

AURELIA'S MAGIC

by

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Aurelia's Magic

Cast (5-7 actors)

(in order of appearance)

Seavus	(Pronounced: See-vus) Male, slight, 40+
Aurelia McCleod	(Pronounced: Ah-ree-lee-ah Mc-Cloud) Female, to play 14 and 21
Anna McCleod	Female, Aurelia's mother, 40+, (can be double-cast with Aurelia II)
Colm Dugan	Male, to play 18 & 25 (can be double-cast with Daniel)
Danny	Male, son of Colm and Aurelia, 6
Aurelia II*	Aurelia grown to age 40, then 80
Daniel*	Danny grown to age 25, then 65
*Note:	If the roles of Aurelia II and Daniel are not double-cast, then through costuming and make-up, care must be taken to give a strong resemblance of Aurelia II to Anna, and Daniel to Colm Dugan.

Aurelia's Magic was first produced in April 2005 under its original title, ***Dancing on a Grave***, at the Vanguard Theatre in Fullerton, CA.

A radioplay adaptation of ***Aurelia's Magic*** was first performed in January 2008 under its original title, ***Dancing on a Grave***, by the Shoestring Radio Theatre in San Francisco, CA, and broadcast over the National Public Radio network.

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Aurelia's Magic

Scene 1

The set consists of a graveyard on stage right and the side of an old farmhouse in the Southern portion of the United States, with a porch with a door, on stage left. A window looks out from the side of the farmhouse. Although the setting is in the South, accents are not important, as it is better to give the sense of anyplace. The time is somewhere in the past, although not specific, as the play takes part over a sixty-six year span and it is better to capture a sense of the timelessness of the fairy-tale world. Tombstones in the graveyard have the same last name McCleod with a fresh grave with an inscription Jarvis McCleod. The sound of a large group of people emanates from the house, but respectful as this is a wake for the recently departed. An older man named Seavus, slight, enters stealthily, makes his way to the fresh grave, and dances a jig. Young Aurelia, age 14, appears in the window and reacts to his antics. She comes through the door and crosses towards the graveyard.

AURELIA

What in the world are you doing?

SEAVUS

I'm dancing.

AURELIA

I can see what you are doing.

SEAVUS

If you can see what I am doing, why ask the question?

AURELIA

What?

SEAVUS

It's obvious that I am performing a bit of terpsichorean art upon the final resting place of one Jarvis McCleod.

AURELIA

Terp...si...chore...

SEAVUS

Dancing!

AURELIA

What?

SEAVUS

I'm dancing on his grave.

AURELIA

Dancing on his...

SEAVUS

Dancing on his grave.

AURELIA

Why would you do such a thing? What is wrong with you?

SEAVUS

Why are you being so offensive?

AURELIA

I'm offensive? I'm offensive?

SEAVUS

I'm so glad you admit to it.

AURELIA

Admit to what?

SEAVUS

To being offensive.

AURELIA

Offensive?

SEAVUS

Yes, offensive.

AURELIA

My grandfather is only two hours in his grave and you're...

SEAVUS

Having the time of my life.

AURELIA

It's sacrilegious.

SEAVUS

You show me one place in the Bible where it says..

AURELIA

It's childish.

SEAVUS

Well, well. You've certainly got me there.

AURELIA

Why are you doing it?

SEAVUS

Dancing?

AURELIA

Of course the dancing.

SEAVUS

Because it feels so good.

AURELIA

That's not what I'm asking. Why are you dancing on my grandfather's grave?

SEAVUS

Well, you see, some time ago old Jarvis says to me, he says "Seavus, you scoundrel, someone is going to put you in an early grave." And I says back to him "I'll be dancing on your grave Jarvis McCleod." and here I am, dancing and having the time of my life.

Seavus once again starts to do his jig in earnest.

AURELIA

Your name is Seavus. Please will you stop doing that.
(*Seavus stops.*) Thank you. That's better. Seavus is a
funny name.

SEAVUS

And what pray tell is your name, little granddaughter of
Jarvis?

AURELIA

Aurelia.

SEAVUS

Well, if that's not a case of the pot calling the kettle...

AURELIA

I hate it, too. I've always hated it. I'd much rather be
a Magda.

SEAVUS

And you think that is an improvement?

AURELIA

Oh, yes. I'd much rather be named Magda. It sounds so
much older, and dignified.

SEAVUS

And sounding older is important?

AURELIA

Oh, yes. So much so. Why did my grandfather call you a
scoundrel?

SEAVUS

Because I granted him what he wanted.

AURELIA

That doesn't make any sense.

SEAVUS

Of course it does. All perfectly good English words.
Nouns, a verb, an objective...

AURELIA

Not that. It doesn't make any sense. Why would my
grandfather call you a scoundrel if you gave him something
that he wanted?

SEAVUS

One has to be careful of what one wishes for.

AURELIA

And what did he wish for?

SEAVUS

Oh, that I cannot tell.

AURELIA

Why can't you tell?

SEAVUS

Because it's against the code.

AURELIA

What code?

SEAVUS

The code of my kind.

AURELIA

What are you talking about? What kind?

SEAVUS

I'm a fairy.

AURELIA

(Pause.) (Sarcastically.)

Right.

SEAVUS

I am. I come from a proud line of fairies dating back thousands and thousands and thousands of years. Why, we go back to the mists at the beginning of...

AURELIA

(Sarcastically.)

Right.

SEAVUS

But I am.

AURELIA

What? Are you saying you're a real fairy?

SEAVUS
That's me.

AURELIA
You can't be a fairy.

SEAVUS
I most certainly can.

AURELIA
You can't. Everyone knows there are no such things as fairies.

SEAVUS
Well there's one standing right in front of you this very moment.

AURELIA
You can't be.

SEAVUS
Can.

AURELIA
Can't.

SEAVUS
Can.

AURELIA
Can't.

SEAVUS
Can.

AURELIA
Besides, fairies are only girls. Tinkerbell, the fairy godmother...

SEAVUS
If fairies were only girls, my kind would have died out long ago. How do you think baby fairies come into being?

AURELIA
There are baby fairies?

SEAVUS

Of course.

AURELIA

You're sure you're not a brownie or an elf.

SEAVUS

Don't be silly. There are no such things as brownies or elves.

AURELIA

But there are fairies.

SEAVUS

And I'm the living proof.

AURELIA

Okay. And you grant wishes?

SEAVUS

On occasion.

AURELIA

You haven't escaped from some kind of asylum or something, have you?

Aurelia's mother, Anna, appears in the doorway.

ANNA

Aurelia. Aurelia, who are you talking to?

AURELIA

I'm talking to him.

ANNA

What am I going to do with you? You hardly spoke to your grandfather when he was alive, and now you get up in the middle of dinner to converse with his grave.

AURELIA

I wasn't talking to grandfather. I was talking to him.

ANNA

Who?

AURELIA

Him.

ANNA

What "him"?

AURELIA

Him, him. His name is Seavus.

ANNA

As if I haven't had to deal with so much today, now my fourteen-year-old daughter is talking to an imaginary friend.

AURELIA

You don't see him?

ANNA

Now stop this silly game.

AURELIA

You really don't see him.

ANNA

Stop it Aurelia, it's rude.

AURELIA

She really doesn't see you.

Seavus winks.

ANNA

Stop this childishness right now! Why did you get up in the middle of the meal?

AURELIA

It's so awful, Mama. You made me sit at the kids' table.

ANNA

Well, you're a kid.

AURELIA

No, I'm not anymore. I'm grown up.

ANNA

Aurelia, stop this silliness.

AURELIA

But it was terrible, Mama. Cousin Angus was making fart noises with his armpits, and little Andy was laughing so hard that milk came out of his nose. I can't sit at the little kids' table anymore.

ANNA

Of course you can. And besides, the reverend has had too much of the wine, and as well all the other men at the table, and they're starting to talk politics. Believe me you don't want to be around when things start to get ugly.

AURELIA

But Mama.

ANNA

Don't you "but Mama" me.

AURELIA

You're not listening to me. You never listen to me.

ANNA

I've listened to you and I'm done with listening to you. You come in and cooperate and sit at the table where you are assigned and stop all this childishness, or you can go without food for the rest of the day. Causing trouble on this of all days. It's time little lady for you to grow up.

Anna exits through door.

AURELIA

(Calling after her.)

I'm trying. I'm trying.

SEAVUS

Why are you trying?

AURELIA

What?

SEAVUS

Why are you trying so hard to grow up?

AURELIA

You don't know how awful it is to be treated as a kid.

SEAVUS

That's true. That's true. I only know how delightful it is to be a child. By the way, how does one make fart noises with one's armpit?

AURELIA

First your armpit has to be a little sweaty, and you put your hand... Oh, you are terrible. She really couldn't see you?

SEAVUS

No she couldn't.

AURELIA

And why is that?

SEAVUS

It was my choice. I've been around your mother Anna sometime, and I think I know her pretty well. She could never open her heart to anyone of my kind.

AURELIA

And you think I can.

SEAVUS

I have a suspicion.

AURELIA

You grant wishes, huh?

SEAVUS

Only to them that open their hearts. And then, only if I'm of a mind to. It's not like I'm some genie in a bottle, forced to grant wishes to secure their freedom.

AURELIA

So, genies are real?

SEAVUS

To tell you the truth, I'm not really sure. I've never been in that part of the world.

AURELIA

So you don't know everything.

SEAVUS

Where would you get such a crazy notion. Of course I don't know everything. And anyone who says they do, is a bigger fool than me.

AURELIA

I.

SEAVUS

So you're a fool, too.

AURELIA

No, it's "a bigger fool than I".

SEAVUS

Like I was saying.

AURELIA

I'm not a fool.

SEAVUS

Well make up your mind.

AURELIA

You are so frustrating at times.

SEAVUS

It's my childish nature.

AURELIA

You can say that again.

SEAVUS

It's my childish nature.

AURELIA

What?

SEAVUS

You said to say it again, so I did. It's my childish nature.

AURELIA

Stop it.

SEAVUS

Stop it.

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No, stop it. AURELIA

No, stop it. SEAVUS

Stop mimicking me. AURELIA

Stop mimicking me. SEAVUS

It isn't funny. AURELIA

It isn't funny. SEAVUS

I mean it. AURELIA

I mean it. SEAVUS

You're being silly. AURELIA

You're being silly. SEAVUS

You're ticking me off. AURELIA

You're ticking me off. SEAVUS

I'm an idiot. AURELIA

You're an idiot. SEAVUS

I'm a woman. Hah! AURELIA

SEAVUS

No, you're not. You are a lovely young lady.

AURELIA

No, really. I am a woman. And that "lovely young lady" stuff is what older people try to feed you so that you won't cause waves.

SEAVUS

And why is that?

AURELIA

So they can act like they know everything.

SEAVUS

You're right, you're right. It's all a scam.

AURELIA

I hate being this age. I'd give anything to be twenty-one right now.

SEAVUS

Oh, but think of all the wonderful things you would miss. High school proms, your first kiss, sock hops...

AURELIA

Sock hops? What's a sock hop?

SEAVUS

You know. A school dance where you take off your shoes so you don't scratch up the gym floor.

AURELIA

You're really old aren't you?

SEAVUS

Old enough not to be rude.

AURELIA

Weren't you just dancing on the grave of my poor departed grandfather?

SEAVUS

(Pause.)

Point taken.

AURELIA

So you can grant wishes?

SEAVUS

Like I said.

AURELIA

Then grant me my wish. Make me twenty-one years old right now.

SEAVUS

Now, why would I do that, even if I could?

AURELIA

What do you mean, even if you could?

SEAVUS

Well, it takes a lot of magic to do a physical transformation.

AURELIA

I knew you were bogus.

SEAVUS

Why are you being insulting?

AURELIA

I ask for one little wish, and you balk. Are you sure you're a fairy?

SEAVUS

Of course I'm a fairy.

AURELIA

Are not.

SEAVUS

Am, too.

AURELIA

Are not.

SEAVUS

Am, too.

AURELIA

Are not.

SEAVUS

Am, too, and I can prove it.

AURELIA

Prove it?

SEAVUS

Yes, prove it. Change the wording of your wish.

AURELIA

What do you mean?

SEAVUS

"Change" means to alter. "The wording" means use different words.

AURELIA

I'm not sure...

SEAVUS

Great. Here I am dealing with someone so anxious to grow up and she has so little comprehension of the words she's saying.

AURELIA

It's been my experience that very few adults have much comprehension of what they are saying.

SEAVUS

Well, well. You've got me there.

AURELIA

So, you'll grant me my wish?

SEAVUS

And live to be cursed by you.

AURELIA

I would never do that.

SEAVUS

It's happened before.

AURELIA

My grandfather?

SEAVUS
Yes, your grandfather.

AURELIA
What did he wish?

SEAVUS
That I cannot tell.

AURELIA
The code?

SEAVUS
Yes, the code.

AURELIA
I swear with all my heart that I will never curse you.

SEAVUS
Well, we'll see, we'll see.

AURELIA
So, you'll grant my wish if I reword it?

SEAVUS
And probably live to regret it.

AURELIA
You won't. Okay, I want to grow up right now. I want to be an adult.

SEAVUS
Granted.

AURELIA
Okay.

SEAVUS
Okay.

AURELIA
Okay?

SEAVUS
Okay.

AURELIA
So?

SEAVUS
So, what?

AURELIA
What do we do?

SEAVUS
Do?

AURELIA
You know. Isn't there some kind of ritual?

SEAVUS
Ritual?

AURELIA
Yes, ritual, for granting my wish.

SEAVUS
Ritual? Oh yes, the ritual. Of course, how could I forget the ritual?

AURELIA
So what do I do?

SEAVUS
First, you close your eyes.

AURELIA
I thought that would be first. Okay, they're closed.

SEAVUS
Then, you spin yourself around three times real fast.

AURELIA
Okay. *(She spins herself around, and falls on the third spin.)* Oh dear, did I break the spell?

Seavus helps her up.

SEAVUS
Oh no, dear. Don't worry your pretty little head about that.

AURELIA

Then, what's next?

SEAVUS

You jump up and down on only your right foot and say "Ooga-booga-booga".

AURELIA

Is that really necessary?

SEAVUS

It's mandatory.

AURELIA

Well, all right, but I sure hope no one sees me do this.

SEAVUS

I'll keep a watch out for anyone.

Aurelia jumps up and down on her right foot.

AURELIA

Ooga-booga-booga. You satisfied? What now?

SEAVUS

Next, you hock up a giant loogie in your hand and we shake hands.

AURELIA

A loogie?

SEAVUS

Yes, a big one.

AURELIA

Well, okay. *(She hocks up a loogie and spits it in her hand.)* Now then, let's shake.

SEAVUS

Ew gross. Get away from me with that thing.

AURELIA

But we have to shake hands to make the spell work so I can get my wish.

SEAVUS

I'm not going to shake hands with you. You have a giant loogie in your palm. Ew, disgusting.

AURELIA

But you told me that's what I had to do.

SEAVUS

Well, that may be, but I didn't think you'd actually do it.

AURELIA

But what about my wish?

SEAVUS

You had your wish a long time ago when I said, "Granted".

AURELIA

Then why did you make me do all that stuff?

SEAVUS

You said you wanted a ritual.

AURELIA

I didn't say that.

SEAVUS

Did, too.

AURELIA

Did not.

SEAVUS

Did, too.

AURELIA

Enough! So my wish has been granted?

SEAVUS

That it has.

AURELIA

But nothing has happened.

SEAVUS

A lot has happened.

AURELIA

But I don't feel anything different.

SEAVUS

Eventually you will.

AURELIA

Eventually I'd grow up on my own.

SEAVUS

Oh, it's going to happen a lot faster than that.

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