



2013

The Clown of God

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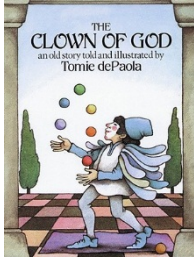
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Author: Olson, Thomas W.

Title: The Clown of God

Year of Publication: 2009

Publisher: Plays for Young Audiences

Found at: <http://www.playsforyoungaudiences.org/scripts/the-clown-of-god>

of pages: 58

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate; Young Adult

Keywords: Orphans; Juggling; Fame; Worship; Plays; Historical Plays

Production Requirements: Lead must be an exceptional juggler, period costumes as well as Commedia costumes and props, involved lighting plot a plus, some special effects.

of Acts: 1

Estimated Runtime: 75 minutes

of Characters: 20+

Royalty: \$85 per performance

Cast Requirements: 5 female, 15 male; some doubling possible

Time Period: medieval

Review:

Clown of God is based on the book of the same name by Tomie dePaola. A young orphan named Giovanni who is an amazing juggler meets and joins with a traveling family of Commedia del l'Arte players. He eventually begins performing with them and his fame as a juggler grows. He leaves the family to pursue his fortune, which is great, until he grows old and unable to juggle. He gives one last amazing performance to a statue of the Madonna and Christ child and then dies.

With the well-crafted dialogue and well-developed characters the audience will be transported to the time period and will care deeply for the characters. The juggling and well-timed comedy will keep younger audience members entertained while older audiences will stay engaged with the authentic characters, interesting plot developments and thought provoking message. Although the production could be adapted for a simpler staging, the original concept calls for a large scale production with extensive lighting, sound and other special effects. If more simply adapted, the play would do well touring to schools.

Reviewers Name: Rebeca Wallin

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