

the little prince

Adapted for the Stage by Nicola Elson

Based on the book *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



University of
Lethbridge



Faculty of Fine Arts

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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
Braden Griffiths
Shadow Theatre Designer: Xavier Michaud
Poster Designer: Sarah Hilliard

This production runs approximately 80 minutes

Director's Note

"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 to 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 thank you 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
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Stage Coordinator
Head Electrician
Lighting Console Operator
Head of Sound
Sound Mixer
Deck Audio Technician
Projection & Shadow Puppet Operator
Costume Shop Head
Costume Shop & Properties Assistant
Head of Wardrobe
Hair, Makeup & Dresser Technicians

Running Crew

Head Scenic Carpenter
Stage Carpenter
Head of Properties
Scenic & Properties Assistant
Set & Properties Technicians

Snake Puppet Construction

Properties Administrator
Paint Lead
Costume Technicians

Lighting Technicians

Betty Hushlak
Nicole Oscar
Jennifer Harding
Erin Burns
D.A. Smurlick
Mike Takats
Andreas Marinakos
Kelly Roberts
Danielle Baker
Avry Cook
Celine Man
Lynn Hopkins
Patricia Jonzon
Taylor Fornwald
Erica Andrews
Jess Balfour
J. Paquette
Ethan Weninger
Amber Thom
Arlene Curran
Charolotte Nieman
Baz Skinner
Jennifer Hare
Tatyanna Stoesz
Kacie Hilliard
Lucas Kramps
Autumn Adrian
Nicola Elson
Olivia Hodder
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 Traugher 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 Mult-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

Hana Hubley

Lauren Moore

Lori Glover

Oliver Petti

Grace Abbott

Indira Brouwer

Maddie McKee

Paisley Perrett

Juan Anez

Caitlin McCaughey

Chris Bernhardt

Ahona Sanyal

Maria Kooistra