

## Pericles

### SYNOPSIS

#### *Pericles*

(probably a collaboration between Shakespeare and George Wilkins)

Pericles goes to Antioch to try to marry the daughter of King Antiochus. He solves a riddle, but it reveals a terrible secret about the King, so he has to escape. Unsafe, even at home in Tyre, he leaves Helicanus to govern the city and sails to Tarsus, where he is able to stop a famine and earns the gratitude of the governor Cleon and his wife Dionyza.

Pericles is then shipwrecked on the shores of Pentapolis, where he is rescued by fishermen. They take him to the court of King Simonides, who is celebrating his daughter Thaisa's birthday with a great tournament. Pericles, concealing his true identity, defeats a large number of knights and wins the prize, marriage to Thaisa. When the news arrives that Antiochus has died and his life is no longer in danger, Pericles sets sail for Tyre with Thaisa, who is pregnant.

During a storm Thaisa dies giving birth to a daughter and is buried at sea. Pericles lands at Tarsus and gives his baby daughter, called Marina, to Cleon and Dionyza to look after. Thaisa's coffin is washed up in Ephesus, where she is revived by the physician Cerimon. She enters the Temple of Diana as a nun.

Fourteen years later Dionyza has become jealous of Marina and arranges her murder, but Marina is abducted by pirates, who sell her as a prostitute in Mytilene, but her chastity is bad for business in the brothel. Lysimachus, the governor, visiting the brothel in disguise, is very impressed by her. Pericles is still sailing around the Mediterranean and arrives by chance in Mytilene, where his ship is visited by Lysimachus. Lysimachus hopes some entertainment will cheer Pericles up, and orders Marina to be brought aboard the ship. When the conversation reveals that she is his daughter, Pericles is overjoyed. In a dream, Diana tells him to go to her temple in Ephesus to give thanks, and they set sail with Lysimachus, who hopes to marry Marina.

Media:

DVD:

*Pericles* (BBC TV Shakespeare 1984), dir. David Cellan Jones

CD Audio:

*Pericles* (Arkangel Complete Shakespeare)

*[Michael Mitchell]*