



Fools

Neil Simon

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Comedy / 7m, 3f / Int/ext. Leon Tolchinsky is ecstatic. He's landed a terrific teaching job in an idyllic Russian hamlet. When he arrives he finds people sweeping dust from the stoops back into their houses and people milking upside down to get more cream. The town has been cursed with Chronic Stupidity for 200 years and Leon's job is to break the curse. No one tells him that if he stays over 24 hours and fails to break the curse, he too becomes Stupid. But, he has fallen in love with a girl so Stupid that she has only recently learned how to sit down. "The brightest, freshest, funniest, wittiest, warmest and happiest to do on Broadway in many a day." - CBS-TV

Fools Details

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From Reader Review Fools for online ebook

Roger Briggs says

Chekov on helium...funny instead of serious but a thoughtful rendering of "what is the meaning of life"

SARAH says

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Jana says

I love Neil Simon. Fools is the story of a small Ukrainian village called Kulyenchikov which has a curse on it--so that everyone in the village is stupid and does brainless things. It's fun and funny. And--at the end--the narrator says, "We all have been in places like Kulyenchikov," and I thought, "Yes, I feel like I'm in it now."

Alborz Taheri says

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Mehran Aliabadi says

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Kat says

Basic Plot: Leon is hired to be the new schoolteacher in a town cursed by stupidity, falls in love with the doctor, and is doomed to eternal idiocy himself if he can't find a way to break the curse.

This script was genuinely funny. I found myself smiling often, and I can see this being a really enjoyable show to put on stage. It's completely clean, so suitable for pretty much any age of performer, though the

elevated vocabulary of Leon would best be tackled by at least a high schooler. I'm not a fan of love at first sight, but the story is set up as a self-aware fairy tale, so it is understandable and a bit forgivable. The asides Leon makes to the audience are one of the funniest things in the play.

The show read fast, so I'm not sure a production of this would last as long as a typical evening feature, but it would work really well as a performance for a younger audience.

Nazanin Banaei says

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Negar Safari says

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Ahmad Sharabiani says

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Fools: a comic fable, 1981, ? Simon, Neil (1927)

Characters: Leon Steponovitch Tolchinsky, Sophia Irena Elenya Zubritsky, Gregor Mikhailovitch Breznofsky Fyodor Yousekevitch (simply referred to as "Count Gregor"), Doctor Nikolai Zubritsky, Lenya Zubritsky, Something Something Snetsky, Mishkin, Slovitch, Yenchna, The Magistrate

Abstract: Fools is a comic fable by Neil Simon, set in the small village of Kulyenchikov, Ukraine (Russian Territory), during the late 19th century. The story starts with Leon Tolchinsky, an ambitious young schoolteacher, arriving in the village of Kulyenchikev. Upon arrival, Leon encounters a rather 'unintelligent' shepherd by the name of "Something Something Snetsky, the sheep loser." After a confusing and tedious conversation with Snetsky, Leon goes off to find the home of his new employer, Doctor Zubritsky. Leon meets with Doctor Zubritsky and his wife, Lenya, after struggling with the locals (Mishkin the postman, Slovitch the butcher, and Yenchna the vendor). He is introduced to the Zubritsky's daughter, Sophia, and is immediately lovestruck. Alas, she proves to be just as unintelligent as the rest of them, if not more so. He discovers that the town's idiocy is no accident, that it is a 200-year curse of stupidity cast on them by Vladimir Yousekevitch after his son killed himself because the first Sophia Zubritsky (not the doctor's daughter, but rather an ancestor with the same name) was forbidden to see Vladimir's son by her father, who found out the boy was illiterate, and made to marry another man. If Leon can't educate her within 24 hours of his arrival in Kulyenchikov, he, too, will fall victim to the curse. And the curse can only be broken if he can educate Sophia . . . or if she marries a Yousekevitch....

Reza Mardani says

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Mostafa Abdollahi says

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Parastoo says

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Rebecca says

Neil Simon is a playwright whose plays I'm familiar with and when I heard we were doing not one, but TWO of his productions at my college's theater I was excited. I'll be doing costume design for this play in the

spring and after reading through the play I can't wait to get started.

The play starts off simply. "Leon Tolchinsky is ecstatic. He's landed a terrific teaching job in an idyllic Russian hamlet. When he arrives he finds people sweeping dust from the stoops back into their houses and people milking upside down to get more cream. The town has been cursed with Chronic Stupidity for 200 years and Leon's job is to break the curse. No one tells him that if he stays over 24 hours and fails to break the curse, he too becomes Stupid. But, he has fallen in love with a girl so Stupid that she has only recently learned how to sit down."

Within the first few pages, I was laughing out loud (which doesn't happen a lot). The characters were easy to see as well as the interactions. At times it was just goofy, but it was so well done with smooth dialogue it fits really well. This is a new favorite play for me and as I said earlier, seeing it put together will be a great joy for me. If you have a spare hour, this is a great play read. Even if you don't usually find plays entertaining, this one may change your mind.

Mohammad Mirzaali says

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Mostafa says

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