

THE ADVENTURES OF PERICLES

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Scott Wentworth

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Suitable for Grade 5 and up.

STUDENT MATINÉE DATES

May 8, 18, 21, 25; June 4, 17, 30; September 10, 15.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Likely written in 1607/08, *Pericles* is now believed to be a collaboration between Shakespeare and another playwright, most likely George Wilkins.

There are two obvious sources for the plot. The first, a 33,000-line poem by John Gower, was titled “Confessio Amantis” and was written in Middle English in the 14th century. It contains the story of Apollonius of Tyre (a story first told in Latin in the sixth century but likely coming from a lost Greek work of the third century).

The second source was a prose version of Gower’s poem, *The Pattern of Painful Adventures*, written by Lawrence Twine in 1576.

George Wilkins himself published *The Painful Adventures of Pericles* in 1608, but it seems to be a prose version of the play itself.

SYNOPSIS

Pericles, Prince of Tyre, travels to Antioch to seek the hand of King Antiochus’s daughter. To win her, he must solve a riddle – but is horrified to realize its meaning: that the king is guilty of incest. Anticipating Antiochus’s wrath, Pericles flees homeward, then to the port of Tharsus, where he relieves a famine with supplies from his ship. Again setting sail, he is shipwrecked on the coast of Pentapolis, where he marries Thaisa, daughter of King Simonides.

When word arrives that Antiochus is dead, Pericles decides to return to Tyre with his bride. Their ship, however, is caught in a storm, during which Thaisa appears to die in childbirth. Committed to the sea, her coffin washes ashore at Ephesus, where the



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physician Cerimon revives her. Believing her husband dead, she becomes a priestess of Diana, goddess of chastity. Meanwhile, Pericles, fearing that his newborn daughter, Marina, will not survive the rest of the journey home, leaves her in the care of Cleon, governor of Tharsus, and his wife Dionyza.

Years pass and Dionyza, jealous of Marina, plots to have her murdered. Marina escapes but is sold by pirates to a brothel in Mytilene. Thinking her dead, Pericles aimlessly wanders the seas until he chances to anchor at Mytilene, where the ill fortune that has dogged him at last beings to change, leading to a joyous reunion.

CONTENT ADVISORY FOR STUDENTS

Contains some sexual innuendo and frank discussion of incest and harlotry.

THEMES

- Life & Death
- Perseverance
- Deception
- Fate & Free Will
- Art & Culture
- Deviancy
- Family
- Power
- Sex

MOTIFS

- Riddles
- Oceans & Tempests
- Armour
- Music
- Jewels

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- All Grades: Language/English (Listening to Understand, Speaking to Communicate, Reading for Meaning & Critical Literacy)
- All Grades: Drama, Music, Visual Art
- Gr. 5 Health & PE (Healthy Living: Bullying/Violence; Growth and Development: Stress & Pressure)
- Gr. 6 Health and PE (Positive Social Interaction & Conflict Management)
- Gr. 6 Social Studies: People & Environments (Responses to Global Issues)
- Gr. 7 Health & PE (Bullying/Harassment, Healthy Sexuality)
- Gr. 11 – 12 Canada & World Studies (World History to the 16th century)
- Gr. 11 – 12 Interdisciplinary Studies (Issues in Human Rights)
- Gr. 11 – 12 Social Sciences and Humanities (Gender Studies / Equity, Diversity & Social Justice / Dynamics of Human Relationships / Philosophy / Psychology & Sociology)

ENRICHMENT

Study Guide available at stratfordfestival.ca/studyguides.

Private workshops and post-show chats may be arranged by calling the Education Department at 519.271.4040, ext. 2354.

Festival Theatre and Costume Warehouse tours may be arranged by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600.

Additional classroom activities and ideas for engagement with the text can be found at stratfordfestival.ca/teachingmaterials.

LET US TAKE CARE OF LUNCH!

Picnic lunches are available anytime (must be ordered two weeks in advance) and Student Deli Lunch Buffets are another option (subject to availability). For more information, see page 11 of the Schools Guide (available online) or ask the Groups and Schools Department when placing your ticket order.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Respect the actors and your fellow patrons. When the lights dim, it is time to be quiet and engage with the actors on stage. Be sure to turn off cell phones and refrain from texting, talking or eating, as this is disrespectful to the actors who are telling the story.

Respond to what you see through laughter, tears, smiles, giggles or captivated silence. The actors feed off your presence and response to their work on stage. Don't respond by talking to your neighbour; please wait until after the performance to discuss your thoughts.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Online

Order at any time and select your seats! Visit stratfordfestival.ca/festivaltrip.

Phone

1.800.567.1600 or 519.273.1600

Fax

519.273.3731

Email

groups@stratfordfestival.ca

Download an order form at

stratfordfestival.ca/orderform

Mail

Stratford Festival
Attn: Groups and Schools
P.O. Box 520
Stratford, ON N5A 6V2