Theater at Monmouth, Mt. Holyoke Summer Theater, New Century Theater and the Stage at Spring Point. His short plays, "Gran Via", "Tung Sing", and "A Whale of a Tale", have staged by several Portland area theatre companies. He has been teaching speech and theater for the past twenty years at the University of Southern Maine, and taught speech and taught speech and theater at the University of New England from 1987 to 2004 concurrently with his work at USM. He is currently an adjunct lecturer in the Theatre department at the University of Southern Maine.

A WHALE OF A TALE

(JODY enters on a bicycle and is approached by HELEN, a young woman with a petition)

HELEN: Excuse me sir, but would you be willing to sign my petition and make a contribution to adopt a whale?

JODY: Maybe.

HELEN: It's great to see you're helping to reduce your carbon foot print by riding a bicycle.

JODY: My car wouldn't pass inspection. What's this about?

HELEN: Saving the whales. Whales are incredible individuals with their own personalities; they're so vulnerable even though they are the largest animals on the planet. By adopting a whale you will help protect them from the dangers they face such as whaling, vessel strikes, pollution, and fishing gear entanglements.

JODY: How much do you need?

HELEN: For just \$30 a month you can adopt your own whale. You'll be given a certificate with the name of the whale that includes photographs and information about the whale and its habitat. It's so sad what happened to these poor defenseless creatures.

JODY: Have you read "Moby Dick?"

HELEN: No.

JODY: Not even in High School? *(She shakes he head)* College?

HELEN: I've read a lot of Marge Piercy.

JODY: Figures

HELEN: What?

JODY: Anyway it's about this guy—Captain Ahab—his leg was bitten off by a great white whale and he wants revenge so he recruits a crew of whalers out of Bedford Falls, New York and sets out to kill the whale—have you seen the movie?

HELEN: No.

JODY: So he's intent on harpooning Moby Dick —but when he finally confronts him he can't bring himself to throw the harpoon and kill the whale. He puts down the harpoon and Moby Dick swims away. So Ishmael comes up to him and says...why dint you throw the harpoon?" And Ahab turns to him and says. "I don't know — I took a look at his eye. It was such a sad eye. He had the look of forgiveness as if he was trying to say to me, "I'm sorry for the hurt I caused you please forgive me." And I couldn't bring myself to throw the harpoon. So Ahab sails back to Bedford Falls and marries his childhood sweetheart and they live happily ever after.

HELEN: That's so sweet.

JODY: Yeah, I like whales; I listen to MPBN late at night. They always play whale music.

(He signs HELEN's petition)

HELEN: Then you'll donate?

JODY: Well, I'm a bit short of cash the moment.

HELEN: We except credit cards.

JODY: Maxed to the limit....You know why Ahab left Bedford Hills, New York in the first place?

HELEN: You can pledge us \$20 a month and send a check.

JODY: He went to sea in a whaler to forget!

HELEN: Can you do 10?

JODY: He wanted to forget about his childhood sweetheart.

HELEN: He did?

2 more pages to the end of the script