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*Dramatic Publishing*



**MAGIC  
THEATRE  
III**

A NEW STYLE CHILDREN'S  
REVUE WITH MUSIC

By

**SAUNDRA MATHEWS-DEACON**



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

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(MAGIC THEATRE III)  
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**MAGIC THEATRE III**  
**or**  
**The Secret Six**  
**For Three Girls and Three Boys**

**C H A R A C T E R S**

**HERBIE** . . . . . the leader  
**JOHN-JOHN** . . . . . very ingratiating and eager to please  
**STUMP** . . . . . a little slow, easily confused, but a good follower  
**MATILDA** . . . . . very feminine, light and airy, often passive  
**BARB** . . . . . tomboyish, lopes around, physically active  
**SUE ANN** . . . . . the brains of the girls, clever and devilish,  
sparse, clean, economical in movement

The six children are all about seven or eight years old and they all live in the same neighborhood. A guitarist or pianist may be used to accompany the songs.

### MAGIC THEATRE III

Bare stage. House dims as general stage lighting fades up to dim.  
HERBIE enters from UC sneakily, looking around to be sure he isn't being watched, and crosses DC.

HERBIE (stage whisper). Oo-oo-oo. Emergency meeting of the secret club! (He freezes, focusing on right rear of house.)

(SUE ANN runs in from right rear of house to vision of audience and stops.)

SUE ANN. Oo-oo-oo. Emergency meeting of the secret club!  
(SUE ANN and HERBIE freeze and focus on down left of house.)

(JOHN-JOHN runs in from DL of house and stops.)

JOHN-JOHN. Ooo-ooo-oo. Emergency meeting of the secret club! (JOHN-JOHN, SUE ANN, and HERBIE freeze and focus on rear center of house.)

(MATILDA runs in from rear center of house and stops.)

MATILDA. Oo-oo-oo. Emergency meeting of the secret club!  
(MATILDA, JOHN-JOHN, SUE ANN, and HERBIE freeze and focus on down right of house.)

(BARB runs in from DR of house and stops.)

BARB. Ooo-oo-oo. Emergency meeting of the secret club!  
(BARB, MATILDA, JOHN-JOHN, SUE ANN and HERBIE freeze and focus on left rear of the house. No one enters.)

ALL (looking at each other, in unison calling). Oo-oo-oo.  
Emergency meeting of the secret club! (They freeze and focus again on left rear of house.)

(STUMP runs in from left rear of house and stops.)

STUMP. Oo-oo-oo. Emergency meeting of the secret club!  
(He nods to end the sequence. The five in the house – BARB, MATILDA, JOHN-JOHN, SUE ANN, and STUMP turn and face HERBIE.)

HERBIE. Sue Ann?

SUE ANN (running on stage). Here.

HERBIE. Handshake? (They do a ritualized secret handshake.)  
Password? (She whispers it to him.) Welcome. (He calls.)  
John-John?

JOHN-JOHN (running on stage). Here.

HERBIE. Handshake? (They shake.) Password? (Whispered.)  
Welcome. (He calls.) Matilda?

MATILDA (running on stage). Here.

HERBIE. Handshake? (They shake.) Password? (Whispered.)  
Welcome. (He calls.) Barb?

BARB (running on stage). Here.

HERBIE. Handshake? (They shake.) Password? (Whispered.)  
Welcome. (He calls.) Stump?

STUMP (running on stage). Here.

HERBIE. Handshake? (STUMP has difficulty with it but finally makes it through.) Password?

STUMP (proudly). Tiger tooth!

ALL. Shhhhhhhh!

HERBIE (resignedly). Welcome. (He turns back to house and

starts ritual circle chant and movement which the whole group does.)

ALL.

We are met, the Secret Six,  
Near our clubhouse made of sticks.  
We are met to plot and plan,  
Stronger far than any man.  
No one best get in our way,  
Or in blood they'll have to pay.  
Oo-oo-oo, Secret Six!

(They break into seated semi-circle UC.)

SUE ANN. What's the emergency, Herbie?

BARB. Yeah, what is it?

JOHN-JOHN. What is it?

HERBIE. Well, I called the meeting because I'm getting sick and tired of always having to do what my mom and dad tell me to do. I never get to have fun any more. (Others ad lib in agreement.) It seems like the older I get, the more chores I have to do, and the less I get to play. (Others agree.) Remember yesterday when we were just gettin' goin' good playing Tarzan and they called me to take out the trash?

SUE ANN. Yeah, and I had to go to the dentist. Ugh!

HERBIE. And now that school's starting again, it'll be worse than ever. Goin' to bed early, doin' homework, takin' baths . . . (All react negatively. HERBIE mimics parent.) "Hurry up and get dressed, eat all your breakfast . . ."

ALL (chiming in). ". . . don't be late for school!" (All laugh. A pause.)

JOHN-JOHN. Yeah, but what's the emergency, Herbie?

OTHERS. Yeah, what?

HERBIE. Well, I figure we gotta do something now, before it's too late. We gotta find some way to play and have fun and do what we wanna, *when* we wanna. So . . . I got an idea.

OTHERS. What is it? What is it? (HERBIE looks around to make sure no one is listening.)

HERBIE. Let's run away from home! (A pause.)

OTHERS (astonished). Run away from home!

HERBIE. Yeah.

MATILDA. Oh, no, we couldn't do that. That's what naughty children do. We'd get in trouble.

STUMP. Yeah, we would. My mom and dad said they'd spank me hard if I ever did that.

OTHERS. Yeah.

HERBIE. But you don't get it. If we run away, we'll be gone! And then we can't get in trouble!

JOHN-JOHN. Oh, yeah.

HERBIE. Our moms and dads won't be there, so we can do whatever we want, whenever we want, for ever and ever and ever.

BARB. That's right!

MATILDA. I dunno. It sounds pretty scary.

SUE ANN. I think it sounds like fun! (Others agree.) But where would we go, Herbie? (Others ad lib same question.)

HERBIE. To the land of children.

OTHERS. Where?

JOHN-JOHN. The land of children? Where's that?

HERBIE. Listen to me. I got a plan! (They crouch attentively.) I got a book at home where these kids get tired of havin' to be good, just like us, see. So they build a magic machine that flies them through the air to a special place called the land of children. That's where kids can do whatever they want to do, play and play and play, and nobody ever stops them! (Others react with astonishment.)

SUE ANN. Nobody ever stops them?

HERBIE. Nope.

JOHN-JOHN. Nobody makes them clean their rooms . . .

STUMP. Or eat their spinach . . .

BARB. Or take a nap?

HERBIE. Nope. Not ever. (Others react positively.)

MATILDA (wistfully). It sounds like a wonderful place.



BARB and SUE ANN (together). It sure does.

STUMP. Do you think we could go?

JOHN-JOHN. Why not?

HERBIE. We'll build a magic machine and be on our way.

GIRLS. Hooray!

SUE ANN. Let's do it! Let's . . .

ALL. . . . run away from home!

(SONG: TIME TO RUN AWAY)

HERBIE.

I'M TIRED OF CHORES

SUE ANN.

AND CLOSING DOORS

JOHN-JOHN.

AND, "NO, NO MORES."

MATILDA.

AND SWEEPING FLOORS,

STUMP.

AND SCHOOL IS BORING,

BARB.

DAD IS ROARING,

ALL.

TIME TO RUN AWAY.

HERBIE.

MY MOM IS MEAN,

SUE ANN.

HATE TEETH TO CLEAN,

JOHN-JOHN.

HATE NEW BLUE JEANS,

MATILDA.

HATE SCRUBBING SCREENS,

STUMP.

HATE VACUUM CLEANING,

BARB.

AND GREEN BEANING,

ALL.

TIME TO RUN AWAY.

CHORUS.

AWAY, AWAY, IT'S TIME TO RUN AWAY.

AWAY, AWAY, WITH NO MORE SHOULDERS AND  
BEING GOODS AND . . .

HERBIE.

NO MORE BATHING,

SUE ANN.

NO MORE NAPPING,

JOHN-JOHN.

NO MORE SHOTS

MATILDA.

AND NO MORE YAPPING,

STUMP.

NO MORE SPELLING,

BARB.

MATH OR MAPPING.

ALL.

TIME TO RUN AWAY,

IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME TO RUN AWAY.

IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME TO RUN AWAY, HEY!

(They break at end of song, chattering enthusiastically and  
moving in all directions to the corners of the stage.)

HERBIE (stopping the others). Wait! (They turn and freeze.)

We can't just go! We have to build the magic machine first.  
(They look at each other.)

OTHERS (crossing back in). Oh, yeah.

BARB. Well, how'll we do it?