



TAUBENSLAG PRODUCTIONS

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Santa Claus Meets the Wicked Wizard

A FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!

A Live Musical Comedy for Kids

Study Guide

A Note From the Director:

Taubenslag Productions has been presenting quality family entertainment since 1964. Our founder, my father Elliott Taubenslag, received the New Jersey Governor's Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Educational Theater". In 1988, our company won the Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanities Award – "Best Program For Children in the United States of America". Our company also offers a workshop program called **THEATER WEEK** to Elementary schools throughout the tri-state area. Under the guidance of our company, the students rehearse and perform a full-scale musical in one week's time. As well our **THEATER CAMP** based out of Middlesex County College in Central, NJ is another way we teach children to appreciate the performing arts and all of its aspects. Our company believes in giving children a broad appreciation of the arts.

We believe in entertaining children as well as adults. Our formula is simple; Never talk down to the children. Always keep a fast pace. And visually stimulate their imaginations. Our mission is to present "Broadway Quality" shows for families.

We hope our production of ***Santa Claus Meets The Wicked Wizard*** will become your favorite annual holiday treat. We strive to create the fantasy world, while all the time keeping the audience laughing, booing, hissing, and cheering. So sit back and let your imagination take flight. Enjoy the show and have a Happy and Healthy Holiday!

Orchestrations
Jim Nuzzo

Written & Conceived by
Elliott & Michael Taubenslag

Directed by
Michael Taubenslag

The Characters

Eddie the Elf

Rapunzel

Wicked Wizard

Engelbert

Madame Lasagna

Hot Coco

The Boy

Santa Claus

Santa Claus Meets the Wicked Wizard, an original musical comedy from Taubenslag Productions, begins when Eddie the Elf finds an invitation to Santa Claus' Holiday Party. The invitation is for Rapunzel, the Wicked Wizard's poor servant girl. Eddie delivers the invitation hoping Rapunzel will take her along to the North Pole where she can apply for the position of *Head Elf* in Santa's workshop.

When Eddie arrives at Rapunzel's tower, she discovers that the Wicked Wizard has never allowed Rapunzel to attend a party. In order to go, Rapunzel must obtain the Wicked Wizard's permission. The Wizard denies her request and forbids her to go. Eddie and the children of the audience however, convince the ill-treated girl to disobey the Wicked Wizard and attend Santa's Party. The evil Wizard discovers that Rapunzel has escaped her tower and is heading towards the North Pole; so he decides to follow them and orders his silly servant Englebert to join him. And so the adventure begins.

Though Rapunzel is eager to meet Santa Claus, she must first learn the skills needed to attend his party - to sing, dance, and laugh. With the help of Madame Lasagna, the great opera star, Rapunzel learns how to sing and dance. And who else, but the hilarious Jack in the Box, could make Rapunzel laugh. At each step of the way, the Wicked Wizard and Englebert confront her. After many narrow escapes, and acquiring a new glittering ball gown, Rapunzel and her new friends arrive at the North Pole.

Santa Claus, knowing how unhappy Rapunzel has been, has prepared some of his MAGIC PUNCH - "*one sip and all of Rapunzel's wishes will come true*". When Santa leaves to greet his guests, the Wizard sneaks in and poisons the punch. He tells the audience that once Rapunzel drinks the punch she will fall into a deep trance - and if **Santa** drinks the punch, there will be no more presents to be given out. At that point, he and Englebert hide.

Santa Claus and his guests enter. He toasts Rapunzel as she wishes happiness to all of her new friends. By now, the audience is wildly begging Santa and Rapunzel not to drink. Just as they are about to sip the punch, Englebert dashes out to save them - he grabs Santa's goblet and drinks the poisoned punch himself. This, of course, sends Englebert into a deep trance.

Santa Claus comes to the rescue. With the help of the audience, he casts a spell of "L-O-V-E" - which is stronger than the Wizard's "evil magic". Incredibly, Englebert springs back to his jovial self. The Wicked Wizard is confronted as to why he is so mean. He explains, that he had never been invited anywhere - and when he was a young boy, other children mistreated and made fun of him - and so he became a bully himself. He sadly cries that he has no friends. Santa forgives him and decides to invite him to the party - if the audience will forgive the Wizard's naughty deeds. The audience always does, and the production closes with Santa, and all of his new friends having a fun-filled Holiday Party.

Describe Elements of the Set:

Describe one costume that you saw. What did the costume tell you about the character? Was the character young or old? Was the character a boy or a girl? How do you know?

Describe one of the sets in the play. What did the set tell about the play? What reaction did you have to the set? Why?

Name a prop that you saw during the show. How did it appear on stage? How was the prop used to tell the story?

Name a sound you heard during the show. What did the sound tell you? How did the sound help tell the story? Did that sound make you feel an emotion and if so how did it make you feel?

Storyline/Plot

Eddie the Elf found some boxes. What was in the smallest box?

Why was Rapunzel so surprised at the invitation she received?

What 3 things did Rapunzel need to learn in order to get into the party?

Why was the Wizard trying so hard to stop Rapunzel from going to the party?

What made the Wizard so mean? What was the cause? What could have changed the Wizard when he was younger?

What does this story teach us about the importance of friendship?

What lessons can we take away from the show?

Characters (Performance) and Choice

What did the Wizard want overall? What did the actor say or do to show us that? What obstacles prevented the Wizard from getting what he wanted?

How did the Wizards' behavior change during the course of the show? Why did this change occur?

Communicate observations about the actors:

- How did the Wizard walk? Talk? What did his body language convey?
- How did Englebert walk? Talk? What did his body language convey?
- How did Rapunzel walk? Talk? What did her body language convey?

Which character do you feel like you are most like? Why?

Which character is your favorite and why?

Which character is your least favorite and why?

Which character is the villain and why?

Which character is the hero/heroine and why?

If you could ask one of the characters a question, what would it be? Why? Why did you choose that character to ask a question?

Articulate your understanding of one of the performance by retelling or re-creating your favorite moment from the show.

Describing the Action

Describe and demonstrate how one of the characters you were observing moved on stage?

Demonstrate a gesture or a movement done by one of the characters you remember from the show? Which character used the gesture? What was the actor trying to say with the gesture or movement?

Describe one of the actor's voices. Do you remember a specific word or phrase that one of the actor's said? What do we notice about the character or the character's voice when we say it in the same way?

Describe the music that you heard during the show. What did the music tell us about the characters? How did the music tell us about the action? Did the music change during the show - from what to what?

Which moment do you remember most from the performance? What was happening at that moment? Draw a picture of that moment and include all the characters.