

Martha King De Silva. 
PLAYWRIGHT

HEIDI

A new musical
Based on the novel by Johanna Spyri

Book by: Martha King De Silva; Music and Lyrics by: Joan
Cushing

© April 4, 2009
Commissioned by Imagination Stage

SYNOPSIS

It's an usual day for the town of Maienfeld. Heidi, an orphan girl who had been living with her aunt Detie, since her mother's untimely death four years ago, is leaving the town to live with her grandfather on the mountain, because her aunt has taken a new job in Frankfurt.

The townspeople are horrified to learn about Heidi's departure. They have not seen the old man in many years and have conjured all sorts of stories about him.

Initially, Alp is gruff with Heidi. It is not long, however, before she is able to win him over. Heidi also makes friends with a goatherd, Peter.

Meanwhile, in Germany, Clara's father endeavors to find her a companion. Clara is quite frail, confined to a wheelchair, and without friends. Detie decides that Heidi would be the perfect companion for Clara and takes her from the mountain and her grandfather.

Clara is immediately besotted with Heidi – and the two girls become fast friends. Frau Rottenmeier, the housekeeper, is less certain.

Although Heidi is doing well in Frankfurt, she misses her grandfather and longs for Switzerland. It is Clara who ultimately decides that Heidi must return to the mountain.

Heidi triumphantly returns to the mountain to the surprise and delight of her grandfather. Peter is happy to see Heidi, as well, though he senses a change in her.

Many months later, Clara makes a visit to spend a month in the Alps with Heidi and Peter. In a fit of jealousy, Peter lashes out at Clara and hurls her wheelchair down the mountain. Grandfather lectures Peter angrily about the folly of anger. Clara is delighted to be free of her wheelchair. The commotion has caused the townspeople to gather on the mountain. They re-unite with Alp. In the triumphant final scene, the three children begin a memorable walk up the mountain.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

NAME	CHARACTERS	CD Track	Script Page
A TYPICAL DAY IN MAIENFELD.	Ensemble	1	3
GOSSIP SEQUENCE #1	Townspeople	2	8
EVERYTHING	Heidi & Clara	3	13
KEEPING YOU IN LINE	Peter, Heidi & Goats	4	19
HOME	Townspeople	5	25
GOSSIP SEQUENCE #2	Townspeople	6	29
CHORES SONG	Grandfather, Heidi & Peter	7	31
FAREWELL, MY MOUNTAINS	Heidi & Aunt Detie	8	41

ACT II

WEEDS!	Frau Rottenmeir, Clara & Servants	9	44
WITH THE WIND IN MY HAIR	Heidi & Clara	10	50
GOSSIP SEQUENCE #3	Townspeople	11	55
WORDS GET IN THE WAY	Grandfather & Peter	12	56
WEEDS/Reprise	Frau Rottenmeier	13	59
EVERYTHING/Reprise	Heidi & Clara	14	61
GOSSIP SEQUENCE #3	Townspeople	11	72
A TYPICAL DAY IN MAIENFELD/ HOME REPRISE	Ensemble	16	75

[90 minutes running time with intermission]

(Sound Cue #0: Pre-Show Alpine music)

ACT I

Scene. The small Alpine village in Switzerland where Heidi lives. A typical morning.

(Sound Cue # 1: A Typical Day in Maienfeld)

SONG: A TYPICAL DAY IN MAIENFELD (CD Track 1)

Everyone moves with precision, as though they were part of a giant clock. It is their daily routine, sweeping walks, greeting one another, delivering the morning newspaper.

FRAU MUENSTER
SUN COMES UP.
CHURCH BELLS CHIME.

NEWSBOY

DING! DONG!

VILLAGE CLOCK
KEEPING TIME.

CUCKOO.
CUCKOO.

SWEEP THE PORCH
FREE OF GRIME
A TYPICAL DAY IN MAIENFELD.

A TYPICAL DAY IN MAIENFELD.

HEIDI

Aunt Detie, I'm so excited!

AUNT DETIE

(buttoning her dress) Child! Stop fidgeting!

HEIDI

What does he look like?

AUNT DETIE

Old.

HERR REINGOLD enters.

FRAU MUENSTER
SUN COMES UP.

BOY

HERR REINGOLD

IT'S TIME TO BAKE MY

CHURCH BELLS CHIME.

VILLAGE CLOCK

KEEPING TIME.

SWEEP THE PORCH

FREE OF GRIME

A TYPICAL DAY
IN MAIENFELD.

DING! DONG!

CUCKOO!
CUCKOO!

YUM YUM.

BREAD.

IT'S YUMMY WITH A
SPREAD.

TRY IT.

A TYPICAL DAY
IN MAIENFELD.

HEIDI

How long will it take us to get there?

AUNT DETIE

A long time.

HEIDI

But we'll be there by nighttime, won't we?

AUNT DETIE

I certainly hope so.

FRAU MUENSTER

(Sings)

EVERYTHING RUNS LIKE CLOCKWORK.

BOY

TICK TOCK.

CUCKOO.

HERR REINGOLD

EVERTHING IN ITS PLACE.

BOY

YUM YUM.

FRAU MUENSTER & HERR REINGOLD

EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR BUSINESS.

BOY

A SHOCK.

IT'S TRUE.

FRAU MUENSTER

(To DETIE)

A FACT WE ALL MUST FACE.

BOY

DUM DEE DUM.

MAYOR STRASSER enters.

F. MUENSTER
(Sings)
Sun comes up.

BOY
(Sings)

H. REINGOLD
(Sings)

M. STRASSER
(Sings)

Church bells chime.

It's time to bake my
bread.

It's a very nice day
As I'm making my way
Frau Muenster.

Village clock

Ding! Dong!

.
It's yummy with a
spread.

Every morning I greet
people out on the street,
Herr Reingold.

Keeping time.

Cuckoo!
Cuckoo!

Sweep the porch
Free of grime

Try it.

The roses,
So red.
And oh,
The

Everything's hunky dory.
And so we begin our story.
On a typical day in
Maienfeld.

Yum yum.

Everything's hunky dory.
And so we begin our story.
On a typical day in
Maienfeld.

Bread!
And so we begin our story.
On a typical day Maienfeld.

Tick tock!
Cuckoo!
Ding! Dong!

(Music underscoring continues.)

HEIDI

Mayor Strasser! Mayor Strasser! You'll never guess. I'm going to live with my grandfather!

MAYOR STRASSER

Really? Your grandfather on the mountain? (To Detie) Are you mad?

HEIDI

You know him?

MAYOR STRASSER

He was a friend.

AUNT DETIE

(Pompously) I've been offered a job in Frankfurt. With a very prominent family.

HERR REINGOLD
You can't just leave with her with him. It's --

AUNT DETIE
I don't think it's any of your business. Unless you'd like to take her?

HERR REINGOLD
Well, I...

AUNT DETIE
Or perhaps you would, Frau Muenster.

FRAU MUENSTER
Me?

AUNT DETIE
I didn't think so.

FRAU MUENSTER
(Sing)
EVERYTHING'S OUT OF KILTER.
BOY *(out of sync)*
TICK TOCK.
CUCKOO.

HERR REINGOLD
EVERTHING'S OUT OF WHACK.

BOY
(out of tune)
DING! DONG!
MAYOR STRASSER
SHE HASN'T A SUITCASE.
BOY
NO SUITCASE,
IT'S TRUE.
AUNT DETIE
HER CLOTHES ARE ON HER BACK!
BOY
BOO HOO.

FRAU MUENSTER
It's an outrage!

AUNT DETIE
(Sings)
THE DECISION'S MINE.

Modulate

F. MUENSTER

(Sings)

Sun comes up.

Church bells chime.

Village clock

Keeping time.

Sweep the porch

Free of grime.

Nothing is

Neat and tidy

Without our beloved

Heidi!

ON A TYPICAL

DAY IN

MAIENFELD.

So long!

BOY

(Sings)

Ding! Dong!

Cuckoo!

Cuckoo!

No yum yum.

Nothing is

Neat and tidy

Without our beloved

Heidi!

TYPICAL

Tick tock!

Cuckoo!

So long!

Boo hoo!

H. REINGOLD

(Sings)

How can I bake my
bread?

I should have stayed
in bed.

Buy it.

Nothing is

Neat and tidy

Without our beloved

Heidi!

ON A TYPICAL

DAY IN

MAIENFELD.

So long!

M. STRASSER

(Sings)

It's a very sad
day. Heidi going a-
way,
Frau Muenster.

Never more to
meet, in the store or
street,
Herr Reingold.

The roses look
dead.

And oh,..

Nothing is

Neat and tidy

Without our beloved

Heidi!

TYPICAL

DAY IN

MAIENFELD.

So long!

ALL wave goodbye on button.

*Heidi runs to hug Herr Reingold, Frau
Muenster, and Mayor Strasser.*

*HEIDI takes one last look at her little town,
and exits, following Detie out of sight up the
mountain.*

FRAU MUENSTER

(looking at Mayor Strasser) Well, don't just stand there! Do something!

MAYOR STRASSER
What would have me do?

FRAU MUENSTER
You're the mayor! Stop them!

MAYOR STRASSER
My dear Frau Muenster, we may not like it, but if Detie wants to take Heidi to live with her grandfather then
that's—

FRAU MUENSTER
Terrible is what it is!

HERR REINGOLD
It's a pity, that's for certain.

(Sound Cue #2: Gossip Sequence #1)

Old man hasn't been right since all that business--

MAYOR STRASSER
(sadly) Yes. I know it.

SONG: GOSSIP SEQUENCE #1 (CD Track 2)

FRAU MUENSTER
(Sings)
IN A RAMSHACKLE HOUSE
ON THE SIDE OF A HILL
LIVES A STRANGE OLD MAN,
HERR REINGOLD
A MEAN OLD MAN.

MAYOR STRASSER
FOR FOUR LONG YEARS
HE HAS LIVED ALL ALONE
ON THE SIDE OF THE HILL.

FRAU MUENSTER
AND HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF
AND HE DOESN'T SPEAK A WORD
EXCEPT TO THE BOY
WHO MANAGES THE HERD

MAYOR STRASSER
HARUMPHING
AND GRUMPING
WHILE THE WORLD GOES ON BELOW.
ALL THREE
BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS SO.

FRAU MUENSTER
HE ONCE HAD A HOUSE
IN THE HEART OF TOWN,
AND A DAUGHTER WHOM
HE DOTED ON.

MAYOR STRASSER
THEN TRAGEDY CAME
LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT
AND HIS HEART WAS GONE.

HERR REINGOLD
AND HE PACKED UP HIS GRIEF
AND HE CLIMBED UP THERE
WHERE HE HIDES FROM THE WORLD
AND GROWS HIS HAIR,
REFUSING TO MINGLE
WITH HIS NEIGHBORS DOWN BELOW.
ALL THREE
THAT WAS FOUR LONG YEARS AGO.

FRAU MUENSTER
THEY SAY THAT HIS BEARD
HAS TURNED TO ICE.
HERR REINGOLD
AND HE TALKS TO HIMSELF
AND DINES ON MICE.
FRAU MUENSTER
HIS NAILS ALL CURLING UNDER,
MAYOR STRASSER
AND A VOICE THAT BOOMS LIKE THUNDER!
Sound of thunder cracking!
ALL THREE
BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS SO.

(Sound Cue #2.5; Fade out of Gossip Sequence #1)

Heidi and Aunt Detie arrive at a tiny, worn cottage. Heidi peers through a window. Two goats appear. Aunt Detie is startled and shrieks. Heidi giggles and reaches out to pet them. Detie then knocks on the door.

Grandfather answers, gruffly.

GRANDFATHER
Who's there?

Aunt Detie looks uncertainly at Heidi

DETIE
(false cheeriness) It's me Alp. Detie. Heidi's aunt on her father's side? I need to speak with you. It's very important.

GRANDFATHER
Go away!

Heidi and Aunt Detie look at each other.

Aunt Detie knocks again.

AUNT DETIE
(to Heidi) Sometimes your grandfather can be a little moody, that's all. Nothing to worry about.

HEIDI
Let me try.

She knocks rapidly at the door.

Please open the door, won't you?

GRANDFATHER
What did I just...? (startled, realizes who she is, for a moment he is overcome)

HEIDI
Hello.

GRANDFATHER
Hello.

AUNT DETIE
This is your granddaughter.

GRANDFATHER

I know who she is. (a beat) She has no business being up here. Take her home--

He goes to shut the door.

HEIDI

But she can't. I've come to live with you!

GRANDFATHER

(to Aunt Detie) What? What does she mean?

AUNT DETIE

It's true. I'm leaving Maienfeld. I'm going to work for a family in Frankfurt.

HEIDI

A very prominent family.

GRANDFATHER

Take her with you then. (he starts to shut the door again)

AUNT DETIE

(pushes the door open) I can't. They won't allow it. (he begins to interrupt) You're the only other living relative the child has. You have to take her. (a beat) She's a good child. Generally.

GRANDFATHER

And when she starts to fuss and carry on at night, what then?

HEIDI

I won't fuss. I won't carry on.

AUNT DETIE

Child, please--

GRANDFATHER

(kneeling down to Heidi) How old are you now?

HEIDI

(counting out on her two hands) Seven.

GRANDFATHER

And what am I supposed to do with a little girl on a mountain?

AUNT DETIE

She could be quite helpful to you. She's--

GRANDFATHER

With what? My farming? My cows? My goats?

HEIDI

(delighted) Are those YOUR goats?

AUNT DETIE

--You don't want to take her in? Fine! Do what you like with her, then. But I am going to be on that train to Frankfurt! Today. This job is very important to me. And I haven't worked hard all my life so that--

GRANDFATHER

ENOUGH! Go to Frankfurt! And don't come back here again!

Aunt Detie casts a guilty look at Heidi. Heidi is petting the goats. Aunt Detie looks at her uncertainly. She begins to take Heidi with her. Grandfather stops her.

AUNT DETIE

But, what about--?

GRANDFATHER

Leave her here.

AUNT DETIE

Really? (she pulls a long note from her a pocket, which she reveals with a flourish, speaking hurriedly) I took the trouble to make a list of things you should know, just in case.

GRANDFATHER

I don't need a list.

DETIE

Very well. (to Heidi, almost giddy with happiness) Be a good child. Mind your grandfather. And try not to talk too much, alright?

She pats Heidi awkwardly.

Detie exits hurriedly, before Grandfather can change his mind.

Grandfather looks at her with some scepticism.

GRANDFATHER

(he looks at her) Is that all you have with you? Where are the rest of your clothes?

HEIDI

I'm wearing them. See? (she lifts her dress to reveal another one beneath it.)

GRANDFATHER

A fine thing! (a beat) You better come inside. You'll catch your death of cold and then I'll have a sick child on my hands.

HEIDI

Good-bye, goats!

GRANDFATHER

The big one is Dusky and the little one there is Daisy. If you're going to live here, you might as well know their names.

HEIDI

(she thinks and follows him in the house) And what about your name?

GRANDFATHER

What do you mean?

HEIDI

What should I call you? Grandfather? Grandpa? Grandpapa?

GRANDFATHER

You can call me Alp. Same as everyone.

They enter his house, it's forlorn and bare and very depressing.

HEIDI

Your house is so cozy!

Grandfather looks at her in surprise.

GRANDFATHER

You'll need to sleep somewhere. (he thinks) The eave under that window there should work. You're small enough for it.

He goes to gather some hay and a blanket. Heidi, meanwhile climbs a ladder to the eave.

HEIDI

I can see the stars from here! You can't really see the stars in Maienfeld.

He hands her some hay. They spread it out together.

HEIDI

This is going to be the best bed ever!

They work together, quietly.

GRANDFATHER

We wake up early in the mountains. We don't lie about--

HEIDI

I like waking up early. I usually wake up before Aunt Detie. In the wintertime, I'm up before the sun--

GRANDFATHER

--(watching her) You'll have some chores to do. Then you and Peter will take the goats up the mountain.

HEIDI

(excitedly) Who's Peter??

GRANDFATHER

(nodding) He's a goatherd. He looks after Daisy and Dusky for me. You and your aunt would have passed his house--

HEIDI

(nodding, excitedly) I know the one you mean. There was a tiny lady sitting in the window.

GRANDFATHER

(interrupting her, he goes to a cupboard) His grandmother. She's blind. Young Peter is all she has.

(Sound Cue #3. "Everything")

He exits. Heidi pulls on her nightgown.