

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



John Milton

by Gillian Berry

EXTRACT

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JOHN MILTON

A Radio Play for Secondary School

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Roving Microphone

John Milton

John Dryden

Father

Mother

Voice 1

Earl of Bridgewater

Lady

King

Female

Voice 2

Reader

Archbishop

Speaker

Executioner

Daughter

Maid

SFX CLASH OF CYMBALS AND DRUMS. GENERAL
REVELRY.

EARL Bravo! A fine beginning! What think you my lady?

LADY Mr. Lawes and Mr. Milton have excelled themselves. I love a masque. How charming a thought it was to greet us thus.

EARL Shhh! Here comes the speaker. Comus himself to be sure...

SFX CLASH OF CYMBALS

READER (AS COMUS)
Welcome Joy and Feast.
Midnight shout and revelry,
Tipsie dance and Jollity.
Braid your locks with rosie twine
Dropping odours, dropping wine...

QUICK FADE DOWN AND THEN FADE UP ON THE FINAL VERSE

Mortals that would follow me,
Love virtue, she alone is free,
She can teach ye how to clime
Higher than the Spheary chime;
Or if virtue feeble were,
Heav'n itself would stoop to her.

SFX CLASH OF CYMBALS. AUDIENCE APPLAUSE