

The Richest Girl in the World Finds Happiness , finale

(text from the play by Robert Patrick, slightly changed for this performance; used with his permission)

The Richest Girl lives in a mansion so large that inside it are the Sistine Chapel, the Great Pyramid, and many other great sights of the world, plus the sun and the moon. The Handsomest Movie Star in the World comes to propose marriage. But there's a crisis! The Richest Girl's maid, Madalayna, has gotten the mail, and found a notification telling the Richest Girl that she's been named Miss America. If she marries the Star, how can she hold that title?

Madalayna chases the Girl and the Star through the mansion, trying to stop the marriage. But she's too late. When she finds them, the Girl (who, as the Richest Girl, would have that authority) has already performed the wedding.

But no problem, the Girl explains. They're on the other side of the International Date Line, and so she can be married where they are, and still be single back home.

Which leads to the finale, originally for four singers, rewritten here with slight changes of text for just the Girl and the Star (which means that when the Girl gives an order to Maddalena, we have to pretend that Maddalena is there). The refrain of the finale — "The Richest Girl in the World is the one who finds true happiness" — of course has a double meaning.

STAR

How truly it is written that happiness is found
Only by those who are happy all year round.
The secret of serenity is one we all possess:
The Richest Girl in the World Is the One Who Finds True Happiness.

GIRL

You must have faith in Providence and 'twill dispel your gloom
When I feel it start to rain, I move to another room.

STAR

This is the only secret your study will impart:
The true sense of well-being comes to the untroubled heart.

GIRL

Possessions are as nothing; Madalayna, call the car.

STAR

Do your best to brighten the corner where you star.

GIRL

Now let our husband sing out what we would all profess.

STAR

The Richest Girl in the World Is the One Who Finds True Happiness.

GIRL

And don't forget it.

STAR

The Richest Girl in the World Is the One Who Finds True Happiness.

GIRL

And holds onto it.

STAR and GIRL
The Richest Girl in the World Is the One Who Finds True Happiness.

STAR
Oh, there's one thing I forgot to tell you!

GIRL
What's that?

STAR
It's Christmas, too!

(That's the original text. Robert Patrick encourages his actors to make up something new for each production of the play, and presumably of the opera.)

This is the end of our story. Another's starting soon.
Niagara Falls is coming to us for our honeymoon.

GIRL and STAR
You must have wealth within you or wealth could not mean less.
The Richest Girl in the World Is the One Who Finds True Happiness.
Happy ending to you. Happy ending to you.
Happy ending forever, happy ending to you.
La la la la la la.
And don't forget it!
The Richest Girl in the World Is the One Who Finds True Happiness.