



2009

# Peter Pan

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Barrie, J. M. *Peter Pan*. Samuel French, 1928. ISBN 9780573613913. \$7.50 / script; \$75 / performance fee. 95 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: All

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Plays; Adventure plays; Fantasy plays; Humorous plays;

Subject: Fantasy--Juvenile drama; Pirates--Juvenile drama; Children--Juvenile drama; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: Childhood is fleeting

Production Requirements: Extensive scenery and fly system, extensive special effects

Acts: 5

Run Time: 2 hours

Characters: 25

Cast: 7 + female, 15 + male

Time Period: Early 1900's

This original, non-musical version of the popular children's story was actually written by Barrie before the book. It very closely resembles the children's novel, with the majority of the dialogue being the same. In addition the script includes in-depth stage directions, written by the author, that closely resemble the narration in the book. The story begins with the Darling children in the nursery with their parents. When the parents leave for a dinner party, Peter Pan arrives and takes the children away to Never Land. While there, they have adventures with fairies, mermaids, Indians and of course, Captain Hook. After a large battle at the climax, the children defeat Hook and return home to their parents.

This is a delightful script with all of Barrie's charm shining through. The dialogue is natural and engaging, and the plot will doubtless keep the audience enthralled. The author includes an immense amount of stage direction, which should prove very helpful in character development. According to those stage directions, this play should be produced on a grand scale with an enormous amount of special effects. Although many of the scenes could be simplified, it would be difficult to produce this play without a fly system for the actors.

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