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Runaways - then and now: A comparison of the 1978 original New York production and the 1992 University of Nebraska at Omaha production

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Abstract

This thesis is concerned with Elizabeth Swados's musical, Runaways. The original production was preformed in New York City in 1978 after a ten-month long workshop where actual runaways were interviewed and their stories recorded for later use in production. The musical was a surprise hit, even though the reviews were mixed. It was successful, at least in part, because of its departure from what is normally expected of a musical. Following the influences of such musicals as A Chorus Line and Hair, Runaways was one of the original "concept musicals" which began to flourish in the 1970s. This musical was different than the more well known hits of Rodgers and Hammerstein because: it had no "book"; it was more serious in nature than most popular musicals; it contained an electric mixture of music, ranging from reggae to blues to country; it used a combination of professional young actors and real runaway teenagers; and it was an ensemble approach, meaning that the monologues and songs were not connected by a storyline, but rather the connection was the cast themselves.

Comments

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for readers. When Cathy Connor and Eamonn Docherty are thrown together as children ... If you have read any of MC's books you know the drill, they are all quite similar in terms of their characters and the plot themes; the guys want to be a face and the girls are either used by said face or are powerful in their own right. A graphic story but to me this is one of MC's better books. ...more. flag 6 likes · Like · see review. Apr 14, 2017 Ken rated it really liked it · review of another edition. Cathy Connor and Eamonn Docherty are brought together in the grim East End of London, Cathy the daughter of a prostitute and Eamonn's relationship is severely tested other time.