



2002

You Gotta Charleston!

Lena Wagner

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Mercati, Cynthia. *You Gotta Charleston!* Performance Publishing Co., 1979. \$50.00. 67 pp.

Reviewer: Lena Wagner
Reading Level: Intermediate; Young adult;
Rating: Dependable
Genre: Plays; Historical Plays;
Subject: Drama--Reviews;
Theme: Watch out for the mob.
Production Requirements: Easy set, 1920's costumes
Acts: 3
Run Time: 1 hour
Characters: 14 female, 6 male
Cast: young adults
Time Period: 1920's

This is a light-hearted comedy full of humorous encounters and contrived situations. The play starts in the 1920s at a college with the students going about business as usual preparing for a dance. Pretty soon the rich kid, Tony, gets put under FBI protection against the mob because his father has just caught their leaders. Then another person claiming to be an FBI agent comes to campus to find Tony as well. Now the students must decide which one is the mobster and which one is the FBI agent.

This play would be extremely fun and easy to put on. There are simple costumes, and there is an even easier set. The entire show takes place inside the Alpha Mu Pi Sorority House, which has basic furniture and special decorations for the dance scene. The only possibly difficult thing for the set is a need for stairs up to the girls' bedrooms. The cast would have to stay on top of their lines to keep the show moving and to create the humor. A dance instructor must teach the Charleston and the Shimmy to the actors, but they are both fairly simple dances and should not be difficult to pick up.