



2017

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Rebeca Wallin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wallin, Rebeca (2017) "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 4 , Article 21.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss4/21>

This Play Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Play Review

Title: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Author: J.K. Rowling, Jack Thorne, John Tiffany

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books

Publication Year: 2016

Number of Pages: 308

Production Requirements: Extensive and elaborate sets, in-depth and complicated special effects, elaborate lighting and

sound needs, extensive costuming, props that appear magical

Estimated Run Time: 5 hours

Number of Acts: 4

Number of Characters: 36

Cast Requirements: 15+ male, 11+ female

Time Period: present day

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Review

For those who have grown up reading the Harry Potter series and have always yearned for more, this is nostalgia at its finest. Harry, Ron, and Hermione return along with cameos from almost all other major characters. Harry Potter's youngest son, Albus, has arrived for his first year at Hogwarts. He is placed in Slytherin house, much to the chagrin of his father. As the years progress, father and son grow apart while Albus worries about living up to his famous father's reputation. When Albus and his best friend Scorpius, son of Draco Malfoy, learn that a time-turner exists they decide to try to change the past in order to improve their current circumstances. But tampering with time leads to endless trouble. After each of their attempts to change the past, they return to a present that is a completely new and increasingly worse. When Harry and Albus at last begin to resolve their differences and come together they are able to work together to set things right again. And that is the crux of this play: relationships and healing.

As aforementioned, this performance is suitable for those who grew up reading the books, not the children currently reading them. The play is most suitable for older teens and adults due to the mature themes and intense situations. The script is published together as parts one and two and is indeed two full length plays which are meant to be viewed back to back. Due to the amount of exposition and set-up needed for the story, part two is stronger and more action packed while part one is a bit slow and depressing at times. Many characters are well-developed and most plot points are revealed as the surprises they are intended to be. Some surprises may dash previously held happy perceptions; one major character is suspicious early on and might be guessed at earlier than intended by the authors. The play is currently not licensed for theatrical production and is published as a book for at-home enjoyment. Due to the intense and fantastic production requirements, production by a non-professional theater would be quite difficult.