

The Winter's Tale

by William Shakespeare

The King William Players'
1952-1953 Production

January 30th & 31st, 1953

Iglehart Hall

St. John's College
Annapolis, Maryland

ACT I

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|-------|---------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| Sc. 1 | A garden in Sicilia | Sc. 3 | In Leontes' Rooms |
| Sc. 2 | In Hermione's Rooms | Sc. 4 | The Royal Court of Sicilia |
| | Sc. 5 | | A sea-coast of Bohemia |

' . . . a sad tale's best for winter.'

Leontes, King of Sicilia, breaks the bonds of perfect friendship and more perfect marriage, when he conceives, in ill-founded jealousy, that Hermione, his Queen is pregnant by Polixenes, King of Bohemia. Upon this suspicion, he orders his advisor, Camillo, to have Polixenes poisoned, although Camillo objects the obvious virtue and honesty of the pair.

When Camillo reveals the plot to Polixenes and flees with him to Bohemia. Leontes grows even more sure of his suspicion. Over the vehement dissuasions of his court, he imprisons the Queen to await the return of messengers to the oracle of Apollo at Delphos and subsequent trial for both conspiracy and adultery.

The grief-stricken Hermione gives birth to a daughter while in prison, and entrusts the infant to a noble-woman, Paulina, in hopes that the sight of the child will soften the King's insane rage and secure her release.

Instead, both Paulina and her husband, Antigonus, are put in danger of their lives. The sight of the child, rather than softening the King's heart, heightens his rage; he threatens, first, to have it burnt, relents only to the extent of commanding Antigonus that it should be exposed in some desert place.

With the return of the messengers, the Queen is brought to trial. Though, as she says, the only proofs admitted are those found by jealousy, for the sake of her honor and her son, she attempts to defend herself — only to meet with the King's ill-concealed disbelief.

At the last, she appeals to the oracle; it declares her innocent and Leontes a tyrant. Leontes blasphemes, denies the truth of the oracle. Upon doing so, a messenger arrives with news that the young prince, from fear and shame of his father's act, has died.

Leontes repents. The Queen faints and is carried off. Leontes makes a public confession of his wrong, begs forgiveness of gods and men. Paulina, who has been with the Queen, returns. Attacking the King with a list of his sins and their dreadful effects, she adds one more to their number, the Queen's death.

The King is overcome with grief. So overcome, that he wakes even the pity of Paulina. It is only he himself who cannot forgive himself. Vowing eternal penance, he requests that he be 'led to his sorrows.'

Upon the desert shore of Bohemia, whither he had been ordered in a dream Antigonus prepares to expose the infant (now called Perdita). Touched with pity, he can hardly leave the child; until he exits, pursued by a bear.

Soon after, an old shepherd happens on the child and resolves to adopt her. His son arrives and announces the death of Antigonus. Gathering up both the child, and papers relating to her identity, they leave.

ACT II

Time: as Prologue

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|-------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Sc. 1 | The palace of Polixenes | Sc. 4 | The Court of Leontes |
| Sc. 2 | A road in Bohemia | Sc. 5 | Outside Leontes' palace |
| Sc. 3 | A sheep-shearing feast | Sc. 6 | A gallery in Paulina's house |

' . . . so like an old tale, that the verity of it is in strong suspicion.'

Sixteen years have passed. In the royal palace of Bohemia, Camillo, now Polixenes' chief advisor, begs his unwilling master's permission to return to Sicily, to comfort the penitent Leontes. Rather than granting permission, Polixenes asks Camillo to join him, so that they, disguised, may visit an old shepherd, whose daughter has attracted the young Prince Florizel.

Florizel and Perdita (the unknowing daughter of Leontes) have fallen in love; but Perdita at least is aware of the danger of loving a King's son: She protests that they should not only meet, but attend the approaching sheep-shearing feast in fantastic clothes.

Autolycus, the rogue, alights on the Clown, robs him of his purse, filled with money to purchase goods for the approaching feast. Hearing from the Clown that there will be many heavy purses at the feast, Autolycus determines to visit the feast in disguise.

Perdita, Florizel, Polixenes, Camillo, the Clown, the old shepherd, and Autolycus (now disguised as a peddler) all meet at the feast. During the course of the feast, Florizel asks permission of the old shepherd to marry Perdita; the old shepherd agrees.

Just as the betrothal is to be celebrated, Polixenes throws off his disguise, denounces the lovers and leaves, ordering his son to follow. Florizel is stunned, but recovers and decides to flee the country with Perdita.

Camillo, sensing the possibility of making his return to Sicily, advises the couple to flee to Leontes' court, planning to follow after with the King. Florizel, having exchanged clothes with Autolycus, goes off with Perdita.

When the Shepherd and the Clown meet the new-disguised rogue on their way to reveal Perdita's true identity to Polixenes, they mistake him for a courtier. He in turn decides to take them on board the Prince's ship.

Florizel and Perdita hurry off to see Leontes, failing to question the shepherds, who fall into the hands of the pursuing Polixenes. Meanwhile, Perdita and Florizel have been received by Leontes. When Polixenes' presence and purpose are made known to him, he agrees to petition the Bohemian King for the young lovers.

But the petition is not needed. The old shepherd reveals that Perdita is really Leontes' daughter. Thus, instead of a painful parting for the lovers, the meeting is a joyful reunion of all.

As a crown to their joys, Paulina suggests they visit her home to see a newly-finished statue of the dead queen, Hermione. They do so and are so struck with the likeness, that Leontes threatens to kiss it.

Stopping him, Paulina offers to bring the statue to life. While all stare in wonder, the statue stirs in answer to Paulina's bidding, descends, takes Leontes by the hand, and embraces him.

Then is the reunion complete. Paulina is on the spot betrothed to Camillo, Polixenes reconciled to Hermione. Then, without one word of explanation for Hermione's resurrection, all exit in a grand march of happiness.

CAST

Leontes, King of Sicilia	<i>George Abernathy</i>
Mamillius, his son	<i>Emily Martin</i>
Camillo	
Antigonus } Sicilian noblemen	<i>John Chase</i>
Lord }	<i>Tom Heineman</i>
	<i>Robert Bart</i>
First Gentleman	<i>Bernard Jacob</i>
Second Gentleman	<i>Robert Bart</i>
Third Gentleman	<i>Winfree Smith</i>
Jailer	<i>Mike Newell</i>
Mariner	<i>Mike Newell</i>
Servant	<i>Dick Carter</i>
Officer	<i>Dick Carter</i>
Polixenes, King of Bohemia	<i>Al Sugg</i>
Florizel, his son	<i>Dale Cummings</i>
Shepherd, Perdita's foster-father	<i>Robert Sacks</i>
Clown, his son	<i>Sam Kutler</i>
Servant	<i>Steve Mainella</i>
Autolycus, a rogue	<i>Sinclair Gearing</i>
Hermoine, Queen of Sicilia	<i>Jenefer Ellingston</i>
Perdita, her daughter	<i>Joan Eisner</i>
Paulina, wife to Antigonus	<i>Dorothy Olim</i>
Mopsa, shepherdess	<i>Emily Martin</i>
Dorcas, shepherdess	<i>Jo Thoms</i>
The Musicians	<i>Dick Carter, Sondra Culbertson, John Gordon</i>
The Dancers ..	<i>Robley Timmins, Dorick Mechau, Joan Gilbert, Forbes Pinkard</i>

PRODUCTION

Production Council: Bernard Jacob, Al Sugg, Robert Bart, Al Geier.

Sets created by Al Sugg; executed by Sinclair Gearing, Al Sugg, Jenefer Ellingston, Eric Crooke, Sam Kutler, Rolph Hansen and Dick Levering.

Settings created by Al Sugg and Barbara Dvorak; executed by Barbara Dvorak, Al Sugg, Rolph Hansen, Sinclair Gearing and Bob Lohr.

Costumes created by Barbara Dvorak; executed by Barbara Brunner and Mrs. Weigle, Mrs. Klein, Mrs. Perlitz, Mrs. Thoms, Mrs. Hollywood, Mrs. Kieffer, Mrs. Dietrich, Charlotte Fletcher, Ann Hill, Robley Timmins, Joan Gilbert, Faye Council and Emily Martin.

Lighting created and executed by Steve Mainella.

Makeup by Jane Gerber and Carollyn Kluth.

Propmaster and stage manager, Al Geier.

Original Music created by Douglas Allanbrook.

Dance created by Jo Thoms.

Business Manager: Eddie Gelblum.