

**THE LOUIS JAMES
ACTING VERSION
OF PEER GYNT**

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The Louis James Acting Version of Peer Gynt by Henrik Ibsen

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HENRIK IBSEN

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Louis James

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OF

PEER GYNT

By HENRIK IBSEN



Chicago
The Reilly & Britton Co.
1908

FOREWORD

When that talented actor and profound scholar, Richard Mansfield, passed from life's stage at a time when he had achieved the crowning triumph of his artistic career by his wonderful characterization of "Peer Gynt," much conjecture arose as to who could successfully continue in this great play. After mature deliberation Louis James was approached as the only actor preëminently fitted, temperamentally, histrionically and physically to become his successor in "Peer Gynt," with the result that this excellent actor and classic scholar secured the original MSS., scenery, costumes, accessories, music, etc., and is presenting the play to the American public in its massive entirety, thus perpetuating the memory of a great player and keeping ever green the masterpiece of a divinely inspired author.

WALLACE MUNRO.

CHARACTERS

PEER GYNT	FIRST ELDERLY PEASANT
ASE, <i>his mother</i>	SECOND ELDERLY PEASANT
ASLAK, <i>the blacksmith</i>	AN ELDERLY WOMAN
MADS MOEN, <i>the bridegroom</i>	ANOTHER ELDERLY WOMAN
HIS FATHER	THE GREEN CLAD WOMAN
HIS MOTHER	THE DOVRE KING
SOLVEIG	FIRST TROLL IMP
HELGA, <i>her sister</i>	SECOND TROLL IMP
THEIR FATHER	THIRD TROLL IMP
THEIR MOTHER	THE UGLY BRAT
THE HEGSTAD FARMER	KARI, <i>the cotter's wife</i>
INGRID, <i>the bride,</i> <i>his daughter</i>	MR. COTTON
FIRST PEASANT LAD	MONSIEUR BALLON
SECOND PEASANT LAD	HERR VON EBERKOPF
THIRD PEASANT LAD	HERR TRUMPETERSTRALE
FOURTH PEASANT LAD	ANITRA, <i>a dancing girl</i>
FIFTH PEASANT LAD	CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP
THE MASTER COOK	THE LOOKOUT
FIRST PEASANT GIRL	THE MATE
SECOND PEASANT GIRL	THE BOATSWAIN
THIRD PEASANT GIRL	THE SHIP'S COOK
FOURTH PEASANT GIRL	THE CABIN BOY
	THE STRANGE PASSENGER
	THE BUTTON MOULDER

*Wedding Guests, Peasants, Lads, Girls, Troll
Courtiers and Troll Maidens, Danc-
ing Girls, the Ship's Crew
and others.*

THE SCENES.

PART I.

- ACT I. *Scene 1.* Norway. Gynt's Home. The Mill House.
Scene 2. Hegstad Farm.
- ACT II. *Scene 1.* In the Mountains.
Scene 2. The Hall of the Dovre King.
Scene 3. In the Mountains.
- ACT III. *Scene 1.* Peer's Hut in the Forest.
Scene 2. The Interior of Gynt's Home.

PART II.

- ACT IV. *Scene 1.* Morocco. A Palm Grove on the Coast.
Scene 2. An Oasis in the Desert.
- ACT V. *Scene 1.* Norway. A Vision of Solveig Waiting.
Scene 2. On Board a Ship in the North Sea.
Scene 3. Norway. Solveig's Hut.

Thirty years are supposed to have elapsed
between Parts I and II.

PEER GYNT.

ACT FIRST.

SCENE FIRST.

(A wooded hillside in the mountains of Norway. An old mill shed and Gynt's home.)

(PEER GYNT, a strongly-built youth, comes down the pathway. His mother, ASE, a small, slightly-built woman, follows him, scolding angrily.)

ASE.

Peer, you're lying.

PEER

(without stopping).

No, I am not!

ASE.

Well then, swear that it is true!

PEER.

Swear? Why should I?

ASE.

See, you dare not!
It's a lie from first to last.

PEER

(*stopping*).

It is true—each blessed word!

ASE

(*confronting him*).

Don't you blush before your mother?
First you skulk among the mountains
monthlong in the busiest season,
stalking reindeer in the snows;
home you come then, torn and tattered,
gun amissing, likewise game;—
and at last, with open eyes,
think to get me to believe
all the wildest hunters'-lies!—
Well, where did you find the buck, then?

PEER.

West near Gendin.¹

ASE

(*laughing scornfully*).

Ah! Indeed!

PEER.

Keen the blast towards me swept;
hidden by an alder-clump,
he was scraping in the snow-crust
after lichen——

¹ Pronounce *Yendeen*.