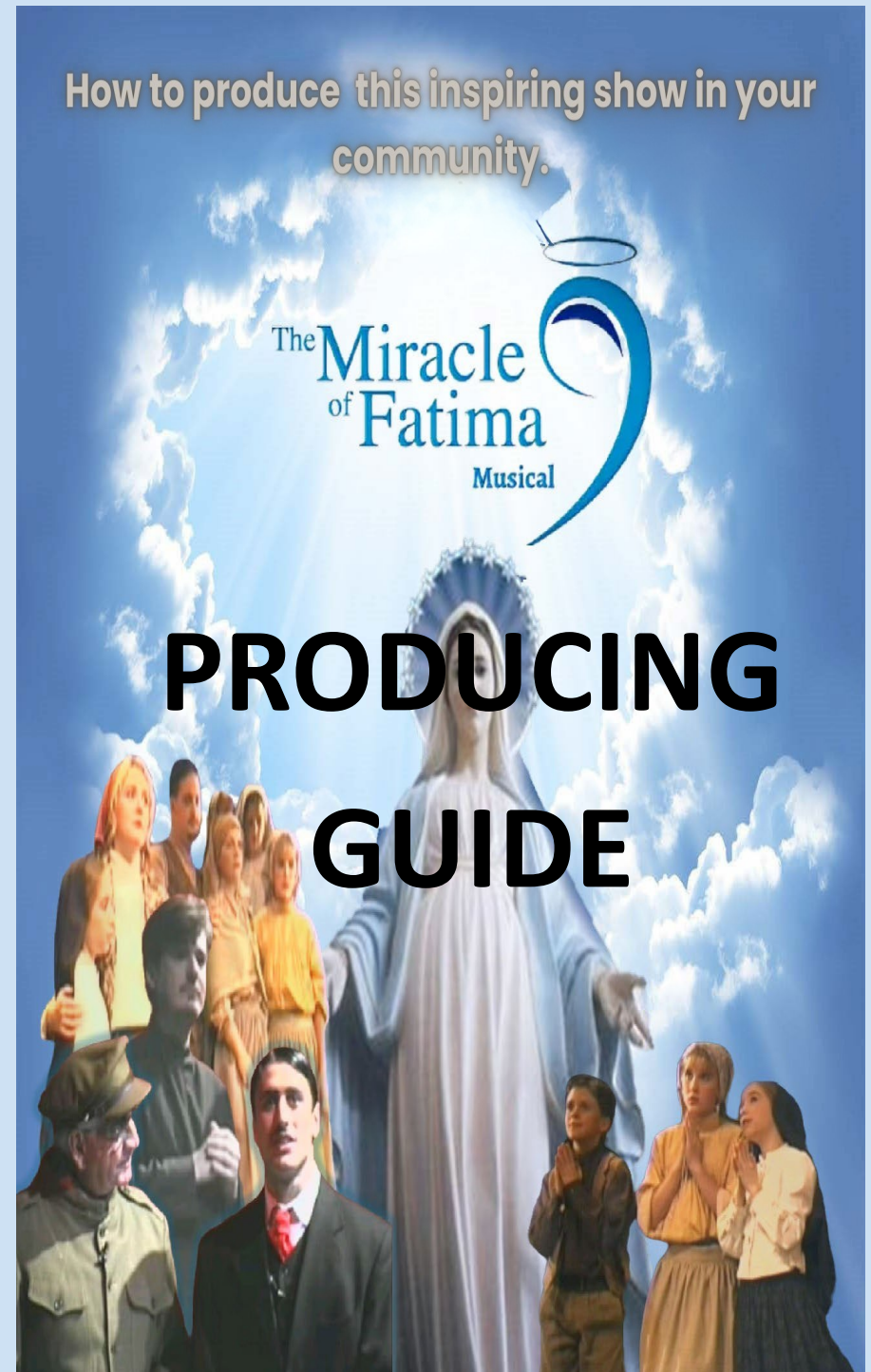


## NOTES



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## Resources and Contacts

This section serves as a reference for locating support, materials, and guidance for the production.

### Rights and Licensing:

Contact information for obtaining performance rights to *The Miracle of Fatima Musical*.

### Set and Costume Rentals:

Local or online suppliers specializing in theater set pieces and costumes.

### Theater Associations and Groups:

National and regional organizations offering advice, resources, or workshops for theater productions.

### Educational Resources:

Links to online tutorials or books on stage design, choreography, and directing.

Research sources for historical and cultural accuracy regarding Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

### Community Contacts:

Local businesses and sponsors who may support your production.

Contact details for schools, churches, or cultural organizations for partnership opportunities.

### Technical Resources:

Recommended suppliers for sound and lighting equipment.

## Sample Rehearsal Schedule

A clear and detailed rehearsal schedule is critical for efficient time management and productive rehearsals. A sample schedule might look like this:

### **Week 1–2: Foundations**

Table reads and character introductions.

Vocal rehearsals: Learning key songs and harmonies.

Scene blocking: Basic movements and stage positioning.

### **Week 3–4: Building Momentum**

Blocking complex scenes with props and set pieces.

Initial choreography rehearsals.

Focused character development sessions.

### **Week 5–6: Integration**

Combine singing, acting, and choreography.

Add ensemble scenes and group numbers.

Start using rehearsal props and basic costume elements.

### **Week 7–8: Refinement**

Full run-throughs: Work on pacing, transitions, and emotional arcs.

Technical rehearsals: Add lighting, sound, and special effects.

Focus on key moments, such as the apparitions and the Miracle of the Sun.

### **Week 9: Dress Rehearsals**

Full costume and makeup rehearsals with all technical elements.

Invite a small audience for feedback before opening night.

### **Week 10: Performances**

Final polish and warm-ups.

Ensure cast and crew are confident and prepared.

## **Post-Performance Reflection**

Collecting Feedback from the Audience

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Documenting the Production for Future Use

## **Appendices**

Sample Budget Templates

Sample Rehearsal Schedule

Resources and Contacts

### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN NOTE:**

**What IS AVAILABLE:** Audition scenes/songs; rehearsal material with SATB voice parts Mp3s, Libretto, Digitally mastered sound track with transitional music, Conductor Score, Illustrated/animated virtually projected set, designs for minimalist and more robust set, prop list/plans, costume designs and links to purchase (affordably).

## About the Miracle of Fatima

**The Miracle of Fatima Musical** transports audiences to 1917 Fatima, Portugal. Created by Barbara Oleynick as part of her master's thesis for New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Writing Musical Theatre Program in 1999, **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** continues to inspire.

With adaptations in Spanish by Luis Marcell Ricart in 2008 and copyrights extending internationally, including in the Philippines, this production remains a moving exploration of faith, resilience, and the enduring quest for peace on earth.

### Production history:

- ◆ Our 2000 Premiere in the United States for at the Mertens Theater Bridgeport, CT. (University of Bridgeport) 900 seats) 11,00 tickets sold to parishes that came in busloads from 3 surrounding states, Catholic schools bought 200-300 tickets at a time
- ◆ 2001: 6 wks. Hartford, CT. Saint Thomas Seminary Auditorium 500 seats—10,250 tickets sold
- ◆ 2002: Recording Cast Album \$60,000 budget funded by one man
- ◆ 2002-2003: Tri-State Tour 15 locations 52 shows, 19,800 tickets sold
- ◆ 2004: Portuguese Workshop (invited by the Rector of the Basilica)
- ◆ 2008: Spanish adaptation - Luis Marcell Ricart
- ◆ 2009: Premiere - Santo Domingo's National Theater
- ◆ 2012: Premiere - Santiago's National Theater
- ◆ 2018: Saint Andrews Church – USA -a limited run using new projected set
- ◆ 2019: Production at Luis M. Ricart's Blue Mall Theater celebrates a remarkable 10-years in the Dominican Republic

### Synopsis of The Miracle of Fatima musical:

1917, a time of political unrest under an oppressive, anti-clerical regime. Against this backdrop, three young shepherd children—Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto—experience an event that will change their lives and the course of history.

## Appendices

The appendices section provides practical tools, templates, and resources to support the planning and execution of *The Miracle of Fatima Musical*. These supplementary materials can guide producers, directors, and coordinators in organizing a successful production while ensuring all aspects are well-documented and efficiently managed.

### Sample Budget Templates

A well-structured budget ensures you can track expenses, allocate resources effectively, and avoid overspending. A sample budget template might include the following categories:

#### Revenue:

Ticket sales  
Sponsorships  
Donations and grants  
Merchandise

#### Expenses:

**Venue Costs:** Rental fees, utilities, and insurance.

**Performance Rights:** Licensing fees and royalties.

**Cast and Crew Costs:** Stipends, travel, and meals.

**Set Design and Construction:** Materials, tools, and labor.

**Costumes and Props:** Fabric, rentals, or purchase costs.

**Marketing and Promotion:** Printing, online ads, and promotional events.

**Technical Equipment:** Lighting, sound systems, and special effects.

**Miscellaneous Costs:** Contingency funds, administrative expenses, and unexpected needs.

#### Format:

Include columns for estimated costs, actual costs, and variance to monitor spending. Use spreadsheet software for easy customization and updates.

## Acknowledging and Celebrating the Team

Recognizing the hard work and dedication of the cast, crew, and supporters is essential for fostering a sense of accomplishment and gratitude.

### Team Celebrations:

**Cast and Crew Party:** Host a wrap party to thank everyone involved. Include awards, speeches, or fun activities to celebrate milestones.

**Thank-You Gifts:** Provide small tokens of appreciation, such as personalized notes, photos, or keepsakes related to the production.

### Public Acknowledgments:

Include a special section in the program or website thanking sponsors, volunteers, and contributors. Use social media to post behind-the-scenes highlights and individual shout-outs.

### Reflection Activities:

Hold a post-mortem meeting with the team to discuss what went well and what could be improved. Create a shared space, such as a group chat or forum, where team members can share memories and feedback.

## Documenting the Production for Future Use

### Photos and Videos:

Hire a professional photographer or videographer to capture high-quality images and recordings of the performances.

Take candid behind-the-scenes photos to document the rehearsal process and team dynamics.

### Written Records:

Compile a detailed production log that includes rehearsal schedules, budget breakdowns, marketing plans, and technical notes.

Save copies of scripts, cue sheets, and other important documents.

### Audience and Media Reviews:

Collect reviews from audience members, local media, and social media platforms. Highlight particularly positive feedback for use in future promotional materials.

### Archiving Materials:

Store costumes, props, and set pieces that can be reused or adapted for future productions. Create a digital archive of photos, videos, and documents for easy access. strengthens the bonds within your creative community.

On May 13, 1917, while tending sheep, the children encounter a radiant woman who claims to be from heaven. Speaking to them with warmth and purpose, she entrusts them with messages of profound significance. To all three children, she reveals prophecies about humanity's future, including dire warnings of famine and war. To Jacinta, the youngest, she offers specific visions—harrowing glimpses of what lies ahead unless humanity seeks repentance and peace. However, she also promises hope, foretelling a miraculous event to prove the truth of their encounters.

As news of the apparitions spreads, curiosity and fervor grip the region. Each month, the children return to the site, joined by ever-growing crowds seeking to witness the divine. By August, thousands gather, united in faith and anticipation, while the local government, fearing unrest among the peasantry, begins a campaign to discredit the children and suppress the gatherings.

The mayor, under orders from the government, takes drastic action to silence the “madness.” He detains and interrogates the children, attempting to coerce them into recanting their story. Yet, despite threats and intimidation, the children remain resolute, holding firmly to the promises of the “beautiful lady.”

The climactic moment comes on October 13, 1917, when nearly 70,000 people converge on the Cova da Iria. In pouring rain, they await the promised miracle. Then, in an event that defies explanation, the rain ceases, the clouds part, and the sun appears to dance in the sky. Witnesses describe the sun spinning, emitting radiant colors, and seemingly hurtling toward the earth, leaving the crowd in awe and fear. When the phenomenon ends, they find their previously soaked clothing dry as well the earth as if by divine intervention.

The musical explores the question: Why did the beautiful lady come? Through the children's voices, it offers her answer—she came to provide humanity with a remedy for peace, grounded in faith, repentance, and hope.

Through vivid music, compelling storytelling, and a deeply spiritual narrative, **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** brings to life this internationally reported event. To this day, the site of the apparitions draws over five million pilgrims annually, a testament to its enduring significance.

The musical is anchored by the firsthand account of Lucia dos Santos, the eldest of the visionaries. Her reflections, written later in life, provide the foundation for the narrative, offering audiences an intimate perspective on the events and their meaning.

## Purpose of This Guide

The purpose of this guide is to empower communities, colleges, cities, and countries to bring the inspirational and historically significant story of **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** to life. Through detailed instructions and practical advice, this guide provides everything you need to plan, organize, and execute a successful production that captivates audiences and delivers a message of hope, faith, and unity.

This guide is designed for individuals and groups of all experience levels—whether you are a seasoned producer or someone stepping into the world of theater for the first time. By producing this musical, you will not only create an engaging theatrical experience but also foster a deeper understanding of the spiritual and historical importance of the events at Fatima.

Producing **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** is more than a theatrical endeavor; it is an opportunity to:

**Inspire Your Community:** The story of Fatima is one of resilience, faith, and the pursuit of peace. By sharing this powerful narrative, you can inspire your community to reflect on these timeless values.

**Celebrate Creativity and Collaboration:** Theater is a collaborative art form that brings people together. From assembling a team of actors, musicians, and crew members to engaging local businesses and organizations, this production will foster connections and showcase the creativity of your community.

**Educate and Preserve History:** The events at Fatima are a vital part of spiritual and historical heritage. By bringing this story to the stage, you contribute to preserving its legacy and educating new generations about its profound impact on millions of people worldwide.

**Promote Unity and Cultural Exchange:** The universal themes of **The Miracle of Fatima Musical**—faith, peace, and humanity’s shared longing for hope—transcend borders and cultures. Whether performed in a small town, a bustling city, or an academic setting, this production creates opportunities for dialogue and unity.

**Provide a Spiritual Experience:** Beyond its theatrical elements, the musical serves as a moving spiritual journey for cast, crew, and audience members alike. It invites reflection on the transformative power of faith and the enduring hope for peace on earth.

## Post-Performance Reflection

The period after the final curtain is an essential time to evaluate the success of your production, celebrate the hard work of everyone involved, and preserve the experience for future endeavors. Taking a thoughtful and structured approach to post-performance reflection ensures the lessons and achievements of the production are fully realized.

## Collecting Feedback from the Audience

Audience feedback is invaluable for understanding the impact of your production and identifying areas for improvement.

### Methods for Gathering Feedback:

#### Surveys:

Create short, easy-to-complete surveys to distribute after the show or via email.

Include questions about the audience’s overall enjoyment, favorite moments, and suggestions for improvement.

#### Social Media Engagement:

Encourage attendees to share their thoughts on your social media platforms. Use specific hashtags to compile posts and reviews.

#### Post-Show Discussions:

Host a Q&A or informal discussion after select performances to hear immediate reactions and answer questions about the production.

#### Comment Box:

Place a comment box in the lobby where attendees can leave notes anonymously.

#### Questions to Ask:

How would you rate the overall quality of the production?

What were the most memorable aspects of the show (e.g., acting, music, visuals)?

Were there any areas that could be improved?

Would you recommend this production to others?

#### Using Feedback:

Compile and analyze responses to identify recurring themes.

Share positive comments with the cast and crew to boost morale.

Use constructive criticism to refine future productions.

## Managing the Backstage Crew

The backstage crew plays a critical role in ensuring that the performance runs smoothly. Strong communication, organization, and leadership are key.

### **Foster Communication:**

Equip the crew with headsets or walkie-talkies for real-time communication. Encourage calm and clear communication to address any issues swiftly.

### **Stage Presence:**

Remind actors to project their voices, maintain energy throughout the performance, and stay in character, even during unexpected challenges. Encourage subtle but effective improvisation if technical or prop issues arise.

### **Monitor Technical Execution:**

Ensure that sound and lighting cues are executed at the precise moment. Double-check microphone levels and any special effects during pre-show sound checks.

Have a backup plan for potential technical failures, such as spare microphones or manual lighting options.

### **Address Emergencies Calmly:**

Anticipate potential issues, such as costume malfunctions, misplaced props, or technical glitches.

Designate a point person to handle on-the-spot problem-solving.

### **Engage the Audience:**

Encourage front-of-house staff to create a welcoming atmosphere.

Intermissions should be smooth and efficient, with ushers guiding the audience to and from their seats.

### **Celebrate the Moment:**

At the curtain call, ensure the cast acknowledges the audience warmly and sincerely.

Consider a post-show meet-and-greet or reception to thank attendees and foster community connection.

By focusing on thorough preparation, efficient backstage management, and smooth execution during the performance, your production of *The Miracle of Fatima Musical* will leave a lasting impression on your audience.

This guide is a step-by-step resource to ensure the success of your production, covering every aspect from planning and budgeting to rehearsals and marketing. Whether you're performing for a local audience or embarking on a larger initiative to bring this musical to regional or national stages, this guide is here to support you at every step of the journey.

Here's how the musical can inspire and transform your community:

## Highlighting Universal Values

At its core, **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** is a story about courage, faith, and the human quest for peace. By staging this production, you can help your audience connect with these universal values, reminding them of the power of hope and the importance of standing firm in the face of adversity. The themes of forgiveness, compassion, and unity resonate deeply across all ages and backgrounds, encouraging viewers to apply these values in their own lives.

## Bringing Together People of Diverse Backgrounds

Producing a musical of this magnitude requires collaboration and teamwork, drawing in individuals with a wide range of talents and interests. From actors and musicians to set designers and community volunteers, this project creates opportunities for people from diverse walks of life to come together. As they work toward a common goal, they form meaningful connections and build a stronger, more united community.

## Providing a Message of Hope in Challenging Times

Many people face personal and collective challenges, and stories of inspiration and triumph can offer much-needed hope. The events of Fatima demonstrate how faith and resilience can lead to extraordinary outcomes, even during times of great hardship. Staging this musical allows your community to reflect on these lessons and find strength and encouragement for their own challenges.

## Offering Opportunities for Local Talent

A production like **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** opens doors for local artists, performers, and creatives to shine. From aspiring actors and musicians to behind-the-scenes crew members, this musical provides a platform to showcase talents and develop skills. By involving local talent, you inspire individuals to pursue their passions while fostering a sense of pride in your community's achievements.

## 5. Engaging Schools, Churches, and Organizations

The story of Fatima has deep spiritual and historical significance, making it an excellent opportunity for collaboration with schools, churches, and local organizations. By engaging these groups, you can expand the musical's reach, introduce younger generations to its timeless lessons, and create partnerships that benefit your entire community. These collaborations can also enhance the production's impact, as local institutions rally behind a shared purpose.

## 6. Sparking Meaningful Conversations

The story presented in the musical raises thought-provoking questions about faith, morality, and humanity's capacity for transformation. As audience members experience the performance, they may feel inspired to discuss the themes and messages with family, friends, and neighbors. This dialogue can lead to a deeper understanding of shared values and create a space for meaningful conversations about faith, peace, and personal growth.

## 7. Creating Lasting Memories

A production of **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** is not just a theatrical performance—it is a community event that creates lasting memories for everyone involved. From the cast and crew to the audience members, the experience of bringing this powerful story to life will leave a lasting impression and inspire your community for years to come.

By producing **The Miracle of Fatima Musical**, you bring more than entertainment to your community. You provide a transformative experience that inspires action, fosters connection, and reminds everyone of the enduring power of faith, hope, and unity.

Final preparations involve ensuring every aspect of the production is ready for the stage.

### **Venue Setup:**

Double-check that the venue is fully prepared, including seating arrangements, clean and accessible facilities, and proper signage for the audience. Test all technical systems (sound, lighting, and any special effects) during a final tech run.

Ensure the stage is set with all required props, backdrops, and furniture.

### **Cast and Crew Readiness:**

Schedule a full dress rehearsal the day before or on the morning of the first performance. This should be a complete run-through, including costumes, makeup, and all technical elements.

Provide the cast and crew with a detailed timeline for the day, including call times, warm-ups, and scene-specific cues.

Encourage the cast to stay focused, hydrated, and energized while limiting distractions.

### **Audience Experience:**

Coordinate with front-of-house staff to ensure smooth ticketing, ushering, and audience seating. Display programs and any promotional materials prominently. Prepare volunteers or staff to greet attendees and answer questions.

### **Foster Communication:**

Equip the crew with headsets or walkie-talkies for real-time communication. Encourage calm and clear communication to address any issues swiftly.

## Ensuring a Smooth Performance

The goal is to create a seamless and immersive experience for the audience, with no noticeable hiccups or delays.

### **Punctuality:**

Start the performance on time. Delay only in exceptional circumstances to avoid disrupting the audience's schedule.

Ensure all cast and crew are in position at least 15–30 minutes before curtain time.

### **Pre-Show Rituals:**

Encourage warm-ups for the cast to loosen their voices and bodies and calm pre-show nerves.

Hold a brief motivational meeting to focus everyone on delivering their best performance.



### Schools:

Offer educational workshops or presentations about the historical and spiritual context of Fatima.

Arrange for group ticket discounts or special student performances to encourage school participation.

Collaborate with drama, music, or history departments to involve students in the production or its promotion.

### Churches:

Partner with local churches to promote the musical to their congregations.

Provide promotional materials for church bulletins or community boards.

Host a pre-show discussion or prayer event about the spiritual themes of Fatima. Encourage church choirs or youth groups to attend as a group activity.

### Community Organizations:

Engage local cultural, historical, or arts organizations to support the production and spread the word.

Work with community centers or senior groups to organize outings to the performance.

Collaborate with local businesses to sponsor the production or distribute promotional materials.

## 4. Creating Buzz and Building Excitement

**Opening Night Events:** Plan a special event for opening night, such as a pre-show reception or meet-and-greet with the cast and crew.

**Press Coverage:** Invite local journalists, bloggers, and influencers to attend a rehearsal or preview performance. Offer them complimentary tickets to the opening night in exchange for coverage.

**Word of Mouth:** Encourage cast, crew, and community partners to spread the word among friends, family, and colleagues. Provide digital and physical materials to share.

## Showtime: The Big Day

The day of the performance is the culmination of weeks (or months) of hard work, preparation, and creativity. To ensure a successful and memorable production, careful planning, coordination, and focus on the details are essential. Here's how to make the most of opening night and every performance thereafter.

## Key Characters and Their Roles

The characters in **The Miracle of Fatima Musical** are integral to bringing the story's profound themes and emotional resonance to life. Each character plays a vital role in portraying the historical events and the spiritual journey that unfolds in Fatima, Portugal. Here is a detailed exploration of the key characters and their roles in the musical:

### 1. Lucia dos Santos (The Narrator and Visionary)

**Role:** The eldest of the three children and the central figure of the story, Lucia is both the narrator and a key participant in the events. As a 10-year-old, she demonstrates wisdom beyond her years, guiding her younger cousins through the challenges they face.

**Significance:** Lucia's firsthand account grounds the story in authenticity and provides a reflective perspective on the apparitions, their impact, and their spiritual meaning. Her unwavering faith and courage inspire the audience and serve as a unifying thread throughout the musical.

### 2. Francisco Marto (The Silent Protector)

**Role:** Lucia's cousin and one of the three visionaries, Francisco is a quiet and contemplative child who deeply values his faith. While he does not hear the words of the beautiful lady, he sees her and believes wholeheartedly in her presence.

**Significance:** Francisco's role underscores the power of quiet devotion and inner strength. His calm demeanor and unwavering support for Lucia and Jacinta serve as a reminder of the importance of steadfast belief and loyalty.

### 3. Jacinta Marto (The Innocent and Faithful)

**Role:** The youngest of the visionaries, Jacinta is a bright and energetic child with a pure and trusting heart. Her visions, including glimpses of future events, reveal her spiritual depth and profound connection to the beautiful lady.

**Significance:** Jacinta represents the innocence and simplicity of faith, inspiring the audience with her childlike trust in the promises of the beautiful lady. Her character brings a sense of vulnerability and hope to the story.

#### 4. The Beautiful Lady (Our Lady of Fatima)

**Role:** A radiant and heavenly figure, the beautiful lady appears to the children, sharing messages of repentance, faith, and peace. She delivers prophecies and promises a miracle to affirm the truth of her words.

**Significance:** As a symbol of divine intervention and hope, the beautiful lady is central to the story's spiritual message. Her presence provides inspiration and direction for the children and the community at large.

#### 5. The Mayor (Antagonist)

**Role:** The local mayor, tasked by the anti-clerical government, seeks to suppress the growing fervor surrounding the apparitions. He uses intimidation and manipulation to discredit the children and prevent the gatherings.

**Significance:** The mayor represents the opposition and skepticism faced by the visionaries. His actions heighten the tension in the story, emphasizing the children's resilience and unwavering faith.

#### 6. The Parents and Families of the Visionaries

**Role:** The parents of Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta struggle with fear, disbelief, and concern for their children's safety. Their reactions range from skepticism to eventual acceptance of the apparitions.

**Significance:** These characters add depth to the narrative, showcasing the emotional toll of the events on the families and their ultimate journey toward faith and understanding.

#### 7. The Villagers and Pilgrims

**Role:** The villagers and pilgrims form the larger community surrounding the children. They witness the events, react to the apparitions, and play a significant role in spreading the story far and wide.

**Significance:** The villagers and pilgrims symbolize the collective faith and hope of humanity. Their growing numbers highlight the universal appeal of the story and the power of belief to unite people across boundaries.

#### 8 The Local Clergy

**Role:** The local priests and religious figures serve as both skeptics and supporters of the children. They carefully navigate the tension between faith and reason while assessing the events.

**Significance:** These characters reflect the Church's cautious approach to the apparitions, adding complexity to the story by illustrating the challenges of discerning divine intervention.

**Instagram:** Share behind-the-scenes photos, rehearsal clips, and promotional graphics. Use Instagram Stories and Reels to create engaging short videos.

**Twitter:** Post quick updates, links to ticket sales, and live-tweet rehearsals or community events.

**YouTube:** Upload trailers, cast interviews, and snippets of rehearsals to showcase the musical's highlights.

#### Content Ideas:

**Countdowns:** Build anticipation by counting down to opening night with daily posts or fun facts about the story, cast, or crew.

**Cast and Crew Spotlights:** Feature individual team members to give the audience a behind-the-scenes look at the people bringing the story to life.

**Engagement Posts:** Host contests, trivia questions, or polls to encourage followers to interact with your posts.

#### Email Marketing:

Build an email list from community members, local organizations, and past event attendees. Send newsletters with updates, ticket information, and special promotions.

#### Online Ticketing:

Use platforms like Eventbrite, Brown Paper Tickets, or your theater's website to make ticket purchases easy and accessible. Promote the link heavily in all marketing efforts.

#### Engaging with Schools, Churches, and Community Groups

Building partnerships with local institutions can significantly expand your reach and foster community involvement in the production or its promotion.

#### Churches:

Partner with local churches to promote the musical to their congregations. Provide promotional materials for church bulletins or community boards.

Host a pre-show discussion or prayer event about the spiritual themes of Fatima. Encourage church choirs or youth groups to attend as a group activity.

## Marketing and Promotion

Effectively marketing and promoting *The Miracle of Fatima Musical* ensures that your production reaches a wide audience, maximizes ticket sales, and builds excitement within the community. A strategic approach to advertising will amplify your production's impact and create a lasting impression. CONTENT FROM PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE

### Advertising Your Musical Locally

Local marketing is essential to generate buzz and attract community members to your production.

#### Printed Materials:

**Posters and Flyers:** Create eye-catching designs with the musical's title, key visuals, and essential details (dates, venue, and ticket information). Place them in high-traffic areas like coffee shops, libraries, schools, and community centers.

**Programs and Brochures:** Provide detailed information about the musical, cast, crew, and the story of Fatima to distribute at events leading up to the performance.

#### Local Media:

**Newspaper Ads:** Advertise in local newspapers and magazines. Submit press releases about the production to community editors.

**Radio and TV Spots:** Collaborate with local radio stations and public access TV channels to feature interviews, ads, or promotional segments.

#### Community Events:

**Pre-Show Previews:** Organize small performances or sneak peeks at community events or festivals to showcase highlights from the musical.

**Booths and Info Tables:** Set up informational tables at farmers' markets, fairs, or other public gatherings to promote the production and sell tickets.

### Using Social Media and Digital Platforms

Social media and online platforms are powerful tools for reaching a broader audience and engaging with them effectively.

**Facebook:** Create an event page with all the production details, post updates, and share cast spotlights. Use targeted ads to reach specific demographics in your area.

## Music and Lyrics of *The Miracle of Fatima Musical*

Writing the *Miracle of Fatima* musical began 25 years ago in September of 1998. The very first song I wrote was **Beautiful Lady**, which sprang from the very first scene written – May 13, 1917 – The First Visit, followed by **Jacinta Tells and Francisco Prayer**. I was infused with a deep understanding of what our young seers had witnessed, and the words fell onto the page as though coming from another source. Those scenes and songs remain intact over the countless times the show has been produced, no matter the language.

When Lucia is interrogated by the mayor she tries to explain her understanding of the Beautiful Lady in the song **What We Saw**. And when the mayor demands that the parish priest stop the madness and tells Lucia that it may be the work of Satan, he worries about his own fate if she is telling the truth. This was the how **May God Have Mercy** came to be.

In July of 1917, the children are shown visions of heaven and hell, however, little Jacinta is shown visions of future wars and famine and sings her lament in **I Never Knew About War**. Note that it is set against the rhythmic beat like that of a carousel.

While the children await their fate after being told they would be executed for causing such trouble and refusing to say that it was all a lie they comfort one another in jail with the song **I Won't Be Alone**. They believe the Beautiful Lady's promise that the two little ones would go to heaven soon and first and so they believed the mayor would allow Lucia to live.

The mayor's song **Could It Be** reflecting his awe at the bravery of the children, as they remained steadfast in their refusal to deny the Beautiful Lady or offend God by doing so.

Lastly, **Through You He Lives** is the theme of the *Miracle of Fatima*, for it is what is asked of us – *Bring the light of my Son to the world, show the love of my Son to the world as brothers and sisters united as one who know that His coming will not be undone. For there is only one humanity, only one family and we my children, are the family of God.*

I have reflected on 10 of the 18 songs in the show, however, each one was inspired writing for which I am grateful.

Barbara Oleynick

## Planning Your Production

Successfully producing *The Miracle of Fatima Musical* requires thorough planning, organization, and collaboration. Below is a detailed guide to the key steps in this process:

### Assembling Your Team

A strong, dedicated team is essential to the success of your production. Here's a breakdown of the key roles and how to build an effective team:

#### Director

Responsible for the overall vision and execution of the production. Works closely with the cast, designers, and crew to bring the story to life. Look for someone with experience in musical theater, a passion for storytelling, and the ability to lead and inspire.

#### Producers

Manage the production's logistics, finances, and administrative tasks. Oversee the budget, fundraising efforts, and marketing strategy. Producers should be highly organized, resourceful, and skilled in communication.

#### Cast

Includes the actors, singers, and dancers who will perform the roles in the musical.

Hold auditions to find individuals who not only fit the characters but also embody the spirit of the story.

Provide clear casting calls with detailed descriptions of the roles and necessary skills.

#### Creative Team

**Music Director:** Oversees the musical aspects, including rehearsals, vocal coaching, and the orchestra or accompaniment.

**Choreographer:** Designs and teaches the movement and dance elements of the production.

**Set, Costume, and Lighting Designers:** Develop the visual elements of the production.

**Stage Manager:** Coordinates rehearsals, manages schedules, and ensures smooth backstage operations.

#### Crew

Includes technical staff (sound, lighting, set construction), wardrobe assistants, and stagehands. Recruit volunteers or local professionals to fill these roles if budget constraints exist.

## Acquiring or Building Props

Props play a key role in grounding the story and enhancing the realism of the setting.

### Key Props for the Production:

**Children's Props:** Lunch satchel, baskets, and sheep-related items for the children's daily work.

**Religious Objects:** Rosaries, candles, and small prayer books to reflect the community's faith.

**Government Items:** Documents, stamps, and official papers for scenes involving the mayor and government officials.

**Everyday Objects:** Items like market baskets, farming tools, and rustic furniture to recreate village life.

### Creating or Sourcing Props:

PROP DESIGNS AND BUILDING PLANS AVAILABLE

**Local Collaboration:** Work with local artisans, schools, or community groups to build or donate props.

**Thrift Stores and Markets:** Find inexpensive, vintage items that match the time period.

**DIY Projects:** Construct simple props using materials like cardboard, fabric, or wood. Tutorials and templates are widely available online. Involve volunteers in crafting props and sewing costumes. Host workshops to engage the community and reduce labor costs.

### Community Contributions:

Ask for donations of fabric, clothing, or vintage items from community members. Partner with local businesses for sponsorships or discounted materials in exchange for advertising.

### Simplify When Possible:

Focus on essential costume and prop elements that convey the story without overcomplicating the design.

Avoid excessive embellishments unless necessary for character development or dramatic impact.

### Rentals and Sharing:

Rent costumes and props from theater suppliers to save on upfront costs. Collaborate with other theater groups to share resources.

## Costumes and Props

Costumes and props are essential for bringing the world of *The Miracle of Fatima Musical* to life, immersing the audience in the historical and spiritual setting of Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. Thoughtfully designed costumes and props enhance the authenticity of the production while reinforcing its emotional and narrative depth. **NOTE: Props designs are available for download.**

### 1. Designing Authentic Costumes

Costumes should accurately reflect the time period, social status, and personalities of the characters while staying true to the story's themes of simplicity and faith. **LINKS TO PURCHASE COSTUMES AVAILABLE OR EXAMPLE OF HOW THEY SHOULD LOOK.**

#### Historical Accuracy:

**Time Period:** Research early 20th-century Portuguese rural clothing, particularly what shepherd children, villagers, and government officials would wear in 1917.

**Details:** Focus on simple, modest garments for the shepherd children, such as linen blouses, skirts, and trousers. For villagers, include traditional shawls, hats, and aprons. Government officials may wear formal suits or military-style uniforms.

**Colors and Textures:** Use earthy tones for villagers to reflect their connection to nature, and contrasting darker or more polished tones for authority figures.

#### Character-Specific Costumes:

**Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta:** Simple, worn clothing that reflects their humble backgrounds as shepherds. Add small individual details to differentiate their personalities (e.g., a kerchief for Jacinta or a satchel for Lucia).

**The Mayor and Officials:** Clean-cut, structured suits that reflect their authority and contrast with the villagers' rustic attire.

#### Practical Considerations:

Ensure costumes allow for easy movement, especially for scenes with choreography or physical activity. Use lightweight fabrics for comfort under stage lighting. Prioritize durability, as costumes will endure multiple performances and rehearsals.

## Budgeting and Fundraising Tips

Producing a musical can be costly, but careful budgeting and creative fundraising can make it manageable.

#### Key Budget Categories

**Venue Costs:** Rental fees, utilities, and insurance.

**Performance Rights:** Licensing fees to legally produce the musical.

**Production Costs:** Set construction, props, costumes, lighting, and sound equipment.

**Marketing and Promotions:** Posters, social media ads, programs, and press coverage.

**Cast and Crew Expenses:** Stipends, travel, and meals.

#### Fundraising Ideas

**Community Sponsors:** Approach local businesses and organizations for sponsorships in exchange for advertising in programs or on posters.

**Crowdfunding Campaigns:** Use platforms like GoFundMe or Kickstarter to raise money from friends, family, and community members.

**Ticket Presales:** Sell tickets in advance to generate early revenue.

**Benefit Events:** Host fundraising events such as bake sales, trivia nights, or silent auctions.

**Grants and Donations:** Research local arts grants and apply for funding. Encourage individual donations by emphasizing the cultural and educational value of the production.

## Securing Performance Rights

Before staging *The Miracle of Fatima Musical*, you must secure the legal rights to perform the work. This ensures compliance with copyright laws and supports the creators of the musical.

#### Steps to Obtain Rights:

**Contact the Rights Holder:** Reach out to Barbara Oleynick (or the appropriate licensing agent) to request permission to produce the musical. Provide details such as the production dates, venue, and ticket pricing.

**Review the Licensing Agreement:** Carefully read the agreement to understand the terms, including royalty fees, credit requirements, and restrictions.

**Budget for Fees:** Allocate funds for performance royalties, which are typically based on the number of performances and the size of the venue.

#### Adhering to Licensing Terms:

Ensure all promotional materials credit the creators appropriately.

Avoid unauthorized changes to the script, music, or lyrics unless explicitly permitted. Keep records of ticket sales and attendance for reporting purposes.

## Venue and Stage Setup

The venue and stage setup play a critical role in the success of *The Miracle of Fatima Musical*. Choosing the right space and designing an effective stage environment will ensure the production captures the audience's imagination and does justice to the story's emotional and visual elements.

### Selecting the Right Venue

Choosing a venue that suits your production's needs and aligns with the story's themes is vital.

#### Factors to Consider:

**Capacity:** The venue should comfortably accommodate your expected audience size while maintaining an intimate atmosphere.

**Stage Size and Layout:** Ensure the stage is large enough for the cast, set pieces, and choreography, with adequate backstage space for crew and props.

**Acoustics:** A venue with good acoustics enhances the impact of the music and dialogue. Test the space to ensure sound carries well.

**Accessibility:** Consider wheelchair accessibility, parking availability, and proximity to public transportation.

**Cost and Availability:** Choose a venue that fits your budget and is available for rehearsals and performances within your timeline.

#### Venue Types:

**Theaters:** Ideal for productions with extensive technical requirements.

**Churches or Community Centers:** Suitable for smaller budgets, often with a spiritual ambiance that complements the story.

**Outdoor Spaces:** For a unique experience, consider an outdoor venue, but account for weather conditions and additional logistical challenges.

## 2. Creating a Rehearsal Schedule

A well-organized rehearsal schedule ensures that your cast and crew are fully prepared for the production.

#### Planning the Schedule:

**Start Early:** Begin rehearsals at least 8–12 weeks before opening night, depending on the complexity of the production.

#### Allocate Time for Key Elements:

Table reads and scene blocking.

Vocal rehearsals and music direction.

Choreography sessions.

Technical rehearsals for lighting, sound, and set transitions.

**Build in Flexibility:** Allow extra time for challenging scenes or unforeseen delays.

#### Sample Weekly Rehearsal Schedule:

**Week 1–2:** Table reads, character work, and initial vocal rehearsals.

**Week 3–5:** Scene blocking, choreography, and ensemble work.

**Week 6–8:** Run-throughs, polishing scenes, and technical elements.

**Week 9–10:** Full dress rehearsals and final adjustments.

#### Managing Rehearsals:

Use a clear agenda for each rehearsal to stay on track.

Respect everyone's time by starting and ending promptly.

Communicate the schedule clearly and in advance, using tools like shared calendars or rehearsal apps.

## Coaching Actors for Performance

Guiding your cast to deliver authentic and compelling performances is key to capturing the audience's imagination.

#### Character Development:

Help actors understand their character's motivations, relationships, and role in the story. Encourage them to research the historical and cultural context of *Fatima* to deepen their connection to the material. Use exercises like journaling or improvisation to help actors embody their roles.

#### Vocal Coaching:

Work with the cast on vocal techniques, including breath control, projection, and emotional delivery. Emphasize the importance of clarity and expression in both singing and spoken dialogue. Hold individual sessions for lead actors to fine-tune challenging musical pieces.

#### Scene Work:

Break scenes into smaller beats to focus on specific emotional shifts or interactions. Use constructive feedback to help actors refine their performances.

## Casting and Rehearsals

The success of *The Miracle of Fatima Musical* relies on selecting the right cast and conducting effective rehearsals to bring out the story's emotional depth and spiritual significance. Here's a detailed guide on casting and preparing your performers for a powerful production. RECOMMEND CAST SIZE NO LARGER THAN 25 and be sure to have at least 4 sets of SATB (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) Of course include your leads and secondary roles in this breakdown.

### 1. Casting Tips and Audition Processes

Casting the right actors, singers, and dancers is crucial to creating a memorable and impactful performance. **ALL CASTING SCENE AND SONGS ARE AVAILABLE**

#### Preparing for Auditions:

**Character Descriptions:** Create detailed descriptions of each character, including vocal range, acting requirements, and physical attributes.

**Audition Materials:** Provide audition sides (script excerpts) and song selections that highlight the character's emotional range and personality.

**Venue and Equipment:** Set up a welcoming and professional audition space with good acoustics and a piano or keyboard for musical auditions.

#### Conducting Auditions:

**Acting Auditions:** Ask actors to perform specific scenes that showcase their ability to convey emotion and connection to the character.

**Singing Auditions:** Focus on songs that reflect the character's role in the musical, testing vocal range, control, and interpretive ability.

**Movement/Dance Auditions:** If choreography is required, assess actors' ability to follow directions and express character through movement.

**Callbacks:** For lead roles, conduct callbacks to see how actors interact with others and handle more complex scenes.

#### Casting Tips:

Look for performers who not only fit the character but also connect with the story's themes.

Consider an inclusive casting approach to engage a diverse group of performers.

Balance experience levels by pairing seasoned actors with newer talents to build a strong ensemble.

## Designing the Stage and Set

The stage and set design should reflect the story's historical and spiritual themes while allowing for smooth transitions between scenes.

**If your venue has rear projection capabilities we have available** (fee involved) illustrated and animated sets. Additionally, the special effects such as the appearance of the Beautiful Lady, Visions of war, heaven and hell and lastly the most significant—The Miracle of the Sun.

**Should you choose to create your own please follow these guidelines and submit to Barbara Oleynick for approval. She has plans for a minimalist set and others that other more elaborate.**

#### Set Design Elements:

**Cova da Iria (The Apparition Site):** Create a natural, pastoral setting with rolling hills, trees, and a serene sky backdrop. This is a focal point of the story and should evoke a sense of wonder and peace.

**Village of Fatima:** Include modest, rustic elements such as simple houses or a marketplace to represent the children's everyday lives.

**Government Office/Prison:** A stark, minimalist design can contrast with the natural settings, highlighting the oppressive regime.

**The Miracle of the Sun:** Plan for a transformative set element or projection that visually conveys the miraculous event. Use creative lighting, projections, or moving set pieces to capture the audience's awe.

#### Practical Considerations:

Design sets that are durable and easy to move for quick scene changes.

Use multi-purpose set pieces to save on costs and reduce complexity.

Collaborate with local artists or schools to design and build sets, fostering community involvement.

## Sound and Lighting Requirements

Effective sound and lighting design can elevate your production, immersing the audience in the story and enhancing key moments.

Lighting plot available if using rear projection design.

### Sound Requirements:

**Microphones:** Equip lead actors and ensemble members with body mics or boom mics to ensure clear audio.

**Orchestra or Band:** Position the musicians to balance sound projection and visibility. Consider live accompaniment or pre-recorded tracks based on your resources.

**Sound Effects:** Incorporate effects such as thunder for dramatic moments, gentle winds for the apparition scenes, and crowd murmurs for village settings.

**Sound System:** Ensure the venue's sound system is robust enough for the space. Test all equipment during rehearsals to avoid technical issues.

### Lighting Requirements:

**Natural Ambiance:** Use soft, warm lighting to evoke the serene atmosphere of the countryside.

**Divine Effects:** Create ethereal lighting for the apparitions of the beautiful lady, such as spotlighting or a soft glow with filters and gels.

**Dynamic Scenes:** Use dramatic lighting shifts for moments of tension, such as during confrontations with the mayor.

**Miracle of the Sun:** Design a breathtaking lighting display to simulate the sun's movement and radiance during the climactic scene. Utilize moving lights, color changes, and projections to captivate the audience.

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**Microphones:** Equip lead actors and ensemble members with body mics or boom mics to ensure clear audio.

**Orchestra or Band:** Position the musicians to balance sound projection and visibility. Consider live accompaniment or pre-recorded tracks based on your resources. **NOTE: The entire digitally recorded score is available (fee ) A conductors score is also available.**

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