

The Dark Path Home

A full-length play

* CASTING NOTE- Every effort should be made to cast the characters as written. However if a theatre is unable to cast diverse actors for Kylie, Bonny, Ben, and Papa alternate lines marked with an * have been provided in an Appendix at the end of the script which allows anyone of any ethnicity to play the roles.

CHARACTERS

Young actors

DANNY- A young teen. Athletic and confident but sometimes it's a brave front. Dressed in modern clothes.

LEXIE- A young teen. More worldly than her peers. Adventurous and unafraid to express emotion. Dressed in modern clothes

KYLIE- A young teenage girl. Black. Loves books, learning and tries to figure out how things work. Dressed in modern clothes. *

JOEY- Lexie's younger sibling. Hesitant and afraid of the unknown. Dressed in modern clothes.

BONNY- A young Black teenage girl. Born in 1940 and dressed in 1950's style. Brave yet cautious. A ghost. *

BEN- About 8-10 years old. Black. Dressed in 1950's style. . Bonny's younger brother. Loyal to his sister and wants to be like his papa. A ghost. *

JASON- Late teens. Danny's older brother who terrorizes him on a constant basis.

Any Age

FOUR FACELESS FIGURES who never speak and help with transportation to and from various parts of the underworld.

Adult actors

CHARON/HADES-These characters can be played by the same actor switching masks or can be played by two actors. Charon is the son of Nyx (Night), whose duty is to ferry the souls of the deceased over the Rivers Styx. Hades is the Greek god of the underworld. Both characters wear Greek tragedy masks.

PAPA - Male 30's-60's. Black. He is a deceased spirit that transforms from light to human form. *

SPHINX/SIREN/ PERSEPHONE- All these characters can be played by the same actor or separate actors. The Siren is female voice and never seen. The Sphinx is seen only in silhouette and shadows. This can be as simple as a woman only or, if you have the ability, show her other features: wings or her lion body. Persephone is the only actor we can clearly see. She can speak directly but her voice should sound echoey.

Synopsis: Four teens break into an old abandoned theatre on a dare and discover the ghosts that inhabit it. In the process of stirring up the ghost they set into motion the events from the Greek Tragedy "Orpheus and Eurydice" that was being performed when the fire happened and must complete the play before dawn or they are doomed to remain

in the underworld forever.

The setting: The Orpheum Theatre, a little after midnight. Once upon a time it was an old stage house. It closed down after a fire that killed dozens of people and has sat empty since. The audience seating area can be decorated to feel like an abandoned theatre with cobwebs and suitable decor to add to the atmosphere. On the stage there are a few ropes and set pieces scattered about including a closed trunk, a small boat big enough for four people to sit in and move about the stage and a box with several levers. Halfway back on the stage is a larger box structure with what appears to be solid sides.. There is a ladder leaning against one side and is sturdy enough to climb and stand on top of the box. There is a single light bulb that illuminates the stage dimly (the GHOST LIGHT.) The effects in the play can be as simple or elaborate as you have the ability to make it. The play can be done with cubes and flashlights or as wild as you can imagine. Simple light along with good sound effects, can be more powerful than big effects. This is an imagination play.

THE DARK PATH HOME

The abandoned Orpheum Theatre lit only by a dim ghost light. Flashlight beams move around in the darkness of the audience and then LEXIE, DANNY, KYLIE, and JOEY enter. The characters can enter through a side exit or some place that is unexpected. Each of them are carrying flashlights. They make their way down an audience aisle towards the stage.

JOEY

This place gives me the creeps. Look at all these empty seats. I bet most of the people who used to sit here are dead by now.

KYLIE

I've seen pictures of people who used to come here all dressed up like some fancy party.

JOEY

People used to dress up to go to see movies?

KYLIE

Not movies, plays. They used to dress up to go to the store, too.

DANNY

Weird. *(Looks around excited.)* Didn't I tell you guys! This is the perfect place to be at midnight on Halloween!

JOEY

The only reason I'm here is because Lexie took that stupid dare and my parents told her she had to watch me while they were out at a party. *(To Lexie.)* Mom and Dad would kill us if they knew we were here.

LEXIE

(To Joey.) Mom and Dad will never know. Right little, brother? *(Looking at the burning light bulb.)* I can't believe this place still has power.

KYLIE

It's a ghost light. The community theatre my mom volunteers at has one. It's so people don't fall off the stage in the dark.

DANNY

(DANNY uses his arms to pretend to float like a ghost.) It's to keep the ghosts company.

They all stare at the audience.

JOEY

Feels like people are looking at us.

LEXIE

I knew this place burned in a fire but it's kinda weird seeing it in person.

DANNY

(Looks at the stage.) Doesn't look like everything burned.

LEXIE

(LEXIE shines a light above the audience's heads.) Look up there at the balcony. That must be where most of the fire burned. It's all black and those big chunks have fallen on those seats back there.

KYLIE

Lots of people died in the fire. The guy who owns the place didn't have enough money to rebuild so it just sat here.

LEXIE

My mom said that some famous singer came through town and looked at buying it to fix up for concerts.

DANNY

That's just rumors from people who don't want to tear it down.

JOEY

I thought the city bought it.

KYLIE

They took it over after the owner died, but nobody has the money to fix it up so it just sits.

LEXIE shines her flashlight straight up to look above the stage out of sight of the audience.

LEXIE

Whoa! Look up there. There's stuff hanging up there. Lights and big painted drops. What's that above the lights?

JOEY

Looks like some kind of wooden slats.

LEXIE

How cool would it be to go up there and look down here.

DANNY

(Pointing the flashlight offstage.) Look! There are ladder rungs in the wall that go all the way up.

JOEY

Are you crazy? That's probably all rotted by now. We shouldn't even be standing underneath this stuff.

DANNY

(Looking at a row of levers.) Wonder what these were used for?

KYLIE walks to a different part of the stage while DANNY investigates a large box with levers.

DANNY

This is so cool. Look at all these levers. Like some old Frankenstein movie. I bet these controlled all the lights. Do you think any of them still work?

KYLIE

The ghost light still works.

DANNY flips a lever and we hear a noise like a set of gears moving above their heads. They all look up.

JOEY

It looks like one of those pipes above us is moving.

We hear the SOUND of BATS everywhere and they all scream. After a moment DANNY shines his flashlight around and comes to rest on JOEY who is revealed on his knees curled up in ball with his arms protecting his head with his fingers making the sign of a cross to keep away vampires. LEXIE starts to laugh and then DANNY and KYLIE start to laugh as well.

JOEY

It's not funny! Those could have been vampire bats!

LEXIE puts her hands up behind the ghost light and uses her hands to make a shadow puppet of a bird and makes HAWK sounds.

LEXIE

There that should scare away any bats. Vampire or otherwise!

KYLIE

Where did you learn to do that?

LEXIE

The street light outside my bedroom window shines in at night. Its a distraction.

JOEY

When mom and dad fight.

DANNY tries out some other levers with no effect.

KYLIE

(Spots a steamer trunk. Look over here.

KYLIE goes over to the large steamer trunk, setting on its end.

It looks like my grandma's old trunk in her attic. Maybe there are costumes inside?

THEY ALL walk over to join KYLIE at the trunk.

JOEY

Maybe there are spiders in it!

DANNY

(To Joey.) Scared?

JOEY

No I'm not.

LEXIE

Don't let him get to you, Joey.

KYLIE opens the trunk and begins to investigate. There is a tag hanging from inside the trunk.

KYLIE

Look at this. (*Reading the tag.*) Act Two costumes and props. They're amazing!

*KYLIE takes a costume bracelet and puts it on.
JOEY detects a strong smell from the trunk.*

JOEY

It's smells like my grandma's closet.

KYLIE

That's mothballs. It kept them from falling apart all these years.

DANNY

How do you know all this stuff?

KYLIE

I read books. You should try it some time.

DANNY

I've got better things to do than clutter my brain with old facts.

KYLIE

(*Laughs.*) You are impossible.

LEXIE

(*Exploring the trunk.*) Wooo, look at all this wild stuff.

*KYLIE pulls out some pages. DANNY pulls out
a tunic with a pattern on it which he puts on.
LEXIE takes out a Greek robe and slips it over
her head.*

KYLIE

Hey, look at this. It's a script.

LEXIE

(*To Kylie.*) How do I look?

KYLIE

Like one of those Greek goddesses.

DANNY

You look like a ghost to me.

LEXIE

(Ghostly moans.) Ohhhhhhhhhhhhh.

JOEY

I don't think we should be messing with any of this stuff.

DANNY

Joey's afraid of ghosts?

JOEY

I'm not afraid of anything!

DANNY

You're afraid of everything.

JOEY

No, I'm not.

DANNY

Oh yeah. *(Points at Joey's shoulder.)* Like that big spider.

JOEY

(Jumping around brushing himself off everywhere.) Get it off! Get it off!

DANNY laughs at JOEY.

KYLIE

(Indicating DANNY.) Don't let him get to you Joey. Everyone's afraid of something.

DANNY

Not me.

LEXIE

What about your brother?

DANNY

(Suddenly defensive.) Who said I was afraid of him?

LEXIE

Every time he comes around you get jumpy.

DANNY

(Getting angry.) No, I don't!

KYLIE

We understand. Your brother's scary. He hangs out with all those creeps from the riverfront. All they do is smoke and steal stuff.

JOEY

You told me he burned your arm with a cigarette just for fun.

DANNY

Can we stop talking about my brother?!

LEXIE & KYLIE

Okay, fine. Sorry.

DANNY grabs a lyre with a carrying strap. HE strums the lyre and a beautiful chord is heard. LEXIE climbs a ladder on the side of the large box and stands on the top to look around while KYLIE is looking at the pages of the script and JOEY tries to read over her shoulder.

JOEY

Let me see. *(Sounding it out.)* Orp-hes.

DANNY

(Laughs.) Sounds like someone throwing up.

KYLIE

I think that's Orpheus.

JOEY

Sounds like Orpheum.

LEXIE

(Stands on the top of the box.) Maybe the theatre was named after that guy.

DANNY slings the lyre over his head so it's now strapped on his back and begins looking at the bank of levers and finds one marked with a sign that reads, "Special Effect."

DANNY

Special Effect. Let's see what this does.

HE moves the lever and suddenly everything goes black and LEXIE screams.

KYLIE

(Screams at DANNY.) What did you do?

DANNY

I just flipped the lever.

KYLIE

Flip it back.

DANNY flips it back and the lights come back on. LEXIE has vanished.

KYLIE

She's gone!

JOEY

I told you! I told you we shouldn't mess with stuff!

KYLIE

(Yelling.) Lexie? Lexie?

LEXIE moans from inside the box. KYLIE stuffs the script into her pocket.

KYLIE

She's inside the box!

KYLIE climbs the ladder to look where LEXIE had been standing.

DANNY

(To Joey.) It's not my fault! How was I supposed to know it would do that?

JOEY

We shouldn't be in here at all!

KYLIE

It looks like some kind of trap door in the top of this box.

JOEY

Don't stand on it!

KYLIE

I'm not stupid.

DANNY

Where did she go?

KYLIE

She must have fallen inside.

DANNY

(Points at the lever.) All I did was flip this lever.

KYLIE

Hand me my flashlight.

DANNY hands KYLIE her flashlight and she climbs the ladder on the platform and inspects the top.

Flip the lever again and let's see if the top opens.

DANNY

Ok. I'm flipping it. *(He does.)*

The lights go back out again. KYLIE's light shines into the top of the open trap door.

KYLIE

(Describing.) The top opened!

DANNY flips the lever back on and the lights come up again.

KYLIE

Now it's closed again. We need to find something to wedge it open.

JOEY and DANNY search around until DANNY finds the paddle for the boat.

He hands it to KYLIE and she tries her best to wedge it open again.

DANNY

(Starts to climb the box.) Let me try.

KYLIE

No wait! Go back to the lever. When I say, “Now!” you flip that lever again and I’ll jam this paddle in to keep it open.

DANNY

Okay.

KYLIE

Ready? Now!

DANNY flips the switch and KYLIE jams the board into the trap door.

Got it.

DANNY flips the lever back and the lights come back on.

(Looks down.) I see her!

KYLIE

We need to get her out.

KYLIE climbs into the trap and goes out of sight.

JOEY

Is she okay?

KYLIE

(From inside the box.) I can’t tell. *(Pauses.)* It looks like there’s a handle on the wall inside here that opens the box.

The face of the box opens up a little.

It won’t open all the way. Try pulling it from your side.

DANNY and JOEY go and pull on the panels to open them revealing KYLIE with LEXIE lying on the floor.

KYLIE

(Bending over LEXIE.) She's still breathing.

JOEY

Ahhh. I cut my hand on the box.

DANNY grabs a piece of fabric from the floor inside the box and hands it to JOEY.

DANNY

Here. Wrap your hand in this.

KYLIE

(Bending over LEXIE and gently touching her shoulder.) Lexie? Lexie, wake up.

JOEY

(Referring to the piece of fabric.) It's filthy!

DANNY

Okay, then bleed to death. Your choice. *(To Kylie.)* Is she okay?

JOEY takes the fabric and wraps his hand.

KYLIE

(Spots blood.) There's a little bit of blood on the back of her head. She must have hit her head on something when she fell.

JOEY

We're all going to die if we don't get out of here.

KYLIE

We have got to get some help! Call 911!

DANNY and JOEY take out their cell phones.

DANNY

There's no signal in here.

KYLIE

Go! I'll stay with Lexie while you get help.

DANNY and JOEY run down the audience aisle.

JOEY (O.S.)

The door won't open!

DANNY (O.S.)

It's wedged shut!

DANNY and JOEY return.

DANNY

It won't open. We've got to find another way out.

*The lights suddenly go out and there is a strange
SOUND of something scraping.*

JOEY

What happened to the lights?

KYLIE

What was that sound?

*DANNY turns on his flashlight and goes to the
bank of levers.*

DANNY

I don't know. Let me see if I can get them back on.

JOEY

Don't flip any more...

*DANNY flips the lever and the lights come back
on but start a rhythm of fading up and then
fading down to blackness.*

KYLIE

Stop messing with the lights!

DANNY

I'm not touching anything. Something else is controlling them.

KYLIE

(Points offstage.) Look. I think there's a door over there.

JOEY (O.S.)

(Moving towards the door.) There's no door knob.

JOEY bangs on the door offstage.

Help! Somebody help us!

DANNY

(Banging his flashlight with his hand.) Why won't this flashlight work?

KYLIE

Mine doesn't work either!

JOEY

(Coming back onstage.) I'm scared!

During a dark moment BONNY and BEN move into place against the inside wall of the box. They are dressed in similar colors to the wall they stand in front of. The lights come back up.

JOEY

Can you flip the switch to make them stay on?

DANNY

You told me not to flip anymore switches! *(He tries the lever again.)* It doesn't seem to do anything now.

KYLIE

We need to find a way to get that door open. Try that paddle!

DANNY and JOEY exit to try the paddle but it won't budge.

DANNY

It won't budge! *(Coming back onstage.)* Look for something else.

KYLIE looks around as the lights go out again. As the lights come back up she discovers LEXIE's gone.

Where did Lexie go?

DANNY

She was right there just a second ago!

The lights fade back out again. BONNY and BEN reenter the box.

JOEY

Lexie! Lexie!

KYLIE

She's got to be here somewhere!

DANNY and KYLIE'S flashlights comes on in their hands. They begin to search the room calling out for Lexie. DANNY points his flashlight at the inside wall of the box and suddenly sees BONNY and BEN standing there.

DANNY

Guys?

KYLIE

What?

DANNY

Look!

JOEY

What?

Their flashlights go dark again and BONNY and BEN disappear again.

I wish it would stop getting dark.

The lights fade back on.

DANNY

Where did they go?

KYLIE

Who?

DANNY

There were two kids standing by the wall just now.

JOEY

Me and Kylie?

DANNY

No. There were two kids against the wall.

KYLIE

Stop playing around and look for a way out.

The lights fade again to complete darkness. In the darkness we hear LEXIE.

LEXIE (O.S.)

Let me go.

DANNY

Did you hear that?

Lights slowly fade back on.

JOEY

Can you make the lights stop doing that?

DANNY

I don't know how. There has to be some other door or some way out of here.

Lights slowly fade back out.

KYLIE

Use your flashlight.

DANNY tries the flashlight but it doesn't work.

DANNY

It's doesn't work again!

The lights fade back on again. KYLIE moves to DANNY. JOEY stays by the wall.

KYLIE

(To DANNY.) We need to find Lexie.

JOEY

I wish we never came here!

KYLIE

Hurry up, Danny!

DANNY

(He is hitting the light with his hand.) I'm trying, I'm trying.

Lights go back out. During this time JOEY disappears.

JOEY

Something's got my arm.....

JOEY's voice is cut off mid-word as he disappears.

KYLIE

Joey?

Light fades back up again as DANNY hits his flashlight and gets it to come back on.

DANNY

Okay, now it works.

DANNY turns and sees an empty wall.

Where did Joey go?

KYLIE

Joey! Joey!? Joey!

DANNY and KYLIE search the wall.

Why did you let him disappear?

KYLIE

I didn't let him do anything!

DANNY

He was standing right next to you.

KYLIE

If you hadn't dared us to come here none of this would have happened!

DANNY

We need to stop arguing and find them. Let's stick together. Here. Grab my hand.

They grab hands. They each start to head to opposite sides of the room and are yanked back.

DANNY

Stop pulling!

KYLIE

This is stupid.

KYLIE lets go of DANNY'S hand.

DANNY

Okay. But we have to keep talking so we stay connected.

KYLIE

Joey was talking and then he wasn't here.

DANNY looks around the room but sees no other doors.

DANNY

It's no use.

KYLE

What are we going to do?

DANNY

There has got to be some kind of secret door. Lexie and Joey couldn't have just disappeared.

The SCRAPING SOUND is heard again of part of a boat scraping against rocks.

KYLIE

Did you hear that?

DANNY

Keep searching!

KYLIE and DANNY start feeling along the walls as the lights dim again. When the lights fade back up again the two ghost children have appeared again. The lights continue to fade up and down during the next dialogue.

KYLIE

I really hate when these lights go out. Bad things always seem to...

*KYLIE spots the two children while DANNY'S
back is turned away.*

Danny! Look!

DANNY

(He turns around.) Those are the kids I saw!

BONNY

You have to come with us.

BEN

Before he comes.

DANNY

Who are you?

BONNY

Hurry!

KYLIE

Where are Lexie and Joey?

BEN

They're safe.

DANNY

Safe from what?

BEN

Safe from the scary man.

KYLIE

Scary man?

BONNY

The one who took everyone away.

DANNY

Away?

BEN

(Scared.) We have to go!

KYLIE
(*To Bonny.*) Who did he take?

BONNY
People from the fire.

DANNY
The fire?

BEN
We hid so he couldn't find us.

KYLIE
You've been here since the fire?

DANNY
That's not possible.

DANNY pulls KYLIE aside.

DANNY
Are we talking to....ghosts?

KYLIE
Look at how they're dressed. They must have died in the fire.

Metallic sound is closer.

BEN
(*Urgent and scared.*) We need to go before he shows up!

KYLIE
We want our friends back.

DANNY
Bring them back.

BONNY
Are you sure?

DANNY
Just bring our friends back now!

The SCRAPING SOUND is heard louder which startles them. Suddenly the lights begin to swirl and go out. In the darkness JOEY and LEXIE return. JOEY is wrapping a piece of the cloth around LEXIE'S head.

LEXIE

Ow, that's too tight.

JOEY

It needs to have pressure to stop the bleeding.

LEXIE

(Looking at DANNY and KYLIE.) What's going on?

DANNY

(To Ben.) How did you do that?

KYLIE

You were gone and now you're back.

BEN

I don't hear him.

LEXIE

Who? What's going on?

DANNY

We have to find a way out.

BONNY

You can't leave.

KYLIE

Why?

BONNY

He won't let us escape.

JOEY

What?

DANNY
Who are you?

BONNY
I'm Bonny, this is my brother, Ben.

LEXIE
Where did you come from?

BEN
(Pointing to the balcony.) Up there.

JOEY
The balcony?

BONNY
When the fire happened most of the people couldn't get out.

BEN
My papa dropped us down as far as he could and we jumped the rest of the way. Papa told us to wait for him, and he went back to get our mama. Then part of the ceiling fell and we couldn't see them anymore.

BONNY
Everyone was running and screaming.

BEN
(Optional Line available).
We'd never been in this part before.

KYLIE
This part?

BONNY
(Optional line available in appendix).
The Whites Only part. We were scared. The next thing we knew the man from the play appeared.

BEN
Then he started taking people.

LEXIE
What people?

BEN
The screaming people.

JOEY
Who took them? A fireman?

BEN
No, the scary man.

DANNY
What did he look like?

BONNY
Like the man in the play.

KYLIE
(*Grabs the script from her pocket.*) The script, Orpheus!

BEN
You're wearing his robe.

*They suddenly remember the costumes they are
wearing from the trunk.*

BONNY
And carrying his lyre.

JOEY
His what?

BONNY
(*To Joey.*) It's like a harp.

KYLIE
(*She looks at the script.*) This script must have been the play they were doing when the fire happened.

JOEY
(*To Bonny and Ben.*) So how come you never left?

BEN
Every time we tried, we couldn't get out.

*The SCRAPING SOUND is heard again.
Everyone reacts.*

DANNY
(*Stepping towards the sound.*) It sounds like it's coming from this direction.

BONNY

We can't stay!

The lights go out and BONNY and BEN have disappeared when the lights come back on.

JOEY

They're gone again.

DANNY

We gotta get out here! Come on!

DANNY moves toward a door. As it opens there is a blinding light and standing there is a shadow figure of CHARON. There is a LOUD METALLIC SOUND coming from him. ALL THE KIDS SCREAM and drop their flashlights. CHARON is wearing a Greek mask that distorts his features.

DANNY

(Backing away.) What? Who are you?

CHARON'S VOICE

I am Charon. *(Pronounced Kye-ron.)* I'm here for you.

JOEY

For us?

CHARON'S VOICE

It is time.

LEXIE

Time for what?

CHARON'S VOICE

Those who are called will come.

KYLIE

We haven't been called.

CHARON'S VOICE

(Pointing at LEXIE and JOEY.) You both bleed. You will come.

DANNY
No! Wait!

CHARON'S VOICE
It is not your time, Orpheus.

CHARON moves his hand and the lights suddenly turn green. Entranced LEXIE and JOEY move toward CHARON as if pulled by a magnetic force. The others try to move but are unable.

KYLIE
I can't move.

DANNY
No! You can't take them!

LEXIE and JOEY exit and CHARON turns and exits. The lights return to normal. DANNY and KYLIE run offstage to the door or are stopped by some force from getting to the door.

DANNY
No! Come back!

DANNY and KYLIE yell to no avail.
No!

THEY slump on the floor.

KYLIE
(Trying to remember.) What did he call you...

DANNY
What?

KYLIE
He looked at you and called you something?

DANNY
Orpheus.

KYLIE looks at the script.

KYLIE

Wait a minute. (*Searches pages.*) Yes. (*Reading.*) Orpheus, a musician, who played beautiful music. Charon, the boatman, who takes the dead across the river Styx to the underworld.

DANNY

Takes the dead? But Lexie and Joey aren't dead.

KYLIE

He said something about blood and then he took them.

DANNY

But they aren't dead!

KYLIE

These pages say Orpheus was so overcome with grief over the loss of his wife Eurydice (*pronounced Ur-RID-eh-see*) that he convinced Charon to take him to the throne of Hades to plead for her life. Lexie was wearing Eurydice's costume.

DANNY

Hades? You mean hell?

KYLIE

No. Hades was the ruler of the underworld. In Greek mythology, it's where the dead go after life.

DANNY

Are you telling me that some random Greek guy has kidnapped Lexie and Joey?

KYLIE

Not a random guy. A character from the play! (*Suddenly hit by a thought.*) Wait! What if...

DANNY

If...

KYLIE

What if the fire brought the real Charon not only to get Eurydice but the people who also died in the fires?

DANNY

Who?

The lights fade out and back up as BONNY and BEN reappear.

BEN

Is he gone?

KYLIE

He took our friends.

BONNY

I'm sorry.

DANNY

Bonny what happened in the play before the fire?

BONNY

Charon-

BEN

-the scary man-

BONNY

-took the dead lady away in a boat.

BEN

(Pointing at it.) They got into that boat. Suddenly there was a big flame from one of the lights in the balcony

BONNY

-then the drapes on the exit up there caught on fire-

BEN

-at first we thought it was part of the play-

BONNY

-but then people started screaming and running and -

DANNY

What has this got to do with Lexie and Joey? They had nothing to do with the play or the fire that happened.

KYLIE

No. But what if in some weird way the play never got to finish and...it's still going on.

DANNY

Still going on? That's crazy!

KYLIE

(Points at Bonny and Ben.) They said he kept looking for them.

KYLIE searches the script and finds the page.

It says here that Orpheus asked Charon to take him to the land of the dead to rescue Eurydice.

DANNY

So this guy comes back looking for dead...

KYLIE and DANNY look at BONNIE and BEN.

BONNY

We're not dead. We can't be.

KYLIE

(To Bonnie.) How long have you been here?

She doesn't answer.

BEN

We're waiting for our papa to come get us.

BONNY

He told us to wait here for him and he would come get us.

KYLIE

What if your papa couldn't come get you? What if...Charon was sent to take you to your papa.

BEN

(Begins to whimper.) I don't want him to take me. I want Papa.

KYLIE

(Looking at the script.) Orpheus needs to ask Charon to take him to Hades to see Eurydice. *(To Danny.)* You need to ask him.

DANNY

Me?

KYLIE

And we need Bonny and Ben to help us.

BEN

No! I don't want him to come back.

BEN starts to shrink back scared.

DANNY

(To Ben.) We need you to help us find our friends.

BEN starts to back away.

DANNY

(To Ben.) You want to know a secret?

BEN

What?

DANNY

Whenever I get scared of someone, I make myself angry so it feels like I have a suit of armor around me that doesn't let the scary thoughts in.

KYLIE

(To Bonny.) We have to get our friends.

BEN

But isn't that where bad people go?

KYLIE

Hades is a person. Maybe when your papa told you to wait for him he meant to wait someplace else. *(Looks around.)* Some place better than a locked-up, cold, dark old theatre.

BONNY

You really think that's true?

DANNY

It's been a long time since the fire. Maybe Kylie is right. Maybe he's waiting for you some place else.

BONNY

But we tried to get out and we couldn't. Why couldn't we get the doors to open?

KYLIE

I don't know. *(Looks around and stops when her eyes rest on the boat.)* Maybe because you have to leave the way they did in the play. By boat.

DANNY

Boat?

KYLIE

If I remember right, we have to cross the river Styx.

DANNY

Why do you need a boat if the river's made of sticks?

KYLIE

S-t-y-x. It's the river's name.

DANNY

Oh. *(Looks around.)* But there's no water here.

BEN

If the play is still going, then we have to travel like they did.

DANNY

How?

BEN

We have to pretend.

KYLIE

Yeah. Let's just get in the boat and see what happens.

DANNY starts to take off his costume robe and the lyre.

KYLIE

NO!

DANNY

What?

KYLIE

If we are part of the play you need to keep that stuff on. You need to be Orpheus.

DANNY

(Sarcastic.) Terrific.

KYLIE and DANNY drag the boat from the side of the stage and place it center. They get in the boat.

BONNY starts to get into the boat but BEN hesitates. BONNY takes his hand and they get in. Everyone is seated.

DANNY

Now what happens?

KYLIE

I guess we wait.

THEY all wait. They all look around scared.

DANNY

This feels stupid.

BONNY

Are you sure the boat will ferry us?

KYLIE

(Thinks for a minute then stand and shouts.) The fare!

Everyone is startled.

DANNY

Don't do that!

KYLIE

I just remembered!

KYLIE hops out of the boat and runs to the prop trunk. She grabs some coins.

We have to have drachma for the fare to cross the river.

KYLIE gets back in the boat and sits. Everyone waits looking around scared. After few moments.

BONNY

Nothing is happening.

KYLIE

I don't get it.

BEN

Maybe you have to throw the money into the river.

DANNY

Wait we forgot our flashlights-

Just as DANNY says his part KYLIE throws the drachmas onto the stage. Suddenly the lighting changes and the stage is filled with OTHER WORLDLY SOUNDS. The stage has transformed. The prop trunk and other stage pieces are removed by a group of four actors all dressed in black with black face coverings. The shadowy figure CHARON appears in a mystical way.

CHARON'S VOICE

You have paid for passage. Do you wish to continue?

DANNY

We want...

KYLIE

(Softly to Danny.) To see Eurydice.

DANNY

(To Charon.) To see Eurydice.

CHARON'S VOICE

There is no turning back.

Sound and light create the sense of movement as the faceless figures move the boat about the stage. Actors synchronize movement from side to side as if they are in the rapids. Eventually, the boat comes to a rest as the faceless figures disappear. The lights take on an eerie glow.

DANNY

Are we here?

KYLIE

I guess so.

They slowly get out of the boat and KYLIE and DANNY push it back off to the side.

BONNY

So what do we do now?

CHARON'S VOICE

Follow the path.

They all look around.

BEN

What path?

A light comes up on a part of the stage and they move towards it. They then start a journey single file that leads them around the stage and through the audience. They become aware of the audience as if they are souls, floating.

KYLIE

(Looking at audience.) Do you see them?

DANNY

They look like little floating lights.

KYLIE

They must be the souls of the people who got lost on the path and never made it.

DANNY

Maybe they're the audience that died watching the play and never got to see the end.

BEN

They look strange.

BONNY

I hope I never end up like that.

DANNY and KYLIE look at each other.

DANNY

Yeah, let's hope not.

BEN

Do you think all of these people were bad so they didn't go to heaven?

KYLIE

No, I think they just got stuck in the middle.

A small light appears on the stage.

BONNY

Look at that light.

The light grows into a pool of light and begins to pulse brighter and dimmer. A voice is suddenly heard, softly at first but gets louder.

PAPA

Bonny?

The light goes out and when it comes back on an older Man steps into the light.

PAPA

Bonny, honey? It's me.

BONNY

Papa?

PAPA

Yes, baby. It's me.

BEN

(Runs to him.) Papa?

PAPA

My little man? Ben?

BONNY

It's us, Papa. We're here to find you. We waited for you to come but you never came back.

PAPA

I tried. Charon took me over the river and then I couldn't get back to you.

BEN

Papa, we missed you so much! We were so scared.

PAPA

You were very brave. Who are these others?

BEN

Danny and Kylie. We met them at the theatre.

PAPA

Did they die in the fire?

KYLIE

No, we broke in.

PAPA

Why are you dressed so strangely?

KYLIE

Because... we're from another time.

DANNY

(To PAPA.) Do you know where our friends Lexie and Joey are?

PAPA

Some young people came through here with Charon and he took them to see Hades.

KYLIE

We need to find them.

The light begins to pulse again. BEN and BONNY are unable to hang on to him and forced away from him.

BONNY

What's happening?

PAPA

I'm being pulled away. I can't appear in human form for very long.

BEN

(Begins to cry.) Don't go, Papa!

PAPA

I'm too weak. I'll need to rest up, and then I'll come back for you when I'm stronger.

BEN

No! Don't leave us again!

BONNY

No, Papa!

The light goes out and PAPA is gone. BONNY and BEN both are in tears and grab onto each other.

KYLIE

(To Bonny and Ben.) He said he would come back when he was stronger. He's waited for you this long, I'm sure he'll keep his promise.

KYLIE steps away to give BONNY and BEN some space.

DANNY

(Quietly to Kylie.) How are we supposed to find Lexie and Joey?

KYLIE

We need to find Hades. If we can find him then...*(To Bonny and Ben.)* maybe he can help us find your father again.

They all start to walk. We hear the sound of unidentified WHISPERS.

DANNY

Do you hear that?

KYLIE

Yes. It gives me the creeps.

DANNY

Let's go.

They begin to search around the stage.

KYLIE

(Looking at the script.) According to the script the underworld is set up like a maze.

BONNY

What if we get lost?

DANNY

Then we find our way back to the start and begin again.

As they walk fog if available begins to fill the stage. DANNY, KYLIE, BONNY and BEN are engulfed by the fog. Erie sounds come from different parts of the theatre. The sound of scurrying animal feet, heavy breathing from some large beast, the sound of chains being dragged. The lights on the stage change colors with sinister shadows to go with the sounds. If possible the actors voices should have an echo so it sounds like they are in a big cave.

BEN

Maybe we should go back to the shore were Papa was?

BONNY

(Losing him in the fog.) Ben? Grab my hand!

KYLIE

Danny? I can't see you.

DANNY

I'm here!

A glow appears in the fog and a shadowy figure appears. Its voice seems to come from nowhere and everywhere. The figure is wearing a king's Greek tragedy mask that obscures part of his face. The voice should have an other worldly quality.

HADES

What living souls dare to enter my kingdom!

KYLIE, DANNY, BONNY and BEN all suddenly find each other and gather together as HADES confronts them.

HADES

Speak! Before I cast you into the flames of eternal agony!

DANNY

Hades?

HADES

Orpheus. I see you have come to rescue your beloved.

DANNY

My beloved?

HADES VOICE

Do you think I am someone to be trifled with? You are either very brave or very foolish. Eurydice is now part of my world and unless you have some greater gift than your life, you have wasted your own life and those of the others with you on a frivolous pursuit.

DANNY

Eurydice...yes, and our friends.

HADES

Silence! Your request is denied. All of you shall perish here.

BEN hides behind BONNY.

BONNY

Denied?

HADES

(To Bonny.) You, girl. You wasted all these years in vain? Go and seek out the other lost souls where you belong. Now away with you all.

DANNY

We aren't leaving without our friends.

HADES

We are at an end. *(Turns to go.)*

Fog starts to fill the stage again.

DANNY

I'll do whatever it takes.

HADES

(Turning back.) Whatever it takes. Whatever it takes? *(Laughs.)* You amuse me, Orpheus. I am in need of amusement. Very well, if you can find your way through the maze, get past the Sphinx and my guardians, then I will consider your plea.

DANNY

The Sphinx? What is that?

HADES

The Sphinx a delightful creature. She has the body of a lion. The wings of a bird and the face of a woman.

KYLIE

How do we find this Sphinx?

HADES

She will find you if you are foolish enough to continue. But my patience has a limit. Before dawn you must return to the land of the living or your request is denied..

The figure, lights and the voice disappear into the fog.

BONNY

I don't like this.

BEN

Maybe we should just go back and search for Papa.

KYLIE

Charon said there was no return.

BONNY

What do we do now?

DANNY

We need to find the Sphinx.

He begins to search the stage.

KYLIE

What are you looking for?

DANNY

An entrance to the maze and maybe some kind of weapon.

BEN

(Finding a stick.) Here's a stick.

DANNY

Good work!

KYLIE

What now?

The sound of wind blowing.

DANNY

(Stops and puts his hand up.) Do you feel that? It feels like a wind coming from this direction. That could be where the maze starts.

They begin to walk single file in a line in a pattern across the stage. The lighting limits their vision of what they can see to just a pool of light where they walk. The FOUR FACELESS FIGURES now accompany them and are always present at the edges of what is happening or actively manipulating wall like panels that can stand up tall, lay on their sides or create barriers that have to be crawled under or climbed over. After DANNY, KYLIE, BONNY, and BEN have walked for a few moments they come to the first obstacle created by the FOUR figures. They wriggle on their backs under the low obstacle one-by-one and then get back on their feet.

KYLIE

(Going under first.) It's getting hotter.

DANNY

What does that mean?

KYLIE

It means we are getting closer to the center of the earth.

DANNY

(Going under next.) What?

KYLIE

Didn't you pay any attention in science when we studied the earth's core.

DANNY

I never thought I would actually need to know any of that stuff.

KYLIE

In Greek mythology, the monsters usually come from under the earth. The hero has to confront them to slay them.

BEN goes under next.

DANNY

What if I don't want to be the hero?

KYLIE

It's not just you, stupid! All of us. We're the hero.

DANNY

All I know about heroes is from comic books and no one here looks like a hero. We've got me, a girl with her nose in books all the time, a couple of ghost kids.

BONNY is now crawling under the obstacle.

BONNY

(Her foot gets wedged.) I'm stuck.

*DANNY reaches down and tries to help her.
BONNY hesitates.*

DANNY

Your foot is caught.

BONNY pulls away from DANNY as he tries to help her only making it worse. Something changes in DANNY's character as if he is repeating something that was said to him in anger.

Stop Squirming! You're just making it worse!

BONNY

(Pulls back away from him.) No... don't ... *(She tries in vain to get unstuck.)*

KYLIE

(Touching Danny's shoulder.) Danny! Danny!

DANNY looks at KYLIE and suddenly changes back to his normal self.

DANNY

(To Bonny.) I'm sorry.

DANNY steps away.

KYLIE

(To Bonny.) It's okay.

DANNY backs away. KYLIE kneels next to BONNY so only she can hear.

KYLIE

(To Bonny.) Danny won't hurt you.

BONNY

But he's... white (* *Alternate lines in Appendix*).

KYLIE

I trust him. You can trust him.

BONNY looks at KYLIE for a moment and then nods her head. KYLIE smiles at her. BONNY looks to DANNY.

BONNY

(To Danny.) Would you help me?

DANNY gets down and helps gently get BONNY's foot unstuck and she crawls out.

BONNY

Thank you.

DANNY

No big deal. I would've thought a ghos...*(Kylie clears her throat stopping him from saying ghost.)* I mean.. I wouldn't think you could get your foot stuck.

DANNY goes over and sits down as BONNY re-ties her shoe lace. One of the FACELESS FIGURES exits.

BONNY

Kylie? Are we really ghosts?

KYLIE

I don't know. I've never seen a ghost before.

BONNY

(Looks at Kylie.) You're different.

KYLIE

Different how?

BONNY

I've never known a girl like you.

KYLIE

How do you mean?

BONNY

*(*Alternate lines if needed for this
section can be found in Appendix.)*

You keep telling Danny what to do and he's white. We weren't allowed to tell white people to do anything. My papa told me that white boys were just trouble and we should stay far away from them.

KYLIE

Danny's not trouble. He's just dumb sometimes.

DANNY

Hey, wait a minute!

KYLIE

(To Danny.) I mean face it. We wouldn't be here if you hadn't dared us all to come to the theatre tonight. Lexie and Joey wouldn't be gone if you hadn't pulled that lever to make her fall down the trap door.

BONNY

We would still be waiting in the theatre if you hadn't come.

DANNY

See! *(To Kylie.)* Not everything I do is dumb! Going to the theatre was a smart idea.

BONNY

I used to beg my papa to take us to the theatre. When the lights went down the color of my skin didn't matter. I would watch all those stories and I could be anyone: a king or a queen or fall in love with whoever I wanted.

BEN

When the plays were over, Bonny would get sad.

BONNY

We had to go back to following all the rules again. Papa would get angry when I asked him about it. Sometimes I think he was scared, too.