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# STEWART KIDD MODERN PLAYS Edited by Frank Shay 

## The Shepherd in the Distance



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## Edited by Frank Shay

TO MEET the immensely increased demands of the play-reading public and those interested in the modern drama, Stewart \& Kidd Company are issuing under the general editorship of Frank Shay a series of plays from the pens of the world's best contemporary writers. No effort is being spared to secure the best work available, and the plays are issued in a form that is at once attractive to readers and suited to the needs of the performer and producer.
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a Pantomime in One Act. By Holland Hudson. Originally produced by the Washington Square Players.
MANSIONS, a Play in One Act. By Hildegarde Flanner. Originally produced by the Indiana Little Theatre Society.
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# THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE 

A PANTOMIME IN THREE SCENES

By<br>HOLLAND HUDSON

First produced by the WASHINGTON SQUARE PLAYERS at the Bandbox Theatre, New York City


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# The Shepherd in the Distance A PANTOMIME By Holland Hudson 

The Shepherd in the Distance was first produced by the Washington Square Players, at the Bandbox Theatre, New York City, on the night of March 26, 1915, with the following cast:

The Princess...............Frances Paine<br>The Attendant............ Beatrice Savelli<br>The Shepherd............. Robert Locker<br>The Wazir ................. Arvid Paulson<br>The Vizier .................. Fohn Alan Houghton<br>Ghurri-Wurri (the Beggar).Harry Day<br>The Goat . . . . . . . . . . . . . . E. 7. Ballantine<br>Slaves of the Princess.... Fosephine Niveson<br>........Edwina Behre<br>The Maker of Sounds ... Robert Edwards

Produced under the direction of William Pennington. Scenes and costumes designed by Robert Locker.

## PROGRAM

THE PERSONS
The Princess
The Attendant
The Slaves
The Wazir [her guardian]
The Vizier
The Nubian
The Shepherd
The Goat
Ghurri-Wurri
The Maker of Sounds

## THE ACTION

I. The Princess beholds The Shepherd in the Distance and goes in quest of him.
II. Ghurri-Wurri, enraged by the Princess' meagre alms, swears vengeance.
III. He reveals her destination to the Wazir.
IV. Pursuit ensues.
V. The Princess meets The Shepherd in the Distance. Her capture is averted by the faithful Goat.
VI. The Goat's long head evolves a means of rescuing The Shepherd from the cruel Wazir.
VII. The Princess joins The Shepherd in the Distance.

## THE

## SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

## THE STORY ${ }^{1}$

Of the Princess, we know only that she was fair and slender as the lily, that somehow the fat and stupid Wazir became her guardian, and that he neglected her utterly and played chess eternally in the garden with his almost-equally-stupid Vizier. Is it any wonder she was bored?

One afternoon the Princess called for her ivory telescope, and, placing it to her eye, sought relief from the deadly ennui which her guardian caused. In the Distance she discerned a Shepherd, playing upon his pipe for the dancing of his favorite Goat. While he played the Princess marveled at his comeliness. She had never seen before a man so pleasing in face and person. At the end of his tune it seemed to her that the Shepherd turned and beckoned to her. She dared watch him no longer, lest her guardian observe her.

When the Wazir, the Vizier and the Nubian were deep in their afternoon siesta, the Princess stole out of the garden with her personal retinue and her small but precious hope chests, and set forth toward the Distance.

Now on the highway between the foreground and the Distance lived a wretched and worthless beggar who had even lost his name and was called Ghurri-Wurri because he looked absolutely as miserable as that. He pretended to be blind and

[^0]
## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

wore dark spectacles. The greatest affliction of his life was that his dark spectacles prevented him from inspecting the coins that fell on his palm, and he received more than his share of leaden counterfeits.

When Ghurri-Wurri observed the approach of the Princess and her retinue he reasoned from the richness of their attire that alms would be plentiful and large and he fawned and groveled before them. The Princess was generous, but she was also in haste, so bade her attendant give him the first coin that came to hand, and hurried on.

Ghurri-Wurri's rage knew no bounds. He wept, he stamped, he shook his fists, he railed, and he cursed. Then, perceiving the Princess' destination, he made haste to notify her guardian. The Wazir would not believe him at first and the beggar would have lost his head if he had not happened on the Princess' telescope and placed it in the Wazir's hand.

Gazing toward the Distance, the Wazir saw the Princess and her retinue nearing their destination. He lost his temper and did all of the undignified things which Ghurri-Wurri had done. Then, with the Vizier and the Nubian, he set forth in pursuit, forcing the reluctant Ghurri-Wurri to guide them. They ran like the wind, till the beggar gasped and staggered, only to be jerked to his feet and forced on by the implacable Vizier, who was cruel as well as stupid.

Meanwhile the Princess arrived in the Distance. The Shepherd, who was as wise as he was comely, had proper regard for her rank and danced in her honor to his own piping. They had scarcely spoken to each other when the faith-

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

ful Goat warned them of the furious approach of the raging Wazir. The Goat carried the Princess to a place of safety on his back while the Shepherd stayed to delay her pursuers. Of the Nubian he made short work indeed, but the Vizier overcame him with his great scimitar and they led him captive to the garden, leaving Ghurri-Wurri cursing on the sands.

Arrived at the garden, the Wazir ordered the Shepherd bound in chains and went on with his chess game. The Shepherd, in a gesture of despair, came upon the Princess' telescope and, seeking some ray of hope, gazed into the Distance. Here he saw the Princess and his faithful Goat, who, he perceived, had invented a plan for his deliverance.

Soon the Princess returned to the garden, but disguised as a wandering dancer. She danced before the Wazir and pleased him so much that he bade her come nearer. She did so, and bound the Vizier's arms with a scarf, which so amused the Wazir that he laughed loud and long. Then she bound the Wazir's arms in the same manner and it was the Vizier's turn to laugh. Into their laughing mouths she thrust two poisoned pills, so that in another instant they fell over, quite dead, amongst the chessmen.

The omnivorous Goat delivered the Shepherd from his chains with his strong teeth and they all returned to the Distance, where they still dwell in more-than-perfect bliss and may be discerned through an ivory telescope any fine afternoon.

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

## CONCERNING THE SCENERY

In the original production by The Washington Square Players, The Shepherd in the DisTANCE was played in front of backgrounds of black velvet. The garden scene consisted of a black velvet drop about half-way between the curtain and back-wall, upon which a decorative white design merely suggesting the garden and its gate was appliquéd. This drop was made in three sections, the middle one hung on a separate set of lines so that it could be raised to show the "Distance" (as seen through the telescope) without disturbing the rest of the scene.

The "Distance" consisted of a velvet drop hung slightly behind the middle section of the garden scene, on the middle of which two large, white concentric circles were appliquéd around a circular opening about five feet in diameter. The bottom of the opening was about eighteen inches above the stage. Behind this stood a platform just large enough to hold four characters at one time. Black masking drapes were provided at both sides of the stage and behind the platform.

The Prologue, Scenes II, IV, V, the first part of Scene VII and the Epilogue were all played before a plain velvet drop hung a few feet upstage of the curtain line.

The Shepherd in the Distance has also been produced in colors very effectively by the Hollywood Community Theater, at Hollywood, California. There is no reason why any highly decorative treatment of scenery and costuming will not enhance the production if it be well planned and consistent throughout.

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

## IMPORTANT PROPERTIES

The properties consist principally of a small chess table with most of the chessmen glued on, two stools, a telescope, a balloon and papiermaché chain, which are employed as a ball and chain, a very large Chinese crash cymbal for the stage manager's use, and such personal properties as occur in the text.

## COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP

Whatever scheme is selected for the scenery, the costumes and make-up should be consistent with it. In the original production, all of the characters but the Nubian were made up completely with clown white or "Plexo," the eyebrows and eyes outlined in black and the mouths rouged but slightly. No unwhitened flesh was visible.

The Princess wore a white satin pseudo-Oriental costume with stiff ruffs at the collar, wrists and knees, the trousers not gathered at the ankles, a flat, close-fitting turban with a number of ornaments and a hanging veil, and white slippers. In the dance in Scene VI she used a long, black gauze scarf and a white one. Her attendant wore a similar costume of cheaper material, an unornamented turban and black slippers. Her slaves were also similarly garbed, in cotton, but with bulkier turbans, and baggy trousers, gathered at the ankles.

The Wazir, armed with a preposterous "corporation," wore baggy white trousers, gathered at the ankles, a sleeveless vest with wide, horizontal black-and-white stripes, a white cloak hanging from his shoulders which terminated in a large,

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

black tassel, a turban, a beard made of several lengths of black portiere cord sewed to white gauze, and white, pointed shoes. His bare arms were whitened, his eyebrows were short, thick and high up on his forehead, and he carried a black snuff-box.

The Vizier's white trousers were not so full as the Wazir's; his tight, white vest had tight, white sleeves; his cloak was shorter and without a tassel. His white turban, however, was decorated with antennæ of white milliner's wire. He affected high-arching eyebrows, a long, pointed nose, a drooping moustache, and a disdainful mouth; carried a white, wooden scimitar about four feet long with a black handle, and wore bells on his pointed, white shoes.

The Nubian wore black tights and shirt, black slippers and a white skull cap and breech-clout. The rest of him, excepting his eyes and mouth, which were whitened, was a symphony in burnt cork.

The Shepherd wore white, knee-length trunks, frayed at the ends, a little drapery about the upper man, slippers and a cap. His body was whitened abundantly and he carried a tiny flute.

The Goat wore a white, furry skin, horns and foot and hand coverings resembling hoofs. His make-up approached the animal's face as nearly as possible.

Ghurri-Wurri wore tattered, white, baggy trousers, vest and cloak, a turban and black goggles.

The Maker of Sounds was garbed in an allenveloping white burnous and a white skull-cap.

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

A FEW STAGE DIRECTIONS
Left to right, in this text, refers to the actor's, not the spectator's, point of view. The action of the piece is meant to be two-dimensional; the actors are to perform in profile as far as possible, except when registry of facial expression is important; the action should be parallel with the back drop.

The entire action must be rhythmical and the rhythms should be used as definite themes, one for the Princess and her retinue, another for the Wazir, etc. The performance should be extremely rapid and must never drag. The cast should direct special attention to the comic features, and the director to the pictorial elements of the piece. The director may consider the performance as an animated poster which moves rapidly from design to design.

# THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE <br> A Pantomime <br> By Holland Hudson 

## PROLOGUE

[The curtain rises on a plain drop curtain. The Maker of Sounds enters with his arms full of instruments, crosses the scene and sits with his back against one side of the proscenium, outside the curtain line. He tries out all his instruments, wind, string, percussion and "traps."
He yazuns. He becomes impatient and raps on the stage.]
Cymbal crash The lights go out
The drop is lifted in the darkness
Cymbal crash The lights are turned on

- scene I -
[The Wazir's garden. Discovered left to right, the Nubian, standing with folded arms, the Vizier, seated at the chess table, playing with the Wazir. At the other side of the stage, the Princess, her attendant, her two slaves. All stand motionless until set in action by the Maker of Sounds.]


## The Music <br> The Pantomime, etc.

Tap-on Chinese Nubian unfolds his arms wood block
Tap
Tap
He salaams
Resumes original pose

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

$\quad$ The Musi
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Sand blocks
Drum crash
Drum crash
No sound

Tap
Tap
Bell
Tap
Tap
Tap
Wind instrument

The Pantomime, etc.
Vizier moves a chessman
Wazir moves a chessman
Vizier moves a chessman
Wazir picks up snuff-box
Opens it
Offers Vizier snuff
Vizier takes a pinch
Sniffs it
Vizier sneezes
Sneezes again
Sneezes again
Nubian sneezes synchronously with Vizier's paroxysms
Vizier returns snuff-box
Wazir puts it away
Princess yawns
Signals her attendant
Attendant picks up telescope
Hands it to Princess
Princess uses telescope
[The middle portion of the back drop is lifted to show the "Distance" in which the Shepherd is discovered piping for the Goat's dancing]

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

| The Music | The Pantomime, etc. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Stringed instrument | The Shepherd sees the Princess, stops piping, and declares his adoration across the distance. He beckons her to join him |
|  | Princess promises to do so <br> [The lifted portion of the drop is lowered again. The "Distance" vanishes] |
| Tap | Princess signals to her retinue |
| Tap | Attendant relays the signal |
| Tap | Slaves stoop |
| Tap | Lift the hope chests to their shoulders |
| Bass chord on stringed instrument | Princess and retinue take one step downstage |
| Treble chord | All lean forward, watching Wazir |
| Drum crash | Wazir and Vizier stand up |
| Drum crash | They glare at Princess |
| Tap on wood block | They sit |
| Bass chord | $V i z i e r ~ y a w n s ~$ |
| Bass chord | Wazir yawns |
| Bass chord | Nubian yawns |
| Bass chord | Vizier nods |
| Bass chord | Wazir nods |
| Bass chord | Nubian drops on one knee 16 |

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

The Music
Treble chord Bass chord

Cymbal crash

- SCENE II -

Tambourine jin- Ghurri-Wurri discovered gles

The lights come up above at center, with his

The Pantomime, etc.
Princess and retinue lean forward.
They take one step
[A continuation of this business. Takes them off at the left]
The lights go out
[In the darkness, Princess and retinue cross to right of stage, ready for Scene II]
The plain drop is lowered dark glasses pushed up on his forehead, counting his money
Tap on piece of He finds a bad coin crockery
Sand blocks
Bites it
Throws it away
Begins the Prin- Hears the Princess retinue apcess rhythm on Chinese wood block proaching

He pulls glasses over his eyes

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

The Music
Telegraphically He grovels expressed it is :

Musically, accented triplets, presto
Princess rhythm They pass by Ghurri-Wurri continues
Drum crash

Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap, Tap, Tap
Tap
Tap on crockery
Princess rhythm
Begin drum roll pp. cresc. to ff.
common time, Princess and retinue enter

The Pantomime, etc. from the right without pause
Ghurri-W urri runs ahead and prostrates himself before the Princess
Princess' retinue halts
Princess signals to attendant
Attendant signals to nearest slave
Slaves proffer chest
Attendant opens it, takes coin, closes it
Gives coin to Princess
Princess drops coin in beggar's hand
Princess and retinue exit at the left
Ghurri-Wurri looks at coin, scrambles to his feet, looks after Princess, shakes his fist, starts to the right, turns, shakes his fist again, exits at right, raging.

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

The Music
Cymbal crash

The Pantomime, etc.
Lights out
In the darkness Ghurri-Wurri crosses to left of stage, ready for Scene III
The drop is lifted
Lights up

- sCene ili -
[The Wazir's Garden as in Scene I]

Bass chords
Tap on drum
Tap on drum
Bass chord . Tap on drum

Bass chord
Drum crash
Drum crash
Drum roll
Wood-block tap
Sand blocks
Tap

Wazir, Vizier and Nubian asleep as before
Ghurri-Wurri enters at the left
Prostrates himself before Wazir
Wazir and Court sleep on
Ghurri-Wurri ag a in prostrates himself
The Court sleeps on
Ghurri-Wurri slams himself down hard
Wazir, Vizier, Nubian awake
Wazir shakes his fist at the beggar
Signals Vizier
Vizier runs thumb along his scimitar blade
Ghurri-Wurri retreats to the right

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

| The Music | The Pantomime, etc. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Tap | He stumbles over the telescope |
| Tap, tap | He picks it up and hands it to the Wazir |
| Tap | Ghurri-Wurri points to the "Distance" |
| Tap | The Wazir uses the telescope |
| Princess rhythm | The "Distance" is revealed as in Scene I |
|  | Princess and retinue are seen traveling [across the platform from right to left] |
| Tap | The Wazir lowers the telescope |
|  | The "Distance" vanishes as in Scene I |
| Drum crash | W azir stamps his foot |
| Drum roll | He shakes his fists, first at the <br> "Distance," then off left |
| Tap | Points at Ghurri-Wurri |
| Tap | Vizier seizes Ghurri-Wurri by the scruff of the neck |
| Tap | Vizier points off left with his scimitar |
| Wazir rhythm on wood-drum. Telegraphically stated: . . . . . etc. | The Court and Ghurri-Wurri |
|  | begin to run, Nubian first, |
|  | then Ghurri-Wurri, then |
|  | Vizier, then Wazir. The running is entirely vertical |
|  | in movement, no ground being covered at all. |
|  | 20 |

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

## The Music <br> The Pantomime, etc.

Musically, ac- Lights out cented eighth [In the darkness, the runners notes in $2 / 4$ move downstage without time, presto
Cymbal crash
Cymbal crash
Lights on.

- scene IV -

Wazir rhythm, The runners increase their crescendo and speed throughout the scene acceleramento Ghurri-Wurri slips to his knees
Vizier, without losing a step, jerks him back on his feet Ghurri-Wurri, pointing left, resumes running
Wazir points left
When the runners $h$ ave reached their maximum speed
Cymbal crash The lights go out
In the darkness the Wazir's court and Ghurri-Wurri exit and take their places at the right ready for Scene V

## The Shepherd and Goat take their places

Cymbal crash
Lights up

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

- SCENE V -
[A plain drop]

| The Music | The Pantomime, etc. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Wind instrument |  | \(\left.\begin{array}{l}The Shepherd is discovered <br>

well to the left, piping for <br>
the Goat\end{array}\right]\)

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

| The Music | The Pantomime, etc. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Tap | Vizier brandishes his scimitar |
| Drum roll | Nubian approaches Shepherd |
| Drum crash | Nubian falls |
| Drum roll |  |
| Crescendo |  |
| to | Wazir shakes his fists <br> Points at Shepherd <br> Vizier attacks Shepherd with <br> scimitar |
|  | Shepherd grasps scimitar <br> They struggle, convention- <br> ally, one, two, three, four, |
| five, six |  |

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

| The Music | The Pantomime, etc. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Drum roll | Runs to left and shakes his <br> fists at the Princess |
| Runs to right and shakes them |  |
| at the Wazir |  |
| Runs to center and shakes |  |
| them at the audience |  |

[The Wazir's garden. No characters on scene]
Wazir rhythm Nubian enters from left, holding the Shepherd
Wazir and Vizier follow

Tap
Tap
Drum crash
Tap
Wazir rhythm, Nubian hurries out fast
Wazir rhythm, slow

Drum crash

Re-enters, staggering under a ball and chain [the chain of papier-maché and the ball a balloon]
Drops these beside the Shepherd

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

The Music
Clank, clank
Tap
Tap
Wazir rhythm
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap

Stringed music

Princess and Goat discovered in conference, Goat has an idea: He points to the Shepherd, then to the Wazir, then to the Princess, and executes an ancient dance movement, which is contemporaneously described as the "shimmy"
The Princess claps her hands and exits, followed by the Goat
Shepherd lowers the telescope
[The "Distance" vanishes]
Tap
Tap

Shepherd is puzzled

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

$\left.\begin{array}{cc}\text { The Music } & \text { The Pantomime, etc. } \\ \text { Stringed music } & \begin{array}{c}\text { Princess enters from the left, } \\ \text { veiled and carrying a scarf } \\ \text { in her hands }\end{array} \\ \text { Goat enters with her, goes at } \\ \text { once to the Shepherd } \\ \text { Princess poses at center } \\ & \text { Wazir and Vizier turn, smirk- } \\ \text { ing } \\ \text { Princess dances } \\ \text { Wazir leers and strokes his } \\ \text { beard }\end{array}\right\}$

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

\left.| The Music | The Pantomime, etc. |
| :--- | :---: |
| Sand blocks |  |
| Wazir and Vizier swallow |  |
| vigorously |  |\(\right\left.] \begin{array}{l}They lay their heads upon the <br>

chess table and die <br>
Princess beckons to the Shep- <br>
herd\end{array}\right\}\)

## THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

The Music
Cymbal crash

String music

Cymbal crash
Cymbal crash

The Pantomime, etc.
Lights on
[The Wazir's garden with the middle section of the drop lifted to show the "Distance"]
Shepherd and Princess discovered in the "Distance" posed in a kiss
Lights out [The drop is lowered]
Lights on
The Maker of Sounds rises, yawns cavernously, b o w s very slightly and exits
[Curtain]

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