

The Story of
ANDROCLES
and the
LION

By Dave Barton and Matt Bond

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Pioneer
Drama Service, Inc.

THE STORY OF ANDROCLES AND THE LION

By DAVE BARTON and MATT BOND

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

	<u># of lines</u>
ANDROCLESa Thracian	93
HERMIONE.....his wife	51
LION.....wild beast in a thorny situation	31
SILVIUSauctioneer	12
PRAXUS.....his flunky	5
DIANA.....slave girl	14
CRASSUSCaesar's majordomo	26
CAESAR.....the emperor	20
MAMAHermione's mother	27

Extras (characters with less than 5 lines):

JULIA.....vendor in the marketplace

HARMONIA.....another

JUSTICIA.....another

LORENA.....another

PHILIAslave girl

CORONAslave girl

ERICUSyoung slave boy

VIRGILIUSslave

CYNICUSslave

OPTIONAL EXTRAS.....as CITIZENS, additional SLAVES and
ANIMAL CATCHERS

SETTING

Time: Before the fall of the Roman Empire

Place: Ancient Rome

Scene One: The Macedonian Desert

Scene Two: The Roman marketplace and auction block

Scene Three: The slave quarters in Caesar's palace

Scene Four: A quiet hallway in the palace

Scene Five: Caesar's banquet hall

Scene Six: The palace hallway

Scene Seven: A holding cell under the Circus Maximus

Scene Eight: The Roman arena

ANDROCLES AND THE LION

Scene One

1 SETTING: The barren, rocky Macedonian desert, far from civilization. Large rocks are scattered about. UP LEFT is the mouth of a cave.

AT RISE: HERMIONE is crawling up over a large rock, RIGHT. She is dressed in tattered remnants of a beautiful dress, her hair is frizzy, matted and wild, and her face is sunburned and drawn. She looks completely exhausted and terribly frightened.

HERMIONE: (*Looks around.*) Androcles! Androcles! Oh, I'm lost! I'll dry up and die all by myself in this horrible place. (*Calls OFF RIGHT.*) Androcles! (*Begins to cry.*) I knew it! I just knew it! Mama warned me not to listen to him. He wants to go to Rome to live. Rome! Huh! We should have stayed in Thrace with Mama. (*Calls OFF RIGHT.*) Androcles? (*Becomes more frightened.*) Androcles! I'm afraid of the desert. Mama says there are snakes and scorpions and tarantulas in the desert. (*Hysterical.*) I wanna go home to Mama! Androcles! Help! Help!

ANDROCLES' VOICE: (*From OFF RIGHT.*) Hermione! Hermione, where are you?

HERMIONE: (*Scrambles onto a rock, seeing imaginary varmints.*) Here, I'm over here, with all the snakes and spiders! Help, Androcles! Help!

ANDROCLES' VOICE: (*From OFF RIGHT, but closer.*) Hermione! Stay where you are, don't move! (*ENTERS RIGHT, carrying a small harp over his shoulder and a small fabric bundle in his hand.*) Oh, there you are! Honey, you've got to stay with me. If you go wandering off by yourself, you'll get lost, and it'll take me hours to find you, and we'll miss the boat to Rome! You shouldn't run off like this!

HERMIONE: Me?! Blame it on me, you idiot?! If you had listened to Mama—

ANDROCLES: We'd still be sitting in Thrace waiting for Mama to finish talking!

HERMIONE: Don't you dare criticize Mama! She comes from one of the finest families in Thrace. You only hate her because you know you married above your station. Why, if I didn't keep pushing you, we'd never have anything. If I didn't hide money away, you'd spend it all on harps! I mean, how many of them do you need? (*Grabs the harp from ANDROCLES and tries to break it over her knee.*) I hate harps!

ANDROCLES: Hermione, don't! (*Takes harp from her.*) This is one of the finest harps that money can buy.

1 **HERMIONE:** Sure it is! You buy all sorts of expensive toys for yourself,
but when I wanted you to take me on a vacation, you said we
couldn't afford it!

ANDROCLES: Relax, Hermione, and please try to understand me.
5 When I'm tired, or have a problem, playing the harp relaxes me.
And besides, I am taking you on a vacation!

HERMIONE: To Rome! That's your idea of a vacation? Getting lost in
the desert? Walking with sand in my shoes? Getting sunburned?
Mama told me you'd mistreat me! Mama told me I'd have chapped
10 lips! Mama told me I'd get calluses! Mama told me—

ANDROCLES: Did Mama tell you that you'd give me a headache?

HERMIONE: That does it! Don't speak to me again! Don't ever speak
to me again! *(Sobs.)*

ANDROCLES: *(After a long pause.)* Are you hungry?

15 **HERMIONE:** We have no food.

ANDROCLES: *(Opens his bundle.)* We have dates and cheese. Here,
eat. You'll feel better.

HERMIONE: They're not on my diet. I don't permit myself dates and
cheese unless they're imported. The domestic ones aren't properly
20 prepared. You eat them. I don't matter!

ANDROCLES: *(Gives up.)* All right, Hermione. You're mad at me because
I wanted to go to Rome. But don't you understand? We can start
a new life in Rome and make lots of money, and you can have fine
clothes and jewels, and maybe someday a star ruby! My princess
25 deserves the very best! *(Reaches into the bundle again.)* Here.
Here's a little something I bought in the last town we passed, just
to show you how much I love my girl! *(Hands HERMIONE a small
package, which she slowly unwraps, being careful not to tear the
paper.)*

30 **HERMIONE:** Oh, how nice, they wrapped it! What lovely paper! *(Opens
the box.)* Androcles, it's exquisite! But you should never buy jewelry
for me, dear, without letting me select it. This is much too flashy.
I'm a very small woman, and I can't wear anything so large *(Holds
up a large brooch.)*, although it is exquisite, and I thank you for the
35 thought. Perhaps we can exchange it for something more exquisite
in Rome. I'll just pin it under my hem for safekeeping. *(She does.)*

ANDROCLES: Oh, Hermione, you're going to love Rome, I promise you
that! Everything's gold! Everyone is healthy and happy! I'll play my
harp, and maybe I'll even entertain the emperor someday! We'll be
40 rich! *(HERMIONE almost gets caught up in ANDROCLES' dream, but
stops herself.)*

1 **HERMIONE:** Oh, Androcles, you and your dreams. I've heard it all before. *(A loud roar is heard from the cave. ANDROCLES FREEZES in fear. HERMIONE sees the LION ENTER from the cave. He roars again, holding up his paw. HERMIONE runs behind a large rock, LEFT, from where she watches.)* Androcles! Run! It's a lion! *(Continues to scream. ANDROCLES turns slowly to face the LION, who is still holding up his paw.)*

LION: *(Roaring.)* Ow-w-w-w! Ow-w-w-w!

5 **ANDROCLES:** Don't panic, dear! He has a sore paw. He isn't really angry, just understandably upset!

HERMIONE: So what difference does that make? Move, you idiot, before he understandably upsets you!

LION: *(Still roaring in great pain.)* Ow-w-w-w! Ow-w-w-w!

15 **HERMIONE:** *(Screams.)* Androcles, don't you dare let him kill you and leave me at his mercy! I'll never speak to you again if you do!

ANDROCLES: *(Picks up his harp, crosses to LION.)* Hermione! Wait! He has a thorn in his paw. See, he wants me to take it out, don't you, old fellow?

20 **LION:** *(Roaring.)* Oh-hu-u-u-u-uh! Ple-e-e-e-ase! *(HERMIONE screams again.)*

ANDROCLES: *(Mimes strumming on the harp as we hear HARP MUSIC.)* Now, Hermione, I want you to stay behind that rock and be quiet. I'm going to soothe the savage beast with music from my harp till he lies down and rolls over on his back. Then I'm going to scratch him behind the ears and pat his head, and when he isn't
25 looking, I'll just grab the thorn and pull it out. *(Continues strumming the harp. The LION, meanwhile, is desperate from the pain and impatient to get the whole business over with. As ANDROCLES talks, he quickly lies down, rolls over on his back, pushes his head against ANDROCLES' foot, physically begging him to remove the thorn.)*

30 **LION:** All right, already! Pull it out! Pull it out! Look, I'm lying down, I've rolled over, I'm begging! What are you waiting for, a music cue? Pull it out! *(Roaring.)* O-o-o-w-w-w! Plee-e-e-ase! O-o-o-w-w-w!

35 **ANDROCLES:** Oh look, Hermione! How cute! Why he's just a big old overgrown kitty cat! How clever, he's begging! Isn't that adorable?

LION: *(Desperation and frustration driving him crazy.)* Never mind clever! Never mind cute! If you don't pull this thorn out of my paw, I'll show you adorable! *(Knocks ANDROCLES down and climbs on top of him, his paw pushed into ANDROCLES' face.)* Now you pull that thorn out,
40 or this big old overgrown kitty cat is going to take a cute, clever, adorable bite right out of your nose. *(Roaring.)* O-w-w-w!

1 **HERMIONE:** (*Screaming, crying, runs OFF RIGHT.*) Oh, he's killing him!
I'll be a widow! I'm too young to be a widow! I look horrible in
black. (*She's OUT, her screams fading in the distance.*) Help! Help!

5 **ANDROCLES:** (*Pulls out the thorn.*) There now. Isn't that better? And
see, I didn't hurt you at all. (*LION, kissing his paw, sits squarely on
ANDROCLES' stomach.*) Now, if you'll excuse me, could you move
just a little bit to the left? You're sitting on my floating rib!

LION: (*Gets off of ANDROCLES.*) Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you!
You're my friend! (*Hugs ANDROCLES, who by this time is sitting up.*)

10 My real honest-to-goodness friend!

ANDROCLES: See, Hermione, he's our friend! (*Looks around.*)
Hermione! (*Calls.*) Her-mi-one! Oh dear, she's wandered off again!
(*Starts after her.*)

LION: Wait! It's getting dark. You'll never find her at night. Why don't
15 you spend the night in the cave, and tomorrow I'll help you find her.
If she's still around.

ANDROCLES: What do you mean "if"?

LION: Well, you see, I was hiding because Caesar's slave traders and
animal catchers are in this part of the desert. They probably have
20 her by now. But don't worry, they won't hurt her.

ANDROCLES: They wouldn't dare! Why, I'd...

LION: No worries! They'll want her in tip-top condition for the slave
market in Rome!

ANDROCLES: Slave market?! That does it! I've got to save Hermione!
25 (*Doesn't move an inch.*)

LION: If you've gotta, you've gotta!

ANDROCLES: That's right! (*Still not going anywhere.*)

LION: (*After a pause.*) You going to save her?

ANDROCLES: (*Staying right where he is.*) Right this minute!

30 **LION:** (*Gently.*) You can't save Hermione if you don't go.

ANDROCLES: (*Tries to move.*) I can't move my feet. It's as if they were
rooted to the ground!

LION: (*Arm around ANDROCLES' shoulder.*) Scared?

ANDROCLES: (*With a sigh of relief.*) Terrified!

35 **LION:** Well, son, all you need is a little bit of courage!

ANDROCLES: All I need is a lot of courage!

LION: Really? Well, it's actually very simple. To find your courage, all
you have to do is stick out your noble chin, turn on a carefree grin
and thumb your Roman nose at all your troubles! Now you try it.

1 **ANDROCLES:** Me?

LION: Sure!

ANDROCLES: Stick out my noble chin. (*He does.*)

LION: That's right!

5 **ANDROCLES:** Turn on a carefree grin? (*Grins.*)

LION: Uh-huh!

ANDROCLES: And thumb my Roman nose at all my troubles. (*He does so.*)

LION: Correct! Now repeat after me. "I'm a winner."

10 **ANDROCLES:** I'm a winner.

LION: Like you mean it!

ANDROCLES: I'm a winner!!

LION: Again!

ANDROCLES: I'm a winner!!!

15 **LION:** Now you see! You're smiling and you're happy, and you're looking brave. That's 99% of the battle! Now get those shoulders back, pull in your stomach, chin up! Chest out! Now, how do you feel?

ANDROCLES: (*Holding his breath.*) Like I'm going to pass out!

20 **LION:** Yeah well, relax! You're turning blue. But you see what I mean. It's all in how you think of yourself. Courage is inside you—you just gotta learn how to bring it out!

ANDROCLES: I do feel brave! I really do! And I know how to prove it. I'm going to get myself captured by the slave traders!

25 **LION:** Hold on a minute, buster! There's a fine line between being brave and being foolish, and it sounds to me like you just crossed it.

ANDROCLES: No, don't you see? If they've already captured Hermione, I'll be with her, and going to Rome as a slave is better than not going to Rome at all! Once we're there, I'll think of some way to earn our freedom.

30 **LION:** Androcles, have you ever been a slave? Have you ever known a slave? Do you have any idea what can happen to a slave? Have you thought about that?

35 **ANDROCLES:** No, and I don't want to! If I think about it, I'll get frightened again. No, I've gotta do it now, before I lose my courage. I'm a winner!

LION: Yes! Yes, you are! (*They embrace as the LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.*)

End of Scene One

Scene Two

1 SETTING: The Roman marketplace and auction block. A few crates are cluttered near the VENDORS. The auction block is designated with a small platform DOWN RIGHT.

LIGHTS UP: VENDORS are hawking their wares, and CITIZENS are

5 haggling over prices. There is great hubbub and clamor. VENDOR lines overlap.

JULIA: Buy my fish?

HARMONIA: Mine are better.

JULIA: Mine are cheaper!

10 **HARMONIA:** Mine are finer!

JULIA: And they cost more!

JUSTICIA: The finest togas in Rome! Only 70 dinars for this beautiful toga!

LORENA: Rushes! Rushes! Clean-burning, sweet-smelling rushes!

15 **HARMONIA:** Only two dinars for mine! Fancy fillets of fine, fresh flatfish!

Two dinars! *(Their cries die out as EVERYONE'S attention is drawn to a group of SLAVE GIRLS being led ON LEFT by PRAXUS. They are pressed closely together in fear. HERMIONE is in the middle of the group and is not seen by the audience. CITIZENS shout approval of the SLAVE GIRLS, and two or three MEN come out of the crowd to inspect the slaves. As the commotion develops, the SLAVE GIRLS scream and the MEN jeer and laugh while SILVIUS, the auctioneer, ENTERS RIGHT with his whip, moves onto the auction block and yells.)*

25 **SILVIUS:** Quiet! *(To PRAXUS.)* You there, bring the girls over here! Move, slave! Praxus, get them over here, but don't harm them, or I'll have you flayed! *(PRAXUS is having quite a time trying to follow SILVIUS' orders.)* Keep them together! *(PRAXUS finally gets the group of SLAVES moved DOWN RIGHT.)* Praxus, go and bring the other slave. We won't get much for him, but anything is better than nothing! At least I won't have to feed him. We should have left him in the desert! He's too scrawny to be a gladiator! *(PRAXUS EXITS LEFT.)*

35 **PRAXUS:** *(Leads ANDROCLES IN LEFT on a chain. His harp is still over his shoulder.)* Over here, slave! Just wait quietly until we put you on the block! *(Crosses near the SLAVE GIRLS, brandishing a whip and growling. They immediately start screaming and crying again.)*

40 **SILVIUS:** Quiet! You can consider yourselves lucky. I could be selling you into a Persian harem. As it is, you'll get off easy—scrubbing floors, washing walls and taking care of housework!

1 **HERMIONE:** *(Still unseen.)* Housework? Mama told me I'd spend my life scrubbing floors, ruining my hands! Mama told me...

ANDROCLES: Hermione! Oh, Hermione! I've found you!

5 **HERMIONE:** *(Breaks through the other SLAVE GIRLS.)* Androcles?! But you're dead! I saw that horrible lion knock you down and start to take a bite out of your head!

ANDROCLES: No, honey! He was only trying to get me to take that thorn out of his paw. Why, he was so grateful—

10 **SILVIUS:** *(Who has been watching the exchange with mounting impatience.)* Praxus! Separate those two! *(PRAXUS separates them. To ANDROCLES.)* You! What is the meaning of this? Do you know this woman?

15 **HERMIONE:** Unfortunately he does indeed, although I wish I'd never met him! If he hadn't practically forced me to marry him against my mama's better judgment, I wouldn't be here now, faced with a life as a housemaid or worse! Oh, if only I'd listened to Mama!

SILVIUS: I'm beginning to wish you had listened to her! Now, shut up! Praxus, bring him over here! *(To ANDROCLES.)* Is this woman your wife?

20 **ANDROCLES:** Yes, sir! You see, it's all a mistake. We shouldn't be here in a slave market at all!

SILVIUS: *(Shouts.)* Enough! Praxus, chain them together. Maybe we can get rid of the two of them at once. *(PRAXUS chains them and places them DOWN LEFT.)* What's the hour?

25 **PRAXUS:** The Circus Maximus opens in two hours, sir, and the games start immediately.

30 **SILVIUS:** Let's get the auction done! I don't want to be late for the games. They're feeding more slaves to the lions today. My seat is next to the Royal Procurer of Animals, and I want to give him a sales talk on the lions we brought in on this trip! *(During the following speech, CRASSUS ENTERS, pushing CITIZENS and VENDORS out of his way. He is CAESAR'S majordomo and expects the respect that goes with the title.)*

35 **PRAXUS:** Citizens! Citizens! Silence! Sweet Silvius the Scythian Slaver submits serving maids for sale. Bids begin at the bottom. Brash bargaining buys brilliant beauty! Begin by bidding!

CRASSUS: *(In a booming voice.)* There will be no auction today!

SILVIUS: But sir, that is for me to decide!

40 **CRASSUS:** Dare you argue with me? I come from Caesar with a commission to purchase new slaves for his household. Now show me your wares!

1 **SILVIUS:** *(To PRAXUS.)* Bring the Thracian and his wife. *(ANDROCLES and HERMIONE are put on the auction block.)* These two are just what you need. A couple! Newly enslaved, having been captured in the Macedonian desert only last week. They are sturdy and unspoiled, cooperative, meek and mild! *(To PRAXUS.)* Don't let that harpy open her mouth! *(PRAXUS quickly puts a gag in HERMIONE'S mouth.)*

CRASSUS: In the desert, you say? In Macedonia? But they're wearing Thracian clothes.

10 **ANDROCLES:** Well, you see, sir, Hermione—that's my wife—and I were on our way from Thrace to Rome to find our fortune, when through some terrible misunderstanding, the slave traders captured us. I'd be happy, sir, to work for you as a free man, until I can earn enough to establish myself and apply for Roman citizenship, and—

15 **CRASSUS:** You don't seem to understand, idiot! You two are now Caesar's slaves! *(To SILVIUS.)* If these two are examples of your new shipment of slaves, I won't pay much for this lot.

SILVIUS: *(Leading CRASSUS OFF LEFT.)* Examples? Why, sir, these are the misfits! Please come into my stall, and I'll arrange the transfers of ownership! *(They EXIT. During the following scene, the LIGHTS DIM. ALL in background seem to fade away, and we are aware only of ANDROCLES and HERMIONE.)*

ANDROCLES: *(As PRAXUS leads the group of newly sold SLAVES DOWN CENTER.)* Now, dear, I'm going to take this bag off your head, and I want you to decide whether you want to stay alive. If you do, no more shouting. Do you understand? *(HERMIONE nods.)* We'll be slaves for a little while, only until we can find a way to freedom. *(Removes the gag from HERMIONE'S mouth. Makes small talk with DIANA, who is cowering with the other SLAVE GIRLS in the shadows.)*
25 Hi! I'm Androcles, and this lovely lady is my wife, Hermione! *(DIANA doesn't answer, but instead starts to cry. ANDROCLES doesn't quite know what to do.)* Uh, been a slave long? *(She cries louder and HERMIONE elbows him in the ribs.)* This is our first time. Oh well, I guess it won't be so bad! I hear that the service is pretty good at Caesar's palace!
30
35

DIANA: *(Cries even louder and tries to escape.)* Oh-h-h-h! There's no hope. No hope at all! I can't live without Marcus!

ANDROCLES: *(Stopping her.)* You can't go anywhere! Don't you realize that there are guards posted all around here!

40 **DIANA:** I know! I want to die!

ANDROCLES: That's the silliest thing I ever heard! Nobody wants to die!

1 **DIANA:** I do! If I can't marry Marcus and run away and start a new life,
I want to die. Now leave me alone! Let me go!

HERMIONE: Let her go! You know nothing of a woman's devotion!
How romantic! She'd rather die than face life without love! How
5 exquisite! Come here, dear, and tell me all about it. Androcles,
turn her loose!

ANDROCLES: (*Releases DIANA.*) All right, but I'm staying right here, so
she can't run off and get herself killed!

HERMIONE: (*Comforts DIANA.*) Now, now! There, there! Poor little
10 thing. What's your name, dear?

DIANA: (*Still sobbing.*) D-D-Diana! Oh, I'm so unhappy!

HERMIONE: Yes, yes. Well, you just tell Hermione the whole story,
Diana, and you'll feel much better. Here, sit beside me. (*They sit
on some crates.*) You're such a lovely child! (*To ANDROCLES.*) I'm
15 certain she comes from a very fine family. (*ANDROCLES smiles.
To DIANA.*) Now tell me everything! I want to hear it all! You're
engaged to this Marcus? For how long? How did you meet him? Is
he your social equal? Tell me, dear, and don't hold anything back!

DIANA: (*Controlling her tears.*) I've been engaged to Marcus since we
20 were children. Our families contracted for our marriage when we
were very small!

HERMIONE: An arrangement! How divine!

DIANA: Yes, it is divine, or was until we were captured by those horrible
slavers! Marcus is the sweetest, noblest, gentlest, kindest man in
25 the world! I love him more than anything!

HERMIONE: Of course you do. Where is Marcus now?

DIANA: They sold him to the Circus yesterday. (*Sobbing again.*) He's
so big and strong, they're making him a gladiator. He'll have to
fight in the arena, and sooner or later he'll be killed! (*Smiles at
30 the memory.*) You should have seen him when the slavers tried
to capture me. He killed two of them and broke several arms and
legs on the others. It finally took 15 men to chain him!

ANDROCLES: (*To himself.*) "Sweetest, noblest, gentlest, kindest man
in the world?" (*To DIANA.*) Diana, if you'll trust me and promise not
35 to do anything foolish, I'll promise to find a way to save us all and
find Marcus and free him, too. How about it? Don't give up! If you
keep hoping instead of moping, it will all turn out fine! (*LIGHTS UP
FULL. CRASSUS and SILVIUS ENTER LEFT.*)

SILVIUS: (*Howling.*) Praxus! Prepare the slaves for their departure.
40 They have been paid for!

PRAXUS: (*Arranges the SLAVES in a line, DIANA, HERMIONE and
ANDROCLES bringing up the rear.*) All right, slaves, eyes forward!

1 No talking! (*CRASSUS starts to take the line of SLAVES OFF LEFT, stops, letting them pass as they EXIT. He notices the harp that ANDROCLES carries.*)

CRASSUS: (*To ANDROCLES.*) Can you play that harp? Music is the only
5 thing that soothes Caesar's migraines.

ANDROCLES: Well, as a matter of fact, I am pretty good at it.

CRASSUS: Then you'll be sent to Caesar this evening. Come along
now! (*They EXIT LEFT.*)

SILVIUS: (*To PRAXUS as CITIZENS and VENDORS go about their
10 business.*) Four thousand dinars for the lot of 'em! Not bad for one
sale.

PRAXUS: Not bad at all, sir!

SILVIUS: I only hope I can do as well with the animals! (*Shouts OFF
15 RIGHT.*) All right! Bring 'em on! (*Smiles greedily as two ANIMAL
CATCHERS ENTER DOWN RIGHT. They carry a long pole between
them on which the LION is slung. LION roars as the LIGHTS FADE
TO BLACK.*)

End of Scene Two

Scene Three

SETTING: Caesar's slave quarters, three weeks later. There is a rough
bunk with a measly blanket DOWN RIGHT.

20 LIGHTS UP: ANDROCLES sits with his harp on the bed. There are no
walled-off cells, just a large common room. OTHER SLAVES are also in
the room, sitting or resting.

ANDROCLES: (*To PHILIA.*) And Caesar says my harp makes the most
beautiful music he's ever heard! I mean, I really think he likes me.

25 **PHILIA:** (*Laughs at the idea.*) Sure he does! For the time being.

ANDROCLES: Well, at least I've lasted three weeks! That's hopeful,
isn't it?

CORONA: I think the word is "wishful"! If Caesar ever winds up in the
30 same room with that wife of yours, he'll have you both thrown to
the lions. Once she starts talking, even your harp won't help his
headache!

ANDROCLES: Well, if he likes me, even for the time being, maybe he'll
show me special favors. Give me odd jobs so I can earn some
money and buy our freedom! (*Laughter from ALL.*)

35 **PHILIA:** (*Jokingly.*) And just what would you do with your freedom?

ANDROCLES: (*Laughs.*) Buy myself a chariot! When in Rome, do as
the Romans do! (*Laughter from ALL.*)

PRODUCTION NOTES

SET

The sets can be dressed up if desired, but can also be kept very simple and representational. Paint will be your best friend on all the sets. Don't be afraid to use relatively vivid colors to complement the costumes.

Large rocks and a cave opening are all that's needed for the desert scene. A small platform and some crates can set the scene for the Roman marketplace and auction block. The slave quarters in the palace can be represented by one rough bunk with a measly blanket. The palace hallway can be satisfactorily played in front of a curtain with a simple bench with cushions. The same bench without the cushions can be used for the holding cell.

Tables covered to the floor with tablecloths will serve nicely as banquet tables. Bring in pillows and benches, as well as a special chair for Caesar. A staircase for Caesar's entrance is a nice touch but is not necessary.

For the Circus Maximus arena, two gates that open, an ornate seat for Caesar (can be the same one from the banquet scene) and several benches for spectators are needed.

PROPERTIES

ONSTAGE, Scene One: Rocks, mouth of cave

BROUGHT ON, Scene One:

Small harp with a shoulder strap (plywood cutout in the shape of an ancient harp, painted gold and antiqued with brown paint), fabric bundle or bag containing a large, flashy, jeweled brooch in wrapping paper and wrapped dates and cheese (ANDROCLES)

ONSTAGE, Scene Two: Crates, small platform

BROUGHT ON, Scene Two:

Basket of fish (JULIA)
Fish strung on a line (HARMONIA)
Togas (JUSTICA)
Bundles of rushes (LORENA)
Whip (SILVIUS)
Whip, chains, gag (PRAXUS)
Harp (ANDROCLES)
Pole with LION tied to it (ANIMAL CATCHERS)

ONSTAGE, Scene Three: Rough bunk, measly blanket

BROUGHT ON, Scene Three:

Harp (ANDROCLES)

Whip (CRASSUS)

Two leather bags containing coins (HERMIONE)

ONSTAGE, Scene Four: Cushioned bench

BROUGHT ON, Scene Four:

Two leather bags containing coins (ANDROCLES)

ONSTAGE, Scene Five: Tables covered to the floor with tablecloths, pillows, benches, a special chair for Caesar. Optional staircase.

BROUGHT ON, Scene Five:

Goblets, pillows, benches, platters of food, wine jugs (SLAVES)

Large tray with goblets (HERMIONE)

Large tray of fruit and flowers (ANDROCLES, HERMIONE)

Whip (CRASSUS)

ONSTAGE, Scene Six: Cushioned bench

ONSTAGE, Scene Seven: Plain wooden bench

BROUGHT ON, Scene Seven:

Prison pass [folded parchment paper] (ANDROCLES)

ONSTAGE, Scene Eight: Benches, ornate seat, two working gates

BROUGHT ON, Scene Eight:

Cones of cotton candy, bags of popcorn (VENDORS)

Balloons (CHILDREN)

Gag (CRASSUS)

PROPS FOR BANQUET

Plastic fruit and flowers, papier mâché roasts and cheese, etc., mounted on large plywood ovals (painted metallic silver), will serve nicely in the banquet hall. For the goblets, purchase inexpensive clear plastic champagne or wine glasses, spray-paint them silver and glue on some colored stones and sequins.

FLEXIBLE CASTING

In the original production, extensive doubling was employed. The CITIZENS, VENDORS and ANIMAL CATCHERS in Scenes Two and Eight doubled as SLAVES in Scenes Three, Five and Seven.

The Roman marketplace and the Circus Maximus scenes need as many people as possible. Throughout the show, the more SLAVES and CITIZENS, the better. The show plays well with only those indicated in the script, but is improved by adding more.

SOUND EFFECTS

Harp music, harp chords, fanfare, crash of plates and goblets, crash, distant roaring of lions, clanking armor, single lion roar.

COSTUMING

Old draperies make excellent fabric for the costumes required. A little dye will work wonders. If no one in your group has old draperies available, try your local thrift shops. Perfectly good draperies can be purchased very reasonably. Generally, all you will need to do is remove any pleating and/or lining, wash in cold water, dye to desired color, and cut and sew. The basic costume required for the play is a simple pillow-case shape, with openings cut for arms and head. This shape can be varied extensively by belting, girdling, trimming in contrasting colors, and by varying the finished length.

The prison rags are best made of patchwork scraps, put together with large, exposed seams, then dyed in a medium brown or gray mixture. The dying can be done in a washing machine (be sure and run soap and bleach in clear water through machine afterwards.) The more matted and frayed the seams, the better.

The key to the VENDORS and CITIZENS costuming is color. Make them bright and cheerful, and your production will sparkle.

If desired, colors of a single color-scheme for CAESAR'S household establishes the locale. If such a color scheme is used, avoid using the same colors elsewhere in the show.

It is important that ANDROCLES' and HERMIONE'S costumes be totally different in appearance from all the others, to indicate that the two come from another part of the world.

MAMA'S costume should bear some resemblance to HERMIONE'S and ANDROCLES', except that it should obviously be in good repair and more elaborately trimmed. She wears a black mourning veil in Scene Five.

CAESAR'S costume should be the most elaborate in the show. Sequin banding is appropriate, and the fabrics should be satiny polyester jerseys or knits, so that they drape and flow elegantly. Adjust length carefully so that he can walk down steps without tripping.

The pleats, folds and draping on all the costumes can be hand-stitched in place.

If you're at a school, two excellent sources of help are your history and art classes. Perhaps the history teacher would like to assign a research project into Roman costume and architecture, and the art teacher might make painting the set and costume sketches a fun project for advanced students. Just remember to keep everything simple and colorful for maximum effect.

We hope you've enjoyed this script sample.

We encourage you to read the entire script before making your final decision.

You may order a paper preview copy or gain instant access to the complete script online through our E-view program. We invite you to learn more and create an account at www.pioneerdrama.com/E-view.

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