

JOAN

By Donna Kaz

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Cast of Characters

JOAN of Arc/Ensemble
ACTRESS 1: French History Professor/St. Margaret/French
Notary/Ensemble
ACTRESS 2: St. Catherine/Theologian/Prelate/Ensemble
ACTRESS 3: Joan's mother/The Dauphin, Charles VII, Earl of
Warwick/Ensemble
ACTOR 1: Joan's Father/Medieval Weapons Expert/Bishop Pierre
Cauchon/Ensemble
ACTOR 2: St. Michael/French Soldier/Inquisitor of the
Faith/Ensemble

The script is written for 6 actors playing multiple roles, but the cast size can increase if actors are assigned a few roles or just one role. If broken down into individual parts, there could be up to 10 female roles and 6 male roles, with the opportunity to add as many ensemble members as you like. Feel free to use as many actors as suits your production.

Author's Notes

The movement is an intrinsic part of this play and helps to tell the story and move the action forward. It is important to establish an ensemble during rehearsals that will work together to create the scenes of this piece that do not contain text. Slow, almost dance-like movement, combined with music and lighting are essential ways the actors establish mood and telegraph the story prior to each written scene. It is important to balance the use of this technique between dramatic battle scenes and the other dramatic scenes of Joan's life with the element of joy and fun within the play. While the movement can be an honest way to portray battles, it should also be used to tap into the comedy and bliss that Joan must have felt as a teen who fully embraced what she became when she listened to her heart.

Note about Music

While most of the musical suggestions in the play are part of the public domain, mention in the script should not be construed as a grant of performance rights; it is the producer's responsibility to comply with all copyright laws and musical licensing requirements. Please feel free to substitute a similar piece of music if necessary because of reasons of copyright or availability.

AT RISE: An empty space with audience seated on three sides. The playing area is defined with a rope placed on the floor. Inside the square there are 6 large, heavy duty black rubber containers that will be moved by the actors and used for all set pieces.

LIGHTS UP. MUSIC: Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms. The ensemble walks slowly into the playing space. In slow motion they circle each other. Soon they begin to bump into each other and this leads to fighting. They form a circle and one by one, each actor is thrust into the center while the others taunt them. Eventually one actor cannot escape, is pounded to the ground and raised up by the others. ALL let out a sound as they collapse onto the floor. Lights change. The SOUND of bells. The ensemble begins to slowly come back to life, each whispering one of their lines from the play. They rise and search the playing area while their voices get louder and louder. Eventually they are shouting one sustained vowel sound together. Lights change. MUSIC: French. The ensemble changes the set into a classroom.

ACTRESS 1/FRENCH HISTORY PROFESSOR

A brief history of France!

The ensemble creates a class of third graders. They react joyously when they hear what their lesson will be.

ACTRESS 1/FRENCH HISTORY PROFESSOR
(CONT'D)

The Kings of England have always claimed France. In 1337 the Hundred Years' War begins. Now the Hundred Years' War means that for a hundred years the Kings of England attempt to unite France and England under one crown - their own. In May 1420 a treaty between the French and the English is signed.

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ACTRESS 1/FRENCH HISTORY PROFESSOR

The treaty states that 1) Henry V of England will take the title of regent and heir of France. 2) Henry V will marry Catherine, the daughter of the French King Charles VI. And 3) the son of King Charles, the Dauphin, will have no say at all in the affairs of France and be declared a bastard.

(All react with shock. They rise and act out the following.)

June 1420. Henry V marries Catherine of France.

August 1422. Henry dies.

October 1422. Charles VI dies as well.

Henry V and Charles VI each leave a son. Henry VI, a baby 9 months old and Charles, the Dauphin, now 19.

According to the treaty, Henry VI, an infant, is recognized as King of France and England and the Dauphin is excluded from his succession to the French throne.

France divides into two parties - the Burgundians and the Armagnacs. The Burgundians support the English.

(BURGUNDIANS improv some "English" lines such as "Would you like a cooked breakfast?")

The Armagnacs become the Nationalist Party.

(ARMAGNACS improv some "French" such as "Oui, oui!")

The French fight the English!

(MUSIC: Praetorius. French and English battle/dance as Professor holds up cards which denote the passage of time.)

2 years! 14 years! 53 years! 87 years!

(Eventually all are exhausted and die.)

June 1424. Joan, a peasant girl, hears her voices for the first time. She is told that she will solve the problem between the French and the English. She is 13 years old.

Lights change.

SAINT CATHERINE

Joan! This is Saint Catherine speaking. You are destined to lead a different kind of life!

SAINT MICHAEL

Joan! Your main man Saint Michael is speaking to you! You will accomplish miracles!

SAINT MARGARET

Saint Margaret here Joan! You have been chosen by the King of Heaven to restore Charles to the throne of France!

JOAN

Are you sure you have the right person?

Lights change. MUSIC: The Can-Can. MOVEMENT: The joy of country life. Joan's country home.

MOTHER

Joan! Joan, come home this instant! Joan, if you are not here by the time I count to ten you are grounded, young lady. And don't think I won't do it. One. Two. Three. Four. Don't push me. You know not to push me. Five. Six. You're pushing. Seven. Eight. Joan, I'm getting a headache. Nine. JOOOOAAAANNNNN!

JOAN

I'm here, mother.

MOTHER

Just in the nick of time, as always. Where have you been?

JOAN

In the woods.

MOTHER

What? I told you never to go in those woods. Last year they found a dead dog in there. You don't know what's in those woods...

JOAN

Mother, I heard voices. Saint Michael, Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret spoke to me. They told me that God wants me to help save the Kingdom of France.

MOTHER

What kind of books are they making you read in school?

JOAN

I heard the voice of God, Mother.

MOTHER

Yes? Did He tell you that you should milk the cow?

JOAN

I don't know what to do!

MOTHER

I'll tell you what to do. Go and milk the cow. And don't tell your father you were in the woods. You know how he...

FATHER enters.

FATHER

Joan! Where have you been? You're always going off somewhere. Last night I dreamt that you ran off with a band of soldiers.

JOAN

Father, I have been in the woods. And there I heard the voice of God. He wants me to put on men's clothes and restore Charles to the throne.

FATHER

That's very nice, Joan, but did God happen to tell you how we are to escape being attacked by the Burgundians?

JOAN

No.

FATHER

Then what good is he? Next time tell him to tell you something useful.

MOTHER

You didn't really hear anything did you, Joan.

JOAN

I did! I heard the voices of the saints. They told me that I must lead an army!

FATHER

That's enough! You keep talking like that and you won't be allowed out of this house!

SAINT MICHAEL

Don't listen to him, Joan.

JOAN

Did you hear that?

MOTHER

Now listen to me. Go milk the cow right now, young lady.

SAINT CATHERINE

Forget the cow. Listen to us!

JOAN

I am listening to you.

MOTHER

Good.

SAINT MARGARET

You must leave home. You must save France.

JOAN
I must save France!

FATHER
Fine, fine. Just do it after you milk the cow.

SAINT CATHERINE
Go to France, Joan.

MOTHER
Set the table. Supper will be ready soon.

FATHER
Milk the cow. And don't run off again.

SAINT CATHERINE
Run, Joan.

SAINT MARGARET
Go to France.

JOAN
Now?

FATHER
Now, tomorrow and the next day! See that you do your chores and don't be late for supper.

Joan, Mother, and Father freeze.

SAINT CATHERINE
Her father and mother watched her closely after that day.

SAINT MICHAEL
She did not go to France for three years.

SAINT MARGARET
Finally, she could not put it off any longer.

Lights change. The woods.

SAINT CATHERINE
Come on, Joan.

SAINT MICHAEL
Let's go, Joan.

SAINT MARGARET
Move it, Joan!

JOAN
Shut up!

SAINTS MICHAEL/CATHERINE/MARGARET

What?

JOAN

I'm sixteen. Leave me alone.

SAINT CATHERINE

Oh no, no, no, no, no. Vaucoulers is the nearest town held in the name of the Dauphin.

SAINT MARGARET

Go and visit your uncle there.

SAINT MICHAEL

From there find an escort into France.

JOAN

You've got the wrong person.

SAINTS MICHAEL/CATHERINE/MARGARET

We've got the wrong person not!

SAINT CATHERINE

You are destined to lead a different kind of life.

SAINT MARGARET

Listen up, girlfriend.

JOAN

Me?

SAINT MARGARET

You see anybody else here? Yoo hoo! Focus!

JOAN

But I'm a peasant girl!

SAINT MICHAEL

Yeah, so? You will accomplish miracles!

SAINT MARGARET

You have been chosen by the King of Heaven to restore Charles to the throne of France.

JOAN

You've made a big mistake.

SAINT CATHERINE

You shall put on masculine clothes.

SAINT MICHAEL

You shall bear arms and be the head of the French Army!

JOAN

Please go away.

SAINT CATHERINE

You shall put on masculine clothes.

SAINT MARGARET

France shall be guided by your counsel.

JOAN

This is a mistake!

SAINT CATHERINE

You shall put on masculine clothes!

SAINT MICHAEL

Check this out. You shall lead an army.

JOAN

But I don't want to lead an army!

SAINT MARGARET

You have been chosen by God, honey!

JOAN

Guess he's got to choose somebody else.

SAINT MARGARET

Wake UP! Do you want to stay here and milk the cows?

SAINT MICHAEL

Or do you want to do something?!

SAINT CATHERINE

You shall put on masculine clothes!

SAINT MICHAEL

You will, like, be remembered for all time.

SAINT CATHERINE

You shall put on masculine clothes...clothes of masculinity!

JOAN

Stop saying that!

SAINT MARGARET

Wake UP! WAKE UP! Do you really, really want to stay here and milk the cows?

SAINT MICHAEL

You will, like, really, really be remembered for all time.

SAINT CATHERINE

You shall put on...COMFORTABLE clothes!

Joan's Mother and Father enter.

FATHER

Joan? Where are you? Did you milk the cow?

SAINT MARGARET

You could stay in these totally boring fields forever.

MOTHER

Joan? Joan? JOOOOOOOAAAAAANNNN!

SAINT MICHAEL

Or you could accomplish something really cool.

FATHER

Joan, I've been thinking. Soon you'll be at the age where most young girls get married.

SAINT CATHERINE

Choose, Joan. Marriage?

MOTHER

Joan, did you milk the cow?

SAINT MICHAEL

Choose, Joan. Cows!? Or action!

Saints urge Joan to choose.
Mother and Father urge her to
milk the cow and get married
until...

JOAN

ALRIGHT! I'll do it! I'll save France!

Saints celebrate. Mother and
Father turn away.

SAINTS MICHAEL/CATHERINE/MARGARET

We shall be with you to help you.

JOAN

What do I do? How do I begin? When do I go?

SAINTS MICHAEL/CATHERINE/MARGARET

You. You. You. You go now!

Lights change. MUSIC: Medieval
chanting. Women change into male
clothing. MUSIC: Hildegard von
Bingen. MOVEMENT: The walk to
Vaucoulours.

JOAN
 Stop! Is this Vaucoulers?

ALL
 Yes!

JOAN
 The Kingdom of France is not the Dauphin's but my Lord's. My Lord wills that the Dauphin be made King of France. Though I wear my legs to the knees on the road, I shall see the king crowned.

Lights change. Dramatic MUSIC
 plays under MOVEMENT: a battle
 scene. Lights restore.

ACTRESS 3
 In 1428 the English begin to lay siege to Orleans. The war is deadlocked. Charles holds France south of the Loire River, while Henry holds the north.

ACTOR 1
 There is no record of what Joan looked like. The only certain aspect of her physical being is that she was a virgin.

JOAN
 My voices instructed me. I must remain a maid.

ACTOR 2
 January, 1429. Joan, aged 17, leaves her home town forever.

ACTOR 1
 She arrives at Vaucoulers and asks the commander of the army to send her to the King.

JOAN
 I am Joan the maid. Send me to the King.

ACTOR 1
 At first he laughs. Until he recalls the prophecy that said that France would be saved by a virgin.

ACTOR 2
 He gives her a sword, a horse and an escort.

ACTRESS 2
 Joan, who never rode a horse before, rides like a master.

Joan gets on her horse. All
 follow on their own mounts. She
 skillfully gallops to the King
 while All try to keep up. MUSIC:
 Up-tempo 15th century.

ACTOR 2

She arrives at the King's castle in Chinon.

ACTRESS 3

She has gained the confidence of the men in her company.

ACTRESS 1

Not one of them lays a finger on her.

ACTRESS 2

She is talked about in the towns.

ACTOR 1

So far she has accomplished...nothing! Joan requests a meeting with the Dauphin. For two days he sends messengers to interview her.

JOAN

I shall only speak to the Dauphin.

ACTRESS

Finally, the Dauphin agrees to see her. On her way into the castle a man yells out...

ACTRESS 2/MAN

Is that not the maid? Why if I had her for one night she wouldn't be the same! Ha!

JOAN

Why do you deny God when you are so near death?

ACTRESS 2/MAN

Near death. Why I'm just a young lad...

Man dies.

ACTRESS 3

Joan enters the castle. The Dauphin attempts to conceal himself.

Dauphin puts the crown on someone else and seats her on the throne.
Joan knocks on the door.

ALL

Who eez it?

JOAN

I am Joan the Maid. I am here to see the King!

ALL

Entre!

At first Joan kneels at the feet of the imposter but suddenly gets up and picks the Dauphin out of the laughing crowd. She kneels at the Dauphin's feet.

JOAN

The King of Heaven sends me to you with the message that you will be crowned King in the town of Reims.

ACTRESS 3/DAUPHIN

It is not I who is King.

JOAN

I know it is you.

DAUPHIN

Leave us!

All but Joan and Dauphin sit on the side.

DAUPHIN (CONT'D)

Why are you here?

JOAN

I come directed by God.

DAUPHIN

How do you know it is God who directs you?

JOAN

He told me.

DAUPHIN

When?

JOAN

When I was thirteen.

DAUPHIN

How old are you now?

JOAN

Seventeen.

DAUPHIN

And you still believe it?

JOAN

Yes.

DAUPHIN

Good for you.

JOAN

God will give you back your kingdom. You will be crowned at Reims.

DAUPHIN

Prove it.

JOAN

Give me an army and I shall.

DAUPHIN

How do I know you won't turn on me? How do I know you will not use the army against me.

JOAN

Charles, you must put your faith in God.

DAUPHIN

Who are you to tell me such a thing? I'll tell you who you are. You're nothing. A peasant girl! You don't know how to read or write. You have no money. You're a girl dressed up to look like a boy. You have no strength for battle. Quite frankly, you're weird.

JOAN

Please listen to me. I have come to make war on the English. I will lead the Battle of Orleans.

DAUPHIN

That is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard.

JOAN

I need soldiers.

DAUPHIN

Why don't you ask God for them?

JOAN

God would give them to me, if this were his kingdom. But it is your kingdom.

DAUPHIN

It is not mine, it is Henry's Kingdom!

JOAN

It is the Lord's and the Lord wishes you to be made King.

DAUPHIN

You just said that it is not God's.

JOAN

It is one and the same. God is for you, Charles.

DAUPHIN

Why can't he tell me that himself? Why does he need you to come here and tell me?

JOAN

I do not question. I only do as I'm told.

DAUPHIN

Then go away.

JOAN

I cannot. I must lead your army and drive the English out of France. I must bring you to be crowned at Reims.

DAUPHIN

You expect me to trust you just like that? Did you trust your voices from the very beginning?

JOAN

Yes.

DAUPHIN

Why?

JOAN

I did not trust them at first. I did not do what they told me right away. But I always knew that they were from God.

DAUPHIN

How?

JOAN

I don't know. You just know things like that.

DAUPHIN

I don't. I don't trust anything.

JOAN

You believe in God.

DAUPHIN

Of course I do.

JOAN

Then give me your army.

DAUPHIN

Let me think about it. Go away.

JOAN

I don't blame you for not trusting me. It's just that there is nobody in all the world who can recover the kingdom of France except me.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Believe me, I would rather have remained at my mother's side, for it is not my nature...yet, I must go and I must do this thing because my Lord wills that I do it.

DAUPHIN

He wills you through your voices?

JOAN

Yes.

DAUPHIN

Let me hear these voices. Tell them I wish to speak to them.

JOAN

I cannot do that.

DAUPHIN

Why not? I am the King. God certainly will speak to me.

SAINT MARGARET

I'll speak to you.

SAINT MICHAEL

No.

SAINT CATHERINE

Why not? It would be cool to speak to the Dauphin.

SAINT MICHAEL

Because I said no.

SAINT CATHERINE

Oh, get over yourself already. Hey, Dauphin!

SAINT MICHAEL

Stop that.

SAINT MARGARET

Yoo! hoo! Dauphin. Can you hear us?

SAINT CATHERINE

Listen and you will hear.

SAINT MICHAEL

That's enough.

SAINT CATHERINE

Since when are you in charge?

SAINT MARGARET

Yeah, just because you're an archangel doesn't mean you can tell us what to do.

SAINT MICHAEL

Come on. Let's not get into this again.

Saints argue loudly.

JOAN

Please be quiet!

DAUPHIN

Who are you talking to? It's them, isn't it. Where are they? How come I can't hear them?

SAINT CATHERINE

Because you don't know how to listen.

JOAN

Let me handle this.

DAUPHIN

Where are you? Speak to me!

SAINT MARGARET

We are standing right beside you.

SAINT CATHERINE

Listen and you will hear!

SAINT MICHAEL

He can't hear you. It's no use.

DAUPHIN

I can't hear you.

SAINT MICHAEL

When I am right I am so right. Told you.

SAINT MARGARET

I can make him listen.

SAINT CATHERINE

Me too.

SAINT MICHAEL

It won't work. You cannot make anyone listen.

SAINT CATHERINE

Oh yeah? Watch this. Hey, Dauphin. Listen up.

SAINT MARGARET

Yoo Hoo! Focus, focus, focus. This way. Over here! Listen up!

SAINT MARGARET (CONT'D)
 (Margaret and Catherine try
 to make the Dauphin hear
 them.)

OK so I admit you were right about that.

SAINT CATHERINE

Now what do we do?

SAINT MICHAEL

We are saints, right? We show him a sign.

SAINT CATHERINE

A sign?

SAINT MARGARET

I get it. Who's got a pen. We'll make it really big. And
 it can say Saint Margaret...

SAINT CATHERINE

And Saint Catherine in red glitter...

SAINT MARGARET

And hearts and stars...

SAINT CATHERINE

It'll have a big arrow pointing to my name...

SAINT MARGARET

And exploding lights and confetti...

SAINT CATHERINE

We'll put it up on the side of a church...

SAINT MICHAEL

Not a sign, sign. A SIGN!

SAINT CATHERINE

We know.

SAINT MARGARET

We're on it. A sign.

SAINT MICHAEL

Just get behind me. God, I'm a saint and people don't get
 what I'm doing. Joan, tell him you will be King.

JOAN

What?

SAINT MICHAEL

Just do it, alright? Tell him.

JOAN

I shall be King.

SAINT MICHAEL

Good. Now tell him that he doesn't want to be the King.

JOAN

He doesn't want to be the King. I mean, you don't want to be King.

SAINT MICHAEL

You will be King instead.

JOAN

I will be King instead.

DAUPHIN

What are you talking about?

SAINT MARGARET

Oh, I get it.

SAINT CATHERINE

Me too. You are awesome...

SAINT MARGARET

So smart...

SAINT CATHERINE

I so totally understand why you are an archangel.

SAINT MICHAEL

Shhhh... Joan, tell him to listen.

(Saints chant "Listen." MUSIC.)

JOAN

Listen, if you will not agree to allow me to lead your army to battle, then I will be King.

DAUPHIN

You cannot be King.

JOAN

Give me the crown.

DAUPHIN

I will do no such thing.

JOAN

Give me the crown. I will be King.

DAUPHIN

You are not king.

Saints pass the crown from
Catherine to Margaret to Michael.

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The Dauphin turns just in time to see it float onto Joan's head.

I am.

JOAN

How did you do that?

DAUPHIN

As King, I shall give the kingdom back to He who rightfully owns it.

JOAN

Listen.

SAINT MICHAEL

Listen.

SAINT CATHERINE

Listen.

SAINT MARGARET

Do you hear that?

DAUPHIN

The Kingdom of France is not mine, it is my Lord's.

JOAN

We shall be with you to help you.

SAINT MICHAEL

We shall be with you to help you.

SAINT CATHERINE

We shall be with you to help you.

SAINT MARGARET

We shall be with you to help you.

DAUPHIN

Who is that?

JOAN

Whenever I am unhappy, because men will not believe me, I pray to God. And when I have made my prayer to God, I hear voices that say...

SAINTS MICHAEL/CATHERINE/MARGET

We shall be with you to help you. Go, go, go...

JOAN

Listen, Charles. Listen and you shall hear. It is not I who is King. It is the Lord who is King. And the Lord says that you shall be King.

Saints chant. Joan puts crown on Dauphin's head and leads him to the throne.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Act, Charles, and God will act. God give you life, gentle King.

Lights change. Ensemble lines up in military formation.

ACTOR 1

Now! A brief history of medieval weapons. There are two types of long distance weapons: arrows and great balls of stone launched by catapult. Hard stones are used to break down walls and softer stones to crack open skulls. Hand to hand combat is inevitable. Personal protection is very important. Defending your position means building high walls, digging moats and raising towers. From atop these towers men launch arrows and stones at those below. Attacking soldiers try to get over these walls using ladders. Once inside they fight with swords, lances, maces, and the deadly battle ace which could smash through armor. The French shield is carried not in front of the body but on the back. It looks like a large barrel cut in half and has two leather straps on the inside that the arms can slip through. The wearer can run forward in a stooping position and his entire body will be shielded from attack. At this time half of all the battles are fought hand to hand in small areas. As you have probably figured out, the means of defense are far superior to the means of attack. That is why sieges last so long. Now, does anyone in the audience have a question about medieval weaponry?

(At this point Actor 1 can take questions from the audience and ad lib the answers.)

Well I see we have a bunch of medieval experts in the house. But let's get back to medieval times where the spirit of the leader...I said the spirit of the leader...is very important. Joan is not a soldier. I said Joan is not a soldier and is ignorant of war. But she believes. She believes. I said SHE BELIEVES and those around her believe because of her.

ALL

Amen!

Lights change. MOVEMENT: The battering ram. MUSIC: Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby" instrumental. Lights restore.

ACTRESS 2

The Dauphin decides that in view of the imminent danger to Orleans, Joan will be sent there.

ACTOR 1

Before she is allowed to go, she is examined by bishops, doctors and a woman appointed to find out if she really is a virgin.

ACTOR 2

She accepts all these examinations without complaint.

ACTRESS 2

Preparations are made for her to join the army.

ACTRESS 1

She is given a page, two heralds, two servants and her own personal confessor.

ACTRESS 3

As well as a complete suit of armor, a lance, a knife, a battle-axe, a sword, a flag and a standard bearing the image of Christ.

ACTOR 1

The standard is made by Hamish Power, a Scotsman living in France at the time.

ACTOR 2

(in a bad Scottish accent)

"I'll make a standard for you, Lassie!"

ACTRESS 1

The standard is white satin painted with golden lilies and a representation of Christ seated on a globe.

ACTOR 2

Joan is not actually in command of the army. But she makes each soldier go to confession and decrees that all their loose women should be left behind.

ACTRESS 2

By April, 1429, Orleans has been under attack for 6 months.

ACTRESS 1

The French are shut up inside the town, which is entirely surrounded by walls.

ACTOR 1

The English guard the north, west and south, but leave the east unguarded.

All create the banks of the Loire River and make sound effects of wind.

ACTRESS 3

Orleans is to the north of the Loire river. The French army has two choices - they can approach the city on the north side, which will allow them to do so without having to cross the river; or they can approach from the south side, crossing over the river. The commander of the army chooses to approach from the south. The wind is against them.

JOAN

Whose idea was this? Who was it that decided that we should come on this side of the river and not go straight to where the English are?

ACTOR 2/FRENCH SOLDIER

We shall attack from the east where the English are weak.

JOAN

But the wind! It is blowing in the wrong direction. We shall never get across! I have brought you help from the King of Heaven. You told me you were taking me to the English.

ACTOR 2

This is the best way.

JOAN

How are we to get across in this weather?

ACTOR

I don't know. Let me think.

JOAN

Now you want to think?! There is no time!

ACTRESS 2

Everybody at that time, or I should say almost everybody, believed in God. In a God who would intervene and make the unexpected happen.

ACTOR 2

Please God, make the unexpected happen.

ACTRESS 2

In other words, everyone believed in miracles.

ACTOR 1

Listen, the wind is dying down.

ACTOR 2

It's a miracle, praise God! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

ACTRESS 3

When the wind shifts, Joan and the army are able to cross the river and enter Orleans. The City rejoices.

ALL

Hurrah!

ACTOR 2

From that moment on the army has hope in her. We are convinced that she was not of men, but from God, and it doesn't much matter that the English are in greater strength than us. The first thing Joan does in Orleans is send a letter to the English.

ACTOR 1

She takes an arrow, ties the letter to the end of the arrow and orders an archer to shoot the arrow over to the English.

Actor 2 shoots arrow.

JOAN

Read! It is news! I am the Maid sent by God and I call on you to surrender.

ACTRESS 1

No answer. Joan sends a second letter.

Actor 2 shoots arrow.

JOAN

In case you didn't get my first letter I want to tell you that if you do not surrender we shall strike and it shall be seen who is right before God in Heaven!

ACTOR 1

Still no answer. Joan sends another letter.

Actor 2 shoots arrow.

JOAN

You Englishmen you have no right in France! Abandon your forts and go back to your country. I write to you for the third and last time.

(Pause)

OK, you asked for it!

ACTOR 1

The Battle of Orleans! The French fight the English. Round One. DING!

All divide up and fight. MUSIC: William Tell Overture. The following is a dance/battle in a comic style.

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ACTRESS 3

The French win round one.

FRENCH

Perrier!

ACTOR 1

The English fight the French. Round two. DING!

ACTOR 2

The English win round two.

ENGLISH

Scones!

ACTOR 1

The French fight the English again! Round three! DING!

At the end only one Englishman is standing. Joan, confused, holds her sword. The Englishman celebrates winning the battle and accidentally steps into Joan's sword, killing himself.

JOAN

Many have been killed. The English die without the benefit of confession. My soldiers must give thanks to God for the victory won. Confess your sins immediately. If you do not do so, I shall not stay with you any longer. No man is to carry out another assault if he does not first go to confession. Take care that women of ill-fame follow not the army. It is for these sins that God allowed these English to fall. Take care, do as I say. Be always at my side for tomorrow I shall have much to do, more than I ever had and the blood will flow out of my body above my breast.

MUSIC: Praetorius. MOVEMENT:
Joan is wounded.

ACTRESS 3

The battle lasts from morning to sunset. Joan, as she predicted, is struck by an arrow above the breast and when she feels herself wounded, she is afraid.

ACTOR 2

A soldier tries to apply a charm to her wound but she will not have it.

JOAN

I would rather die than do a thing which I know to be a sin. I know that I must die one day, but I know not when or how or at what time of day.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Until then, I will not knowingly do something which I know in my heart is against what God has shown me.

ACTRESS 2

The French win the battle. The bells of Orleans ring out!

JOAN

Charles must now march to Reims to be crowned.

ACTOR 1

July 17, 1429. The coronation of Charles VII. Compared with coronations in the past, the ceremony is threadbare.

(MUSIC: PDQ Bach. MOVEMENT:
The coronation.)

I now crown you Charles the VII, King of France.

ALL

Noel! Noel!

JOAN

The will of God has been done. I have brought Charles to his coronation, and he has been crowned King of France. Can I go home now?

MUSIC: Britten. MOVEMENT: Joan lost in the woods. The other actors form a forest, and Joan searches until she is exhausted and falls asleep beneath a tree.

ACTOR 1

After being crowned Charles disbands his army.

Saints choose which of them will bring the bad news. Then they wake Joan up.

SAINT MARGARET

We've got some bad news, Joan.

SAINT CATHERINE

You are going to be captured.

JOAN

When?

SAINT MICHAEL

We cannot tell you.

JOAN

But I did everything you asked!

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