**The Phantom**

Opening

Welcome to the very first I.S.S. electronic Theatre Programme dedicated to the production of our show called *The Phantom.*

This is the biggest budget production the I.S.S. has undertaken recently with a truly international cast of actors, singers and dancers who became spellbound by the story as far back as June 2014 when the production was launched in school.

Inspired by the film version of Andrew Lloyd Weber’s Phantom of the Opera, *Phantom* was adapted and written by Fiona Elliott, Head of Performing Arts at I.S.S.

Seychelles was the start and end point of my story. I wrote the script in August 2014, viewing it very much as a work in progress and as rehearsals started in October 2014 it was the students themselves who drove the production to its final version. Their input has left its imprint and my simple script has now emerged to showcase their creativity. I cherry picked what I felt were the iconic songs from the original *Phantom* and even added a Beatles favourite of mine because like it or not, that’s my musical heritage.

The whole I.S.S community has supported and encouraged us all in this production and the list of those we have to give thanks to is staggering. The montage of pictures shows faces of those who gave up their time to help and on behalf of the cast I would like to thank them all.

Synopsis

A facially scarred and deformed child is abandoned close to a visiting circus in Seychelles. He is caged and exhibited as a circus freak until he is rescued by a woman with nothing but pity and love in her heart. She works at I.C.C.S. and hides the child Phantom in the theatre where he hears nothing but beautiful music and singing for the rest of his life.

The adult Phantom, still hidden away in a secret place at I.C.C.S. longs for love and companionship, yet fears to show his scarred face which he hides under a mask. He becomes infatuated with Christine who sings like an angel and his heart is utterly lost to her. But infatuations are dangerous and he tries to steal Christine from her first love Raoul who wants to marry her.

The forces of darkness challenge the purity of true love, but we are left to wonder who will be the real victim. Can it be that we feel pity for the Phantom? Ask yourself this question when our show ends.

Scene by Scene

**Act 1 Scene I ( front of curtain)**

A middle aged Rauol is at an auction at I.C.C.S. as they get rid of past production items, as he buys memorabilia from his past he travels back in time to when his struggle to love and win Christine began.

**Act 1 Scene 2 ( on stage..back in the memory of Raoul)**

I.C.C.S. is preparing for a show as the new owners of the theatre are introduced to the cast. Carlotta is an overly dramatic Italian actress who thinks she can sing. The Phantom wants rid of her, he considers I.C.C.S. to be his theatre as past owners have recognised his dark secret powers and paid him just to keep the peace. The Phantom has secretly trained Christine to sing and wants her in the lead role, not Carlotta. Both Carlotta and Christine sing........and Raoul re enters Christine’s life.

**Act 1 Scene 3 ( front of curtain and on stage)**

Christine’s best friend Meg realises that Christine is mesmerised by her secret singing coach, The Phantom. Raoul experiences extreme jealousy as Christine and The Phantom seem inseparable.

**Interval**

**Act 2 Scene 1( On stage)**

The Phantom pours out his heart to a sleeping Christine and tells her of his childhood. There is then a flashback to his life as a Circus freak and we discover how he was treated in the circus, then rescued by Md Girry. As the flashback Circus sequence ends Christine awakes from her sleep and she and The Phantom experience an intimate musical duet.

**Act 2 Scene 2( Front of Curtain and On stage)**

Madame`s Andrea and Firmin, the new owners of .C.C.S. argue with Carlotta and Raoul about letters which they do not realise have been sent by The Phantom. Raoul declares his love openly for Christine yet is once again challenged by The Phantom.

**Act 2 Scene 3(Front of curtain then on stage)**

Meg discovers that Christine is in an emotional turmoil and has gone to the graveyard to pray for guidance at her father`s grave. Raoul and The Phantom are close by. A confrontation follows.

**Act 2 Scene 4(Front of Curtain then on stage)**

Confusion on stage, who will take the lead singing role, will it be Carlotta or Christine? Where is Christine? Monsieur Reyner ,the eccentric conductor and Stage Manager tries to assemble the cast to start the show. But he is thwarted by...THE PHANTOM.

**Interval Snacks Provided by the PTA**