

ODIN,
the Opera

SYNOPSIS

High above the down stage area hangs a large television screen. The screen comes alive and we see a Weather Woman (Narrator) standing in front of a weather map. The Narrator proceeds to report on facts that link the actions of present day society to the story of Odin. She then forecasts what the audience will be seeing on stage. The Narrator will interrupt the stage production and deliver a report/forecast several times during the course of both Acts.

The television goes black. The curtain rises. There's fog on the ground and in the air. Dim lighting reveals Odin with a noose around his neck hanging lifelessly from the huge Tree of Life. A sword is stuck in his side. Suddenly, Odin comes to life, reaches up, frees himself from the noose, falls to the ground, removes the sword from his side and proclaims he has returned to the world of the living. He then proceeds to demonstrate his dual existence as the God of War and of Knowledge - and of living day-to-day with these opposing philosophies.

Out of nowhere, six Giants appear, back Odin into a corner and vent their anger because Odin's army (the Berserks) murdered one of their comrades. Loko, the leader of the Giants appears and orders the Giants to hold off their anger. Loko reminds the Giants that he will personally guarantee Odin's demise, and it will occur at Ragnarok (the war to end all wars). The Giants back off, Loko orders them to go home and then orders Odin to leave - while reminding Odin he will be punished at Ragnarok. Then, in a big cloud of smoke and strobe lights, Loko magically transforms into his female counterpart, Loki - who then wanders up a garden path to meet her lover, Odin.

On the surface, Loki is Odin's mistress. And after some tender moments together, she convinces him to give her permission to gather all the unclaimed warrior souls (according to the mythology, those not intended for heaven or hell). In return, she agrees to train these souls to fight on his side at Ragnarok. Odin is skeptical but agrees. In reality, it's a plot in which she (and her counterpart Loko) will actually train the unclaimed souls to turn on Odin at Ragnarok (and fight on the side of the Giants). As Odin and Loki continue their discussion, the Berserks, Odin's posse, enter from the rear of the theatre in a drunken stupor, proceed through the audience and onto the stage where they pass Odin & Loki. The

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scene ends with Odin & Loki exchanging love pleasantries, when out of the corner of her eye, Loki catches a glimpse of Baldar - which disturbs her.

Baldar, son of Odin and Frigg, is on his way to a mother/son discussion with Frigg on a number of topics including the fact that Baldar is a God who has been given the heretofore unknown traits of honor and the ability to reason. He represents the Birth of Civility. Frigg wants her son to take these wonderful traits into the world as well as to Odin, who as the God of Knowledge was the source of these in Baldar. Because Odin is

also the God of War, it is difficult for him to accept and practice the use of knowledge and reasoning in his daily life. Baldar promises Frigg he will help Odin. They also discuss Frigg's obsessive/compulsive feelings about the safety of Baldar which has led her to establish pacts with all the evils, poisons and forces of death that could hurt Baldar - except for one thing, Mistletoe.

Now we see the Dance of the Valkyries – the nine warrior maidens who work for Odin choosing slain, unclaimed heroes from previous battles. They take these heroes to Valhalla, where they are made immortal and protect Odin and the Gods forever. As the scene winds down, our attention is drawn to Frigg.

Frigg comes upon an old woman (Loki in disguise) and they begin to talk. Frigg's obsessive/compulsive fixation with the safety of Baldar leads her to reveal to the old woman all the details including the one thing that can kill Baldar, Mistletoe.

We now see Loko meeting with the Giants, telling them of his great plan to defeat Odin at Ragnarok - the sure-fire plot he and Loki have created to deceive Odin and give the Giants the victory at Ragnarok. And from high atop a tree, this entire encounter is witnessed by the Ravens. The Ravens are spies who travel around the world each day and report their findings to their master, Odin. They report the Loko/Loki news to Odin immediately.

Upon arrival, the Ravens find Odin and Baldar in a discussion about Frigg. They interrupt excitedly to tell Odin of Loki's deception. Essentially, all four are speaking at the same time and no one appears to be listening. Odin does comprehend the Raven's message about Loko/Loki and views this as a clear

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sign of the impending apocalypse. The Ravens are frustrated that they know so much and no one pays attention to them. Baldar has come to the conclusion his father is too busy for the needs of his son and is therefore, just as crazy and self-absorbed as his mother.

The message of the Ravens incites Odin to gather his forces for war. First, he gathers the Berserks and then the Valkyries & soldiers from Valhalla - all culminating in a powerful show of force that gives Odin a great deal of confidence.

Odin then travels to a meeting of the Gods at Asgard. This is an orgy of sex, violence, human sacrifice and much discussion about the impending doom of Ragnarok. During the chaos of the party, Loki murders Baldar with a Mistletoe dart. The party continues with most people unaware a murder has been committed.

End of Act I

Act II

As Act II opens, Loki shapeshifts back into Loko and we find the Ravens spying again on Loko and the Giants. The Ravens are horrified to hear Loko's bragging that he (as the sex-shifted Loki) murdered Baldar to get even with Odin for his murder of a Giant. They immediately leave to inform Odin of the terrible news.

Meanwhile, Loki's greed, obsession with power and her/his dual sexuality/ personas lead her over the edge in an aria of confusion, self-doubt, hatred, suffering and pain. This is Loki/Loko's personal apocalypse.

Odin is back at the Tree of Life contemplating his curse of knowledge and its effect on his life when the Ravens interrupt him with the news that Baldar was murdered by Loki. In a state of shock and horror, Odin leaves to tell Frigg. Frigg falls apart and experiences her personal apocalypse after hearing the news about Baldar. Odin orders his Berserks to capture and kill Loki/Loko. The Berserks realize Odin's order is asking them to commit murder, which is

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something totally different than killing someone on the battlefield. They are gaining knowledge, which weakens their effectiveness as warriors. The ghost of Baldar appears to comfort and counsel Frigg and Odin.

All comes to a halt as everyone attends the funeral of Balder, a celebration of rituals and traditions prior to the burial, all officiated by the high Priestess, Glythia.

A compromised Odin now faces his demons (the birth of civility vs: atrocity). He manages to keep his vows to fight to the end at Ragnarok, and summons his aid Fromin, to reviews the battle plans.

We are now in the middle of Ragnarok. It is a large-scale dance in which we see glimpses of conventional battle movements, but what's anticipated never happens. The characters have become hollow and the battle turns into a dance in which all the self-defeated characters attempt to participate in the act of war but because each has already experienced their own personal apocalypse (long before the battle began), the war to end all wars is void of meaning, energy and commitment. The battle dissipates and all becomes quiet.

A new day is born. There's a young man and a woman by the Tree of Life. Slowly, they begin to dance and come closer to the audience. It's a young Odin & Loki.

End of opera

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