

THE MOON'S REVENGE

A Musical in 1 Act

Script and Music by **JOHN MILLS**

Inspired by the book 'The Moon's Revenge' by **JOAN AIKEN**

Additional Script Consultancy From **ADAM ELMS**

1) What is 'The Moon's Revenge' All About?

Silly child! Dreaming of becoming a great fiddle-player like your Grandfather. No time for that when you're an apprentice coach-maker. Silly child! Frightened by the whispers coming from the grandfather clock. It's all in your head, Seppy. Silly child! Throwing your shoes at the Moon. What were you thinking? And then you were surprised when the Moon got angry! Such dreadful consequences. For you, many years of going barefoot until you'd found your shoes again. For your sister, who was born unable to speak. For your family as they faced the frightening Sea Dragon. Silly child! About time you grew up and became a man!

Set in a quaint seaport in times past, 'The Moon's Revenge' tells the journey of Seppy and his sister and his love of music. A coming-of-age tale that captures the innocence and foolishness of childhood which lead to unexpected consequences. With many characters including the dreadful Moon, Prince Of Night, and a hungry Sea-Dragon, this musical has all the ingredients for a heart-warming tale of family, love and growing into adulthood. Full of tuneful and dramatic music and plentiful opportunities for dancing, 'The Moon's Revenge' is sure to bring a smile and nudge a few tears from audiences of all ages.

2) Characters

Seaport Characters

(Child) Seppy	Aged 7 and 12. The hero of this tale. Learning to play the fiddle. An apprentice to his Father, a coach-maker.
(Youth) Seppy	Aged 16 and 19. Plays fiddle/violin increasingly well.
(Grown-Up) Seppy	Aged 25, then older, as a violinist who entertains at weddings.
Octavia-doll	Seppy's baby sister, cursed never to speak.
Octavia-puppet	Aged 5. Use a puppet.
(Child) Octavia	Aged 9 and 12. Can play the recorder/flute
(Grown-Up) Octavia	Aged 18 and then aged as mother of seven girls and one son.
Mother	Seppy and Octavia's mother. Caring, understanding and patient.
Father	Seppy and Octavia's stern father. Hard-working coachmaker.
Seppy's six Uncles	3 named: Bert, Bob & Ron
Seppy's six Aunts	3 named: Ebb, Flo & Pearl
Clockmender's Son	Betrothed to Octavia. Non-speaking part.

Imaginary Characters

Moon, Prince Of Night	Threatening presence clad in shining armour.
Moonshadows	Haunting guardians of the Moon

Clock Whisperers	Full of whispers and rumours from within the Grandfather Clock
Sea Dragon	7-footed, silver-scaled sea-monster with emerald eyes.

Opportunities for Dance

- Dance of the Moon Shadows
- Dance of the Clock Whisperers
- Dance of the Stars and Comets
- Dance of the Zephyrs
- Dance of the Sea Dragon

3) Synopsis

'*The Moon's Revenge*' opens with *Seppy Theme/The Prince Of Night* which introduces the main theme of the musical and depicts the power of the Moon and the fears associated with shadows and night-time. We are introduced to Seppy, an unwilling apprentice to his father, a coach-maker. He loves to play his fiddle in the same way as his Grandfather had done in years past. Somehow, troubles fade whenever he plays. Perhaps it's because he is the seventh son of a seventh son and has special abilities. *The Seventh Son* sets the scene for a reluctant Seppy and his hard-working family of Aunts and Uncles.

The old grandfather clock in the kitchen holds many secrets and when Seppy listens very carefully he hears whispers and voices which puzzle him greatly. Perhaps they can help his dearest wish to become a great fiddle player? *Whispers From The Clock* give some puzzling advice to throw his shoes at the Moon. Without thinking, Seppy hurls his shoes at the face of the Moon with devastating effect. The Moon is very angry and sings *I Curse You*. A curse is laid upon Seppy who has to go barefoot until he finds his shoes again, and upon his sister, Octavia who cannot speak. Seppy is distraught, blaming himself for Octavia's affliction and sings *My Promise To You* in which he pledges to look after Octavia forever.

Years pass. Octavia has grown into a beautiful girl who is devoted to Seppy, now a fine youth. Octavia herself has learnt to play the flute with great skill. Dances depict the passing of years. The *Dance Of The Zephyrs* create a picture of sea breezes dancing and laughing with waves and white horses. *Under The Stars* conveys the magic of twinkling stars and comets under the ever-present gaze of the moon.

One day, after a severe storm, whilst Seppy and Octavia are searching for his shoes among the driftwood, they discover a giant barnacle-covered shoe. Inside they find a seaweed-covered chest which contains a beautiful violin. This find signifies Seppy's arrival into adulthood. Perhaps his wish to become a famous musician like his Grandfather might come true, now that he has a proper instrument to play.

Seppy's Uncles and Aunts share rumours and strange happenings in the quayside. *Sits A Magpie On The Steeple* describes these events and the possibility that trouble is coming. The Moon and Moonshadows rise from the sea on the back of a Sea Dragon and sing *I'm Coming To Get You!*

What should Seppy do? Octavia encourages him to play his violin and cries out, ‘Play like you’ve never played before!’ Octavia can speak! With renewed effort Seppy plays his violin and reprises *The Seventh Son*. He is joined by all the other villagers who manage to calm the Dragon. As their music-making become more raucous the dancing Sea Dragon throws off first one shoe, then another and another until seven shoes have been thrown onto the quayside. Eventually the Sea Dragon kicks the Moon and Moonshadows back into the Moon. Seppy’s shoes have been found. In the moment of quiet that follows, Seppy and Octavia sing a reprise of *My Promise To You*.

Time passes and Seppy has become a well-known musician, playing at weddings. He meets with Octavia on his way to a wedding and is surprised to learn that she is to marry the Clockmaker’s son. The *Wedding Dance* captures the happy mood of this celebration.

More years pass. Octavia has become a mother to a large family of seven girls ... and one boy. No more ‘seventh sons’ with all the trouble they bring.

The Moon still fascinates Seppy. Perhaps it was all a dream? But the evidence on the dirty face of the Moon tells the true story.

4) Music

MP3 music tracks are available, both with and without guide vocals. A compilation of extracts from ‘*The Moon’s Revenge*’ can be found at our website <https://earwormmusicals.uk>

5) Scenes and Musical Numbers

<u>Scene 1</u>	<u>The Seaport Quayside</u>	
	#01 Seppy Theme – Concert Performance	0’36”
	<i>Seppy</i>	
	#02 Enter The Moon	0’26”
	<i>Moonshadows</i>	
	#03 The Prince Of Night	2’21”
	<i>Moon & Moonshadows</i>	
<u>Scene 2</u>	<u>The Family Kitchen</u>	
	#04 The Tide Rolls In: The First	0’39”
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>	
<u>Scene 3</u>	<u>The Coachmaker’s Workshop</u>	
	#05 The Tide Rolls In: The Second	0’39”
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>	
	#06 The Seventh Son	2’54”
	<i>Aunts, Uncles, Mother, Father and Seppy</i>	
<u>Scene 4</u>	<u>The Family Kitchen</u>	
	#07 Whispers From The Clock	2’32”
	<i>Seppy and Clock-Whisperers</i>	
<u>Scene 5</u>	<u>The Family Kitchen</u>	
	#08 I Curse You	2’49”

Moon & Moonshadows

<u>Scene 6</u>	<u>The Family Kitchen</u>		
	#09 The Tide Rolls In: The Third		0'40"
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>		
	#10 My Promise To You/I Curse You - Reprise		3'29"
	<i>Seppy/Moon</i>		
<u>Scene 7</u>	<u>The Coachmaker's Workshop</u>		
	#11 The Tide Rolls In: The Fourth/The Seventh Son		2'12"
	<i>Seppy, Aunts, Uncle, Mother & Father</i>		
<u>Scene 8</u>	<u>The Seaport Quayside</u>		
	#12 The Tide Rolls In: The Fifth		0'16"
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>		
	#13 Dance Of The Zephyrs		1'43"
	<i>Zephyrs, Waves and White Horses</i>		
<u>Scene 9</u>	<u>The Sail-Loft</u>		
	#14 The Tide Rolls In: The Sixth		0'23"
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>		
	#15 Under The Stars		2'43"
	<i>Stars and Comets</i>		
<u>Scene 10</u>	<u>At The Seashore</u>		
	#16 Rolling In And Out		0'38"
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>		
	#17 The Tide Rolls In: Humming Song		1'01"
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>		
<u>Scene 11</u>	<u>The Coachmaker's Workshop</u>		
	#18 Sits A Magpie On The Steeple		1'37"
	<i>Father, Aunts and Uncles</i>		
<u>Scene 12</u>	<u>The Seaport Quayside</u>		
	#19 I'm Coming To Get You/ The Seventh Son – Reprise		5'00"
	<i>Moon, Sea Dragon & Company</i>		
	#20 My Promise To You – Duet		1'09"
	<i>Seppy & Octavia</i>		
<u>Scene 13</u>	<u>The Seaport Quayside</u>		
	#21 The Tide Rolls In: The Seventh		0'40"
	<i>Greek Chorus</i>		
	#22 Wedding Dance: Tuning Up		0'10"
	#23 Wedding Dance		1'56"
	<i>Seppy, Octavia, Sea Dragon, Aunts, Uncle, Mother & Father</i>		
<u>Scene 14</u>	<u>The Seaport Quayside</u>		
	#24 The Tide Rolls In: The Eighth		0'24"
	#25 Seppy Theme/The Tide Rolls Out		1'10"

6) Notes For The Director

Currently written in One Act, there could be an interval at the end of Scene 6.

The story offers a myriad of creative scenes and dances which range from seaport villagers simply-dressed to the dramatic intensity of the Moon, the Clock-Whisperers and the Sea Dragon.

As time passes through this musical, the performers will need to age. Some staging device e.g. trying on/changing several pairs of different sized clothes/shoes would help support time passing through scene 7-14.

The role of Seppy should be taken by performers who are comfortable playing a fiddle/violin as this role requires the violin to be played with increasing skill as the show progresses. It does not require an expert player but does need someone who is happy to 'perform' even if the violin is actually played by someone in the band, or is pre-recorded for miming. Similarly, but to a lesser extent, Octavia should be able to blow a few notes on the recorder/flute.