



NEW MEXICO YOUNG ACTORS Presents:

Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure

Music by **Eric Rockwell**

Lyrics by **Joanne Bogart**

Book by **Craig Sodaro**, based on the novel by **J. M. Barrie**

Directed by **Paul Bower**

Choreography by **Michelle Eiland**

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to New Mexico Young Actors' production of ***Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure***. We are offering this study guide as a way to help you prepare your classes for our upcoming production and your experience at the theater. Included in this guide are a historical note about the story, a synopsis of the musical, a list of characters, a vocabulary list and lesson ideas, and some audience protocol reminders. We always enjoy hearing from you and your students and look forward to receiving any pictures, stories, or comments about the production. Thank you for your support of New Mexico Young Actors. We look forward to seeing you at the KiMo!

HISTORICAL NOTE

The tale of Peter Pan was created by James Matthew Barrie in the early 20th century. It was originally published as a play, *Peter Pan; or, the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, in 1904, and later as a novel, *Peter and Wendy*, in 1911. The story features the mischievous little boy, Peter Pan, who is able to fly, refuses to grow up, and has extraordinary adventures in the mythical Neverland with mermaids, pirates, American Indians, and a group of foundlings known as the Lost Boys. Other characters include the Darling family children—Wendy, John, and Michael—the Darling family dog, Nana, as well as the villain Captain Hook, his sidekick, Mr. Smee, a voracious crocodile, the fairy, Tinker Bell, and the princess, Tiger Lily. *Peter Pan* has held audience imagination for over a century as a play, novel, musical, and film. Some popular versions include the 1905 Broadway production starring Maud Adams, and the 1954 Broadway musical starring Mary Martin. Film adaptations include the 1991 Stephen Spielberg film, *Hook*, starring Robin Williams, the 2003 film, *Peter Pan*, and the 2004 film, *Finding Neverland*. Walt Disney's 1953 animated feature, *Peter Pan*, along with the inclusion of the film's characters and images in Disney's theme parks, have cemented the story in the minds of countless children.

PETER PAN SYNOPSIS

It's the summer of 1910 at the nursery of the Darling residence in London. Teenager Wendy Darling is telling a story to her younger brothers, John and Michael, while their dog, Nana, sits on the floor. The boys delay going to bed as Wendy continues to describe Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up, and the island of Neverland. As the children drift off to sleep, Peter appears at the open window and Nana barks loudly. Peter confesses that he's looking for his lost shadow and Tinker Bell has come to help in the search. The children are fascinated with their guests. Peter convinces the children to run away with him to Neverland.

In Neverland, we meet the Lost Boys on the look-out for pirates, the pirates on the look-out for the Lost Boys, and the Indians also on the look-out for pirates. The Crocodile enters and chases Captain Hook

back into the forest as the three groups sing “Come Back, Peter Pan.” After the song, Peter arrives and introduces the Darling children to the Lost Boys.

Days later, Wendy is leading the Lost Boys in a school lesson on the lagoon. The Lost Boys, bored, decide to run off and have a picnic. The pirates, Smee and Starkey, enter with Tiger Lily as their prisoner. Peter imitates Captain Hook and convinces the pirates to release the princess. They do so just as Captain Hook enters, bewildered and irritated that the pirates let Tiger Lily go. The water surrounding the lagoon rises as the distracted Captain Hook nearly drowns.

Next we find the Lost Boys in their cave as Wendy tells them a story. The Darling children long for home as Peter dismisses the idea of growing up and living in a real home. All say goodbye to Peter as they decide to leave with Wendy and her brothers. As the Lost Boys trek through the forest on their way to the shore, they are inadvertently kidnapped by the pirates. Captain Hook finds a thread from Michael’s sock that leads him directly to the Lost Boys’ cave. Hook enters the cave and delightfully decides to poison Peter, who is fast asleep. Hook leaves and Tinker Bell saves Peter’s life just as he is about to drink the poison, which has been disguised as Peter’s medicine.

A short time later, Hook and the Pirates have Wendy and the Lost Boys captive on their ship. The Boys are preparing to walk the plank when Peter arrives and engages Captain Hook in a spectacular duel. The Indians arrive and convince the Pirates to run after a birthday cake as the crocodile appears and chases Hook into the sea.

Back in the Darling nursery, Mrs. Darling is waiting up for her children when Wendy arrives with her brothers and the Lost Boys, who decide to stay with Wendy. Peter declares his desire to return to Neverland and Wendy promises to keep the window open for him as the curtain closes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Wendy Darling, oldest Darling child
John Darling, second oldest Darling child
Michael Darling, third oldest Darling child
Mrs. Darling, mother of the darling children
Nana, the Darling’s pet dog (non-speaking)
Liza, the Darling’s nursemaid
Peter Pan, the boy who wouldn’t grow up
Captain Hook, Peter Pan’s chief enemy

The Lost Boys
TooTles, Nibs, Pots, Pans, Slightly, Curly
Pirates
Smee, Starkey, Cookie, Skylight, Noodles
Indians
Great Big Little Panther, Tiger Lily
Chattering Chipmunk, Two Moons, Raging Waters

VOCABULARY

The following are some words that are associated with *Peter Pan*:

Act	Plot	Set	Props	Downstage	Upstage
Director	Producer	Program	Fiction	Porridge	Hippopotamus
Nannie	Sultans	Pharaohs	Scurvy	Yardarm	Gizzards
Ambush	Lagoon	Tempting	Impersonate	Buccaneers	Booty
Tattletales	Reprimand	Disposition	Flatter	Landlubber	Unravel
Couth	Adequate	Conceited	Smidgen	Compassion	Exertion
Ragamuffins	Despicable	Forecastle	Extraordinaire		
Kensington Gardens					

LESSON IDEAS

Classroom Discussion (Pre-Performance)

1. *How many of you have experienced a live theater performance? What did you see?*
2. *What are some of the differences between going to the theater and watching television or going to a movie?*
 - Theater features live on-stage actors. They have spent many weeks rehearsing for the performance.
 - The audience is a very important part of the performance. Appreciation for the performers is shown by close attention, participation, and applause at the proper times. The success of the production often depends on the audience.
 - The theater is a very special place. Its atmosphere is entirely different from your home, where the television is always available.
 - It is easy to identify with live actors. You can see how they use their bodies and voices to convey different emotions.
 - Actors wear costumes and make-up to help create the impression of the characters they portray.
 - There is much more to most live performances than actors. Special sets, effects, lighting, music, costumes, and of course, the audience add to the total experience.

Classroom Discussion and Activities (Pre or Post-Performance)

Language Arts

- Read the book, *Peter Pan*. How does the musical differ from the story in prose? What are similarities? Explore other popular stories that have been turned into musicals.
- Create a “talk show” as a class. Have students act as journalists interviewing characters from the story. Ask questions you have always wanted to know about Peter, Wendy, Captain Hook, Tiger Lily, and others.
- Explore the relationship of protagonists and antagonists in classroom stories and draw a comparison to relationships in the musical, such as Peter and Captain Hook, Peter and Wendy, Wendy and Tinker Bell, Captain Hook and Smee.
- Write a sequel to the musical. What happens after the Lost Boys live with Wendy’s family for a while? Does Peter ever grow up? Does Wendy mature and eventually have a family of her own? Do any of the Darlings or Lost Boys return to Neverland? If so, for what purpose? Does Captain Hook survive?
- Read some other famous pirate stories, such as *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, or *The Gold Bug* by Edgar Allen Poe.

Science

• Explore Flying

In the story of *Peter Pan*, Peter and the Darling children are all able to fly by using their imaginations. How have humans used their imaginations to take to the sky throughout the centuries? Discuss the mechanisms and history of hot air balloons, hang gliders, helicopters, airplanes, winged suits, and rockets.

- Reptiles. The crocodile features prominently in *Peter Pan*. Use this as an opportunity to explore crocodiles, alligators, and other reptiles. Investigate the physical features, habitat, diet, and classification of various reptile species.

Art

- Create a class mural of the musical. Include scenes from the story such as Neverland, the Lost Boys' cave, the Darling nursery, and the pirate ship.
- Draw a picture of a favorite scene or character.
- Re-create Neverland using clay forms in a box or using cardboard. Label the locations that correspond to the Neverland locations in *Peter Pan*.
- Draw an advertisement or program cover for the musical.
- Design stage scenery for *Peter Pan* or another story that you would like to see on stage.

Music, Dance, & Film

- Ask the students to identify musical instruments that they heard in the musical. Discuss other instruments that could have been added for greater effect.
- Can you identify any recurring musical themes or motives in the music?
- How did the music express the action or emotion of the story (tempo, volume, range of notes, etc.)?
- Did you hear any incidental music (purely instrumental music that functioned as background music for a scene change)?
- Discuss how dance adds to the storytelling of a musical.
- Schedule a movie day and show one of the classic *Peter Pan* films. Compare and contrast the films and the musical.

Math

- Create a budget for a theatrical production. List all of the expenses involved (set design and materials, professional musicians, lighting design, props, costumes, theater rental, scripts, royalties, etc.). Discuss ways that a theater company might raise money to cover all of the expenses.
- Using a spreadsheet, create a rehearsal schedule for a theatrical production. Discuss how much time it might take for the cast to learn all of the staging and dancing. How many hours a day/week/month does it take to put on a production?

History/Social Studies

- Our story is set in England around 1910. This was the time of King Edward VII known as the Edwardian era. What were some of the customs and influences of this era? How was life different in England 100 years ago than it is now?
- Explore the geography of England and the British Isles. Ask the students to find England on a world map. Research traveling to Britain in the early 20th century. How might one make the journey and what might a visitor find while touring England at that time?
- Pirate lore is part of pop culture today, but real pirates have been a part of history for centuries. Have your students research a famous pirate from history. Where did he or she roam? What was the life of a pirate like? Did they really have buried treasure, maps, walking the plank, etc.?

Theater Etiquette

Discuss the role of the audience and proper theater etiquette.

- Arrive on time so that you do not miss anything and so that you will not disturb the rest of the audience while trying to get comfortable in your seat. Lights go out before the curtain goes up and seating is very difficult after that time.
- It is easier for you (and the rest of the audience) to see and hear the performance if you stay in your seat and listen very carefully.
- The KiMo Theatre is a historic building. Please respect and preserve the beauty of the KiMo by not bringing food and beverages (including gum and candy) into the theater. These items are permitted in the lobby only.
- There is no intermission during the performance, which is 75 minutes in duration. Be sure to use the restroom before the performance begins.
- Although you may wish to say something to the actors, you need to hold your thoughts, as you will disturb their concentration.
- Sing or participate *if and only if* you are invited to do so. Your participation is often very important.
- Listen to how the music sets the mood and affects your own feelings.
- Show the cast and crew your appreciation for their hard work with applause. Do this when you like a song, dance, or joke.
- Be sure to turn off *all* electronic devices and cell phones. Do not text during the performance. This is very inconsiderate to the performers and distracting to your fellow audience members.

SOURCES

Book

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