



2013

Starry Messenger by Kari Margolis

Rebeca Diane Wallin
rebecawallin@yahoo.com

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Author: Margolis, Kari

Title: *Starry Messenger*

Year of Publication: 2000

Publisher: Plays for Young Audiences (<http://www.playsforyoungaudiences.org/>)

Number of pages: 60

Rating: Dependable

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate

Keywords: Galileo; Solar System; Scientific Research; Children's Theatre; Children's Plays

Production Requirements: Large set with two levels, period costuming, extensive special effects using fly system, lighting and sound.

Number of Acts: 1

Estimated Runtime: 90 minutes

Number of Characters: 18 + ensemble

Cast Requirements: 13 male, 2 female, 3 either

Time Period: mid 1500's through mid 1600's

Royalty Fee: \$50-\$75

Review:

Beginning with an inquisitive eight year old Galileo, the play covers his life and achievements from that time forth including his heliocentric, gravitational, pendulum, and telescope discoveries. The play highlights the resistance and disbelief that Galileo was met with by the current scholars of his day. Music and songs are present throughout the script and some of the dialogue is written in verse form. This play would be interesting and entertaining to students that have recently studied or are currently studying Galileo and his discoveries. The play itself would not necessarily educate students about specific discoveries as they are discussed quickly and often in highly technical terms; but students studying the information would enjoy seeing Galileo's thought process and discoveries on stage. The play is full of magic and spectacle which sometimes seems to take precedence over character and story. The attempt to write in verse is somewhat forced resulting in characters that are not as believable as they could be. Galileo's personal life is mostly glossed over though an unexplained and unresolved relationship with his daughter is present in many of the scenes. The theme of disbelief and resistance to change is heavily present throughout the script.

Reviewers: Rebeca Wallin

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