

Pericles

Cast

Gower *Sir John Gielgud*
Pericles *Nigel Terry*
Thaisa *Stella Gonet*
Marina *Julie Cox*
Dionyzia *Siobhan Redmond*
Cleon *Christopher Timothy*
Antiochus *Peter Marinker*
Simonides *Christopher Benjamin*
Lysimachus *Alan Cox*
Helicanus *David Killick*
Pander *Ian Gelder*
Bawd *Alwyne Taylor*
Boult *Lloyd Hutchinson*
Lychorida *Sian Radinger*
Cerimon *Alec Linstead*
Leonine *Jason O'Mara*
Other parts played by: Neil Daglish, Abigail Docherty, Maynard Eziashi, Christopher McElroy, Cameron Stewart, Tom Farrelly and Richard Trahair

Play description

ACT I

Chorus. The poet Gower tells of King Antiochus's incestuous relationship with his daughter. He has prevented his daughter from marrying by presenting all her suitors with a riddle which they must either solve or die.

Scene 1. Pericles, Prince of Tyre, comes to try his luck with the daughter of Antiochus. Having read the riddle, however, he guesses the King's guilty secret. Once Antiochus realizes that he has been found out, he is determined to be rid of Pericles and instructs Thaliard to kill him. Pericles flees and Thaliard pledges to pursue him.

Scene 2. Fearful of Antiochus's revenge, Pericles leaves secretly for Tharsus, leaving Helicanus as his deputy.

Scene 3. Thaliard arrives in Tyre only to find Pericles gone.

Scene 4. Cleon, the Governor of Tharsus, and his wife, Dionyza, bemoan the terrible famine that afflicts their city. When word arrives that ships have been sighted offshore, Cleon assumes that some foreign power has come intending to take advantage of their weakness. His fears prove groundless – the ships belong to Pericles and are full of corn for his people.

ACT II

Chorus. Having heard of Thaliard's arrival in Tyre, Pericles leaves Tharsus, but his ship is wrecked in a violent storm. He is the sole survivor.

Scene 1. Pericles is washed up on the shore of Pentapolis, where he learns from some fishermen that good King Simonides rules the land and that he has a fair daughter. The next day is her birthday and suitors are flocking to joust for her hand. When Pericles' rusty suit of armor is retrieved from the sea, he decides to take part in the tournament.

Scene 2. Simonides and his daughter Thaisa watch the pageant as Pericles and the other knights display the emblems on their shields.

Scene 3. Pericles has been victorious in the tournament and is treated with honor by the king. Thaisa confesses privately that "he could not please me better."

Scene 4. Helicanus tells Escanes how Antiochus and his daughter have been struck dead by lightening, the gods' punishment for incest. When Helicanus is urged to take the throne of Tyre, he begs the lords first to spend a year seeking out Pericles; only if they cannot find him will Helicanus agree to take power.

Scene 5. Simonides announces that Thaisa has vowed to remain a virgin for one more year. Once the knights are gone, the king reveals that his daughter wishes to marry Pericles. Although he approves of

her choice, he pretends displeasure, accusing Pericles of bewitching the girl. When the Prince defends himself with honor, Simonides gives his blessing to the match.

ACT III

Chorus. Pericles and Thaisa, who is now with child, return to Tyre. During the journey a raging storm sends Thaisa into labor.

Scene 1. Lychorida the nurse comes on deck with Pericles' newborn daughter and tells the Prince that Thaisa is dead. The sailors insist that her body be thrown overboard in a chest, believing that the storm will not abate until the corpse has gone.

Scene 2. Washed ashore at Ephesus, the chest is taken to the house of Lord Cerimon, a renowned physician, who revives Thaisa.

Scene 3. Pericles prepares to return to Tyre and asks Cleon and Dionyza to rear his daughter, Marina.

Scene 4. Cerimon gives Thaisa a scroll he found in the chest; it proclaims her Pericles' wife. Believing her husband drowned, Thaisa becomes a priestess in the temple of Diana.

ACT IV

Chorus. Once Pericles has returned to Tyre, Dionyza becomes bitterly jealous of Marina, whose glowing talents over-shadow those of her own daughter.

Scene 1. Dionyza persuades Leonine to murder Marina. He is on the point of killing her when she is seized by pirates.

Scene 2. The pirates sell Marina to a brothel-keeper in Mytilene.

Scene 3. Cleon berates Dionyza for the murder of Marina. She assures him that since Leonine is dead (poisoned by her), no one need know of the girl's violent death.

Scene 4. Gower recounts how Pericles goes to Tharsus to see his daughter, only to be told of her death.

Scene 5. Two gentlemen leave the brothel at Mytilene having encountered the pure and virtuous Marina within; they resolve to be "out of the road of rutting for ever."

Scene 6. When Lysimachus, the governor of Mytilene, comes to the brothel he is charmed by Marina's virtue, and leaves her untouched with a gift of gold. Finally, in desperation, the brothel-keeper orders his assistant to take Marina's virginity, but she persuades him to spare her.

ACT V

Chorus. Having been released from the brothel, Marina enters honest employment as a seamstress. Meanwhile, Pericles' ship has anchored on the coast near Mytilene, and Lysimachus has gone to meet the foreign vessel.

Scene 1. Helicanus welcomes Lysimachus on board, but tells him that Pericles is dumb with grief at the loss of his daughter. At the suggestion that there is a "maid" in Mytilene who might be able to comfort Pericles, Marina is brought to the ship. She tells him the story of her life and he realizes joyfully who she is. The goddess Diana appears to Pericles in a vision, instructing him to go to her temple at Ephesus.

Scene 2. Chorus. "At Ephesus the temple see, Our King, and all his company."

Scene 3. Pericles and Marina are rapturously reunited with Thaisa in the temple of Diana and all leave for Pentapolis, for the marriage of Lysimachus and Marina.

Epilogue.

Track list

Disc 1

Track 1	Chorus	
Track 2	Act I	Scene i
Track 3	Act I	Scene ii
Track 4	Act I	Scene iii
Track 5	Act I	Scene iv
Track 6	Act II	Chorus
Track 7	Act II	Scene i
Track 8	Act II	Scene ii
Track 9	Act II	Scene iii
Track 10	Act II	Scene iv
Track 11	Act II	Scene v
Track 12	Act III	Chorus
Track 13	Act III	Scene I

Disk 2

Track 1	Act III	Scene ii
Track 2	Act III	Scene iii
Track 3	Act III	Scene iv
Track 4	Act IV	Chorus
Track 5	Act IV	Scene i
Track 6	Act IV	Scene ii
Track 7	Act IV	Scene iii
Track 8	Act IV	Scene iv
Track 9	Act IV	Scene v-vi
Track 10	Act V	Chorus
Track 11	Act V	Scene i
Track 12	Act V	Scene ii
Track 13	Act V	Scene iii
Track 14	Epilogue	