

OPERAMANIA II - War of the Words

By Denise Page Caraher Copyrighted Material-use by express permission only

Characters:

Cio-Cio San (Soprano)

Carmon (Mezzo)

Operamon (Baritone)

Everymon (Tenor)

Apathy (B)

Iggy (T)

Ray (M)

Trash Talker (S)

Lifebrarian (B)

Costumes: main characters same as Operamania 1, TrashTalker-black leggings and T shirt with Chains on neck and hanging from pocket, could have funny medallion, Lifebrarian-Old lady bun wig, ugly dress, glasses, life preserver and whistle

Set: Operamania background, Agony Alley (flip dirty drop cloth over set) with sign and some grayish "Scream" type faces on it, Lifebrary-painted books on shelves

Props- light in lobby picture from last year, trash can with colorful metallic material inside (shredded on ends?) to pull out, 4 sticks, 4 trash can lids, butterfly net, large book with title that is also an opera, headphones, white board, dry marker, white board and magnet letters

EXCERPT:

Apathy: You see, my dear fellow, words here and there alone, such as those that were in the Cauldron, are only so powerful. The devastation, the damage, the real catastrophic effect comes when those words are strung together.

Iggy: Huh?

Apathy: I shall demonstrate. (Heavy sigh) A friend in need is a friend indeed. (shudder) Love is patient. Love is kind. (shudder)

Iggy: How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

Apathy: Great acts of love are done by those who are always performing small acts of kindness. (Huge shudder)

Iggy: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.....

Apathy: What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east and Juliet is the sun.

Iggy: Have a nice day. Have a good one. Have a happy...

Apathy: Enough, already. I might get sick.

Iggy: You betcha, boss.

Apathy: And where do humans get this wretched vocabulary? This wretched conglomeration of good words?

Iggy: Uh, their teachers?

Ray and Trash Talker enter.

Apathy: Yes, and their teachers got it from their teachers. Do you know where they all got it? (increasingly angry) Where do they all get it???

Iggy: (looking uneasy) Uh,.....clouds???

Apathy: No, you moron....they get it from books...books...books!!

Ray nudges TT knowingly.

Ray and TT: Books!

Apathy: So we must eliminate them!

Iggy: (incredulously) Teachers???????????

Apathy: No!!!! Books! We will get rid of the written stories...the dictionaries...the encyclopedias....the novels....the biographies.....(to audience person) How, you ask?

Ray: Did she ask how? (shrugs)

Apathy: The plan.....is.....to attack the Lifebrary....the Operamania Lifebrary!

Iggy: Whatcha gonna do, Boss?

Apathy: YOU'RE going to do it! You three are going to take the FE out of the Lifebrary. Steal the letters FE. (Holds up white board and erases FE)
The LIFE-brary will become the LIE-brary. People will think it is full of Lies. They won't come anymore. The lie-brary will become the DIE-bary. (evil laugh) When it is empty...when the Die-bary is a ghost Town, we will walk right in and take every single book.

Ray: Those books will be checked out....permanently.

Everymon: Are you kidding? I love the LIFEbrary. The LIFEbrary may be one of my favorite places. The LIFEbrar....(sees sign) The LIE-brary??????

Carmon: The Li-brary???

Everymon: Oh, no!!! It's full of lies!! I knew it was too good to be true.

Operamon: It is not full of lies, Everymon. It is still full of life. And it's up to us to keep it full of life. Books give life to words. If we let them.

Cio Cio San: Books take us to far away places!!

Everymon: Like Hogwarts! Never land! Treasure Island!

Carmon: Spain! (gestures to CCS) Japan!

Operamon: In books, we meet some unforgettable characters.

Everymon: Like Frodo! Peter Pan!

Carmon: Cinderella! Hermione Granger!

Cio Cio San: Good stories and good books make life beautiful..interesting..fun!

Operamon: And all those stories are made up of.....(turns to E)

Everymon: Words. I've been thinking about what you said. Every word I hear affects me whether I admit it or not. Every word I say is important, too.

Carmon: Words. We've got 'em. Let's use 'em and use 'em right.

Cio Cio San: Use them wisely. Make your words, words that you are proud of. Words that are kind to others.

Operamon: Unkind words can be destructive. More destructive than fists or fights. The pain from an unkind word lasts a lot longer than physical pain.

Carmon: Words have power. Words can last forever.

Everymon: Like... "I have a dream that one day all people will be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin."

Cio Cio San: Or... "Faith, hope, love...these three, but the greatest of these is love."

Carmon: Or... "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold."

Opermon: You'll find some wonderful words in just about any book. Find some

that are special for you.

Music-Fledermaus finale 193

Cio Cio San: (singing)

SO NOW TO A SWIFT CONCLUSION, TRA LA..

WE WANT NO CONFUSION, TRA LA

MAKE GOOD—WORDS YOUR FRIEND

AND YOU'LL HAVE A HAPPY END,

AND MAKE GOOD—BOOKS A HABIT,

MEET ELVES AND PETER RABBIT,

SALUTE TO BOOKS AND ALL THE GOOD STUFF IN THEM,

AS SOON AS YOU BEGIN THEM,

YOU'LL FIND YOU LOVE WHAT'S IN THEM!

All: TO BOOKS, TO WORDS, TO BOOKS

SO OPEN UP AND TAKE A LOOK, TAKE A LOOK, READ A BOOK,

OPEN UP AND GET IT DONE, YOU'LL FIND IT SO MUCH FUN!

(repeat)

EXAMPLE