RUMPELSTILTSKIN!

Adaptation and lyrics by Edward Gupton
Music by Duke Marsh, Jr.

Performance Rights

To copy this text is an infringement of the federal copyright law as is to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co. Inc. Call the publisher for further scripts and licensing information.

On all programs and advertising the author's name must appear as well as this notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co."

PUBLISHED BY
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
www.histage.com

© 1978 by Eldridge Publishing Company

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/rumpelstiltskin-musical

PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

RUMPELSTILTSKIN! was written for children's theatre, but is sophisticated enough to be enjoyed by adults. The various scenes may be played before a series of simple flats connected to form a giant "story book." The "pages" of the book can easily be turned at the proper moment (e.g. tailor's cottage, throne room, castle chamber, or the inn). This makes the show simple to perform on small stages. It is also easily toured from room to room, school to school, or theatre to theatre.

The narrator's role can be played by one or two actors or actresses, in which case the director should divide the lines in the most effective way for his purposes. It is further suggested that the narrator be dressed in a black kabuki-like fashion.

With its relatively loose staging, RUMPELSTILTSKIN! should be played for broad comedy in a put-on, satirical approach. It is, after all, a fractured fairy tale. Above all - have fun!

-Edward Gupton

PROPS

Stool and sewing for Charmante; hat for Captain; throne for King; proclamation for Page; outrageous costume for Rumpelstiltskin; large spools of gold thread; crown and royal robe for Charmante; bassinet; oversized safety pin; robe with pockets and small book for Magician; boxes of goodies for vendors.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(Flexible cast of 11 and extras)

INDIIVIDUAL SPEAKING OR SINGING ROLES

NARRATOR
TAILOR
CHARMANTE
CAPTAIN
INNKEEPER
KING
PAGE
RUMPELSTILTSKIN
1st GUARD
1st LADY
MAGICIAN

GROUPS INCLUDING

SOLDIERS
INN PEOPLE
MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COURT

SONGS

THE MONEY SONG *(Innkeeper, Inn people, Tailor)*

HAVE A LITTLE FAITH *(Tailor, Charmante)*

ONLY TIME WILL TELL *(1st Guard, 1st Lady, Man, Ladies)*

LAUGHING BREEZES *(Charmante)*

CROWNING OF A QUEEN *(Tailor, Charmante)*

CROWNING OF A PRINCE *(Charmante)*
(Reprise of "Crowning of a Queen.)

FINALE
(1st Guard, 1st Lady, Tailor, King, Captain, All)

SONG: "Overture"

(Following the overture, the NARRATOR appears.)

NARRATOR: Hi! We have a great story to tell you. It's about, oh, a little bit of magic, and a King, and a Queen, and a Prince and all that fairy tale stuff - you know. But mostly it's about a certain little man. His name? Well, in a way, that's what our play is really about. But enough of that, I'm beginning to sound like a narrator - which, by the way, is precisely what I am. *(HE/SHE sits down.)* Now, let's get started. Let's see - oh yeah - once upon a time in a far away kingdom there lived a kindly old tailor and his beautiful daughter, Charmante. Now Charmante and her dad were once happy, but as often happens, they didn't stay that way very long ... *(To ACTORS.)* okay kids, hit it!

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: TAILOR is pacing in front of his cottage. CHARMANTE is seated on a low stool, sewing.)

TAILOR: Oh, Charmante, my dear daughter, things are going from bad to worse and from worse to worser and worsest. Just today there was another cancellation of a new suit I was to make. I tell you, I am going broke! What do I mean "going"? I <u>am</u> broke!

CHARMANTE: Oh, Father, we've had a slump in the economy before when our money has run low, but something always turns up. We always manage. So save your shoe leather and sit down.

TAILOR: You don't seem to understand - this time I haven't one penny to my name. The only thing I have of value is this house and tiny patch of land. And I haven't paid my taxes in such a long time that I expect the King's guards to come at any time to take that away. Oh, what a mess to be in.

CHARMANTE: I'm sure that very soon some rich count will employ you to make him a suit. After all, you are the best tailor in all the land.

TAILOR: Yes, and the poorest, I'll wager.

CHARMANTE: Oh, Dad, try to cheer up. All artists must suffer, you know. *(SOUND of footsteps marching.)* I hear footsteps ... *(MARCHING is louder.)* big footsteps!

TAILOR: Yes, so do I. And it sounds as if they're coming this way.

(The CAPTAIN of the Royal Guard enters with two or three of his MEN behind him. He always forgets to give the command to halt, and as a result, when he stops his men do not. They trample him!)

CAPTAIN: Halt! Halt! Halt!! *(Brushing HIMSELF off. To the TAILOR.)* Are you the tailor of this village?

TAILOR: Why, y-yes. W-w-hat do you want of me?

CAPTAIN: Will you please step over here for a moment? I have some urgent business to discuss with you.

CHARMANTE: No, Father, no!

CAPTAIN: It's all right, miss. We're only going to talk this time! My friends will keep you company. *(Taking the TAILOR DS.)* Now, I'll put it to you straight, old man. Either you have all, and I mean all of your present and back tax money ready for the King by tomorrow night, or you will find yourself in a dungeon cell and your property will be impounded. Is that quite clear?

TAILOR: Yes, that is quite clear, but the King must understand that I am penniless, destitute! How can I be expected to have so much money by tomorrow night? Why, I -

CAPTAIN: NO MORE QUESTIONS! The money is <u>your</u> problem. But remember, tomorrow night, or else! *(Turning to SOLDIERS.)* Come, men! Good day, miss. *(HE and his MEN march off.)*

CHARMANTE: Father, what did he tell you? What did he want? What -

TAILOR: Not so fast, Charmante, not so fast! The worst has happened. The king wants his tax money by tomorrow night - or else!
CHARMANTE: Or else what?
TAILOR: Or else the state will provide me with free room and board for the next ten years.
CHARMANTE: The dungeon?? Oh, no! Well - well, we simply must get the money somewhere - somehow.

NARRATOR: Well, they thought and thought all night long, and the next morning the old tailor thought he had come up with a solution. He would borrow the necessary money from his friends all of whom fervently believed the saying, “Neither a borrower nor a lender be ...” And so the best way to keep the tailor from becoming a “borrower” was not to become a “lender.” Listen, you’ll see what I mean.

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: Inside the local inn. The TAILOR mimes asking the INNKEEPER and CUSTOMERS for money.)

SONG: “The Money Song”

INNKEEPER: *(Sings.)*
ME LEND YOU MONEY?
IS THIS SOME SORT OF PRANK?
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM,
A WALKING PIGGY BANK?

INN PEOPLE: *(Sing.)*
NO, NO, NO!
OUR PURSES ARE CLOSED
AND YOUR MOUTH MAY BE THE SAME!
WE’RE TIRED OF WASTING TIME
ON THIS BEGGING GAME.

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/rumpelstiltskin-musical

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!