

## **NORTHAMPTON G&S GROUP – IOLANTHE**

**Please prepare the following speeches for your character**

**You may be asked to read only ONE of them You are NOT expected to be off-book  
Edited for audition purposes only. DO NOT LEARN!**

### **FAIRY QUEEN**

**A**

**LEILA.** Think how we loved her!

**QUEEN.** Loved her? What was your love to mine? Why, she was invaluable to me! Who taught me to curl myself inside a buttercup? Iolanthe! Who taught me to swing upon a cobweb? Iolanthe! Who taught me to dive into a dewdrop – to nestle in a nutshell – to gambol upon gossamer? Iolanthe!

**LEILA.** She certainly did surprising things!

**FLETA.** Oh, give her back to us, great Queen, for your sake if not for ours! (*All kneel in supplication.*)

**QUEEN** (*irresolute*). Oh, I should be strong, but I am weak! I should be marble, but I am clay! Her punishment has been heavier than I intended. I did not mean that she should live among the frogs – and – well, well, it shall be as you wish – it shall be as you wish!

**B**

**QUEEN.** Oh, shame – shame upon you! Is this your fidelity to the laws you are bound to obey? Know ye not that it is death to marry a mortal?

**LEILA.** Yes, but it's not death to *wish* to marry a mortal!

**FLETA.** If it were, you'd have to execute us all!

**QUEEN.** Oh, this is weakness! Subdue it!

**CELIA.** We know it's weakness, but the weakness is so strong!

**LEILA.** We are not all as tough as you are!

**QUEEN.** Tough! Do you suppose that I am insensible to the effect of manly beauty? Look at that man! (*Referring to Sentry.*) A perfect picture! (*To Sentry.*) Who are you, sir?

**WILLIS** (*coming to "attention"*). Private Willis, B Company, 1st Grenadier Guards.

**QUEEN.** You're a very fine fellow, sir.

**WILLIS.** I am generally admired.

**QUEEN.** I can quite understand it. (*To Fairies.*) Now here is a man whose physical attributes are simply godlike. That man has a most extraordinary effect upon me. If I yielded to a natural impulse, I should fall down and worship that man. But I mortify this inclination; I wrestle with it, and it lies beneath my feet! That is how I treat my regard for that man!