

Excerpt from 'Splendid Productions' Jason and the Argonauts' By Kerry Frampton and Mal Smith

SCENE 1: THE BEGINNING OF A LEGEND

- Chorus** (AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH.....)
Ancient Greece!
Where Greece is, but a long time ago!
A land of monsters(rrarr) and gods (AAAH)
Where men are warriors (Ho!) and women are beautiful (wolf whistle)
Join us in our tale and witness great courage (rah!)
Intrigue (hmmm), amazement (ooh), joy (yay!), sadness (aw)
Treachery (boo) and heroism (hooray!)
We shall recall the glorious deeds of men long ago
Jason and his Argonauts
who propelled the Argo over the vast sea
through the mouth of the Pontos and between the dark rocks
to gain the Golden Fleece.
Jason and his 50 strong warriors
The most exciting and adventurous expedition of all ages
But every champion has his beginning
- Narrator** Due to a terrible family betrayal, Jason's mother (hello) and father (morning) did not raise him. Jason's uncle, King Pelias of Iolchis, was a bad man...
- Pelias** I am King Pelias of Iolchis and I'm apparently a very bad man. I will return later in the story... you didn't see me... I wasn't here.
- Narrator** ... who tricked Jason's father out of his rightful throne.
- Aison** My throne! What have I done?!?!?
- Narrator** Jason - the rightful successor - was in danger from the day of his birth. What if this evil Pelias turned against their son?
- Aison** Well, what would you do?
- Alcimedede** Would you abandon your child to save its life?
- Narrator** Alcimedede fooled Pelias into thinking that Jason was dead. She beat her chest and tore at her hair and wailed like a cat trapped beneath an ox – which is what grieving mothers do in ancient Greece. Fearing for his son's life, Aison sent him away whilst he was still a baby to shield him from his uncle.
- Chiron, one of the centaurs – raised our hero Jason. The Centaurs were wild and uncontrollable flesh eating beasts. Incredible creatures, half man half-horse (no, the other way around) and the wisest of all beings. They lived on the beautiful green slopes of Mount Pelion, in Thessaly. Chiron took pity on Jason and hid him away from Pelias.

- Narrator** Surrounded by nature Jason learned wonderful things and grew strong and handsome. When he was ready he decided to return to his kingdom of Iolkos:
- Jason** This injustice to my family must not go unpunished Chiron. I will go home and claim back my father's throne.
- Chiron** Love all, trust few, do wrong to none
- Jason** How wise!
- Chiron** A fool and his money are soon parted. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Fool me once, shame on you – fool me twice ... trust your feelings, use the force!
- Jason** On my way to Iolkos I came to a river, sat down on the bank to rest my weary legs – I'd been walking fast. As I stretched out my body the sunshine warmed my face and reflected brightly from every well toned muscle.
- Narrator** As the sun flashed against the golden curls of Jason it caught the eye of the goddess Hera from high above. She bent down to earth to see what had momentarily blinded her and was overwhelmed by Jason's beauty.
- Hera** What a stunning specimen of manhood, I wonder if he is as kind as he is handsome. I shall transform myself into an old woman and pretend that I am helpless and unable to cross the waters.
- Jason** Do not worry, I will help you cross the river by carrying you in my firm arms. Allow me to be of assistance...
- Narrator** On carrying the old woman across to the opposite bank, he realised that he had lost one of his sandals.
- Jason** I have lost one of my sandals!
- Narrator** It had got stuck in the mud at the bottom of the river and come off.
- Jason** I would go back to pick it up... but... I shall progress my journey with only one shoe. It feels significant somehow.
- Hera** Thank you so much young man. May the goddess Hera protect you forever.