

February 11, 2000

The Making of The Princess Bride

Mikey Romano and Dana Youmans have an ambitious project ahead of them in their final semester. They're bringing *The Princess Bride* to the stage at St. Andrews.

The Princess Bride was written as a book, but is better known for the movie starring Cary Elwes and Mandy Patinkin. There is no stage translation for the story. Dana and Mikey are using the film script for the play. They'll be approximating the script as much as they can in a theater.

"We're still working on technical problems," Mikey admits. "There will be a basic set. A lot of it will be up to people's imaginations."

The story spans many locations and features elaborate scenery and props. A mountain is climbed, a sea is navigated and a castle is stormed. Here at St. Andrews, it's likely that when Buttercup jumps ship to escape her kidnappers she'll be flopping around on the stage with cardboard waves behind her. The quicksand in the fire swamp will be a box filled with styrofoam packaging and finger snaps will stand in for bursting flames.

Many students have the opinion that performing *The Princess Bride* on stage is unfeasible, but both Mikey and Dana were set on it.

"I love fairy tales," said Dana. "There aren't many you can put on stage that aren't meant for children."

The two directors are working with a budget that only covers the cost of printing the scripts. They've collected cardboard for the backgrounds. They hope to enlist Stephanie McDavid's 2-D design class in decorating the scenery. Christie Farina, who directed *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* last semester, is only involved as an advisor.

Dana is currently involved in an off-campus production of *Bye, Bye Birdie*. He played two roles in *Rocky Horror* last semester. He has directed one-acts before, but never a full length play. This is also Mikey's first time as a director. Both students are doubling their duties and taking roles in *The Princess Bride*.

"My character dies early," Mikey explained. "I have a small part so I can spend most of my time directing."

The play begins rehearsals on the 14th and will open in April. Chris Novello has been cast as Wesley and Natalie Howard will co-star as Buttercup.

Someone else really needs to write articles besides: [-Greg Chatham](#)

Back to [Front Page](#)