



2008

The Magic Flute Reloaded

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Cohen, Frumi. *The magic flute reloaded*. Anchorage Press Plays, Inc., 2006. ISBN 9780876024157. Contact Anchorage regarding price. 51 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin;

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult;

Rating: Dependable;

Genre: Adventure play; Plays; Fantasy play;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Musicals; Mythical creatures;

Theme: Violence is not the way.

Production Requirements: Many scene changes, props, special effects, and costume changes.

Acts: 2

Run Time: 90 minutes

Characters: 21

Cast: 6–17 females, 6–11 males

Time Period: Present day and medieval times

The Magic Flute Reloaded tells the story of a modern-day student, Merton, and his quest to overcome his violent behavior. The play begins at school with Merton reacting violently to the bullies who are bothering Weird Melody. The principal arrives and sentences Merton to time in the magical world of Droon. When Merton arrives in Droon, King Meltdown sends him on a mission to rescue Princess Melody from Lady Notsofast, who has imprisoned her. In the process of rescuing the princess, Merton learns to control his temper and is transported back to his school where he rescues Weird Melody from the bullies in a non-violent way.

Although the play is inspired by Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, it is not strictly based on it. It is a musical but it does not use the music from Mozart's work except in one short scene in which music from *The Magic Flute* is played as background music. The six musical numbers are a pop/rap style and in no way equal Mozart's original music because they are monotone and repetitive. The dialogue is well-written at times but then falls into old clichés. The story is interesting but somewhat convoluted and hard to follow. The theme of non-violence is so didactically driven that it loses most of its meaning by the end. The play would be best suited for a group of junior high or high school students performing for their peers.

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