

# Dream of Romance...at Court

Rebecca Locklear

Summary: In the early 1700s, what was it like to wear heavy court dresses? How did guests proceed through various rooms in order to stand in the presence of the king and queen at Kensington Palace? Three girls are about to find out.

Type: Based on true events

Time and Region: Present; 1714-1727, England

Grades: 6-12

Cast: 6 (mainly three major actress roles)

Performance Time: 10-12 minutes

NARRATOR: George of Hanover was a ruler in the Holy Roman Empire for 16 years before he became King George I of Great Britain and Ireland in 1714.

Journey with us to Kensington Palace in London. How did guests proceed in order to stand in the presence of the king and queen? For women, what it was like to wear those huge, heavy, and wide court dresses?

**Daytime – outdoors at a picnic** (*no scene changes, just one continuous skit*)

KAY: (*carrying some props/costumes to a picnic table; items nearby include cooler, etc.*) Imagine going back in time to King George the I's court. Why did those huge dresses go out of style? I sort of like them. (*twirls*)

SARA: The kind of dress that sticks out like this and is the best ALL your money can buy? (*demonstrates dress*) Well, I like breathing more than I like the dresses. Corsets? Not for me! (*helps with props*)

KAY: Yes, but your hair would be three feet tall and all the men would be in tights. Maaaaahvelous!

JOSIE: (*making PRIVY CHAMBER sign*) Did you know that men had to wear two or three pairs of stockings? That's because leg hairs were not allowed to be seen. Just a bit of trivia stuck in my brain.

KAY: Stop talking about leg hair. The men were so well mannered. Ah...to be treated like a lady. My dream.... (*puts on cloak*)

JOSIE: (*beginning to play-act*) Perhaps you could meet a dashing gentleman of the court! But you won't get any attention from him unless you are one of the privileged few who is presented to the king.

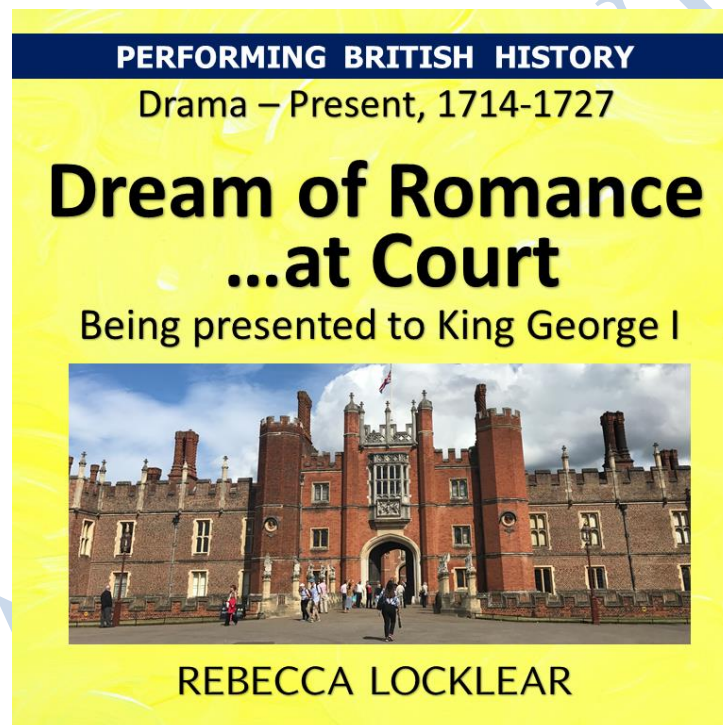
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NOTE: Because three girls play multiple roles, this is NOT for reader's theatre!

**Extended Ideas:** Court life could be an excellent topic to research. This could include dances, dress, food and entertainment, as well as manners of the time (e.g., titles of royalty, small talk, correct ways to bow).

**Where is this used?**

- Music-drama history productions
- Drama showcases
- Homeschool events



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