C.S. LEWIS' THE LION THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE

DRAMATIZED BY **JOSEPH ROBINETTE**

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

THE LION THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE

By C.S. Lewis Dramatized By Joseph Robinette
Directed By Darcy Evans

STUDENT MATINEES: NOV 26, 27, 28, DEC 3, 4, 5, 10(RELAXED PERFORMANCE), 11, 12, 17, 18, & 19, 2019 | 11:30 AM

Running Time: 2 hour and 15 minutes (includes a 20-minute intermission).

Recommended for grades K+.

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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

YOUth Belong at ATP!

Our Youth Engagement programs aim to deepen the theatre experience for young audiences and emerging artists through our plays, varied practical learning opportunities, and professional mentorship. These programs foster community, engage the inquisitive mind, and bring young audiences and artists together in an exchange around our work.

FREE PROGRAMS

Our free programs bring the excitement of live theatre, professional artists and the youth of Calgary together. These programs are stand-alone but can also be paired together with our Student Matinees to provide a totally immersive experience in live theatre.

The following Youth Engagement Programs are provided by Alberta Theatre Projects FREE of charge to youth, students, emerging artists, youth groups, educational institutes and organizations.

Conversations with Artists

Capture your students' imaginations through an in-classroom conversation with an ATP Season Artist about the artistry and skills that go into making live theatre.*

**Visits are based on the availability of artists involved in our productions and are subject to change due to illness or show requirements.*

Conversations with Artists – Request Form

Backstage Tours

Discover backstage secrets with an educational and interactive, behind-the-scenes tour of the Martha Cohen Theatre. Learn how math, science, language, technology and art are brought together to create new works of theatre in our scenic carpentry shop, costume shop, fly gallery, lighting grid and on stage.**Tours are open to all ages and abilities.*

ATP Backstage Tour Request Form Fillable

For More Information about all of our Youth Engagement Programs Contact:

TALORE PETERSON TPETETRSON@ATPLIVE.COM
Artistic Associate Community & Youth Engagement

ATPLIVE.COM

THE LION THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE

By C.S. Lewis Dramatized by joseph Robinette

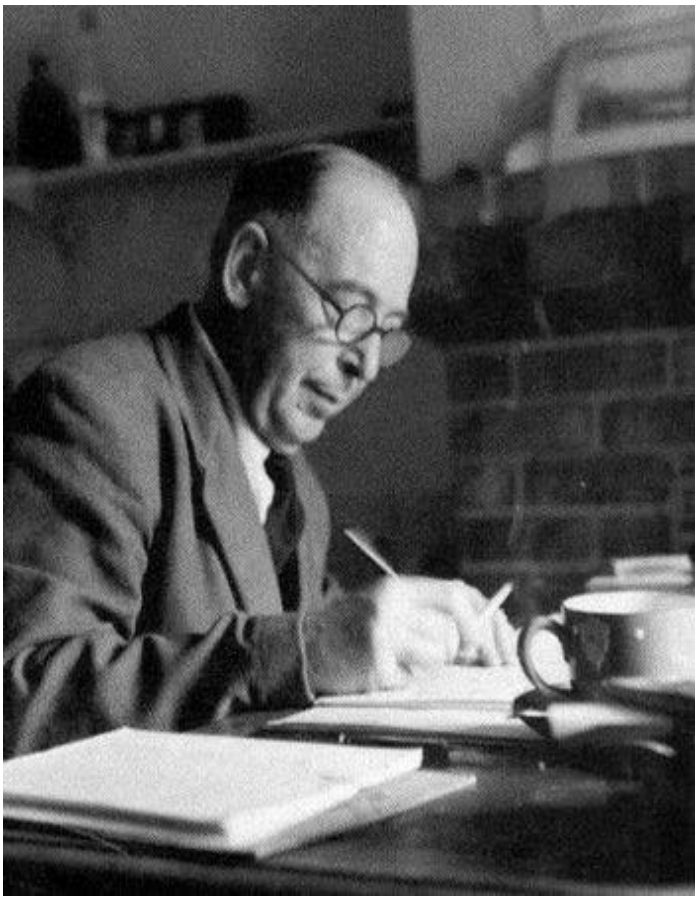
CAST

Peter- Daniel Fong
Susan- Anna Dalgleish
Edmund- Lucian River Chauhan
Lucy- Annabel Beames
Mrs. Beaver – Elinor Holt
Mr. Beaver, Witch's Army- Kevin Rothery
Tumnus, Dwarf, Elf - Kristy Benz
White Witch, Unicorn - Brianna Johnston
Fenris Ulf – David Sklar
Aslan the Lion, Father Christmas - Bruce Horak
Puppeteer – Jerod Blake

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

CREATVE TEAM

Director- Darcy Evans
Assistant Director – Amber Bissonette
Fight Director – Brianna Johnston
Set & Costume Design- Hanne Loosen
Light Design – Siobahn Sleath
Sound Design – Arvin Siegfried
Stage Manager – Patti Neice
Assistant Stage Manager – Catherine Rouleau
D. Michael Dobbin Apprentice- Carson Schmidt
Child Supervisor – Josie Jones



WHO IS C.S. LEWIS?

Clive Staples Lewis (1898 to 1963) was a British novelist, poet, academic and critic - and arguable one of the most influential writers of his day. He taught at Magdalen College, Oxford University (1925 to 1954) and Magdalene College, Cambridge University (1954 to 1963) where he was elected Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature. At Oxford, he was close friends with J.R.R. Tolkien and they were part of a literary group known as the Inklings. Although he fell away from the Church as a young man, he returned to the Anglican Church in his early 30s and his faith was a great influence of many of his subsequent writings. To date, the Narnia books have sold over 100 million copies and been transformed into three major motion pictures. In 2013, on the 50th anniversary of his death, Lewis was commemorated with a memorial in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe was the first of seven novels published (1950) in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

In an essay in *Of Other Worlds*, Lewis said that he had a picture in his head from his teenaged years that led to the development of the novel. "*The Lion* all began with a picture of a Faun carrying an umbrella and parcels in a snowy wood. This picture had been in my mind since I was about sixteen. Then one day, when I was about forty, I said to myself: 'Let's try to make a story about it.'"

Three school girls were evacuated from London during the early years of the Second World War and stayed at Lewis's home in Risinghurst outside of Oxford. At that time, he began a book featuring children, but did not complete it. By the late 1940s, he started again, and later said in *Of Other Worlds*: "At first I had very little idea how the story would go. But then suddenly Aslan came bounding into it. I think I had been having a good many dreams of lions about that time. Apart from that, I don't know where the Lion came from or why he came. But once he was there, he pulled the whole story together, and soon he pulled the six other Narnian stories in after him."

SYNOPSIS

London is under siege during World War II, and the four Pevensie children are being evacuated to a country house – where they find a magic wardrobe. When Lucy, the youngest, enters it she finds the icy land of Narnia. There Mr. Tumnus, a faun, tells her an evil white witch has enslaved the land, causing perpetual winter. When Lucy returns and tells her brothers and sister of her discovery they don't believe her. When Lucy coaxes Edmund into Narnia with her, the white witch entrances the boy with Turkish delight candy so he refuses to tell Peter and Susan the truth about the hidden land. Only when all four children enter Narnia together do they believe. Mr. Tumnus has been captured and turned to stone for treason and Mr. & Mrs. Beaver befriend the children, telling them that the good king of Narnia, Aslan the lion, is returning to bring spring, defeating the witch's winter. They are to meet him at a stone table in a clearing some distance away. Edmund sneaks off, and the white witch detains him on her way to the clearing. She makes him her accomplice, a lure and a spy to capture his brothers and sisters. On their way to the stone table the others meet Father Christmas who gives them powerful gifts. As Aslan nears, the frozen earth begins to thaw. The witch is furious. She claims that Edmund is her property because he is a traitor. Aslan makes a bargain for his release and the children promise not to interfere. The witch's minions bind Aslan, sheer off his glorious mane and tie him to the stone table. Horrid creatures caper around Aslan and taunt him until the white witch plunges her knife into his chest. The moon goes out, and evil seems to have triumphed. But as the mice nibble away the binding ropes, the stone table splits and Aslan stands before the children alive and whole. The witch didn't know the deeper magic from before the dawn of time: when a pure sacrifice willingly takes the place of a traitor. Death is defeated. A mighty battle ensues. Aslan destroys the white witch. The children are crowned rulers of Narnia, and reign long and well until they return to the wardrobe. Narnia remains a secret until they are needed once more.

SETTING

The take place in England during World War II. The country is consumed with war, and the Pevensie children are evacuated from their home in London to seek safety in a country house. Thousands of English children were sent away from London because of bombings and air-raids during the 1940s, often to live with strangers who volunteered to take them in.

In the old house they discover a magical wardrobe which transports the children to the magical land of Narnia, a wintery fantasy world ruled by an evil witch.

Narnia is a vaguely medieval place in which people live close to the land, fight using bows and arrows and swords, and are ruled by kings and queens who live in palaces. Mythical creatures populate Narnia, and interestingly, Narnia has no human population.

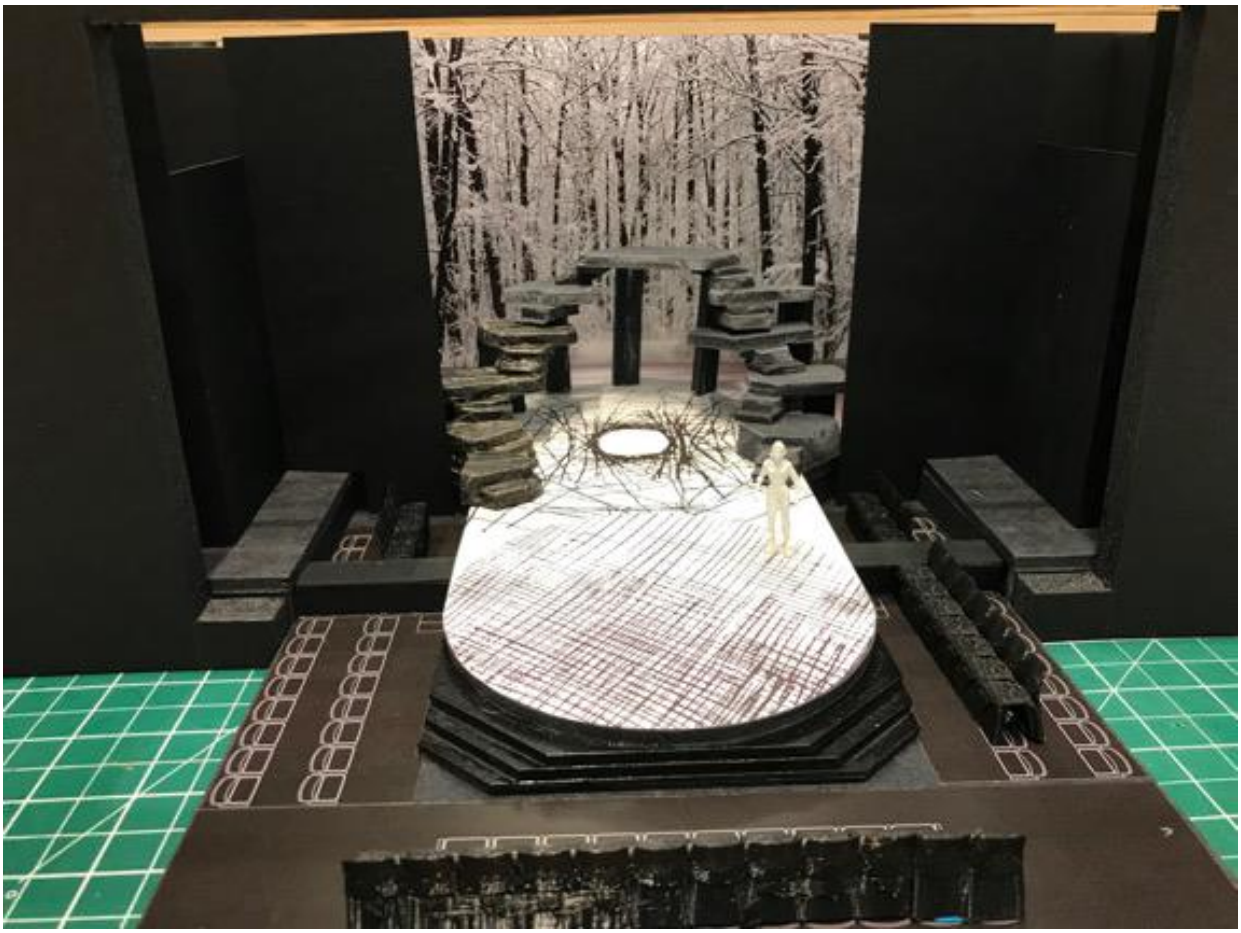
STYLE

In this production the actors will portray multiple roles. Using costume, as well as vocal and physical characterization, they will transition into this the characters of this production. The set stays largely the same throughout the show, with small pieces coming on and off of the open, airy set. Imagination plays a crucial role in the world of Narnia, both in the story and presentation, and audience members create their own versions of Narnia in their head.

DESIGN

Set Design

By Hanne Loosen



The set design by Hanne Loosen beautifully illustrates the cold, bleak world of Narnia in perpetual winter, as it is found by the Pevensie children when they first come through the wardrobe. Massive stone slabs form a grand archway upstage, just in front of our backdrop. Massive scenery pieces, such as the Beavers' house seen to the right, will be flown in and out of the stage using our fly system. Our stage in thrust configuration brings the action closer to the audience, with seats wrapping around the stage, some of which are even behind the downstage entrances on either side of the stage!

Costume Design

By Hanne Loosen

ASLAN

The puppet used for the character of Aslan was rented from the Stratford Festival, in Stratford Ontario. It was created by master props builder Ken Dubblestyne for their 2016 production.

The exoskeleton is made of a hard steel, very thin and lightweight. Aslan weighs only thirty-five pounds, which from an engineering point of view is incredibly light. The bearings and springs also make it easy to move. An enormous amount of weight was eliminated by creating an exoskeleton rather than a skeleton [*Note: An exoskeleton is an external supportive covering that protects an animal's body. Examples include crabs, snails and grasshoppers.*]. This allowed him to hinge shapes to impart some sense of the sinew, texture and musculature of the animal. To achieve this look, Ken first worked this out on paper, blew the image up to eleven feet and then enlarged the head by fifteen percent to give the face of Aslan a bit more focus. Inside the puppet are two harnesses, one by the forelegs and one by the hind legs, for two actors to manoeuvre the lion. We are covering Aslan in transparent and semi-translucent buckram, a stiff cloth of cotton or linen used in hat-making.

CHARACTERS

ASLAN – The true ruler of Narnia: A powerful and wise Lion.

MR. BEAVER - A gruff but good hearted Beaver and strong supporter of ASLAN.

MRS. BEAVER – A motherly and kind Beaver, keeps her husband in his place.

MR. TUMNUS – A Faun that befriends Lucy and saves her and her siblings from the White Witch.

WHITE WITCH – The evil Queen of Narnia who has kept the land in perpetual winter. Aslan's Nemesis.

FENRIS ULF – A Wolf: Head of the White Witch's Secret Police.

PETER – aged about 13
He is the eldest of the 4 children. He displays bravery, good judgment and sound leadership. He is a natural leader and adventurer at heart.

SUSAN – aged about 12
She is the second eldest of the 4 children. She is beautiful, kind and sweet. She is not quite as adventurous as her siblings, but takes good care of them all.

EDMUND – aged about 10
The next-to-youngest of the 4 children. He is a bit of a brat. He makes friends with the White Witch and betrays his siblings – eventually recognizing the error of his ways. He is a troublemaker and a bit of a grump.

LUCY – aged about 9
The youngest of the 4 children. Lucy is adventurous, trusting, cheerful and brave. She discovers the land of Narnia. She may be small but she is Mighty!

THEMES AND TOPICS

THEMES	
Tolerance	Heroes and villains
Growing up (maturation, adulthood)	Loyalty
Moral choices	The nature of good and evil
Identity/self	The nature of sacrifice
Facing your fears	Courage
WWII-era England	Forgiveness
Magic	Temptation
	Christianity

POST SHOW DISCUSSION TOPICS

1) Why are the creatures of Narnia so scared of each other? Do you think that they could work out their issues with each other without fighting?

2) How does Lucy's courage help the people of Narnia?

3) What is the role of illusion and deception in the play? How does this affect the children's choices?

4) Why does Aslan make Peter fight Fenris Ulf if Aslan is strong enough to fight Fenris Ulf by himself? Was it wrong for Peter to kill Fenris Ulf?

5) Why does Edmund help his siblings at the end of the story despite promising the Witch to help her? Was it wrong for Edmund to betray the Witch's trust?

6) Do you think the children actually disappeared into the world of Narnia, or did they simply play in a wardrobe and make up the story of Narnia using their imagination?