

OPTIMISM



Story Pitch Deck

VOLTAIRE'S

CANDIDE
or OPTIMISM

About The Author



VOLTAIRE was **HATED** by everybody with **POWER** in the 18th Century. This story is why. **CANDIDE** is a French adventure satire written in 1759 skewering the religion, theocracy, government and the philosophy of the period. All of which is surprisingly relevant today. After publication, the book was banned for blasphemy, sedition and intellectual hostility 'hiding under the thin veil of innocence'. Considered Voltaire's greatest masterpiece, history abounds in this action adventure, which slaps the reader with the truly horrendous realities of what human beings are capable of, not only in the name of religion and philosophy, but also money and sex!



IS EVERYTHING FOR THE BEST...?

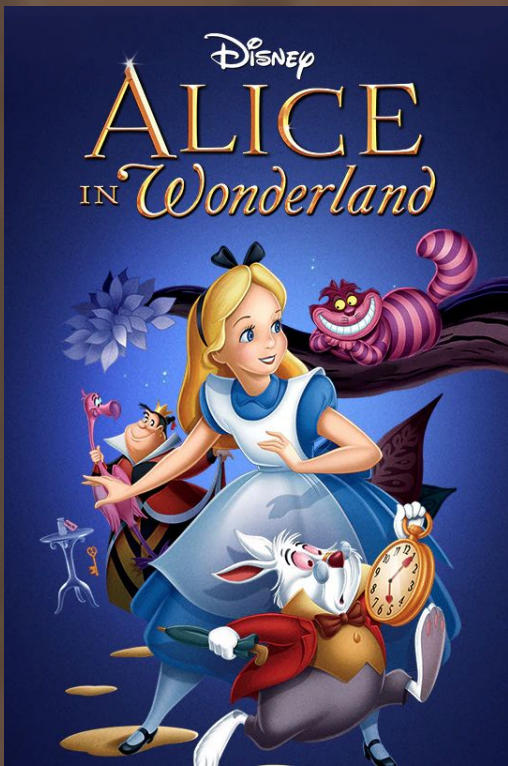
CANDIDE isn't your typical hero. He's an optimistic push-over incapable of making any decisions of his own... A perfect recipe for disaster! What he finds is the painful disillusionment of a world that is merciless, seemingly random and usually brutal. Are you supposed to laugh or cry?

In the end, CANDIDE finds peace in the friends he acquires along the way -- who may have been beaten and raped but are somehow still alive and kicking.

A stage adaptation in the 50's pitted Lillian Hellman against Leonard Bernstein resulting in the well known musical Candide. This however, is not the musical. This is the full story. The current simplest incarnation has reference backgrounds and limited character designs to test the look, plot and pacing.



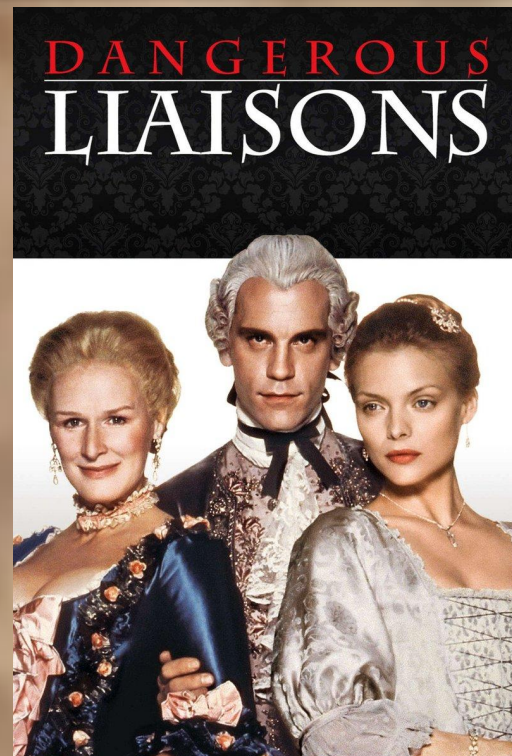
SHOW CROSS



MEETS



MEETS



CANDIDE

MAIN CHARACTER

CANDIDE is an easily manipulated lug of innocent optimism.

He is a happy stable boy ejected from his comfortable home and forced to make his own way in the world. As he is confronted with adventure after adventure, this wishy-washy hero watches everyone else make his decisions for him and finds that the optimism he's learned his entire life has been a lie.

Will he ever make a decision of his own?

Dream casting: Jon Pointing



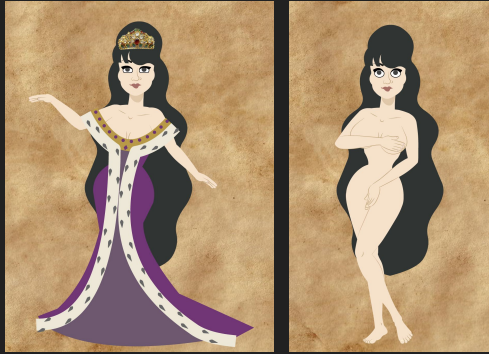
Cunégonde

MAIN CHARACTER

The daughter of the German baron who acts as Candide's benefactor until he discovers Candide's love for his daughter. Throughout much of the novel, Cunégonde is young and beautiful. After her father's castle is destroyed in war, a number of exploitative men enslave her or use her as a mistress. Cunégonde returns Candide's love but is willing to betray him for the sake of her own interests. Like him, she is neither intelligent nor complex. Her very blandness casts a satiric light on Candide's mad romantic passion for her.

Dream casting: Anya Taylor-Joy





The Old Woman

MAIN CHARACTER

Born the daughter of a Pope, she has experienced the death of a fiancé, rape by pirates, slavery, black plague and cannibalism in wartime. She becomes Cunégonde's servant and confidant. Her misfortunes have made her cynical about human nature, but she does not give in to self-pity. She is wise, practical, and loyal to her mistress. Though she has often been close to suicide, she always finds a reason to live.

Dream casting: Liza Minnelli

Pangloss

The Optimist

MAIN CHARACTER

A philosopher and Candide's tutor, his optimistic belief that this world is "the best of all possible worlds" anchors the story. Pangloss's own experiences contradict this belief, but he remains faithful to it nonetheless. Like Candide, Pangloss is not a three dimensional character. Instead, he is an exaggerated parody of overly optimistic Enlightenment philosophers. An optimist to which everything horrible happens.

Dream casting: Billy Connolly



Martin

The Pessimist

MAIN CHARACTER

A cynical scholar whom Candide befriends as a travel companion. Martin has suffered a great deal in his life and preaches a philosophy of undiluted pessimism. More knowledgeable and intelligent than either Candide or Pangloss, Martin is nonetheless a flawed philosopher. Because he always expects nothing but the worst from the world, he often has trouble seeing things as they really are.

Dream casting: Ian McShane



Cacambo

MAIN CHARACTER

Candide's valet when he travels in South America Cacambo is a native of the Americas. He is highly intelligent and morally honest. He is savvy and single-handedly rescues Candide from a number of scrapes. He is also directly responsible for Candide's reunion with Cunégonde. A practical man of action, he stands in direct opposition to ineffectual philosophers such as Pangloss and Martin.

Dream casting: Brian Jordan Alvarez





The Young Baron

MAIN CHARACTER

Cunégonde's brother. After his family's castle is destroyed in war, he becomes a Jesuit priest. It is implied many times that he has homosexual tendencies.

He is arrogant about his family's noble lineage and though he is fond of Candide, he refuses to allow the commoner to marry his sister.

Dream casting: Flula Borg

Friends



Enemies



The Story

Candide is the illegitimate nephew of a German Baron. He grows up in the Baron's castle under the tutelage of Dr Pangloss, who teaches the theory of the "the best of all possible worlds" (Leibniz pre-established harmony). Candide falls in love with the baron's young daughter, Cunégonde. The Baron catches the two together and expels Candide from his home.



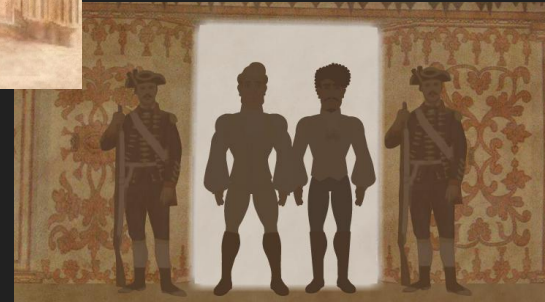
Candide is soon conscripted into the army. He wanders away from camp and is brutally flogged as a deserter. After witnessing the horrors of battle, he escapes to Holland where a kind Anabaptist takes him in. Candide runs into his teacher Pangloss, who explains that he has contracted syphilis and that Cunégonde and her family have all been brutally murdered during the war. After shipwreck and earthquake the two are punished by the Inquisition, resulting in Candide's rescue by none other than Cunegonde herself.



Each of Cunégonde's two owners arrive in turn and Candide must kill them both. Terrified, Candide, the Old Woman and Cunégonde flee and board a ship bound for South America. During their journey, the old woman tells her own story. Born a Pope's daughter, she has suffered a litany of misfortunes that include rape, enslavement and cannibalism during war.



Candide and Cunégonde plan to marry as soon as they arrive in Buenos Aires but governor Don Fernando proposes to Cunégonde. Thinking of her own welfare, she accepts. Authorities looking for the murderer of the Grand Inquisitor arrive from Portugal in pursuit of Candide. Along with a newly acquired valet named Cacambo, Candide flees to territory controlled by the Jesuits, who are revolting against the Spanish government.



Candide discovers that the Jesuit commander is actually Cunégonde's brother, the Young Baron, who also managed to escape the war. Candide announces that he plans to marry Cunégonde, but the Baron insists that his sister will never marry into the working class. Candide is forced into conflict again and he and Cacambo must escape into the wilderness, where they narrowly avoid being eaten by natives.



After being lost for weeks, Candide and Cacambo find themselves in the land of Eldorado, where the streets are paved with gold. This utopian country has advanced scientific knowledge, no religious conflict, no court system, and places no value on its plentiful gold and jewels.



Candide longs to return to Cunégonde and after a month in Eldorado, he and Cacambo depart with a vast fortune loaded onto pack llamas. When they reach the territory of Surinam, Cacambo departs for Buenos Aires with the intention of purchasing Cunégonde from Don Fernando and then meeting Candide in Venice. An unscrupulous merchant named Vanderdendur steals much of Candide's fortune, dampening his optimism immediately.

Frustrated, Candide sets sail for France with a pessimistic scholar named Martin. On the way there, Candide recovers part of his fortune when a Spanish captain sinks Vanderdendur's ship. Candide takes this as proof that there IS justice in the world. Martin isn't so sure.



In Paris, Candide's fortune attracts a number of hangers-on, several of whom succeed in filching gold and jewels from him. Candide and Martin proceed to Venice, where, to Candide's dismay, Cunégonde and Cacambo are nowhere to be found. However, they do encounter Paquette, the chambermaid turned prostitute who gave Pangloss syphilis, Count Pococurante, a wealthy Venetian who is hopelessly bored with the cultural treasures that surround him and 6 unhappy Monarchs of Europe.

Eventually, Cacambo, now a slave of Ahmet III, surfaces. He explains that Cunégonde is in Constantinople, having herself been enslaved along with the old woman. Martin, Cacambo, and Candide depart for Turkey.



Candide discovers Pangloss and the Young Baron on a Turkish slave galley. Both have survived their apparent deaths and suffered various misfortunes before their own enslavement.



Despite everything, Pangloss remains an Optimist and an overjoyed Candide purchases their freedom. His growing retinue go on to rescue Cunégonde and the Old woman. Cunégonde has lost her looks but he purchases her freedom and marries her anyway, but only after being forced to send the Young Baron, who still cannot abide his sister marrying Candide, back to the turkish galley.



Candide talks to a farmer who has lived a simple life, worked hard and avoided vice and leisure. Everyone in the group soon grows bored and quarrelsome. What is the plan? Where should they go?



After some discussion, unexpectedly reuniting with Paquette and the philosophers consulting a famous Dervish, Candide and his friends decide to buy the farm and take to 'cultivating their garden' in earnest.



All their time, anxiety and energy go into work that makes them happy now and none is left over for philosophical speculation.



Shadeau Puppet Theatre

CURATED ANIMATED CLASSIC LITERATURE TV SERIES : SEASON CONCEPTS

Season 1: "CANDIDE" by Voltaire

"Candide" introduces the eponymous 18th century character who journeys far and wide in search of his true love. Ever the optimist, he discovers rosy glasses cannot obscure the fact that almost nobody in the world is actually happy.

Season 2: "BRAVE NEW WORLD" by Aldous Huxley

Bernard Marx, an intellectual, suffers in a futuristic dystopia where citizens are bred into an preordained social hierarchy, manipulated by the state's sleep-learning, obligatory free sex and happy pills. Find out what happens when the 'savage' outsider he befriends, tries to assimilate.

Season 3: "FAUST" by Goethe

Erudite Doctor Faustus makes a deal with the DEVIL, exchanging his soul for unlimited knowledge, youth, the woman he loves and other worldly pleasures. Yeah... it doesn't go so well.

Season 4: "Stop Thief" By Carlyle Moore

Hit stage play from Broadway 1912 (and inspiration for the keystone cops, two lost silent films and an illustrated novel) asks the question "do you know what a kleptomaniac is? This story tells us.

Season 5: "Vile Bodies" by Evelyn Waugh

A wickedly witty and iridescent story from one of England's greatest satirists takes aim at the generation of 'Bright Young Things' that dominated London high society in the 1920s.

Season 6: "THE METAMORPHOSIS" by Franz Kafka

Gregor Samsa awakes one morning to find that he is transformed into an insect. Thus begins one of the most macabre tales written by Kafka, one which ends in... SQUISH!

Season 7: "THE CALL OF CTHULU" by HP Lovecraft

Francis recounts his discovery of various notes left behind by his great uncle, recounting disquieting stories of zombies and undersea monsters.

Season 8: "The Kid" by Sean Nadeau

Explore entertainment in the Paris of the West (San Francisco) at the turn of the 20th century. With Lewis Morrison's Mephistopheles is his mentor, the kid survives the Belasco circuit, early vaudeville, and the earthquake of 1906.

About The Filmmaker



<https://www.behance.net/SeanNadeau>

SEAN NADEAU

Sean has created animated content for A&E, NBC, Nickelodeon, Disney Television, Warner Brothers Records, Sony Pictures and Sprout Channel.

He worked on all seasons of the Adult Swim shows Mr Pickles and Momma Named Me Sheriff, where he was inspired by the harsh style and violence.

This story helped him look at the larger picture during the pandemic, when he was able to finish the first pass at the storyboards and design animatics and begin the short film.

He is confident others will get something out of OPTIMISM too. He predicts he can finish all the original art and animation required by himself in 7 years, but we're hoping he doesn't have to.



Fully animated sample:



[Click here to watch The Old Woman's Story](#)

ACT 1 animatics

ACT II animatics

OPTIMISM



Animated episodic feature version
of **Voltaire's "CANDIDE (or Optimism)"**
Created by Sean Nadeau

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