



2002

The Liberated Dragon

Elizabeth Moss

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Moss, Elizabeth (2002) "The Liberated Dragon," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 23 : Iss. 2 , Article 28.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol23/iss2/28>

This Play Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Head, Faye. *The Liberated Dragon*. Performance Publishing, 1974. \$10 for first show, \$7.50 each show thereafter. 29 pp.

Reviewer: Elizabeth Moss

Reading Level: Primary; Intermediate;

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Plays; Fantasy Plays; Fairy Tale Plays; Adventure Plays;

Subject: Dragons--Juvenile drama; Quests (Expeditions) --Juvenile drama; Princesses--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Happy endings are a result of intelligence, courage, and friendliness.

Production Requirements: Setting can be simple or elaborate, suggesting fantasy. Costumes medium to elaborate, two-headed dragon costume.

Acts: 3

Run Time: 40 min.

Characters: 4 male, 5 female

Cast: adults

Time Period: Once upon a time

It is Princess Rosemary's birthday and her father, the King, has promised that she can be married to one of the three princes who are courting her. However, the king does not know who to pick and will not listen Rosemary's opinion. Instead he challenges the princes. Whoever brings back a dragon in two days can marry Rosemary. Two of the princes are afraid of the dragon and run away. However, Prince Richard, Rosemary's true love, courageously and wittily encounters the dragon. He brings the dragon back alive and they all live in the castle happily ever after.

This is a charming play. The dialogue is well constructed and flows easily, but do not expect jokes or witticisms in the language. Some of the characters, such as the nurse and the two princes who fail to meet the King's challenge, are underdeveloped and forgettable. However, other characters, like Prince Richard and especially the two-headed dragon, Penelope and Hildegard, are wonderful characters that capture attention and have vivacious personalities. The play's action increases when the story moves to the dragon's cave and everyone is running and fighting. The castle scenes focus more on dialogue.

The set is suggestive of fantasy and can be either simple or elaborate. The setting moves from the receiving hall of a castle to a dragon's den and then back to the castle once more. Costumes can also be simple or elaborate, suggestive of any period. The costume of the two-headed dragon will take some creative work.