

Lyra

by Aishwarya Jha-Mathur

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Lyra, Queen of Elysia (20s, very beautiful)

Osiris, King of Elysia (30s, plump)

Hippokrates, courtier

Nikolaos, courtier

COSTUMES

Simple Grecian/Roman togas for the men. Osiris must have a toga of a different colour from the other two and a grand-looking crown. Lyra should wear a simple, elegant dress and may have a wreath of flowers on her head if desired.

SET

1. Two thrones.¹
2. A table on which are placed two glasses and a plate of chocolates or biscuits.
3. A coat of arms that can be stood upright.²
4. A stool or pedestal.

MUSIC

1. 'All By Myself' by Eric Carmen
2. 'Take My Breath Away' by Berlin
3. 'My Heart Will Go On' by Céline Dion
4. 'Battle Without Honor or Humanity' by Tomoyasu Hotei

SCRIPT

LYRA and OSIRIS are standing centre stage, facing the audience. HIPPOKRATES & NIKOLAOS are stage right, bowing to them. Trumpets are played briefly before the dialogues begin.

NIKOLAOS steals chocolates from the table occasionally, when out of sight of OSIRIS and LYRA.

OSIRIS. Ladies and gentlemen, my noble courtiers, it is a great day for the kingdom of Elysia! Our beautiful queen—my own Lyra—has returned to us, after eleven long months of captivity!

HIPPOKRATES & NIKOLAOS. All hail Her Majesty Queen Lyra, the most valiant ruler that ever reigned!

¹If elaborate thrones are unavailable, two normal chairs should suffice.

²For example, a coat-rack with a coat hung on it and two swords placed in front of the coat, with candles placed along the top.

OSIRIS. The evil demon Balthazar has been vanquished and Elysia is once again the most invincible, the most peaceful kingdom in all the cosmos!

HIPPOKRATES & NIKOLAOS. All hail Her Majesty Queen Lyra, the most valiant ruler that ever reigned!

OSIRIS. (*slightly pettishly*) Well, well, perhaps it was not all Her Majesty's doing: your valiant king might have had a rather large hand in it as well!

HIPPOKRATES & NIKOLAOS *exchange a glance and sigh.*

HIPPOKRATES & NIKOLAOS. (*unenthusiastically*) All hail His Majesty King Osiris, the most valiant ruler that ever reigned!

OSIRIS. (*pleased*) Oh, that's enough, that's enough.

LYRA. I am so happy to be home again—to the prettiest of palaces, to the sweetest of friends and to you, my love, the dearest of husbands!

OSIRIS. Well, naturally! Your forced sojourn away from us was a dark and painful time. (*abstractedly munching on chocolate*) I could not sleep; I could not rest; I could not eat—

OSIRIS *notices the chocolate.*

OSIRIS. Er, well, that is, I was haunted by thoughts of you day and night!

LYRA. Oh Osiris!

OSIRIS. But all's well that ends well, my dear! (*looking at HIPPOKRATES & NIKOLAOS*) You there, you two—do get up, I say!

HIPPOKRATES. Your Majesty's benevolence knows no bounds. I am Hippokrates and this is Nikolaos, and we would like to felicitate Your Majesties on this blessed day.

NIKOLAOS. If I might say so, Your Majesty, the whole kingdom was extremely distraught at your abduction.

OSIRIS. And so I sent my best warriors to the ends of the universe to find you and exact vengeance on that venomous demon! I would have gone myself, of course, were it not for my failing health.

OSIRIS *coughs unconvincingly.*

LYRA. Darling! But what is wrong with your health?

OSIRIS. Oh, very dangerous condition, I'm told, very dangerous indeed. I have an, er, um, a... deviated septum! Terrible breathlessness!

LYRA. Oh no!

OSIRIS. (*leading LYRA to thrones*) I told you, it was a dark and painful time for us all. But never mind all that now: you have returned to us more radiant and more pure than ever before!

HIPPOKRATES & NIKOLAOS *clear their throats significantly.*

OSIRIS. Whatever is the matter?

NIKOLAOS. Well, Your Majesty, you see... (*to HIPPOKRATES*) no, you tell him.