



2016

Totally Red

Rebeca Wallin

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Play Review

Title: Totally Red

Author: Dinah Toups; music and lyrics by Barbara Walker

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Publisher: Anchorage Press, Inc.

Publication Year: 1995

Number of Pages: 32

Production Requirements: Simple painted backdrop, multiple props, neutral costumes with add-on pieces.

Estimated Run Time: 30-40 minutes

Number of Acts: 1

Number of Characters: 32

Cast Requirements: 2 female, 3 male with doubling

Time Period: Various

Reading/Interest Level: Preschool, Primary, Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Review

Little Red Riding Hood gets several makeovers in this creative introduction to theater styles. The original story is set up using a basic storybook theater style and is then retold in various styles including melodrama, Shakespearean, hip-hop music, avant-garde, and musical theater. The script itself is humorous and includes narrators that give a quick introduction to each scene explaining the theater style the audience is about to see. The concise introductions and short scenes perfectly convey each style while maintaining a young audience's interest. Dialogue is flowing and natural and the script includes helpful director's notes for staging as well as complete prop lists and music suggestions.

The versatile script allows for a large cast or a small one with actors playing multiple rolls and will be enjoyable for actors; giving them the chance to play with colorful characters and varying styles. The score is playful and catchy, and an accompaniment CD is available. Touring this show is a good option given the bare-bones set, flexible cast size, and simple costumes. Administrators and teachers will appreciate the educational component of the script; school children will appreciate the fun.