St. Andrew's Schools presents



When You Trap a Tiger

Stage Adaptation by Katie Hae Leo

Based on the Newbery Award-winning book by Tae Keller

Artwork by Kimberley Wong '26

Director's Note

When You Trap a Tiger is a hero's journey about family, cultural identity, and self-discovery. Lily's halmoni (grandmother) is a Korean immigrant who lives her life "hiding her heart and her story." Now Halmoni is sick and Lily goes on a journey to find a cure.

Korean myth, culture, music, and dance give the story its identity. The actors in the pantomime, tableau, and shadow puppetry wear male costumes for ease of movement – jeogori (top) and baji (pants). The rhythms of the buk (drum), moktak (wooden gong), and jing (gong) add to the storytelling and stage movement.

Our Tiger appears and disappears and tells Halmoni's story. She is a white tiger, an enlightened being in Korean mythology symbolizing wisdom, protection, and fortune. Will the Tiger help Lily save Halmoni?

Arirang conveys the spirit of our storytelling. A well-known Korean folk anthem, it symbolizes courage in hardship and hope for the future. It tells the story of lovers who endure difficulty and separation and is a metaphor for the strength and resilience of the Korean spirit. Its significance can be seen in the new BTS touring album Arirang and on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage site.

The play is an adaptation of Tae Keller's book, *When You Trap a Tiger*. The book received the Newbery Medal in 2021. The Newbery Medal is given to the author who made the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. It also received The Boston Globe Horn Book Honor Award for Fiction and Poetry and The Asian/Pacific American Award for Children's Literature. Born and raised in Hawai'i, the author grew up biracial, not fully realizing the importance of each of her ethnicities until she left Hawai'i. Her book is a paean to her halmoni.

Lyn Kajiwara Ackerman
Performing Arts Faculty
St. Andrew's Schools

Based on the book by Tae Keller

Script by Katie Hae Leo

Original Commission by Stages Theatre Company, Hopkins, MN.

Setting
Sunbeam, a town in Washington state, in June, the early 2000s

Running Time
Approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.

Recording, photography or distributing any audio, video, or stream of this production in any medium, including the internet, is strongly prohibited.

No food or drink is allowed in the theatre.

Artistic Team

Lyn Kajiwara Ackerman (Director) comes to this production with a background in Theatre, Language Arts Curriculum & Instruction, and Learning Design & Technology. She believes that theatre develops an understanding of self and others through stories with universal themes – making connections and building empathy. As a member of the performing arts faculty at St. Andrew's Schools, Dr. Ackerman has directed *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Theatre for Young Audiences); *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Dear Albert Einstein*; and *Wiley and the Hairy Man*.

Mary Jo Freshley (Korean Music and Dance Specialist) is the Director and Master Teacher of Korean Dance and Music at Halla Huhm Korean Dance Studio. She began Korean dance in 1962 with Halla Pai Huhm and continued learning and practicing Korean traditional dance and music in Hawai'i and in Korea. She was recognized as a Living Treasure of Hawai'i by the Hongpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i in February 2018.

Honolulu Theatre for Youth Production Team

Sarah Danvers is the Stage Manager and Head Editor for Honolulu Theatre For Youth. She graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a degree in Theatre and has worked with various local theatrical companies as a stage manager, set designer, and builder. Outside of theatre, Sarah has spent a decade in the food industry as an accomplished cook.

Eric West is a part of the Honolulu Theatre for Youth 'ohana as Technical Director and Resident Designer and continues to support the many aspects of the arts community of Hawai'i. He studied creative writing, art medium, graphic design, and photography while attending various schools for the arts before moving to New York City from Florida. While in NYC, Eric co-created a non-profit community arts organization while also lending his skills to theatre, film, and television productions.

Cast and Production Crew

Names are listed alphabetically by first name.

Chiara Borges Smith ’30 (Musician, Stage Manager) is an eighth grader at St. Andrew’s Priory and also the National Junior Honor Society vice president. In the past she was Charon and Ensemble in *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*. Outside of school, Chiara dances ballet at Queen Emma Ballet four days a week and volunteers there two days a week. She has two dogs and an older brother.

Liesl Frey ’26 (Stage Manager, Costume & Props Manager) enjoys listening to music and drawing in her free time. As a senior in high school, she is also waiting patiently for her college acceptances. In previous years, she assisted as stage manager in *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, played the lead role of Charlie Brown in *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and Steven Fisher in *Dear Albert Einstein*. Liesl extends her gratitude to her family, friends, teachers, and directors who have supported her through her time in theater!

Kimberley Wong ’26 (Joan, Ensemble) is a senior at St. Andrew’s Priory. She currently serves as the Theatre Club & ITS Troupe #1993 Secretary. Her past Priory spring production credits include *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Schroeder) in 2024 and *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Grover, Mr. D) in 2025. As of last year, she has gained many experiences in theatre, including joining UH Mānoa for the 2025 *Enough* staged reading (Stage Action). She would like to thank everyone who has supported her along this journey.

Kira Landgraf ’30 (Tiger, Ensemble) is excited to help make the story *When You Trap a Tiger* come to life. Her personal hobbies are rollerblading, talking to her cat, and taking long naps after school. She would like to thank her parents, directors, and Raphi for their encouragement and for making this a fun project to work on.

Laiweini Xiao ’30 (Sam, Ensemble) likes painting and drawing in her free time. She also enjoys swimming for fun and playing basketball on the St. Andrew’s intermediate girls basketball team. Last year, she was in *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*. Laiweini would like to thank her directors and castmates for all their encouragement.

Leia Galvez ’30 (Tiger, Ensemble) has only ever been in musicals. She is interested in dramas, and this show is her first. Leia is an eighth grader who excels in art, music, and sports. She enjoys sewing and making jewelry at home. She plays piano and guitar, and sings. Any kind of cardio, especially running long distance, is her favorite, although volleyball is a common pastime for her. God bless those hearts who are devoted to each other.

Mater Aina Alcubilla ’30 (Lily) is thankful to be able to be part of this play, *When You Trap a Tiger.* She enjoys painting, writing, dancing, and going to the beach during her spare time. She was in last year’s *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* as Gabe, Ares, Minotaur, Luke, and a part of the ensemble. She was also Flora Ihilani Jones in last year’s *A Gift of Aloha*. Aina would like to thank her family, director, and friends/castmates for always supporting her and lending a helping hand.

Raphaela Dresslar ’30 (Ricky, Ensemble) enjoys doodling, playing video games, playing D&D, and hanging out with friends. She also takes part in charity events whenever she can. Being a part of the theater program was something she wanted to do so that she could learn more about different things. Raphi would like to thank her friend Kira for deciding to join the theater program with her.

Razan Kaissar ’27 (Jensen, Ensemble) loves to read and go to the library in her free time. Her favorite genre to read is thriller. She enjoys hanging out with friends after school and going swimming with them, as well as watching movies from time to time. Razan is excited to act in her first show this year to bring Jensen to life on stage to the audience, and appreciates the opportunity deeply!

Reina Chia ’26 (Assistant Director, Musician) is a senior at The Priory. This is her fourth production with St. Andrew’s Schools. She often enjoys playing violin and guitar in her free time. Previously, Reina was the stage manager for *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*.

Suyoung Jung ’28 (Halmoni) is thrilled to be part of the cast of *When You Trap a Tiger*. Last year, she played Queen Emma in *A Gift of Aloha - Kaleleonālani Part 2: The Heart of the Priory*. Besides acting, she likes to draw, listen to music, and read in her free time. Suyoung would like to thank the director, fellow actors, and her parents for supporting, encouraging, and helping her throughout the play.

Special Thanks

Honolulu Theatre for Youth
St. Andrew's Schools Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Guardians
Anela Shigekane - FoodStart

St. Andrew's Schools Leadership Team

Ruth R. Fletcher, Ph.D., President & Head of School
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Ka'ipo Bailey-Walsh, The Prep & The Priory Lower School Principal
Jennifer Burke, Director of Advancement
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The Very Rev. Dr. Heather Patton-Graham, Chaplain
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Ka'ilihiwa Vaughan, Kumu Hula
Nohea Vaughan-Darval, Athletics Director

Program Design & Production

Elizabeth McDonnell, Marketing & Communications Associate
Chelsea Michel, Marketing Assistant

Staff

Margaret Katagihara, Campus Operations Project Manager

International Thespian Society

St. Andrew's Schools is a member of the International Theatre Society (ITS) Troupe 1993.
https://schooltheatre.org/international-thespian-society/

ITS is the only theatre honor society for middle and high school students in the United States. ITS recognizes, rewards, and encourages student achievement and celebrates the work of students in all aspects of theatre – performance and production. Each student is honored on a national level and gains access to opportunities and resources beyond those of their school.