

How I Became a Playwright by Lillian Nader



Pandora, A Musical Comedy

All readers are welcome here. I write about writing and my journey as a writer.

It all started when I moved to California after an enlightening psychic reading. Once in California, I took a script writing class. While copying my notes in the waiting room at the South Bay Free Clinic in Torrance, I noticed someone watching me. With as much flair as I could muster, I wrote *Script Writing* at the top of the page. Larry Marino was the gentleman sitting next to me, watching as I wrote.

“Oh, you’re a writer,” he said, extending his hand. “Welcome to the realm of the impoverished!”

“You’re a writer too,” I said. We shook hands.

This was the beginning of what became the collaboration of our musical comedy, *Pandora*.

Larry had some songs and the idea of writing a musical about Pandora, but he wanted someone else to write the book. I researched myths about Pandora, learning that she was created by the gods to be the wife of Epimetheus, the brother of Prometheus. I decided to include the story of Prometheus, the titan who stole fire from the gods and gave it to man. Larry accommodated by writing appropriate songs. In fact, Larry was a joy to work with because whenever I came to a point that needed a song, Larry would write one.

He wrote the lyrics and could sing the songs, but Larry didn’t know how to write music. Gene Casey, a friend from my hometown, was hired to write the musical score for the songs tape recorded by Larry. We obtained copyright for *Pandora* with the Library of Congress in 1991.

Although Larry has made the transition called death, I am determined to see Pandora alive and well on the theater stage!

About the author: Lillian Nader, M.Ed. is currently writing a YA science fiction novel entitled *Theep and Thorpe*. She is the published author of educational workbooks and the librettist of the musical, *Pandora*. Lillian is a retired teacher who does part time tutoring and freelance copy editing at reasonable rates. She can be reached at Lnader1910@sbcglobal.net.

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