



All About Perle

- 1889: Pearl Skirvin was born on October 12th in Sturgis, MI. She would later change the spelling of her first name.
- 1906: Perle moved with her family to Oklahoma City, OK. Her childhood home is still in the Mesta Park neighborhood, which is named for her.
- 1917: She married George Mesta, owner of Mesta Machine Co. in Pittsburgh, PA. She was 27 years younger than he.
- 1925: April 22nd, George Mesta died. Perle inherited his fortune. She would never remarry.
- 1930s: Perle became involved with the National Woman's Party.
- 1944: By now, Perle had switched her affiliation from the Republican party to the Democratic party.
- 1945: On April 12th, Harry S. Truman became the 33rd President of the United States.
- 1949: President Truman named Perle as minister to Luxembourg.
- 1950: *Call Me Madam* opened on Broadway on October 12th, Perle's 61st birthday.
- 1953: Perle resigned as minister to Luxembourg; received the Grand Cross of the Crown of Oak.
- 1975: Perle died on March 16th in Oklahoma City.

Perle Mesta served as the United States Ambassador to Luxembourg. But...



Positive Role Models

With the right guidance, all children have the potential to succeed. Add positive reinforcement, good advice and a friendly shoulder, and only the sky is the limit.

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Commitment Runs Deep



"The incredible musical adventure of Oklahoma's first female Ambassador, Perle Mesta!"

Devon Energy presents **LYRIC'S**

Call Me Madam Interactive

Music and Lyrics by **IRVING BERLIN**
Book by **HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE**



A STUDY GUIDE RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES



LYRIC THEATRE OF OKLAHOMA

Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
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Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma is Oklahoma's Premier Professional Theatre Company and has been producing classic and contemporary musicals featuring both nationally known Broadway stars and local favorites for over 50 years! Lyric performs at the grand **Civic Center Music Hall** in downtown Oklahoma City during the summer!



In 2007, Lyric renovated the historic **Plaza Theatre** on NW 16th. This space allows Lyric to expand professional theatre offerings in Oklahoma like never before by producing smaller, more intimate musicals as well as staged readings, plays, and concerts throughout the year. In the last decade, the neighborhood has grown to house more than 30 businesses employing nearly 400 people and has become a cultural gathering place - making the Plaza District a great example of neighborhood rejuvenation through the arts!



LYRIC THEATRE THELMA GAYLORD ACADEMY

Since 2001, Lyric's Thelmas Gaylord Academy has offered classes and private lessons taught by theatre professionals designed to foster creativity, self-confidence and a wide range of performance skills.

For Class and Lesson Information:
Visit ThelmaGaylordAcademy.com;

Call (405) 524-9310; or

Email Nick Bartell: Nick@LyricTheatreOKC.com



Perle's 8 Rules to Being a Hostess with the Mostes!

1. Like the people you invite;
2. Make everyone of your guests feel wanted. Don't let anyone stand looking lost;
3. The quality of food is more important than the quantity. Be sure that hot food is hot and the cold food is cold;
4. Do not urge people to eat more than they desire. Some may naturally have small appetites; others may be on diets;
5. Try to have some kind of music, even if it is recorded. If there is a lull in conversation, music fills the gap;
6. Do not ask your talented guests to perform. If you're entertaining them has put them in a good mood, they undoubtedly will;
7. The hostess should always look her best because it is a compliment to her guests;
8. Don't fret. Tell yourself before your first guest arrives, I've done all I can- now let's enjoy things and see that everyone has a good time!



Ethel Merman and Perle Mesta

Create Your Own Invitation to One of Perle's Parties



FIND WORDS of PERLE

P X O N L A R H F H Z H F K Q
I P D M H R E P U B L I C A N
E Y O E U B L B G H O S R U J
L U X E M B O U R G J L B C W
B X V G U O G Y N I M K J V W
O E G E D M C N L Z Z F P M F
M E J N I Y U R Z G Y R Q T L
L G Q G Z V N Y A I Z Q P R M
H O S T E S S K Y T H C W U R
B Z A M B A S S A D O R O M B
L Y S G W K L D Z O L U T A Z
H R Z J A O P W K W F B N H
M I Y F Q H N O C A R I N A A
U Y C I N R G V O S T I J J X
Q U Y C Q K R R B T G O K I E

REPUBLICAN
DEMOCRAT
TRUMAN
AMBASSADOR
LUXEMBOURG
OCARINA
HOSTESS

Beth Leavel in Lyric's Production of *Call Me Madam*
Photos by KO Rinearson

Who is Irving Berlin?

Mr. Berlin is the composer and lyricist (he wrote the music and lyrics) for the musical *Call Me Madam*. He was born in Russia on May 11, 1888, and is widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history. His music forms a large part of what is known as the 'Great American Songbook.' Berlin came to the United States at the age of five. He published his first song in 1907, receiving 33 cents for the publishing rights. He had his first major international hit, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in 1911. He wrote hundreds of songs before he died in 1989. You may know some of them:

God Bless America
Puttin' On the Ritz
White Christmas

I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm
There's No Business Like Show Business



VOCABULARY QUESTIONS (draw a line to match)

Questions

- What are the two main political parties in the United States?
- Which President appointed Perle Mesta as the first female ambassador from the United States?
- What is the real name of a small wind instrument nick-named the "sweet potato?"
- Perle's father built which well-known Oklahoma City establishment?

Answers

- Ocarina
- The Skirvin Hotel
- Harry S. Truman
- Republican and Democrat

There's More!

You can continue learning about Perle Mesta's life and the musical *Call Me Madam*:

Read More:

- *PERLE: My Story* by Perle Mesta with Robert Cahn

Listen More:

- Find the full Original Cast Album on iTunes, Spotify, and Amazon.

Watch More:

- The motion picture musical *Call Me Madam*, starring Ethel Merman, can be found on DVD!

Beth Leavel in Lyric's Production of *Call Me Madam*
Photos by KO Rinearson

