



2003

### Career Fair

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Dorn, Patrick Ranville. *Career Fair*. Encore Performance Publishing, 1986. Contact publisher regarding price. 25 pp.

Reviewer: Jennifer Eskelen

Reading Level: Intermediate; Young Adult;

Rating: Shortcomings;

Genre: Contemporary Realistic; Plays; Allegory;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Career exploration--Juvenile drama;

Theme: You will always have someone to give you guidance.

Production Requirements: Open Stage. Simple sets, costumes, props and a bell sound.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 45 minutes

Characters: 6F, 5M, 5-20 Universal

Cast: 4 adult F, 3 adult M, the rest are variable

Time Period: Present day

Three friends are late to class. On their way, they run into the janitor, Holly Coast. She directs them to the Career Fair where the rest of their class is meeting. While making their way to the Career Fair, they run into evil Professor Barker who takes them to his own, personal, specialized Career Fair. Professor Barker shows the kids the different ways to gain power, money, and control over others. He does this in an attempt to recruit them into his empire. Holly Coast helps each of the kids make the right decision, but ultimately leaves it up to them to decide whether or not they are going to join Professor Barker's evil empire. After each kid has made his or her decision, Holly Coast rids the world of the bad people under Professor Barker by using the legal justice system. The kids are saved and the evil guys are booked all because the children listened to Holly Coast.

This play is the modern day story of good vs. evil. The characters all seem to have their own personalities, especially the kids involved. The vocations presented are shown in a stereotypical manner, however, they are written in a fun, comical light. The writer doesn't show any positive aspects to these very important vocations and so audiences are left wondering if there is any good in the workforce instead of being shown that there are good people still in the world. Some audiences may feel, for example, that only janitors, like Holly Coast, are good and that no elevated job is moral. The kids develop as they each decide to listen to Holly and make their decisions as to whether or not they will join Professor Barker, but they remain true to their personalities and act in a realistic way, as other kids would. The other characters don't change throughout the play even after they are banished from their professions. The action of the play drags every so often for a minute or two, but then picks up a little, especially when the kids are asked which vocation they wish to join. What brings this play down are its religious undertones. The janitor, Holly Coast is the kids' guide through their decision making process and she uses "Holly Water" to banish and humiliate the evil Professor. This may not be appropriate for all audiences.