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Gypsy Robe

Charlene Gan

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Kelly, Tim. *Gypsy Robe*. Pioneer Drama Service, 1988. Contact publisher regarding price. 9 pp.

Reviewer: Charlene Gan

Reading Level: Primary; Intermediate;

Rating: Dependable;

Genre: Contemporary realistic plays; Occult Plays; Folklore;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Magic--Juvenile drama; Show business--Juvenile drama; Love--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Sometimes love is all the magic you need.

Production Requirements: The set is very easy. You can pantomime most of the props if needed.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 18 min

Characters: 7 F

Cast: Some characters may be changed to make for a mixed cast.

Time Period: Present

It is opening night of a new show and the actresses are getting ready to perform. As they are getting ready, they talk about past performances and their experiences as actresses. Then Penny, a girl from another show comes in wearing the Gypsy Robe. This leads to a discussion of the tradition of the Gypsy Robe. One actress, Melody, does not believe in any theater magic or the Gypsy Robe. When it comes time for Penny to hand the Robe down to the 'debuting' actress, she gives the robe to Amy. Amy decides to give the Robe to Melody instead. Melody, once persuaded to put the robe on, goes through a transformation of becoming more interested in the magic and following the tradition. Her heart softens as she finds the love of others for her.

There is a lot of chatter about theater and its history and superstitions. The dialogue therefore is not too interesting unless you understand a lot about the theater. There is a mix of character types. Amy is a new dancer who is debuting her first Broadway performance while others have more experience in the theater. Each character is very different and has their own styles and ways of doing things. Melody is the type to get everything done and not dilly dally over anything but the current project underway. Penny is very fluttery and she likes to show off a bit but she is a little bit dumb. She has to write down a four line speech to give when she hands down the Robe to Amy and she even forgets who she is giving it too. The play is so short it doesn't allow for any true character development to take place. The show is a little unrealistic in the time of things like how quickly Melody changes her attitude and mind when she puts on the Gypsy Robe. Melody's change happens so quickly that the audience is left wondering what exactly happened. This play may not be intended for all audiences. It may be a good play to do for a class project in high school.