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## **Family Plays**



THE MAGIC FLUTE  
RELOADED

Book, music and lyrics by Frumi Cohen  
Inspired by Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

## The Magic Flute RELOADED

A contemporary musical comedy inspired by the classic Mozart opera, the songs are in the style of hip-hop and pop. A music CD is available with rehearsal tracks (with vocals) and performance-ready production tracks.

Merton Mercudio is suspended from school for uncontrollable fighting, and sentenced to four minutes in the land of Droon. We enter the whimsical land of Droon, and find it is really the world of Merton's conscience and imagination. While there seeking his princess, Merton learns about anger management from King Meltdown, a self-centered, cowardly king; his daughter, the beautiful but rebellious Princess Melody; her mother, the bossy queen, Lady Notsofast, who holds her daughter prisoner; a two-headed, insult-slinging monster, and the cowardly but loveable Grumbo the Grindylow. For Merton, four minutes in Droon proves to be a valuable lesson—that will last him a lifetime. Code: MH6.

**APPROX. RUNNING TIME:** 75 MINUTES

**CAST:** 11 MINIMUM; UP TO 25+ WITH ROLES DISTRIBUTED;  
GOOD ROLES FOR YOUTH

**SETTING:** SIMPLE, SUITABLE FOR TOURING

**COSTUMES:** CONTEMPORARY AND FANTASY

**MUSIC:** CD OF MUSIC BY FRUMI COHEN WITH REHEARSAL TRACKS AND PERFORMANCE TRACKS AVAILABLE FROM PUBLISHER

**PLAYWRIGHT:** **Frumi Cohen** (book, music and lyrics) is a two time recipient of the Grant Fellowship for Playwriting from The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Her musical A SHOW OF HANDS, enjoyed a three month run off-off Broadway at The 13th Street Repertory Company. Her award-winning musicals for children and young adults have been published and produced by theaters across the country. Her musical, AMY CROCKET: MVP, is published by Anchorage Press Plays. Cohen has also written articles for *The Dramatist* (published by The Dramatists Guild), *Scholastic Magazine*, *Teaching Theatre* (published by Educational Theatre Association), and is presently working on a musical adaptation of WESLANDIA, by Paul Fleischman, a popular children's book published by Candlewick Press. For more information, musical excerpts, or to contact Frumi Cohen, visit her website at [www.frumicohen.com](http://www.frumicohen.com).

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“Produced by special arrangement with  
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Dedicated to Noa  
for so many, many reasons

## ORIGINAL PRODUCTION CREDIT

*The Magic Flute RELOADED* was first produced at Plymouth Meeting Friends School in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania in May of 2004. The play was directed by Frumi Cohen.

### Cast

Merton: Carson Vitello

Weird Melody/Lady in Waiting: Michaela Cross

Sammy: Sean DeLone

Deva/Beautio: Laura Miller

Eva/Moodio: Matilda David

Zeva/Snootio: Ana Bass

Señor Basil/Grumble/Vampman: Ben Woods

Mrs. Binding/Grumbo: Rashmi Sagaram

Principal Clearcut/Vampman: Lukas Koerner

King Meltdown: Jacob Rosen

Princess Melody: Tess Crawford

Vice Lord Vamp: John Guest

Klymatra/Vampmen: Jason Brady, Sean DeLone

Voice of Droon: Jason Q. Lazarus

Lady Notsofast: Natalie Smith

Direction and Sound: Frumi Cohen

Choreography: Becky Inver

Choreography for Vamp Dance: Sydney Licht

Costume Design: Ann Alberts

Lighting Design: Andy Emery

Make-up: Ann Alberts, Dora Ficher, Heidi Rozak

Set Design and Construction: Gary Miller, Ann Alberts



## **LIST OF CHARACTERS in order of appearance**

**MERTON MERCUDIO:** (baritone) a boy; a bully, but for good causes; needs to learn to settle his problems in a non-violent manner

**WEIRD MELODY:** a quiet, shy girl

**SAMMY STEED:** an obnoxious kid at school

**EVA:** an obnoxious girl at school

**DEVA:** an obnoxious girl at school

**ZEVA:** an obnoxious girl at school

**SEÑORA or SEÑOR BASIL:** Spanish teacher

**MRS. BINDING:** a teacher

**PRINCIPAL CLEARCUT:** head of Similar School

**PROFESSOR VALENTINO:** a teacher

**GRUMBO:** a grindylow (part human and mostly dragon-like creature) who talks incessantly, is a hypochondriac and loves eating

**MOODIO:** a moody, feisty "girlgon" who works for King Meltdown

**BEAUTIO:** a beautiful, feisty "girlgon" who works for King Meltdown

**SNOOTIO:** a snobby, feisty "girlgon" who works for King Meltdown

**KING MELTDOWN:** Melody's father

**PRINCESS MELODY:** (soprano) King Meltdown's daughter

**VICE LORD VAMP:** works in court of Lady Notsofast guarding Princess Melody; is clumsy, and tries to impress Melody with his terrible poetry

**KLYMATRA 1 & KLYMATRA 2:** two-headed monster who insults its victims before eating them (played by two actors)

**THE VOICE OF DROON:** a voice of reason (can be pre-recorded)

**LADY NOTSOFAST:** (mezzo soprano) ruler of Droon

**GRUMBLE:** a grindylow who becomes Grumbo's eventual "handsome" mate

**SUBJECTS/LADIES-IN-WAITING:** (optional)

## PRODUCTION NOTES

The following cast breakdown is a suggestion for doubling:

1. MERTON MERCUDIO
2. WEIRD MELODY/PRINCESS MELODY
3. SAMMY STEED/VICE LORD VAMP
4. EVA/MOODIO/SUBJECT 1/LADY-IN-WAITING 1
5. DEVA/BEAUTIO/SUBJECT 2/LADY-IN-WAITING 2
6. ZEVA/SNOOTIO/VAMP'S GUARD/LADY-IN-WAITING 3
7. SEÑORA OR SEÑOR BASIL/LADY NOTSOFAST
8. MRS. BINDING/GRUMBO
9. PRINCIPAL CLEARCUT/KING MELTDOWN/VAMP'S GUARD
10. PROFESSOR VALENTINO/KLYMATRA 1/VAMP'S GUARD
11. GRUMBLE/KLYMATRA 2/VAMP'S GUARD
12. THE VOICE OF DROON (CAN BE PRE-RECORDED)

### SETTINGS:

Similar School hallway

Forest of King Meltdown (Droon)

Courtyard of Lady Notsofast's castle (Droon)

Forest right outside of the castle (Droon)

Chamber of Trials (Droon)

Princess Melody's turret room (Droon)

Forest of Droon (Droon)

### SONGS:

**Music CD available with rehearsal tracks (with vocals) and performance-ready production tracks.**

DROON – company

CLICK-CLICK, LOCK-LOCK – King Meltdown and girlgons

LORD VAMP AND THE VAMP MEN (DANCE) – Vamp and his men

I AM THE QUEEN – Lady Notsofast and company

CRAZY– Merton, Princess Melody and Ladies-in-Waiting

CHOICES– Lady Notsofast and company

# The Magic Flute

## RELOADED

book, music and lyrics by Frumi Cohen  
inspired by Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

### ACT ONE

#### Scene One

(SETTING: THE SIMILAR SCHOOL, BETWEEN CLASSES IN A HALLWAY)

At rise, *Weird Melody* is sitting in fetal position, tissue in hand, sniffing. *Merton* enters.)

**MERTON:** Hey, what's wrong, Melody?

**WEIRD MELODY:** Nothing.

**MERTON:** Doesn't look like nothing. It was the Spanish test, wasn't it?

**WEIRD MELODY:** (Nodding) Sí.

**MERTON:** It is pretty nasty, isn't it? The way *Señora* makes us get up in front of everyone.

**WEIRD MELODY:** I'd rather die than have a conversation with her—up there—in Spanish.

**MERTON:** Why don't you go talk to her? Tell her you knew it, but you were nervous.

**WEIRD MELODY:** Nervous? I was more like *muerta de miedo*.

**MERTON:** Huh?

**WEIRD MELODY:** Scared to death.

(Enter *Sammy*, *Eva*, *Deva* and *Zeva* laughing with one another)

**SAMMY:** *Como estas*, *Señorita* Melody?

**DEVA:** (Laughing) More like *Señorita* Weirdo.

**SAMMY:** *(To Eva)* So, *Señorita* Weirdo, what is your favorite animal?

**EVA:** *(Taunting)* *Mi animal preferido es el gusano de Canada.*

**ZEVA:** Canada worms? Did she really say that?

**WEIRD MELODY:** I meant geese. *Ganso.* I was nervous.

**SAMMY:** More like stupid.

**MERTON:** *(To Sammy)* Okay, lay off her.

*(Ignoring Merton, Sammy grabs Melody's book bag, dumps it and finds a stuffed mini Canada goose. Deva forms a basket with her arms and he shoots the goose through it. Melody is humiliated.)*

**DEVA/EVA/ZEVA:**

Go—go—go—go—go—

**WEIRD MELODY:** Give it back, Sammy!

**SAMMY:** Hey, girls, it looks like *Señorita* Weirdo does have a friend.

**DEVA:** Too bad it's a stuffed goose.

*(Weird Melody tries to grab the goose. The four pass the goose around in a keep away game. During the next dialogue all sorts of sports are pantomimed with the goose being the center of the action.)*

**MERTON:** Not sure you heard me, Sammy. I just asked you nicely to leave her alone.

**SAMMY:** Make me, Mermaid.

**MERTON:** What did you say?

*(Enter Mrs. Binding, Principal Clearcut, Professor Valentino and Señora Basil)*

**SAMMY:** I said, make me, Mermaid.

**MERTON:** Okay, then, since you asked me so nicely... I have no choice.

*(Merton raises his arm as if to throw a punch at Sammy.)*

**SEÑORA BASIL:** *(Spanish accent)* Hold everything, Merton! Cease and desist!

*(Merton freezes in punch position, but still is able to converse. All others, but the teachers, freeze completely.)*

**MRS. BINDING:** Merton dear, remember, we always have choices.

**MERTON:** But he chose to call me Mermaid. So I choose to smash his nose in.

**SEÑORA BASIL:** Merton, last month, Julio Greenberg ended up in the emergency room.

**MERTON:** An accident. My fist just happened to contact his cheekbone.

**CLEARCUT:** Was it an accident when you ripped the toilet out of the men's room when we lost the basketball championship?

**MRS. BINDING:** Or when you punched a hole in my door after I gave you detention for punching a hole in my bulletin board?

**CLEARCUT:** Merton Mercurdio, your time has arrived. Until you can learn to make better choices, I am suspending you from school.

**MERTON:** Please, Dr. Clearcut, don't send me home. My parents will kill me.

**CLEARCUT:** Not to worry. You won't be going home.

**ALL TEACHERS:** Merton Mercurdio, we hereby sentence you to four full minutes in Droon.

**MERTON:** What's Droon? And what can I possibly learn there in four minutes?

**PROFESSOR VALENTINO:** Ah, well, four minutes in Droon.... is a lifetime.

**SONG: DROON**

*(During the song, all break the freeze. If doubling, school characters don the costume of their alter-egos. All the other characters of Droon enter and sing as they set the stage for the story. The director should feel free to assign different groups/ solos to parts of the song as desired.)*

**COMPANY:** *(Sings)*

Droon—  
Is a kind of a name  
For a kind of a place  
Droon—  
Is a lifetime of thought  
But a moment in space  
Droon—  
Is a place that you've been  
But a place you may never  
have  
Heard of—at all

It's a voice, it's a prayer  
It's a song, it's a wish  
It's a call—  
Listen, and you'll hear it

Droon—  
Always there if you need it  
It's not hard to find—your  
Droon—  
Where the scenery changes  
When you change your mind  
Droon—  
It's the scene that you write  
And the story you want  
To come true  
And it's all about you

Move the pieces, set the stage  
Just the way you want it to be  
You're the king or the queen  
Or the sage  
Nasty villain, handsome hero  
Ladies three  
Princess in distress  
Monsters, mystery

Magic, misery  
 Villainy and vanity  
 And irony, insanity  
 And gluttony, calamity  
 It's your story

**COMPANY:**

*(Sings primary lyrics)*

Droon—

Always there if you need it

It's not hard to find your

Droon—

Where the scenery changes

When you change your mind

**COMPANY:** *(All sing)***COMPANY:**

*(Sings primary lyrics)*

It's the story of you

It's your Droon

**COMPANY:** *(All sing)*

*(Lights out)*

**COMPANY:**

*(Sings descant lyrics)*

Move the pieces, set the stage

Just the way you want it

To be

You're the king or the queen

Or the sage

Nasty villain, handsome hero

Ladies three—

Droon—

It's the story you write

And the story you want

To come true

**COMPANY:**

*(Sings echoing)*

It's the story of you

It's your Droon

DROON

**ACT ONE**  
**Scene Two**

*(SETTING: FOREST OF KING MELTDOWN; A MEDIEVAL GREAT-SWORD HANGS OBVIOUSLY FROM A TREE*

*At rise, Merton takes in his surroundings. Noticing the sword, he can't resist trying it out. Suddenly, Grumbo attacks from nowhere. Merton is surprised, but fights admirably, though the sword is way too heavy for him to handle. The girlgons enter with various alternate medieval weapons; baselard/dagger, longbow, a spear etc. and proceed to cheer him on.)*

**BEAUTIO:** Don't swing it like that! Thrust. Thrust and stab. That's how it's done.

*(Merton has trouble controlling the length of the great sword. Between blows, he grabs at a smaller weapon being offered him by Snootio.)*

**SNOOTIO:** That's right, Martin. The baselard is what you need at close quarters, something short. Now charge and thrust. And stop waving it around like a feather-duster.

*(Merton stops waving and tries an impotent thrust or two.)*

**MOODIO:** That your best shot, Martin?

**MERTON:** It's Merton.

**MOODIO:** Well, Merton, you have about five seconds 'til you're grindylow paté.

*(The fight continues. Finally, Grumbo advances, stops, sneezes, coughs and wheezes right at Merton who takes one whiff of the grindylow's vile breath and keels over. All, including Grumbo, surround him.)*

**BEAUTIO:** You were supposed to let him win, not knock him out.

**GRUMBO:** I know, I know. *(Sneezes)* It's the asthma again. Snootio, are you wearing that ragweed perfume again?

**SNOOTIO:** No. I threw that out long ago.



**MOODIO:** No she didn't. I saw her hiding it underneath the—

**SNOOTIO:** Shut-up, Moodio. Anyway, I `m not wearing any. See?

*(She goes over to Grumbo who takes a sniff and nothing happens.)*

**GRUMBO:** Well, it could be anything then. The trees, the mold, the air—everything's potential torture for an allergy sufferer like myself...

**BEAUTIO:** You know we're going to have to report this to the king.

**GRUMBO:** ... and I couldn't take my medicine because I think it's been giving me a rash. Do you see this thing on my back? Is it still red? It was bright red this morning and it itched like crazy. I'm just lucky I made it out in time.

**SNOOTIO:** And what a good job you've done. He's out cold.

**GRUMBO:** I was in such a hurry, I forgot to brush this morning. I know my breath can be pretty bad. Hold on, let me check.

*(She breathes into her claw and smells it. Then she passes out.)*

**MOODIO:** Oh, fabulous. Look at the two of them.

**SNOOTIO:** *(Snorts)* Yeah, beauty and the beast. *(Laughs)* Get it? Beauty and the beast?

**BEAUTIO:** King Meltdown won't think it's so funny. Remember last time things went wrong, he suspended our allowance for a month?

**MOODIO:** Yeah. Why did he have to take it out on us?

**SNOOTIO:** Maybe because it was our fault?

**BEAUTIO:** Well, I'm out of here. We only have a few good shopping hours before he finds out and cuts us off. I'm running dangerously low on hair products.

**MOODIO:** But we're supposed to report it to him. Right away.

**BEAUTIO:** And we will. Right away—after we do our shopping.

**SNOOTIO:** An emergency is an emergency. I'm starting to look dangerously brunette.

**BEAUTIO:** Okay, then. Let's go, girls!

*(They exit. Grumbo slowly comes to, checks herself thoroughly for broken bones and tries to scratch the unreachable itchy rash on her back. She approaches Merton who is still unconscious. She sits him up against a rock and tries to bring him to.)*

**GRUMBO:** Come on, kid. Wake up. Wake up. It wasn't that bad, was it?

**MERTON:** *(Moaning)* Where am I?

*(Merton opens his eyes, sees Grumbo and screams, jumps up and grabs the fallen sword with one hand and protects his nose with the other.)*

**MERTON:** Don't come any closer!

**GRUMBO:** Please, it's just "grindygestion."

**MERTON:** Uaagh!

**GRUMBO:** I guess the high fiber diet isn't working. Listen, I know you barely know me, but you see, I have this rash on my back—at least I think it's a rash, though it could be a hive or a touch of eczema but I doubt that because it doesn't have any dry patches... Anyway, I'd be much obliged if you would scratch it.

**MERTON:** Who are you?

**GRUMBO:** I am Grumbo, the Grindylow—and you are Merton, the nose terminator. Charmed to meet you. *(She tries to shake his hand but he extends the sword, which she shakes instead)* Now that we've met, would you mind? *(She turns around and Merton hesitantly scratches her back with the tip of the sword.)* Up a little more... down... there! Right there. Ahhh!

**MERTON:** How do you know about me?

**GRUMBO:** King Meltdown knows all. He's my boss and he told me. He also told me not to let you out of my sight and make sure you fulfill your mission—no matter what.

**MERTON:** What's my mission?

**GRUMBO:** I don't know that. They don't tell me everything around here, you know. It's for my own protection.

**MERTON:** *(Getting her in a headlock position)* You're going to need protection if I don't get some answers soon, I'm going to—

**GRUMBO:** Please! I have a lower back problem, and don't forget the rash... it may be contagious.

*(An ominous roll of thunder is heard and the three girlgions rush in with shopping bags.)*

**MOODIO:** Cease and desist!

**SNOOTIO:** Unhand that grindylo!

**MOODIO:** What's this? Our little Marty is conscious for five minutes and already, he's fighting.

**MERTON:** *(Punctuating by squeezing Grumbo)* It's Merton. My name is Merton!

**GRUMBO:** Ow! Ow! Yeow!

**SNOOTIO:** *(Clicking tongue admonishingly)* Isn't that why you're here? To learn how to control your anger?

**MERTON:** I'm lost, ok? I'm in a strange forest with strange creatures, one of which almost killed me with her breath. If I don't get some information right now, I snuff the grindylo! How's that for being in control?

**BEAUTIO:** Ooh. He's even cuter when he's mad.

**MOODIO:** Definitely. So, Marvin, what are you doing later?

**SNOOTIO:** Oh, no you don't, I saw him first...