

# EXTRACT

# The Masque of the red death

a short play

by

Alex Broun

adapted from the story by Edgar Allan Poe

## TEN MINUTE VERSION

### PLEASE NOTE:

THIS PLAY SCRIPT HAS BEEN DOWNLOADED FROM [www.alexbroun.com](http://www.alexbroun.com)

BY AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF [www.alexbroun.com](http://www.alexbroun.com)  
AND PAYING THE DOWNLOAD FEE YOU ARE PERMITTED TO PERFORM  
THIS PLAY **ROYALTY FREE** ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD FOR A PERIOD  
OF **12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF DOWNLOAD.**

IF YOU DO PERFORM THIS PLAY PLEASE VISIT OUR **RECORD A  
PRODUCTION** PAGE AND RECORD THE DETAILS OF YOUR PRODUCTION  
SO YOUR PRODUCTION CAN BE LISTED AMONGST THE THOUSANDS OF  
PRODUCTIONS OF ALEX'S WORK WORLDWIDE EVERY YEAR.

**FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR ON**  
[abroun@bigpond.net.au](mailto:abroun@bigpond.net.au)

© Alex Broun 2010

**Cast**

PRINCE PROSPERO

ACTOR 1 (THE MASKED FIGURE)

ACTOR 2

ACTOR 3

ACTOR 4

ACTOR 5

**Playwright's Note**

Performers may be male or female, young or old.

All stage directions including lighting and sound effects, are suggestions and may be discarded or used on the director's discretion.

**The Masque of the Red Death**

ALL: The Red Death

ACTOR 1: had long devastated the country.

ACTOR 2: No pestilence had ever been so fatal,

ACTOR 3: or so hideous.

ACTOR 4: Blood was its Avatar

ACTOR 5: and its seal.

ACTOR 3: There were sharp pains,

ACTOR 4: sudden dizziness,

ACTOR 5: and then profuse bleeding.

ACTOR 2: The scarlet stains

ACTOR 3: upon the body

ACTOR 4: and especially

ACTOR 5: upon the face

ACTOR 1: shut the victims out

ACTOR 3: from the aid

ACTOR 4: and sympathy

ACTOR 5: of their fellow-men.

ACTOR 1: The whole progress

ACTOR 3: and termination

ALL: of the disease,

ACTOR 4: were the incidents

ACTOR 5: of half one hour.

PROSPERO: But the Prince Prospero

ACTOR 3: was happy

ACTOR 4: and dauntless

ACTOR 5: and sagacious.

ACTOR 2: When his dominions

ACTOR 3: were half depopulated,

ACTOR 4: he summoned

ACTOR 1: to his presence

PROSPERO: "A thousand hale and light-hearted friends"

ACTOR 2: from among the knights

ACTOR 3: and dames

ACTOR 4: of his court,

ACTOR 5: And with these

ACTOR 2: retired

ACTOR 3: to the deep seclusion

PROSPERO: "of one of his castellated abbeys."

ACTOR 5: A strong and lofty wall

ACTOR 2: girdled it in.

ACTOR 3: The wall had

ACTOR 1: gates of iron.

ACTOR 5: The courtiers,

ACTOR 2: brought furnaces

ACTOR 3: and hammers

ACTOR 4: and welded the bolts.

PROSPERO: "It is resolved to leave means neither of ingress or egress to the sudden impulses of despair or of frenzy from within. The external world can take care of itself. In the meantime it is folly to grieve, or to think. I have provided all the appliances of pleasure."

ACTOR 2: Buffoons,

ACTOR 3: improvisatori,

ACTOR 4: ballet-dancers,

ACTOR 5: musicians,

ACTOR 2: Beauty,

ACTOR 1: wine.

PROSPERO: All these and security were within. Without was the –

ACTORS 1-5: Red Death.

BEAT.

ACTOR 2: It was toward the close of the

ACTOR 3: sixth month of this seclusion,

ACTOR 4: while the pestilence raged

ACTOR 5: most furiously

ACTOR 2: outside,

ACTOR 3: that the Prince Prospero

PROSPERO: “entertained his thousand friends at a masked ball of the most unusual magnificence.”

ACTOR 2: The rooms in which it was held

ACTOR 3: were seven –

ACTOR 4: an imperial suite.

ACTOR 5: But very different

ACTOR 2: To other places

ACTOR 3: as might have been expected from the duke's love of the

PROSPERO: bizarre.

ACTOR 5: In the middle

ACTOR 4: of each wall,