Plays and Tales Written by R. Rex Stephenson
Compiled by Tina L. Hanlon, Jody Brown, Avery Ardis, 2012-18

Appalachian Folktales


“Foolish Jack.” Published in Jack Tales Too / Jack in the Blue Ridge Mountains.


“Greasy-Beard.” In “The Jack Tales” in Eight Plays for Youth. See also “Jack and Ol’ Greasy Beard.”

“Hardy Hard Head.” Published in Jack’s Adventures with the King’s Girl.

http://www2.ferrum.edu/applit/texts/jackgiantsrs.htm.


“Jack and the Mean Old Man.” Published in Jack Tales Too / Jack in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

“Jack and O’ Greasy Beard.” Published in The Jack Tales. See also “Greasy-Beard.”

“Jack and the Robbers.” In published script The Jack Tales, video The Jack Tales, and “The Jack Tales” in Eight Plays for Youth.

“Jack and the Three Giants.” In “The Jack Tales” in Eight Plays for Youth.

“Jack and the Witch’s Tale.” In published script The Jack Tales.

“Jack Fear-No-Man.” In published script The Jack Tales and video The Jack Tales. Retold in story form as “Jack and the Giants.” See also “Jack and the Three Giants.”


“Jack’s Mother’s Second Marriage.” Published in Jack Tales Too / Jack in the Blue Ridge Mountains.


Ferrum College, 2002.
http://www2.ferrum.edu/applit/texts/mutsmag_story/mutsback.htm.


“Soldier Jack.” Published in Jack Tales Too / Jack in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Stories My Kinfolk Told to Me. (Play combining “Two Lost Babes” and “Catskins”).


“Wicked John and the Devil.” In published script The Jack Tales and video The Jack Tales.

History: First Jack Tale show at Callaway Elementary School, Dec. 11, 1975
8 stateside USO tours of Jack Tale Players 1978-82
20th anniversary show at Blue Ridge Folklife Festival 1995
25th anniversary show at Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre, June 3, 1995
30th anniversary show at Callaway Elementary School, Dec. 2005
Commendation from Ferrum College faculty on 35th anniversary, Dec. 2010
All-American, All-Star USO Show (30th anniversary reunion, BRDT 2012)
Stories My Kinfolk Told to Me wins Floyd Community Theatre Guild Playwriting Competition, 2017

Study Guides on Rex Stephenson’s Folktales

Study guides in addition to those within other published scripts listed above:


Parts of this guide are reprinted in AppLit at “Activities to Accompany Study of Dramatizations by the Jack Tale Players,” “The Script as Story Theatre,” and “Jack and the King’s Girl.”

http://www2.ferrum.edu/applit/studyg/SOLFolktale.htm

http://www2.ferrum.edu/applit/studyg/STUDYGJT.htm.


Other Family Plays


Alas, Alas Where For Art Thou Bisney? Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Jon Cohn. Ferrum College, mid-1990s.

And the Rains Came…and Came. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Gary Evans (BRDT 1999).


A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court (BRDT 1998)

Daniel (BRDT 2003)


Heidi, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2011).

Jonah and the Big Fish. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson. Lyrics and music by Emily Rose Tucker. (BRDT 2006).

Kipling’s Just So Stories (BRDT 2005, 2012)


Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland: The Musical (BRDT 1995, 2009)


Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain (BRDT 2001).


Mark Twain’s Tom Sawyer—A Musical. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2007).


The Prince and the Pauper (BRDT 2002)

Rudyard Kipling’s The Jungle Book (BRDT 1997)

Treasure Island (BRDT 1994)

Other Plays

Note: Many of Stephenson’s historical plays and adaptations of classic stories, especially the musical revues, use traditional music and popular songs from the era depicted, arranged by BRDT musicians. They also contain at least one original song written by the musicians indicated in these lists.

Bar Room Smasher, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2003).


Blue Suede Shoes: A Musical Revue of the 50s, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2009, 2010).

Blue Suede Shoes: Part Two, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2010).

   Won award in National Archives Playwriting Competition.

The Conspiracy, with music by Todd Necessary (BRDT 1990, 1995).

The Cricket on the Hearth, 2002. Funded by Appalachian College Association,
   performed at Ferrum College, Alice Lloyd College, Kentucky Christian University.

Early’s Light (BRDT 1982).
An Evening with Mark Twain and Emily Dickinson (BRDT1986)
   An Evening With Mark Twain  (BRDT 1988)
   Mark Twain Joins Jack Tales (BRDT 2005)
   Mark Twain show on 100th anniversary of his death, Apr. 21, 2010
   Mark Twain’s Last Lecture Tour (BRDT 2010).
Gabriel’s Honky Tonk Angels, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2011).
Glenn Myth and the Legend of Boone’s Hill, with co-author John Beach. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson; music by Jon Cohn and David Mitchell (BRDT 1995).
The Littlest Shepherd. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT Dec. 2009)
   Forthcoming from Leicester Bay Theatricals.
A Movement to Lead. (Ferrum College 1993). Videocassette, 60 min.
Murder By Exam, with co-authors Vaughan Webb and Linda Leonard (BRDT 1987).
The Night Loretta, Mother Maybelle, and Jeannie C. Spent in Jail, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2012).
O’Callahan and The Ship That Wouldn’t Die (BRDT 1993).
The President is in Shackles (BRDT1992, retitled Jeff! 2006).
   Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson; music by Todd Necessary and John Van Patten.
The Roar of the Silence (BRDT, 1981, 1992)
Published in NYU dissertation White Column Mansions, 1983.

A Southern Soldier Boy. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Todd

American Alliance for Theatre and Education award in 1995.

Trial By Jury, with co-author Phillip Stephenson (BRDT 1988).


The Vision: A Play about John Wesley and the Founding of Kingswood School, with co-
author Mike Trochim (BRDT 1998)
Nashville, TN: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of

We Band of Brothers: The Cowboy Musical, with co-author Mike Trochim. Lyrics by R.
Rex Stephenson and music by Jon Cohn (BRDT 1998). Leicester Bay
Theatricals, 2018.

When the Lights Go On Again, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT 2008, 2012).

Wicca (BRDT 1982).

http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/nreview/issue1-1/1-
1_content/fiction/spehenson.htm.

The World is My Parish, with co-author Mike Trochim (BRDT1997, 2007). Leicester Bay
Theatricals, 2016.

The World is My Parish, with co-author Mike Trochim (VA and NC tours of one-act
version, 1997).
Plays Written by R. Rex Stephenson

Below are chronological listings of the same plays listed alphabetically above (except for specific folktale titles listed at the beginning of this document).

(BRDT) identifies those productions that originated at the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre.

Family Plays (chronological)


Treasure Island (BRDT) 15th season, 1994

Alice in Wonderland (BRDT) 16th season, 1995
Alice in Wonderland: The Musical (BRDT) 30th season, 2009
Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland, with music by Jon Cohn. Encore Performance Publishing, 1996. Revised reprint Tallahassee, FL: Eldridge, with music by Jon Cohn and Emily Rose Tucker (with no new copyright date, published after BRDT 2009 production).
Condensed version of Alice in Wonderland published by Eldridge.

The Adventures of Huck Finn. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson. Lyrics and music by Jon Cohn and C. Michael Perry (BRDT) 17th season, 1996


Rudyard Kipling’s The Jungle Book (BRDT) 18th season, 1997

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court (BRDT) 19th season, 1998

And the Rains Came…and Came (BRDT) 20th season, 1999
Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Gary Evans.

The New Snow White (BRDT) 21st season, 2000. Published as The World of Snow


Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain (BRDT) 22nd season, 2001

My Travels with Cecil (BRDT) 23rd season, 2002

The Prince and the Pauper (BRDT) 23rd season, 2002
Encore Performance Publishing, 2002. Revised reprint Mark Twain’s The Prince
and the Pauper. Tallahassee, FL: Eldridge [2012].

Daniel (BRDT) 24th season, 2003
Daniel! A Musical Based on the Bible Story. Book and Lyrics by R. Rex
Stephenson. Music and Lyrics by C. Michael Perry. Encore Performance

Just So Stories (BRDT) 26th season, 2005
Kipling’s Just So Stories (BRDT) 33rd season, 2012
Just So Stories—the Musical. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson. Lyrics and music by

Jonah and the Big Fish. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson. Lyrics and music by Emily Rose
Tucker (BRDT) 27th season, 2006.

Mark Twain’s Tom Sawyer—A Musical. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by
Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT) 28th season, 2007.

Other Plays (chronological)

Note: Many of Stephenson’s historical plays and adaptations of classic stories, especially the musical revues, use traditional music and popular songs from the era depicted, arranged by BRDT musicians. They also contain at least one original song composed by the musicians indicated in these lists.

Published in NYU dissertation White Column Mansions, 1983.
American Alliance for Theatre and Education award in 1995.

Charity for All (BRDT). 2nd season, 1980; 3rd season, 1981
Won award in National Archives Playwriting Competition.

The Roar of the Silence (BRDT) 3rd season, 1981; 13th season, 1992
Published in NYU dissertation White Column Mansions, 1983.

Wicca (BRDT) 4th season, 1982
http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/nreview/issue1-1/1-
1_content/fiction/spehenson.htm.

Early’s Light (BRDT) 4th season, 1982.

Victoria, I Account Thy Love (BRDT) 4th season, 1982; 5th season, 1983

Mark Twain (and William Dean Howells’ The Mousetrap) (BRDT) 4th season, 1982
Numerous variations on Mark Twain shows from a production of *The Mousetrap* in 1977 also include:

An Evening with Mark Twain and Emily Dickinson (BRDT) 7th season, 1986
An Evening With Mark Twain (BRDT) 9th season, 1988
Mark Twain Joins Jack Tales (BRDT) 26th season, 2005
Mark Twain show on 100th anniversary of his death, April 21, 2010
Mark Twain’s Last Lecture Tour (BRDT) 31st season, 2010.


*Trial By Jury,* with co-author Phillip Stephenson (BRDT) 9th season, 1988.


*The President is in Shackles* (BRDT) 13th season, 1992

Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson; music by Todd Necessary and John Van Patten
 Retitled *Jeff!* (BRDT) 27th season, 2006.

*O’Callahan and The Ship That Wouldn’t Die* (BRDT) 14th season, 1993.

*A Movement to Lead.* Videocassette (VHS, 60 min.) produced at Ferrum College, 1993.


*The World is My Parish,* with co-author Mike Trochim (BRDT) 18th season, 1997; 28th

_The World is My Parish_, with co-author Mike Trochim (one-act version performed more than 60 times in VA and NC, 1997).

_We Band of Brothers: The Cowboy Musical_, with co-author Mike Trochim. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Jon Cohn (BRDT) 19th season, 1998

Leicester Bay Theatricals, 2018.

_The Vision_ (BRDT) 19th season, 1998


_The Cricket on the Hearth_, 2002. Funded by Appalachian College Association, performed at Ferrum College, Alice Lloyd College, KY Christian University.

_Bar Room Smasher_, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT) 24th season, 2003.

_When the Lights Go On Again_, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT) 29th season, 2008; 33rd season, 2012.


_Blue Suede Shoes_, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT) 30th season, 2009


_The Littlest Shepherd_. Lyrics by R. Rex Stephenson and music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT) 30th season, Dec. 2009

Publication forthcoming from Leicester Bay Theatricals.

_Blue Suede Shoes: Part Two_, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT) 31st season, 2010.

_Gabriel’s Honky Tonk Angels_, with music by Emily Rose Tucker (BRDT) 32nd season, 2011.

_The Night Loretta, Mother Maybelle, and Jeannie C. Spent in Jail_, with music by Emily
Rose Tucker (BRDT) 33rd season, 2012.


**Jack Tales Chronology**

- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 1st season, 1979
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 2nd season, 1980
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 3rd season, 1981
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 4th season, 1982
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 6th season, 1985
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 7th season, 1986
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 8th season, 1987
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 9th season, 1988
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 10th season, 1989
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 11th season, 1990
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 12th season, 1991
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 13th season, 1992
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 14th season, 1993
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 15th season, 1994
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 16th season, 1995
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 17th season, 1996
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 18th season, 1997
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 19th season, 1998
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 20th season, 1999
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 21st season, 2000
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 22nd season, 2001
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 24th season, 2003
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 25th season, 2004
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 26th season, 2005
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 27th season, 2006
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 28th season, 2007
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 29th season, 2008
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 30th season, 2009
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 31st season, 2010
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 32nd season, 2011
- Jack Tales (RRS) (BRDT) 33rd season, 2012

2012-present: Storytelling by the Jack Tale Storytellers

New tales adapted since 2012: “Like Meat Loves Salt,” “The Woodcutter and the Devil”