2009

The Dinosaur Play

Rebeca Wallin

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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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