

DayLight

A one-act musical

By Aaron Norman and Chelsea LeValley

Time

The distant future that reminds us of B.C.

Setting

A desert wilderness that reminds us of that east of the Jordan river in the middle east.

A field. A village square. A barracks. A throne room. A rocky wilderness.

Characters

SHAHAM- female, warrior, kind

HAM- female, warrior, dry witted

MICHAL- daughter of King Saul, intelligent

DAY- female preferably of color, young warrior, leader

SAUL- male, caucasian, kingly

SAMARA- a prophetess, powerful

**The roles of HAM and Shaham can be expanded to include more female warriors. I'm happy to help facilitate this if the script is chosen, add more text, or to give permission to the director to divide up the lines if that's at all of interest.*

Songs

(PROPHECY)

DAYLIGHT

IF I WERE A KING

IF I WERE A KING REPRISE

IT'S JUST MY PRIDE

THIS I PRAY

(PROPHECY)

Notes

This story morphed for a social justice theater project for specific students who wrote in out wanting female empowerment. Inspiration includes a story about greed and jealousy of a King who won't give up his throne to a young warrior in 1st Samuel. The sound scape is Robin Hood era mixed with rock and R and B. The visual landscape is inspired by Joshua Tree National Park, the desert of Jaku in Star Wars and The Crucible at Old Vic. The epic-nature of this piece can and should be understated. For example, death should be out of time, either slow or frozen before people hit the floor, then they can walk to the afterlife. Set could be all dark shades of black or gray and be very few: a chair for a throne, a spear, a jutg, few stones/boulders.

Costumes can be something neutral and suggestive of a different time period though still from today. Maybe long, fully covering, flowing blacks as in mourning that they are awaiting the daylight. Lights maybe overall, with the brightest look being in the final scene as daylight arrives and she's crowned. IF I WAS A KING and JABESH-GILEAD could have movement or otherwise stylistic dance. Other songs are likely staged.

Sample of Daylight notes: *This story is based off of the story of David and Saul in 1st Samuel. It was written expressly for a group of 6 young actors who wrote in a desire to do theater with social justice issues related to female heroism. It is a 30 minute musical with 5 songs. There is also an existing version that is a nonmusical and can be expanded to 9 actors. If you'd like access to either, please let me know and I'll send your way...*

We are at the end of the play here.....

MICHAL

(stepping in to save the situation) Father. It's getting late.

SAUL

No. She could have conspired with half the nation by now. There's no time to waste.

SHAHEM

You don't understand who Day is. Day is... strong. Humble. She shares her rations every day with those who she thinks needs it more.

MICHAL

She sleeps on the floor when there's a new recruit or someone is hurt and needs a place for their family to sleep beside them.

HAM

We can't even fight her about it.

SHAHEM

And when she lets us serve her *(smiles)*...that's her own way of leading.

SAUL

(looks sick) When we get back I will... give her a medal.

(beat)

MICHAL

It's been 4 days. She can't be much farther into the desert than we are. Let's set up camp.

SAUL

I make the orders, Michal! *(softening)* Water. *(Shahem comes to him gives him the jug. He drinks it down. The girls wait, watching the last bit of water go)* I've decided it's time to set up camp and rest for today. Same duties as last night. *(they begin preparing the tent)*

HAM

(to Ham) Let's just kill him. Please.

(nudges Ham, then indicates Michal)

MICHAL

(joining them) I am worried about Day.

HAM

I am too. I'm worried about what's going to happen if we find her.

MICHAL

My Father wouldn't kill her.

SHAHEM

Then why did she run.

MICHAL

They were both just. Scared.

HAM

Ah, so that's what they call people in power murdering others now. *(off Michal's look)* I'm saying, I don't want to find her and be the reason she dies.

SHAHEM

Then let's be the reason she lives.

SCENE 6: Samara and Day/THIS I PRAY

(Day is alone, exhausted in the desert from running, unable to sleep. She looks up to the heavens and sings a prayer. The music is prophetic like impressionistic, like stars in a galaxy.)

MICHAL

SOMEWHERE ABOVE LIES THE ANSWERS
FOR THE THINGS I SEEK
SOMEWHERE ABOVE I PRAY
PLEASE SHOW HER THE WAY

DAY

THEY SAY I'M DESTINED TO RULE THIS LAND
FIGHT FOR MY PEOPLE AND TAKE THEM HOME
BUT I'M AFRAID PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAY THIS I PRAY TONIGHT

(Day speaks to Samara in her soul somewhere else. Samara hears her and responds)

DAY

Samara, why do you choose me?

SAMARA

Yarowah chose you.

DAY

What if Yarowah got it wrong. I am not fit for this. I tried. I failed.

SAMARA

Day, you cannot let shame and fear keep you from what you are created to do. That's why I came back. To warn Saul. Now, you must go back.

DAY

I can't go back. Saul wants to kill me.

SAMARA

The people need YOU to lead.

DAY

I don't want to be king! Please. Give it to someone else. Anyone else. I don't want it.

SAMARA

Is it that you don't want to. Or you're afraid of what will happen if you do.

(Day is silent)

SAMARA

STAND UP MY CHILD YOU'VE COME THIS FAR

RISE UP ABOVE THE FEAR
FOR WE KNOW YOU HAVE ALL THINGS
YOU WILL NEED TO LEAD THIS LAND

DAY
I HEAR

DAY/SAMARA/MICHAL
THEY SAY I'M (YOU ARE) DESTINED TO RULE THIS LAND
FIGHT FOR MY (YOUR/OUR) PEOPLE AND TAKE THEM HOME
BUT I'M (YOU'RE) SCARED PLEASE SHOW ME (HER) THE WAY THIS I PRAY TONIGHT
DEAR YAROWAH

SCENE 9: DAYLIGHT COMES

(The Wilderness of Zen. It's almost sunrise in Saul's camp. She sneaks up to Saul. Takes his jug and spear and sneaks back. The sun is just rising to daylight)

DAY

Saul! King Saul! Wake up!

MICHAL

Day! *(She goes to her Father who is waking up, blocking the daylight from his eyes)*

SAUL

(he gets up in a fury, goes to grab his spear, realizing it's gone he eases)

Daaay. There you are. We've been looking for you.

DAY

I'm here. I have your spear and your jug. I come in peace. I do not intend to harm you.

SAUL

You ran away.

DAY

Yes. I ran away. From my responsibility to our nation and from you. But it's time for change. I want to come back to our nation, and fulfill the prophecy.

SHAHEM

You're Yarowah's chosen one.

HAM

The long awaited king...

SHAHEM

...to usher out the blindness of night...

MICHAL

...and welcome in the reign of Daylight.

SHAHEM

Day, why didn't you tell us?

DAY

I was scared! I wanted it to be anyone else but me. I needed to find my way... *(looks at Saul)*
But I'm here.

SAUL

Long awaited king. That prophecy is no longer recognized except by prophets who're dead.
(beat) Michal, my daughter, I will appoint you as the next leader of our nation. When I die. Then
the people will have their woman ruler. As the firstborn, it will be yours.

MICHAL

Father, only the king in the prophecy can lead us out of exile. I am not that king.

SAUL

We make our own prophecy's Michal. Don't let them persuade you. You can be king.

MICHAL

Then I'd exercise that power in giving it away. To whom its intended.

SAUL

You fool.

MICHAL

Father. You've not been well enough to lead us for far too long.

SAUL

(losing himself) Traitor! Conspiring against me...

HAM

You must step down, Saul.

SAUL

Traitors!

(Michal starts to go to her Father, carefully)

SHAHAM

Why can you not see!

SAUL

I see a young girl! That cannot lead a nation.

(Samara has appeared and is standing. Day speaks to Saul but with her eyes locked with Samara)

DAY

I can. I will. And Yarowah will give us peace.

SAUL

(weakened, fearful) You...just want woman king? Take Michal. *(to Michal)* You're my blood.

MICHAL

I would sooner die than not step aside for the one whom Yarowah has chosen.

(beat)

SAUL

(regaining) Then you will both die together!

(There is a fight. Music might underscore. Ham and Shahem grab his spear and toss it to Michal who ends up being the one who's standing with the spear her father runs into while she is defending Day. Like real violence, it all happens so fast the women are surprised. Scene freezes when Saul is stabbed. We don't see him fall to the floor. Lights shift and we see Samara, somewhere else. We see the women frozen.)

SAMARA

*In the seventh year comes the warrior who's right
To rid Jabesh-Gilead of their plight
To usher out the blindness of night
And welcome the reign of Daylight*

(Lights snap to black)

End of play.

(Queue)

HAM

...I'm saying, I don't want to find her and be the reason she dies.

SHAHEM

Then let's be the reason she lives.

(Queue Intro) Gm. Gm/F. Gm/Eb. Gm/D. (2xs)

THIS I PRAY

MICHAL

Gm. Gm/F. Gm/Eb. Gm/D. Cm. F. Gm. D
SOMEWHERE ABOVE LIES THE ANSWERS. FOR THE THINGS I SEEK
Gm. Gm/F. Gm/Eb. Cm. F. Bb. D
SOMEWHERE ABOVE I PRAY. PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAY
Cm. F. Bb. F/A. Gm. F
THEY SAY I'M DESTINED TO RULE THIS LAND
Cm. F. Bb. F/A. Gm. F
FIGHT FOR MY PEOPLE AND TAKE THEM HOME
Cm. F. Bb. F/A. Gm. F Eb. Eb/F. Gm
BUT I'M AFRAID PLEASE SHOW HER THE WAY THIS I PRAY. TONIGHT

Dialogue

(Queue)

SAMARA

Is it that you don't want to. Or you're afraid of what will happen if you do.

Gm. F/A. Bb. F/A. Gm. Gm. F/A. Bb
STAND UP MY CHILD YOU'VE COME THIS FAR RISE UP ABOVE THE FEAR
Cm. F. Bb. F/A. Eb/G
FOR WE KNOW YOU HAVE ALL THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO LEAD. THIS LAND. I HEAR

ALL:

Cm. F. Bb. F/A. Gm. F
THEY SAY I'M DESTINED TO RULE THIS LAND
Cm. F. Bb. F/A. Gm. F
FIGHT FOR MY PEOPLE AND TAKE THEM HOME

Cm. F. Bb. F/A. Gm. F Eb. Eb/F. Gm
BUT I'M AFRAID PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAY THIS I PRAY. TONIGHT