1984

Play Reviews

Harold R. Oaks

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Play Reviews


B+

Four sixteen-year-olds have just completed their training and are awaiting assignment to a guild in the future world called Orb, which is controlled by a master computer. Peter discovers the forbidden outside world, is reported by his friends, but escapes with the help of Bernice. They risk treason to reveal the outside world for the good of all living in the Orb.

The play deals with Orwell's 1984 type of people-control, and should be an excellent springboard for discussion about total control of environment, freedom of speech and action, the place of computers in society, etc. The play reads well, is fast paced and could be done with minimal or extensive scenic support. It would be good for audiences age twelve or older.

---Harold R. Oaks.


A- All Ages

This dramatization of Stevenson's novel follows the boy, Jim Hawkins, from audience member to serving boy to cabin boy as he finds the map and seeks the pirate treasure.

Colorful characters like Billy Jones, Ben Gunn, and Long John Silver populate the stage. Plans, plots, betrayals and death figure into the plot. This is an exciting play intended for adults to perform to a young audience, but any audience should enjoy it!—Harold R. Oaks.


A modernized, humorous take-off of the Grimm Brothers tale. The original storyline remains prominent. Snow White is left alone in the woods because of her stepmother's jealousy. Snow White finds her way to the little cottage of the dwarves. The little men grow to love her dearly. She stays with them, but while she is alone one day, her stepmother fools Snow White with a poisoned apple. She is rescued by the Prince, who dislodges the piece of apple in her throat.

In this clever, witty version of Snow White there are spicy bits of humor injected. However, Jollo, the court jester, speaks in rhyme throughout the play and it gets sing-songy and tiresome, detracting from the storyline. The characters were solid and believable. This musical play is for all ages, and
could be performed by junior high and high school students.
--Renee Hieftje.

(Schulenburg, TX) Royalty: $35-1st performance; $25-each additional performance. For grades 3 - 9 and general audiences. This two-act adaptation of Twain's classic novel moves quickly to cover most of the highlights of the original. The characters come through with strength, color and humor. It should be an exciting play to stage. It does make some significant demands in lighting and smooth stage movement, but audiences should enjoy it. --Harold R. Oaks.