“When it’s night and I’m too scared to sleep… I see all those little stars that I can’t reach, and I think that in a hundred years… life will be so beautiful that nobody’ll ever say sorry again — cuz nobody’ll have to.” — Peter and the Starcatcher

Welcome to Center Theatre Group and Peter and the Starcatcher

by Rick Elice, based on the best-selling novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson about how an ordinary boy became Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up. Peter and the Starcatcher imagines what happened before Peter Pan was Peter Pan. Take a moment and think about what you know about Peter Pan. How about Captain Hook? Tinker Bell? Do you remember these characters from a story or a movie?

Did you ever wonder what would it be like to never grow up? What would your life be like if you could fly? If you had to fight pirates or could swim with mermaids? What if it was up to you and your friends to save the world?

The artists who created the book and the play wondered the same things. Their story is set in a magical world and it is told through the magic of theatre. An ensemble of twelve actors bring life hundreds of characters using their bodies, voices and imaginations. Rope, planks of wood and everyday objects are used to create ships, storms and Stantuff.

Turn the page to explore why we keep telling the story of Peter Pan. Discover the team needed to bring this play to life. Read an interview with co-author Dave Barry to learn about writing a book and where he gets ideas for his stories.

Theatre raises questions and challenges audience members to discover their own answers and perhaps, additional questions. See what questions this information raises for you and what discoveries the performance provides. Thank you so much for joining us for Peter and the Starcatcher. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

“This is gonna be one awesome adventure.” — Peter and the Starcatcher

FOOTNOTES


Additional References:


Peter Pan was a character created by J.M. Barrie in his 1904 play and subsequent novel. The play was adapted for the stage in 1924 and has been performed in various forms ever since. Barrie’s original concept of Peter Pan was that of a boy who never grew up and the play has been adapted into many other forms including a film, a TV series, and various other stage adaptations. The story of Peter Pan has been a major inspiration for many other works of fiction, including novels and plays, and has become a cultural icon in its own right. The play is known for its magical elements and its focus on the importance of imagination and the power of the imagination. The story of Peter Pan has been a source of inspiration for many artists and has been adapted into many different forms over the years. The play has been performed in many different countries and has been a popular choice for productions in theaters around the world.
Collaboration

“It’s a better team with you on it.”
—Groucho Marx from Marx Brothers

Collaborate: “to work with another person or group in order to achieve or do something.” — Merriam-Webster

Peter and the Starcatcher is a celebration of collaboration. Every aspect of the production is infused with teamwork — from the athletic ensemble work onstage, to the creative process that brought this show to life, to the themes of the story itself.

Ensemble acting is at the heart of Peter and the Starcatcher. Not only do the actors inhabit their own roles, but also a few different roles, they also pretend to be parts of the scenery. The actors work together as a team to tell us the story.

The story of Peter and the Starcatcher was created through teamwork. It started as a collaboration between two novices. Others were inspired to turn the book into a play. The theatrical team included producers, directors, a playwright, a designer, set, costume, lighting, and sound designers, a musical director, and a choreographer. It took few years and the collaboration of many creative minds to bring this play to life.

In addition to being performed and created collaboratively, the story itself is about working together. The Boy/Peter, Molly and the orphans join together to fight Black Stache and his villainous crew. By teaming up to protect each other and the treasure, the teens become friends and create a sense of family.

Everything about Peter and the Starcatcher celebrates the extraordinary things that we can accomplish when we work together:

• Have you ever been involved in a project that took a long time and involved many steps or many people?

THE NEVERLAND

ACT 1

Setting: Two Ships Onboard The Neverland We Meet

• Lord Leonard Aster: Recently knighted by Queen Victoria, his job is to protect the treasure trunk on its way to Rundoon. A devoted father, he has raised Molly to be courageous and adventurous.

• Captain Robert Falcon Scott: Captain of the Wasp. A noted adventurer, Scott is Queen Victoria’s approved choice to lead the mission.

• Seaaman Greggs: Assistant to Captain Scott.

• Black Stache: The major villain of our story, this “ruthless, heartless, and panties” pirate comes from a long line of mustached anarchists. He is ferocious, but has a keen interest in poetry.

• Smee: Black Stache’s first mate.

• Pirates

THE WASP

ACT 2

Setting: Mollusk Island On The Island We Meet

• Fighting Prawn: Leader of the Mollusk people. He was captured by the British and made to stew away in an English kitchen. Now back on Mollusk Island, he hates anyone who is British and has filled his people’s language with names for Italian food.

• Hawking Claw: The son of Fighting Prawn. A rebellious young pirate, he swears he will never forgive Queen Victoria’s Minister of Mustaches.

• Teacher: An enchanted salmon that has been transformed into an enlightened mermaid.

• Mr. Grin: A vicious crocodile.

• Mermaids

Collaboration

“A couple of red bowls, some rope, and a few pieces of cloth create a vicious giant crocodile! Amazing!”
—Peter and the Starcatcher

Peter and the Starcatcher is a mash-up of different theatrical styles, combining old-school Story Theatre with DIY (Do-It-Yourself) resourcefulness. In Story Theatre, players pantomime the action of the story while it is narrated, and the DIY approach encourages people not to waste resources, but to be inventive with them.

In Peter and the Starcatcher, twelve actors use their creativity to play a wide variety of roles: sailors, seafarers, orphans, pirates, mermaids, and Mollusk natives. They also act as narrators of the story. Actors not only portray characters, they often are the scenery! They walk through doorways and pretend to be doors. They become bows of ships and ocean waves.

Everyday objects are also used to help tell the story. Pieces of rope are transformed into windows. Green umbrellas become a tropical jungle.

In Peter and the Starcatcher, we as actors are encouraged to get creative and think outside the box. We use our imagination to “beast the sails and deck the ships,” and together, we create the world of the play.

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Peter Pan is about a boy who wants to be forever young, but the story itself is over 100 years old. It was first presented as a play in 1904 by Scottish author J.M. Barrie. Peter Pan is the story of a mischievous flying boy who never wants to grow up. He lives on the fictional island of Neverland with the Lost Boys.

Peter has been eavesdropping on the bedtime stories being read by Mary Darlings to her children Wendy, John and Michael. One evening, Peter is discovered by Wendy. He learns that she can tell stories, too. He convinces her and her brothers to join him on a magical flight to Neverland.

In Neverland, Peter takes Wendy and her brothers on many daring adventures. The most treacherous is a battle at Mermaids Lagoon with the evil pirate Captain Hook. Wendy and the boys are captured by Captain Hook. With the help of Tinker Bell, Peter’s fairy friend, Peter outwits Hook and defeats him in a duel.

Wendy realizes it’s time that she and her brothers go home. She convinces her parents to adopt Peter and the Lost Boys, and everyone joins the Darling household — except Peter. He is afraid they will “catch him and make him a man.”

Many versions of Peter Pan have been created in a variety of past. J.M. Barrie’s original story, the play Peter Pan, is the gift that keeps on giving. The Lost Boys... A legacy is a gift handed down from the past. J.M. Barrie’s original story, the play Peter Pan, is the gift that keeps on giving. Wendy realizes it’s time that she and her brothers go home. She convinces her parents to adopt Peter and the Lost Boys, and everyone joins the Darling household — except Peter. He is afraid they will “catch him and make him a man.”

Since he will not stay, Wendy vows to visit Peter every spring in Neverland.

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