



2010

Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Adventure of the Clockwork Prince

Rebeca Wallin

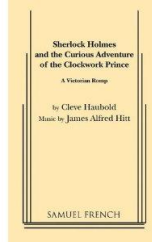
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Haubold, Cleve. *Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Adventure of the Clockwork Prince*. Samuel French, Inc., 1980. 0573616248. \$75 per performance. 53 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Mystery Plays; Holiday Plays; Humorous Plays

Subject: Sherlock Holmes--Juvenile drama; Musical theatre--Juvenile drama; Detectives--Juvenile drama; Drama--Reviews;

Themes: Intellect Prevails over Evil

Production Requirements: Extensive set and prop list as well as numerous period costumes

Acts: 1

Run Time: 1 hour

Characters: 10 +

Cast: six men, four women

Time Period: 1899-1900

In this Sherlock Holmes based musical mystery, Sir Gilbert Mallow, a wealthy candy maker, is having a birthday celebration for his son on New Years Eve 1899. It is discovered that his only son is actually a clockwork foundling who must be wound up each New Years Eve with a special brass key. On this specific New Years, his son will turn 21 and thus inherit Sir Mallow's fortune and the top secret recipe for Licorice Marshmallows. The villain, Sylvester Sinister, appears and steals both the key and the recipe. Sherlock Holmes is sent for and amidst many Gilbert and Sullivan type songs, pun-based jokes, and varied and ridiculous disguises, Sherlock Holmes recovers the key and recipe, and Sullivan is captured.

This Sherlock Holmes story with a farcical slant gives opportunity for lots of fun and laughs. The script is full of physical, situational, and timed humor as well as fun characters for both the actors and audience to enjoy. The setting, props, and costumes are somewhat elaborate with several hiding places, sight gags, and disguises needed. All of these components add to the fun but would make the production a difficult one to tour. The situations and high language make the play suitable for an older youth audience and their parents. This play would also be suitable for secondary age students to perform.

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