

Skit Notes: Napoleon, Man of Destiny

Rebecca Locklear

Summary: In this absolutely captivating and humorous monologue, Napoleon thinks back over his life and comments on his achievements. Based on true events.

Grades: 8-12

Cast of Characters

Napoleon Bonaparte

of Lines

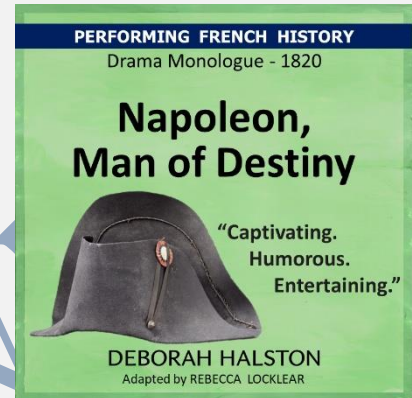
99

Setting: 1820, Island of St. Helena

Props: desk, journal

Performance Time: 10 minutes

Music: Play opening of *La Marseillaise* by Rouget De L'Isle (arr. Roger Boutry) as Napoleon enters/exits.



Background Information:

Napoléon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was a French statesman and military leader who reigned as Napoleon I from 1804-1814, 1815. He built a vast empire that stretched across continental Europe and is known as one of the greatest military leaders in history.

“The autocratic rulers of Russia, Prussia and Austria wanted to crush the revolutionary ideas for which Napoleon stood, including meritocracy [power by the people], equality before the law, anti-feudalism, and religious toleration. Essentially, they wanted to turn the clock back to a time when Europe was safe....

BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONTINUED

WHERE IS THIS USED?

- History classes
- Drama competitions
- Music-drama performances, 1800s
- Community events
- Museums

Napoleon, Man of Destiny

Deborah Halston

Adapted by Rebecca Locklear

NAPOLEON: (*angrily marches on stage, ranting, before coming to a halt center stage*) War! War! War! That's all they talk about when they remember me! It must be the work of those English pig-dogs! Why don't they EVER remember all the good I did? Why don't they remember me instead as (*strikes famous pose and says dramatically*), "Napoleon – Man of Peace!" (*smiles and winks*) A piece of Austria, a piece of Poland, a piece of Belgium...! (*laughs*) But hey! Surely you didn't expect me to restrict all my genius to just one country. How inconsiderate that would have been of me! (*laughs, becomes serious*)

Listen, I know I'm more famous for my hand-in-jacket- pose (*strikes pose*), but you have to at least try to get the story straight and give me some credit for the good I did.

Let's go back in time. Does the French Revolution ring any bells?

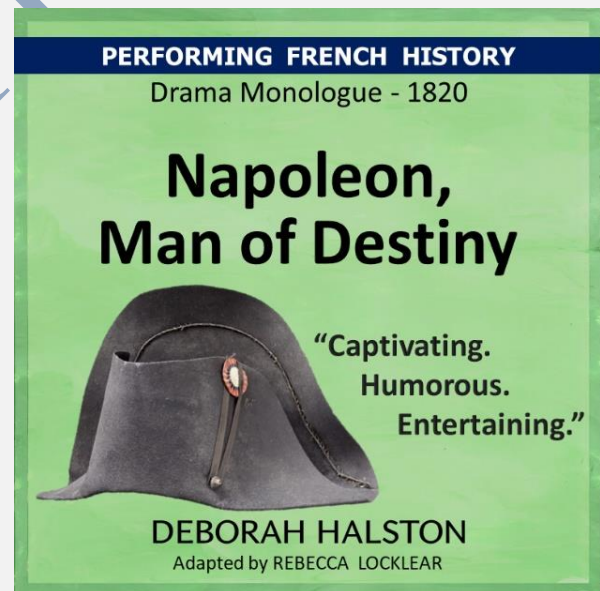
© Deborah Halston

CONTINUED!!

AUTHOR DEBORAH HALSTON is the teacher you always wished you had! As a history, civics, and American Government instructor, she passes on her deep passion for history by engaging students in creative ways. She also provides Rebecca Locklear with skits, like "Napoleon, Man of Destiny," for Rebecca's history-based arts productions.

"Nuggets of history are contained in even the casual things Napoleon says. Many people do not know the fascinating details. Very engaging and clever material here."

-Mary C., educator



REBECCA LOCKLEAR, Educational Writer
History. Real people. True stories.

www.rebeccalocklear.com

Join her monthly newsletter for updates on new resources.