

# THE NAMELESS PRINCESS

By Maureen Brady Johnson

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## CHARACTERS

NARRATOR ONE	a classically trained narrator
NARRATOR TWO	a modern kind of narrator
KING	a wise ruler
QUEEN	a patient, understanding queen
PRINCE HAL	a stubborn prince convinced that the modern way is the only way.
PRINCESS FELICITY	His wife, who is convinced that the classical way is the only way.
NAMELESS	their daughter, the princess who has no name.
ELLIOT	The Wisest Sage's nephew and friend of Nameless
THE WISEST SAGE	Sir/Uncle Patrick. . . ( If cast as a girl: Lady/Aunt Patricia)
THE WISE MAN/WOMAN FROM THE EAST	
THE PIRATE TRAVELERS OF THE WEST	
THE VIKING WARRIOR OF THE NORTH	
THE SIREN OF SINGOLOGY FROM THE SOUTH	
LADY AUBREY	
LADY CLAIRE	
LADY URSULA	
THE LORDS AND LADIES OF THE COURT	

Note: The only roles that must be male are the King, Prince Hal, and Elliot. Even the Wisest Sage could be changed to an aunt. All the other roles can be filled by Male or Female performers. You can also have

from 14 to, as many as 20+ characters, filling the stage with as many Lords and Ladies of the court as you wish.

## SETTING/TIME

A Throne Room in a medieval kingdom far, far away. "Once Upon a . . ."

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

The world premiere of *The Nameless Princess* was produced by Lakewood Catholic Academy at St. Clement Church on May 3, 2007  
Cast:

Narrator One - Ellen Skonce  
Narrator Two - Bronte Billings  
King - Bret McCarty  
Queen - Callie Powers  
Prince Hal - Joe Basala  
Princess Felicity - Hannah Burry  
Nameless - Sarah Reinhold  
Elliot - Jeff Szczecinski  
The Wisest Sage - Joe Flannery  
The Viking Adventurer - Jake Barcus  
The Sage from the East - Corey Cahill  
The Pirate Travelers - Wes Weber and Alex Michalko  
The Siren of Singology - Marianne Iskander  
Lady Aubrey - Aubrey Sherry  
Lady Claire - Claire Grega  
Lady Ursula - Ursula McVey

### Crew

Sound and Music: Vince Piscitello  
Lights: Ralph Holtzhauser  
Stage Crew: Casey Riley, Lizzie Kraus, Sara Stefancin, Louis Rispoli, Laura Kozelka, Lindsey Norman  
Running Crew: Eric and Ashley Holtzhauser  
Program Art: Anthony Steward  
Adult staff:  
Maureen Brady Johnson: Director  
Mark Johnson: Technical Director  
Mrs. Toni Holtzhauser (Stage Crew and Tech)  
Mrs. Paula Cahill (Stage Crew and Tech)  
Mrs. Caroline Arbezniak (Costumes)

## THE NAMELESS PRINCESS

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**AT RISE: A throne room. There are two fancy thrones that are for the KING and QUEEN and two less elaborate thrones that are for the PRINCE and his wife, the PRINCESS.**

**(NARRATOR ONE and NARRATOR TWO enter bickering.)**

N 1: I don't agree. "Once Upon a Time" is a perfectly acceptable way to begin a play.

N 2: No. It's way overdone. And it's old fashioned. I think we should begin with something modern like, "You'll never believe what happened in our quiet little kingdom!"

N 1: Not enough dignity. I prefer a classical approach.

N 2: But the opening has to have a "hook" – something exciting that grabs the audience and drags them into the plot. I mean we're competing with dragons and knights in shining armor!

KING: **(coming onstage)** We'll never get started with you two arguing about how to begin.

N 1 and N 2: **(they both curtsey)** Yes, your majesty.

KING: There's an audience out there! A rather large one at that. . .

N1 and N2: **(they squint and see the audience)** Hello out there. . .  
How are you today?

KING: Let's get started. Compromise!

**(HE sits on throne.)**

N 1 and N 2: **(they curtsey)** Yes, your majesty.

N 1: "Once upon a time. . ."

N 2: "You'll never believe what happened in our quiet little kingdom."

N 1: It was a happy beginning. A new baby had been born. **(pantomime of WISE SAGE and KING)** But on the day of her birth the wisest sage in the kingdom had a vision. He told the King in confidence that if the baby did not have a name by the time she was 16, something terrible would befall his kingdom. The King knew that his son, Prince Hal and his daughter-in-law, Princess Felicity, were having trouble finding a name, but, as King's often do, he became quite overtaken with the joy of the moment and forgot the Sage's warning. **(WISE SAGE and KING exit)** A year passed and the child grew. The King and Queen were still getting used their new roles as royal grandparents.

***(The QUEEN enters with a royal cup of coffee and a donut. SHE sits on her throne.)***

KING: ***(entering with a royal cup of coffee)*** Good morning, “Grandma.”

QUEEN: Good morning, “Grandpa.” I like the way that sounds.

KING: How is the young mother doing this morning?

QUEEN: Princess Felicity is doing quite well.

KING: And our son, Prince Hal?

QUEEN: He adores his new daughter.

KING: Have they decided on a name, yet?

QUEEN: Not yet.

KING: They’ve been arguing for an entire year. He wants a modern name and she wants a classical one.

***(The PRINCE and the PRINCESS walk across the stage. The KING and QUEEN hide behind the thrones.)***

PRINCESS FELICITY: No. No. No. No. No.

PRINCE HAL: But I like the name Mill-kweesha! ***(They exit.)***

***(The KING and QUEEN come out from behind the throne and continue the scene.)***

QUEEN: I am afraid that they will never agree.

KING: Well, what are we going to call her? No Name? I can’t play Red Rover with a little no name. “Red Rover. Red Rover. Let Nameless come over?”

QUEEN: I know. Playing Hide and Seek would be difficult – “Ready or not. Here I come, Anonymous.” And I so long to be a good grandmother!

KING: ***(sternly; standing up)*** decree that they shall find a name for the child immediately.

QUEEN: Settle down, dear. The prince has not listened to your decrees since he was a teenager. It’s not going to work now. We just have to be patient.

***(They sit upon their thrones and freeze.)***

N 1: And so they waited.

N 2: And waited

N 1: ***(waiting for the KING and QUEEN to leave the stage)*** And waited some more.

**(The KING and QUEEN continue to sit on their thrones, enjoying their coffee. NARRATOR ONE addresses the KING.)**

N 1: Your majesty, you need to leave the stage now. The play must continue with Scene Two.

KING: Yes, of course. Come along, my dear. We need to babysit our little Nameless so her parents can be in the next scene.

**(PRINCE HAL enters with PRINCESS FELICITY. They both have very large name books. They sit silently on their thrones.)**

N 2: Princess Felicity and Prince Hal tried to find a name they could agree on. But they were both very headstrong. They exhausted all of the classical and modern names in their stubborn royal heads. And then they started with two of the name books in the Royal Library. Princess Felicity had a book of classical names and, of course, Prince Hal had a book of modern names.

PRINCESS FELICITY: Why do you object to Penelope? It's very classic – the name of the wife of the Greek hero, Ulysses.

PRINCE HAL: Princess Penny? Little lost Penny? Poor little Penny? No, that will not do for our royal daughter.

PRINCESS FELICITY: You are the prince. You could decree that everyone call her by her full name, Penelope.

PRINCE HAL: No one listens to those old-fashioned decrees these days. The kingdom is becoming more up to date everyday. **(looks in his book of names)** What about a modern name like Jenny or Morgan?

PRINCESS FELICITY: You are forgetting that I originally wanted to name her Winnefred after your great, great, great grandmother. It's timeless.

PRINCE HALL: FRED!??? Do you want people calling her Fred? Besides, my great, great, great grandmother wasn't that great. I heard she swam the moat.

PRINCESS FELICITY: But Winnefred sounds quite regal.

N 1: **(blurts out)** She's so classical. I like HER!

N 2: SHH!!

N 1: Sorry. But they can't really see or hear us. We're the narrators.

N 2: Really?

N 1: Sure. It's the first thing they tell you when you attend narrator school. If you had been listening in class. . .

KING: **(coming onstage again)** Stop arguing and get on with it.

N 2: How come HE can hear us?

N 1: He's THE KING.

N 2: Oh.

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N 1: The Prince and the Princess continued to argue through the book of names. . . Through the Q's and the R's.

PRINCESS FELICITY: Quentin?

PRINCE HAL: Rockalinda?

PRINCESS FELICITY: Quincy?

PRINCE HAL: Rhonda-leesha?

PRINCESS FELICITY: Quillarella?

PRINCE HAL: That's not a name.

N 2: All the way to the end of the book.

PRINCESS FELICITY: Zarinda? Zuesilla? Zaramunda?

PRINCE HAL: Zandra? Zara? Zoe?

N 1: And so it went for years and years with every name book in the kingdom.

N 2: And the princess grew and grew and grew.

N 1: And still she remained NAMELESS. . . which actually became her name.

N 2: Princess Nameless. The Lords and Ladies of the court didn't know what to make of it.

***(LADY URSULA and LADY CLAIRE enter, giggling. They look around to see if anyone is looking and then sit on the thrones.)***

LADY CLAIRE: I heard them arguing last night in the courtyard.

LADY URSULA: Really??? Well, I heard them arguing this morning in the portrait hallway!

LADY CLAIRE: In front of the portraits of Good King Wenceslas and not quite so beautiful Queen Hildegard?

LADY URSULA: Yes. And beneath the portrait of Duke Halitosis. They think that no one is watching or listening to their arguments but everyone in the court knows about it. Personally I think that they should choose a classical name like Ursula.

LADY CLAIRE: I wonder why you chose that name, Lady URSULA?

LADY URSULA: I think it has a certain regal ring to it.

LADY CLAIRE: I prefer a modern name that rhymes with Air. . . light and breezy. . .

LADY URSULA: What name rhymes with air, Lady Claire?

LADY CLAIRE: THINK, Lady Ursula.

LADY URSULA: Blair?

LADY CLAIRE: No.

LADY URSULA: Jer?

LADY CLAIRE: NO.

LADY URSULA: Ter-ry?

LADY CLAIRE: NO!!!! My name, Claire. . . It rhymes with Air. . . I think that they should name her after me!

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LADY URSULA: OH. Well, it really doesn't fit her at all. URSULA. That's a name that fits her perfectly.

LADY CLAIRE: I don't agree with you at all.

LADY URSULA: I don't agree with you either.

LADY CLAIRE: ***(they begin to exit on opposite sides of the stage, then stop)*** Humpf!

LADY URSULA: Humpf!

***(LORDS and LADIES enter, stretching across the stage. The crew changes the set behind them to benches and plants representing a courtyard.)***

N 1: Half the court sided with the Princess Felicity and wanted a classical name like Anastasia or Elizabeth or, my personal favorite, Brunhilda.

***(LORDS and LADIES split and half go to the side of the stage that NARRATOR ONE is on.)***

N 2: The other half of the court ***(the other half of the LORDS and LADIES go to the side of the stage that NARRATOR TWO is on)*** agreed with Prince Hal and wanted something more modern like Jennifer or Brook or, my personal favorites, Buffy, Muffy or Dot.

N 1: Dot? Ridiculous. It's like being named after a grammatical term. Might as well name her Adjective or Adverb.

N 2: You'd rather Brunhilda? What would they call her for short? Bruney? Or worse. . .

KING: ***(entering onstage)*** The audience grows weary.

N 1 and N2: ***(they curtsey)*** Sorry, your majesty.

***(LORDS and LADIES exit.)***

N 1: The question of giving the princess a classical or a modern name was ripping the kingdom in half. The princess was the only one who didn't seem to mind. She remained cheerful and kind and happy even though she had no name. Everyone loved her.

N 2: But there were days when even she was disheartened. The King, remembering what the Wise Sage had told him, began to think he might run out of time.

***(NAMELESS, who is now a teenager, comes onstage halfheartedly tossing a ball. SHE sits and kicks the ball sadly offstage. LADY AUBREY, a young member of the court, picks up the ball.)***

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NAMELESS: Lady Aubrey. Would you like to play catch with me?

LADY AUBREY: Thank you, your royal highness. **(They play catch for awhile. LADY AUBREY stops and pauses to think)** Princess, I hope you don't mind if I speak boldly for a moment.

NAMELESS: You've known me for years, Lady Aubrey. You know I am bold enough for both of us. Speak away.

LADY AUBREY: Can I speak in the modern way?

NAMELESS: Why, of course. I've studied both classical and modern languages.

**(The game of catch continues. LADY AUBREY and NAMELESS turn into typical teenagers.)**

LADY AUBREY: Like, you don't have a name.

NAMELESS: Like, I know.

LADY AUBREY: Well, y'know the girls were, like, talking about it last night at the sleep over. . .

NAMELESS: Yeah? What did they, like, say?

LADY AUBREY: Well, they were, like, laughing about the fact you have no name. I mean they didn't mean to be, like, nasty but it is really, REALLY WEIRD: And I mean, you ARE almost sweet 16.

NAMELESS: Yeah. I know. I just don't get it.

LADY AUBREY: I TOLD them that it wasn't your fault your parents couldn't agree on something. . . And they could, like, TOTALLY relate to that.

NAMELESS: Yeah. Parents.

LADY AUBREY: Yeah, Parents! So they, like, said, yeah. . . and I say said, yeah. . . and we all said **(short pause)** yeah.

NAMELESS: **(sadly)** YEAH.

LADY AUBREY: And now my dad, the royal poetry guy, is writing a poem for your birthday. And, he, like, can't find anything to rhyme with Nameless except blameless. . .

NAMELESS: Yeah.

LADY AUBREY: And shameless and fameless. So he wrote a poem and it goes like this,

Princess Nameless, you have no name  
Princess Nameless, You are blameless  
But the arguing goes on and on  
And I think that it is shameless  
I wish you could be happy  
but Nameless you are destined  
to be fameless.

cont'd **(They look at each other and say. . .)** EEWW. . . BORING.

PRINCESS AUBREY: Princess. . . I, like, **(short pause)** LIKE you and you're not boring. . . and you need a name that, like, fits you.

NAMELESS: Yeah.

LADY AUBREY: Yeah! **(short pause)** Princess, you are the coolest person I know! I hope you get a name, like, real soon.

**(LADY AUBREY runs off stage with the ball.)**

N 1: Did you understand any of that?

N 2: Yeah. Like, all of it. Totally.

N 1: Whatever.

N 2: Whatever! **(NAMELESS sits, then stands up and stamps her foot.)** Whenever Princess Nameless was very sad because of the lack of a name and the nastiness of the court, she would sit and think and then stamp her foot. Then she would start to dance and dance until her spirits were lifted.

**(Music cue. SHE begins to dance, slowly at first, then with a bit more spirit.)**

KING: **(entering)** Dancing again?

NAMELESS: Yes, Grandfather.

KING: Who's talking about you this time?

NAMELESS: No one in particular.

KING: **(kidding)** Do you want me to banish them? Boil them in oil? Tie them to a chair and tickle them with a feather until they scream for mercy?

NAMELESS: NO, Grandfather. But I am getting tired of being called "Princess Nameless" by everyone in this kingdom. Even my dancing can't always cheer me up.

KING: I have been meaning to ask you, is your dancing in the classical or the modern fashion?

NAMELESS: Actually, it is both Grandfather.

KING: Hmm? Rather surprising. **(short pause)** Speaking of surprises, I have one for you. I have sent out a decree to all of the wisest and most adventurous travelers in my kingdom. I have commanded them to travel to the farthest lands, north, south, east and west, and bring back a list of names. The person whose name is chosen will win a bag of gold. They have one year for their quest. They must return by your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday or. . .

NAMELESS: Or what, Grandfather?

KING: Never mind that. . . Does that make you happy?

NAMELESS: Oh yes, Grandfather. I wish that I could go with them. I would love to travel and I have yet to go on my first real adventure.

KING: No, no my dear. You don't know what danger is out there. Why don't you spend your time inventing a brand new dance, a dance for the arrival of your new name. What do you say?

NAMELESS: I'll try, Grandfather.

***(Music cue. NAMELESS tries some new dance moves. Then SHE dances the new dance off stage, followed by the KING, dancing and chuckling.)***

N 2: It took an entire year for the wisest people and most adventurous travelers in the kingdom to travel far and wide to find those names.

***(As each traveler is named, they come onstage and pose.)***

N 1: There was the Wise One from the East who understood the wondrous ways of eating with sticks.

N 2: They call them CHOPsticks.

N 1: The two swashbuckling pirates from the enchanted islands in the West who could teach animals to speak.

N 2: Actually, just one animal, a talking parrot.

N 1: Joined by the Viking Warrior of the North whose very countenance frightened little children.

N 2: Actually, he's a real pussycat.

N 1: and the Siren of the Land of Singology.

SIREN: ***(SIREN sings loudly)*** La la la la la la

N 2: Who was good at being very noisy! After one long year of traveling, they all returned to court with a list of possible names. ***(The travelers all exit.)*** Except for the Wisest Sage of the kingdom, Sir Patrick. He was still missing. His nephew, was really worried. His name was Elliot.

***(ELLIOT enters and paces in front of the throne.)***

N 1: Elliot knew about the deadline the King had imposed. He spent most of the day pacing. . . and worrying.

***(NAMELESS enters skipping. SHE is reading a book and doesn't see ELLIOT. HE doesn't see her. They bump into each other.)***

ELLIOT: Forgive me, Princess Nameless.

NAMELESS: That's ok. Say, aren't you Elliot? I used to play in the courtyard with you when we were little.

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ELLIOT: Yes, Princess.

NAMELESS: Wiggling Wizards!!!

ELLIOT: I beg your pardon, Princess?

NAMELESS: Wiggling Wizards!

ELLIOT: Wiggling Wizards.

NAMELESS: Yes. Once, when I was sad, you made up a game to make me happy. You called it Wiggling Wizards. **(SHE takes a good look at him)** And now you're all grown up. You look pretty important in that hat and cape.

ELLIOT: I don't know how much wiggling I've done lately. But if you need a curse, a spell or some warts removed, I'm your man. . . or boy, so to speak.

NAMELESS: Where have you been all these years?

ELLIOT: I've been living in a castle on the edge of our kingdom. I am learning from my uncle, the wisest sage in the kingdom. At least, I think he's still the wisest.

NAMELESS: What's wrong?

ELLIOT: You are very kind to ask, Princess Nameless. But I'm so worried, I can hardly speak at this moment.

NAMELESS: Wait! Do you remember how to play Wiggling Wizards?

ELLIOT: No. **(pause)** I don't think so. **(pause)** Yes.

NAMELESS: Then let's give it a try.

ELLIOT: Princess, I don't think. . .

NAMELESS: Elliot. Just trust me.

ELLIOT: OK.

***(ELLIOT and PRINCESS NAMELESS stand back to back and then pace across the stage, in opposite directions, like a duel. They turn and point at one another pretending to cast a spell. Then they wiggle and wiggle until they can't stand anymore and fall down on the ground, laughing.)***

ELLIOT: ***(getting up quickly, HE laughs and runs to help the PRINCESS)*** That was the stupidest game ever invented! How old were we when we made that up?

PRINCESS NAMELESS: I think we were 4 or 5. It still works its magic today. It got you to laugh! Are you finished with your studies yet?

ELLIOT: Not yet. I have one last test that my uncle must give to me. I must take it in the next few days or I will remain an apprentice for years to come.

NAMELESS: Can't someone else give you the test?

ELLIOT: I am afraid not. He hasn't returned and I'm running out of time.

NAMELESS: Don't lose hope. We still have one more day. Look at me, I've been waiting 16 years for a name.

ELLIOT: You're right, Princess.

NAMELESS: Would you like to see the dance I have been practicing for the arrival of my new name? I'm pretty good at it since I've been practicing for a whole year.

ELLIOT: I'll bet you are!

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