

**COLUMBUS:
HISTORICAL PLAY
IN FOUR ACTS**

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Columbus: Historical Play in Four Acts by Herman Braeunlich

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HERMAN BRAEUNLICH

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Columbus



HISTORICAL PLAY
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FOUR ACTS
BY
HERMAN BRAEUNLICH.

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PERSONS REPRESENTED

- King Ferdinand of Spain appears Act I—Scene II.
Columbus appears Act I—Scene II-VIII-IX; Act II—
Scene I-V-VII; Act III—Scene VII; Act IV—
Scene IV-V-VI-VII.
Fernando, Diego, boys, sons of Columbus, appear Scene
IX.
Bartholomew Columbus (Adelantado) appears Act II—
Scene V-VII; Act III—Scene II-III-V-VII.
Brothers of Columbus.
Diego Columbus appears Act II—Scene I; Act IV—
Scene I.
Ojedo appears Act I—Scene I-III-IV-V; Act II—Scene
VI-VII.
Penelo appears Act I—Scene I.
Juan de Soria appears Act I—Scene I-VI-IX.
Bishop Fonseca appears Act I—Scene VI-VII-VIII.
Petro Margarite appears Act II—Scene I-II-IV.
Friar Boyle appears Act II—Scene I-II-IV.
Petro Coronel, Sanchez Carvajel, Juan de Luxon appear
Act II—Scene I.
Miguel Diaz appears Act II—Scene III-VI-VII; Act III
Scene IV; Act IV—Scene II-III.
Dieste, Rodriques appears Act II—Scene III Cavaliers.
Firmin Cedo (Gov. Assayer) appears Act II—Scene III
Apothecary and a Surgeon.
Caonabo Cazique appears Act II—Scene VII.

Behechio Cazique, brother to Anacaona, appears Act III
Scene I-II-III.

Miguel Ballester, commander of fort, appears Act III—
Scene VI.

Roldan (Alcalde Major) appears Act III—Scene VI.

Bobadilla ((Governor) appears Act IV—Scene I-IV.

Alonzo de Villejo appears Act IV—Scene VI-VII.

Ovando (Governor) appears Act IV—Scene VIII.

Soldiers, Sailors, Priests, Indians, Cavaliers, Indian
Maidens and Populace.

Queen Isabella appears Act I—Scene II-III-IV.

Inez de Herera, lady in waiting appears Act I—Scene III-
IV-V.

Anacaona Cazique, wife of Caonabo, appears Act III—
Scene I-III-V; Act IV—Scene III-VIII-IX.

Caona, daughter of Anacaona, appears Act III—Scene IV;
Act IV—Scene II-III.

COLUMBUS

HISTORICAL PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

ACT I. SCENE I.—TIME APRIL, 1493.
STREET IN BARCELONA.

Enter *DON OJEDA, DON PINELO.*

OJEDA—Whither in such haste, friend Pinelo?

PINELO—I'm bound for the city gates, to help receive befittingly the great Admiral, who's returned from beyond the ocean seas with wondrous discoveries.

OJEDA—Thither also leads my way, so let us go in company to shorten time. Ah! there comes the bishop's worthy scribe; he looks not joyous on this festive day.

Enter *JUAN DE SORIA.*

What makes you look so glum, when all the town is full of joy and expectation to see the great discoverer and the wonderful things he brings from beyond the ocean sea?

SORIA—It is just this that piques me, that such great preparations are making to honor a foreigner; a mere Captain of a Caravel, a dago from Genoa, think of it, is

to be received in state by their Majesties of Castile, as if he were of royal blood and lineage; were he a born hidalgo of Spain, 'twere different.

OJEDA—Yes! but no hidalgo of Spain has rendered such signal service to the Crown of Castile as to present it with a new realm, a whole new world 'tis said; so let us rejoice, and reap the benefit of his find. I for one incline to try my hand at it. Already do I hear the people shout his coming; lets off to the parade. Exeunt.

ACT I. SCENE II.

Barcelona, before the Royal Palace, where the thrones are placed in public view; under a rich canopy of brocade of gold, the King and Queen are seated, with prince Juan beside them, surrounded by courtiers. Enter Columbus attended by hidalgos. Six Indians, painted in their savage fashion and decorated with their national ornaments of gold, bearing products of their country follow, the hidalgos open to either side. Columbus, stately and of commanding person, venerable by his gray hair, steps to the throne (as he approaches the sovereigns rise) bending his knees to kiss their hands; the King raises him most graciously.

KING—It pleases us beyond expression, Don Columbus, our valiant Admiral of the Ocean sea and Viceroy of the Islands in the Indies, to welcome you home in our realm. We beg that you be seated in our presence to recount the incidents of your voyage and describe the lands discovered for our crown. Our Queen, I ween, will lend as eager ear to your recital as ourselves.

QUEEN—Oft in my orisons have I prayed for the safe return of yourself and fleet; oft has doubt possessed my faint heart, that God in his wisdom would hear my supplication. Now that 'tis granted beyond all expectations, I fain would listen to the wonders of the new world, by your lips imparted.

COLUMBUS—With your Majesties' leave I'll give account, as brief as truthful, of the wonders I have seen and lived through.

On September 6, in the morning, your fleet set sail from the Island of Gomera. Shaping my course due west, into the trackless ocean, leaving thus behind us the last promontory of the known world, to seek and find the new, under God's Omnipotent guidance. Through storm and calm, through weather fair and foul, we still pressed forward, westward, until October 12, first land was descried—an island, by the natives Guanahane height—San Salvador, I gave it name, and took possession, planting the Royal standard of Castile, to your crown's immortal fame. If here the air was enchanting, fragrant and balmy, the ocean clear of transparent blue, on Cuba's shore, which after three days' sail was reached, all bore a still more magnificent hue, like flower beds in a garden. We passed by many a stately isle, abundant with flowers, fruit and trees of goodly size; but Cuba above all, like a pearl of priceless worth from the Ocean arises, clad in verdure fresh, decked with tropical flowers, delicious fruit and trees of ancient growth, that like gigantic pillars rise, majestic supports of the azure skies; the sweet