

ONE LAST WALTZ

RENARD PRESS — PLAYSRIPT VI

ONE LAST WALTZ:

FIRST PRODUCED BY **BLACK COFFEE THEATRE** FOR A UK TOUR IN 2015,

DIRECTED BY **LUKE ADAMSON** AND **MARIA CROCKER**.

MANDY PLAYED BY **SUSAN MITCHELL**,

ALICE PLAYED BY **ANNIE SAWLE** AND

GEORGETTE PLAYED BY **ANDRINA CARROLL**.

SECOND PRODUCTION AT

THE GREENWICH THEATRE IN 2018,

DIRECTED BY **LUKE ADAMSON**.

MANDY PLAYED BY **JULIE BINYSH**,

ALICE PLAYED BY **AMANDA REED** AND

GEORGETTE PLAYED BY **JULIA FAULKNER**.

ONE LAST WALTZ

LUKE ADAMSON



RENARD PRESS

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CONTENTS

<i>One Last Waltz</i>	7
Notes	9
Characters	9
PART ONE	11
Scene 1	13
Scene 2	21
Scene 3	26
PART TWO	33
Scene 1	35
Scene 2	42
Scene 3	49
PART THREE	57
Scene 1	59
Scene 2	63

ONE LAST WALTZ

THIS PLAY IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
ERNEST AND FRANCES WOOD.

NOTES

The play was written to be performed straight through with no interval, but one may be inserted if the director wishes.

The play is split into three parts, with each part focusing on the story of one character slightly more than the others, which mirrors the 3/4 time signature of a waltz. The choice of incidental music throughout is left to the director/sound designer, but it should all be in a 3/4 time signature. The original production used songs by Norah Jones, Damien Rice and Engelbert Humperdinck, as well as 'Are You Lonesome Tonight' by Elvis Presley before Part II, Scene 2.

The set can be designed as the designer and director want; in the original production it was constructed entirely out of cardboard boxes, and other bits of furniture, such as the reception desk, were built out of the boxes, with small costume changes happening onstage, with the costumes coming out of the boxes.

CHARACTERS

MANDY (50s): A single mother and doting daughter;
looks in need of a rest.

ALICE (70s): Mandy's mother; witty and caring but
stubborn; starting to have problems with her memory.

GEORGETTE (50s): An eccentric hotelier
and a bit of a busybody.

PART ONE

MANDY

SCENE I

A room filled with boxes and moving cases that have never been unpacked. A waltz plays in the background. ALICE enters. She moves to the nearest box and opens it, pulling out various items. Not finding what she was looking for, she moves on to the next box, pulling out more heirlooms and memories. Still not finding what she is looking for, she moves over to another box and pulls out more junk, followed by an old pair of dance shoes. She blows the dust off the shoes and looks at them more closely. Smiling, she takes her slippers off and pulls the dance shoes on, and begins to waltz in time with the music – gently at first, but eventually getting into it, until she is waltzing with flare and elegance. After a time she begins to tire, and, wheezing, she sits herself down and makes to take the shoes off. As she’s doing so MANDY enters.

MANDY: Mum?

ALICE: I’m here. Just having a sit down.

MANDY: Did you find them?

ALICE: Did I what?

MANDY: Did you find them?

ALICE (*thinks; then, after a pause*): I found the shoes.

MANDY: What?

ALICE: I found the shoes.

ONE LAST WALTZ

MANDY: What shoes?

ALICE (*pointing*): The shoes. The dance shoes. (*Pause.*) They were in that box.

MANDY: Mum...

ALICE: Yes?

MANDY: What did you come in here for?

ALICE (*pause*): Erm... I came... for the shoes?

MANDY: No, not for the shoes.

ALICE: No, not the shoes. The erm... The... I came in here to look for the... erm...

MANDY: The photographs.

ALICE: Yes.

MANDY: Remember?

ALICE: Yes. Yes, the photographs.

MANDY: Have you found them?

ALICE: I don't think so.

MANDY: You don't think so?

ALICE: No.

MANDY: Well, either you have or you haven't.

ALICE: I haven't.

MANDY: OK – where have you looked?

ALICE: In those boxes.

MANDY: Right. Well, you look in those ones, and I'll look in these, OK?

ALICE: Yes.

MANDY: And we're looking for...?

ALICE: Photographs.

MANDY: Photographs. Good.

(They set about looking in boxes, pulling out old heirlooms. It is clear the boxes have sat unpacked for some time.)

ALICE (*after a pause*): What photographs?

SCENE I

MANDY: The photo album with the old holiday pictures.
Remember?

ALICE: Oh yes.

MANDY: Why haven't you unpacked these before?

ALICE: I never felt the need.

MANDY: You've been here years!

ALICE: Yes, but it's things I don't want on display.

MANDY: Well, you could unpack them at least?

ALICE: There's no point. You'll only have to repack them
when I die.

MANDY: Oh, stop being so maudlin!

ALICE: Well, it's true. Everybody I know is dying. Gracie
Foster died last week. And she's younger than me.

MANDY: She had a terminal illness.

ALICE: How do you know I haven't got one?

MANDY: Stop it, Mum.

ALICE: Well, it's true! I'm old. That's as good as any illness.

MANDY: Let's find these photos.

(There is silence as they look.)

ALICE: I could drop down tomorrow. Keel over in Morrison's.

MANDY: You won't keel over in Morrison's.

ALICE: How do you know?

MANDY: Tomorrow's Tuesday. We go shopping on Thursday.

ALICE: Is it? I thought today was Wednesday.

MANDY: No, it's Monday, Mum.

ALICE: Oh. But I put the bins out.

MANDY: I know – I brought them in again.

ALICE: Oh.

ONE LAST WALTZ

(They continue looking. MANDY finds an old black-and-white picture in a frame.)

MANDY: Oh, Mum – look at this! It's you and Dad.

ALICE: Let's see!

MANDY: When was this?

ALICE: Well, that's the tower in the background...

MANDY: Eiffel?

ALICE: Blackpool. We first went on holiday there in 1958.

MANDY: You should take this downstairs and put it on the mantelpiece.

ALICE: Ooh, no.

MANDY: Why not? It's a lovely picture of you and Dad.

ALICE: Not with that jumper.

MANDY: What?

ALICE: That jumper. It's a monstrosity.

MANDY: What's wrong with the jumper?

ALICE: I've always hated it. His auntie knitted it for him, so he used to insist on wearing it. No. I don't want that on display for all to see.

MANDY: Are you joking?

ALICE: No.

MANDY: The best photo of you and Dad that I've ever seen, and you won't put it up because of a jumper?

ALICE: Blue and green should never be seen.

MANDY: Blue and green? Where've you heard that?

ALICE: That's fashion law, that is.

MANDY: Oh, well if it rhymes...!

ALICE: I'm sure there's a better picture of us somewhere.

MANDY: Yeah, probably.

ALICE: I've got a whole album somewhere with loads of holiday pictures in. It's brown, I think. Or red.

SCENE I

MANDY: Photo album...

ALICE: Yeah. Full of pictures from holidays. It's in this box,
I think.

(She moves to an unopened box, opens it, rummages around and pulls out the album.)

Here it is!

MANDY: Yeah. How did you...?

ALICE: Well, this is where I keep the photo albums.

MANDY: Right.

ALICE *(opening it and reading what is written inside the cover)*:

Scarborough 1957, Blackpool 1958, Whitby 1961.

MANDY: You got around.

ALICE: That's where you went in those days – the seaside.

They used to organise bus trips.

MANDY: Which was your favourite?

ALICE: My favourite? My favourite what?

MANDY: Holiday.

ALICE: Out of these?

MANDY: Yes.

ALICE: Oh, Blackpool. Definitely.

MANDY: Really?

ALICE: Oh yeah. Scarborough was nice, and Whitby had the
abbey – but Blackpool had the entertainment!

MANDY: The entertainment?

ALICE: Yes. Well, of course the others had entertainment
too, but not like Blackpool. The 'luminations, the tower
– there was all sorts!

MANDY: I'll bet there was!

ALICE: We saw Ken Dodd in Blackpool. Top of the bill!