the little prince

Adapted for the Stage by Nicola Elson
Based on the book Le Petit Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
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Cast

The Little Prince: Sarah Barker
The Aviator: Will Thomson
The Vain Monarch, Ensemble: Parker Ackerman
The Rose, Ensemble: Lilianna Gaggero
The Fox, Ensemble: Rachel Nibogie
The Lamp Lighter, Ensemble: Jaret Pack
The Snake, Ensemble: Carson Rafuse
The Businessperson, Ensemble: Ahona Sanyal
The Geographer, Ensemble: Jonas Swain

Musicians

Vocalist: Olivia Earl
Keyboard: Anna Jeong
Guitar: Nic Sherman
Cello: Bree Clarke

Creative Team

Director: Nicola Elson
Assistant Director: Mirielle Nieuwenhuis
Composer & Music Director: Kathy Zaborsky
Assistant Composer &
Assistant Music Director: Nic Sherman

Scenic Designer: Dave Smith
Lighting Designer: Lee Burckes
Costume Designer: Mahsa Zarebahdi
Sound Designer: Juan Anez Jalon
Puppet Designers: Ali Deregt
Shadow Theatre Designer: Xavier Michaud
Poster Designer: Sarah Hilliard

This production runs approximately 80 minutes
"Please, draw me a sheep."

If you’re familiar with this quote, then chances are, you grew up with the story of The Little Prince and his planet-trotting odyssey to find connection, understanding, and ultimately love. The Little Prince is the beloved novella by the French writer, poet, and aviator, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, written in 1943. It has been translated into 300 languages making it the second most translated book in the world and has sold over 200 million copies worldwide.

Fortunately for me, my job is to create plays for young people, so I am often thinking of the world through the eyes of a child. Children have an amazing capacity to see the world with wonder and awe. And they don’t just notice the big stuff, like sunsets, hailstorms, and full moons... They also pay attention the little things, like the softness of a caterpillar and sparkling mysteries inside of rocks. It is us grownups who have become preoccupied, who see these wonders as mundane, simply because we’ve seen them before or we’re too busy to care. So, this story is as much for the grownups as it is for the children.

I chose to adapt this novella into a play a little over four years ago. I was captivated by the poetry in the language and the themes of loneliness, friendship, sadness, and love that you don’t always see in stories for young people. I like that children are being given an opportunity to feel big feelings and to nurture their empathy in others. I like that grownups are being given an opportunity to remind themselves of what is important to them. And I like that this story takes us to magical worlds with charming and sometimes bizarre characters.

To bring this story to the stage for an all ages audience was a delightful endeavour where we created these worlds and characters with physical theatre, puppetry, masks, shadow theatre and live music. This involved multiple drafts and multiple workshops and became a passion project including students from the Drama Department, as well as Music, Digital Audio, and New Media, making this a wonderful example of collaboration within the Faculty of Fine Arts here at the University of Lethbridge.

And the spirit of collaboration is truly what this experience has been all about. Everyone “jumped into each other’s puddles”, meaning that actors were cutting out shadow theatre prototypes in our workshops, our stage management and design team were chiming in with story ideas in rehearsal, and I often found myself in the scene shop helping to build puppets.

I feel so very fortunate that I have been able to collaborate with a remarkable group of artists. Our ensemble of actors and musicians are a gaggle of lovely humans who are of course very talented, but more than that, they are generous and positive beings who still see the world with wonder, and this has made our journey magical. A big thank you to our stage management team for keeping us on track with such enthusiasm, and for being my right hand. Another big thank you to our production, musical composition and design teams for their extraordinary imagination and skills, and for working so tirelessly to make this play lift so beautifully from the page to the stage. And of course, a final personal thankyou to the husband, the kid, and the dog for being so patient and supportive while I spend all my time in the theatre.

“I’ll make you the gift of a secret. It’s quite simple: One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes.” Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Production Crew

Production Manager   Betty Hushlak
Stage Manager    Nicole Oscar
Assistant Stage Manager    Jennifer Harding
Assistant Stage Manager    Erin Burns
Stage Coordinator    D.A. Smurlick
Head Electrician    Mike Takats
Lighting Console Operator    Andreas Marinakos
Head of Sound    Kelly Roberts
Sound Mixer    Danielle Baker
Deck Audio Technician    Avry Cook
Projection & Shadow Puppet Operator    Celine Man
Costume Shop Head    Lynn Hopkins
Costume Shop & Properties Assistant    Patricia Jonzon
Head of Wardrobe    Taylor Fornwald
Hair, Makeup & Dresser Technicians    Erica Andrews
J. Paquette
Running Crew

Head Scenic Carpenter    Arlene Curran
Stage Carpenter    Charolotte Nieman
Head of Properties    Baz Skinner
Scenic & Properties Assistant    Jennifer Hare
Set & Properties Technicians    Tatyanna Stoesz
Kacie Hilliard
Snake Puppet Construction    Lucas Kramps
Properties Administrator    Autumn Adrian
Paint Lead    Nicola Elson
Costume Technicians    Olivia Hodder
Lighting Technicians    Maddie McKee
                      Cassidy Braun
                      Brook Marinic
                      Finley Dupont
                      George Crawford
                      Mackenzie Bondy Toland
                      Alexis Duduman
Special thanks to....

Walter at Home Depot
Madi Naude
Juanita Dawn
John Livingstone
Carla Traughber Simon - Costume Design Consultant
Julia Wasilewski - Costume Design Mentor
Deanna Oye, BMus, MMus, DMA - Musician Supervisor
Mary Mazurek, MFA, PhD - Musician Supervisor
New West Theatre - Keyboard loan

Territorial Acknowledgement...

Oki, and welcome to the University of Lethbridge. Our University’s Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.
Department of Drama Faculty
Justin A. Blum, PhD
Lee Burckes, BA, MFA
Jim Dobbin (Calgary Campus), BA, BEd, MFA
Nicola Elson, BFA, MFA
Gail Hanrahan, BA, MFA
Gabrielle Houle (Adjunct Faculty), PhD
Betty Hushlak
Doug MacArthur (Associate Dean) BA, MFA
Greg MacArthur, MFA
Deric Olsen (Chair of the Drama Department), MFA
Jorge Sandoval (Adjunct Faculty), BFA, MFA, PhD
Shelley Scott, BA, MA, PhD
Dave Smith, BFA, MFA
Aaron Taylor, BA, MA, PhD
Mia van Leeuwen, BA, MFA
Julia Wasilewski, BA, BFA, MFA
Jay Whitehead, BFA, MFA

Professors Emeriti
Ron Chambers
Lisa Doolittle
Richard Epp
Brian Parkinson
Leslie Robison-Greene
Ches Skinner
Sara Stanley

University Theatre Staff:
Kelly Roberts, BFA
D.A. Smurlick
Mike Takats

Carpentry and Props:
Arlene Curran, Journeyman Carpenter
Jennifer Hare, BA Honors
Baz Skinner, BA Drama
Patricia Jonzon, BFA Mulit-Dis

Costume:
Lynn Hopkins, BFA
Patricia Jonzon, BFA Multi-Dis

FFA Dean’s Office:
Operations Manager:
Amanda Berg, MA
Manager of FA Facilities:
Niall Donaghy, MFA
Admin Assistant & Promo Design:
Sarah Hilliard, BA
Admin Support:
Shawn Coburn, BSW

Box Office & Front of House
Jazden Smith
Lauren Moore
Oliver Petti
Indira Brouwer
Paisley Perrett
Caitlin McCaughey
Ahona Sanyal
Hana Hubley
Lori Glover
Grace Abbott
Maddie McKee
Juan Anez
Chris Bernhardt
Maria Kooistra