



2009

The Dinosaur Play

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Hotchner, Steve and Kathy. *The Dinosaur Play*. Dramatic Publishing Company, 2007. ISBN 1583425349. \$5.50 script; \$35/performance fee. 28 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Plays; Adventure plays; Historical plays;

Subject: Dinosaurs--Juvenile drama; Prehistoric time--Juvenile drama; Children's plays; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: Working together makes things happen

Production Requirements: Bare stage with props, fog machine and lighting

Acts: 1

Run Time: 45 minutes

Characters: 5

Cast: 5 actors, at least 2 male & 2 female

Time Period: Prehistoric

The play begins with a large egg on the stage, along with a human who tells us that he has traveled back in time; he is covered in fur and is one of the first mammals. The egg is a dinosaur egg. Eventually, a Triceratops and Brontosaurus arrive and with the help of children in the audience, the dinosaurs help the egg to hatch. The egg contains a baby Triceratops, and it is decided that the Brontosaurus will be its mother and the Triceratops its father. With more help from the audience, the dinosaurs teach the baby to walk, escape a Tyrannosaurus rex, and find a new swamp-home for the family. The actor playing the mammal goes back to the future and becomes a human again.

As stated in the title, this is a participation play for children. Children are constantly brought up from the audience to help or asked to do things while sitting in the audience. The actors speak directly to the audience almost constantly. Young children will enjoy helping to move the action along. The writing seems improvisational, as though actors created the play and then someone wrote it down. Although young children would doubtless enjoy the production, it lacks the plot structure needed to engage an older audience.

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