

PROLOGUE

A curtain with the faded Cross of St George. A proscenium adorned with cherubs and woodland scenes. Dragons. Maidens. Devils. Half-and-half creatures. Across the beam:

– THE ENGLISH STAGE COMPANY –

A drum starts to beat. Accordions strike up. Pipes. The lights come down. A fifteen-year-old girl, PHAEDRA, dressed as a fairy, appears on the apron. She curtsies to the boxes and sings, unaccompanied.

PHAEDRA.

And did those feet in ancient time,
Walk upon England's mountains green,
And was the holy lamb of God,
On England's pleasant pastures seen.

She beams, pulls a string and the wings flap.

And did the Countenance Divine,
Shine forth upon those clouded hills,
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among those dark satanic –

Thumping music. She flees. The curtain rises upon...

