



Performance Notes for The Magic Mirror

THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

- 1.** *Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom.* Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
- 2.** *Students can perform the play in the classroom.* Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
- 3.** *Students can perform the play on stage.* Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



COSTUMES

- NARRATOR— Simple, nice clothing.
- MEN— Dark colored clothing, button up shirts, suit jackets, pants, and dark dress shoes.
- WOMEN— Dark and drab clothing, floor length skirts, bonnets and aprons.



- **BARBER**—Suspenders over his button up shirt, long pants, and dark dress shoes.
- **SHEPHERDESS**— Same as the other women, but her costume should be tattered and dirty.
- **MESSENGER** and **NIGHT WATCHMAN**— Black shirt, black pants, a nice dark colored blazer or jacket, black shoes.
- **KING**— A crown, red robe, dark pants, and dark shoes.



PROPS

Scene 1

- A broom for the **BARBER**.
- A trumpet for **MESSENGER**. This can be real, plastic, or made from paper. (The “fan fare” can actually be played, or the actor can make a noise with their mouth.)
- A scroll for **MESSENGER**. This can be a piece of beige or tan colored paper, rolled up and tied with a ribbon. You can write the actual message on the paper.

Scene 2

- A trumpet for **MESSENGER**. This is the same one from Scene 1.

Scene 3

- A trumpet for **MESSENGER**. This is the same one from Scene 1.



SETS

Note: This is a one-set play. The same stage set remains throughout the play.

If you want to make a backdrop, you can paint it to show a medieval town scene with different shops and the Barbershop in the middle. If you have no backdrop, you can just rely on set pieces to set the stage.

Make a few shops from large cardboard boxes, such as refrigerator boxes, to place on stage. Paint cardboard to look like store fronts, with windows, doors, and sign that say things such as “Baker”, “Blacksmith”, “Candy”, etc. One should say “barbershop” and show a red-and-white barber pole. The Barbershop should be in the middle of the stage.

In front of the Barbershop there is an easel. On one side is a large mirror. You can make the mirror by covering one side with aluminum foil.

In Scene 2, the easel is brought out, but there is a cloth is draped over the mirror, so that the audience cannot see it.

Note: In Scene 1, you can have the easel onstage already, and use it as a sign holder. Attach a sign that reads “Village Barbershop” to the side that doesn’t have the mirror on it. Then, in Scene 2, you can flip the easel around.

Optional: In order to give the set a little more Barbershop flare, you can make a separate red and white barbershop pole out of cardboard and attach it to a second easel.

