

PETER PAN

by J.M. Barrie



WHITGIFT

17-19 June | 7pm | Big School

Based on an adaptation by The Companies. Originally co-produced with the National Theatre and Bristol Old Vic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan was born out of a deep love of childhood, imagination, and play. Inspired in part by the Llewelyn Davies boys, with whom Barrie spent much of his time inventing stories and games, Peter Pan reminds us of the extraordinary worlds that can emerge when we allow ourselves to imagine freely. Yet beneath the adventure and magic lies something more bittersweet: Barrie understood that childhood is fleeting. Perhaps that is why stories, imagination, and play matter so much: they allow us to hold onto a sense of awe and discovery even as we grow older and begin to feel the weight and complexity of the world.

In many ways, this play feels especially important now. We live in a world that often teaches us to fear failure, to seek perfection, and to avoid getting things wrong. Yet in rehearsal, some of the most joyful and creative moments came precisely from those mistakes: a missed line becoming a new idea, a prop finding an unexpected purpose, a scene changing shape through experimentation. I encouraged the cast to embrace those moments when things "went wrong," because that is often when we are at our most inventive, collaborative, and alive.

That spirit of playfulness has been at the heart of this production. Throughout the rehearsal process, the students were given opportunities to shape the work themselves - exploring movement, experimenting with language, and developing their own characterisations. What has struck me most is how much I have learned from them in return: their willingness to take risks, their generosity with ideas, and their instinct not to take anything too seriously. There is something deeply refreshing, and perhaps deeply wise, in that attitude.

With a growing family of my own, it has felt particularly special to create a piece of theatre for young audiences and families alike. We were delighted to invite local primary school

pupils to our open dress rehearsal, echoing the spirit of belief and imagination shared by audiences of Barrie's original productions over a century ago - a legacy that continues through his decision to gift the rights to Peter Pan to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

What, then, can we still learn from this little boy who refuses to grow up? Perhaps it reminds us that play is not something we should simply leave behind in childhood. Play connects us - to one another and to ourselves. It allows us to experiment, to dream, to fail fearlessly, and to imagine that things might be different - and better. In difficult times especially, imagination matters. It gives us hope, joy, and the belief that the world can still surprise us.

Whilst growing older is an inevitable and often rewarding part of life, I hope this production reminds us never to lose the part of ourselves that welcomes curiosity, foolishness and delight - and keeps alive our sense of what it is to be a child.

Anna Weddell,
Director

SKETCHES FROM THE REHEARSAL ROOM



CAST

Peter Pan	Jamie Glover
Wendy	Poppy Mei Soon
Captain Hook	Michael King Gomez
Tinker Bell	Emilian Stan
Mrs Darling	Agnes Byrne
Mr Darling	Jakob Sand
John	Liam Broughton
Michael	Ethan Paramasivam
Tiger Lily	Vienne Punjani
Jane	Esme Roberts
Nana	Samuel Chapman

THE LOST BOYS

Tootles	Ethan Roberts
Nibs	Tommy Carmalt
Slightly	Jake Mansour
Curly	Yhuv Katwa
Twin One	Corban Butler
Twin Two	Daniel Caushaj
Raspberry	Nayel Jameel Perry
Cling Film	Timmy Soon
Buttons	Reilly Chen
Goldy	Michael Holder
Nugget	Caiden Thompson-Price

PIRATES

Smee	Joseph Benjamin
Skylights	Lucas Atkins
Starkey	Austin Alder
Dum Dum	Max Kan
Cubby	Akesh Rajah
Squid	Nick Ostroverkhov
Blacktide	Kai Kazemi
Snake	Alby Edwards
Barnaquel	Edi Hackman
Matey	Maitreya Adhage

All other parts are played by members of the company.

ENSEMBLE	Zebulon Duffy
	Kai Galliet
	Fallon Jackson
	Alex Ostroverkhov
	Alfie Roberts

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Anna Weddell
Assistant Directors	Rosie Thomas
	Rachel French
Producer	Christiana Aluko
Stage Manager	Charlie Holingworth
Technical Director	David Jenkinson
Production Technicians	Alex Hill
	Matthew Arakcheev
Lighting	Question Chan
Sound	Magnus Tibbalds
Music Director	Scott Morrison
Composers	Scott Morrison, Joseph Hewlett and Max Scott
Percussion	Max Wong
Costume Designer	Christiana Aluko
Costume Assistant	Edi Hackman
Hair and Makeup	Christiana Aluko, Hannah Macgregor
Backstage	Charles Barber, Marcos Bryne, Alex Hill, David Olufowora and Zahra Khan
Props Designer and Coordinator	Charlie Holingworth
Props Assistants	Laura Gomez Nunez, Christiana Aluko, Catherine Bamber, Liam Broughton, Andrew Salisbury and The Art Department
Puppets and Special Effects	Burnt Toast SFX
Photography	Alex Hill



A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM... PETER PAN

We are delighted to share the magical story of Peter Pan with you, but this show won't be complete without you.

Inspired by Peter Pan's idea that happy thoughts help you fly, think about what makes you feel joyful, brave or excited, or imagine your own version of Neverland - a magical place full of adventure that looks different to everyone. You can write a short description or draw a picture, including anything you think belongs there. We can't wait to see your wonderful ideas - thank you for helping make this performance truly magical.

At the end of the night, please leave your creation with our Front of House team to be displayed in our theatre space.





CAST Q&A

Q: What do you enjoy most about playing your character and why?

"My favourite part in the play is when Captain Hook kills me immediately, showing how heartless and uncaring he is!" - Lucas Atkins, Pirate

"I think Tootles is very wholesome and brings some positivity to the play!" - Ethan Roberts, Lost Boy

"I love playing with the other Lost Boys and playing with the props. I also enjoy singing about all the foods the Lost Boys want." - Timmy Soon, Lost Boy

"I enjoy playing a young boy as an energetic character because it fits with who I am, a very curious and energetic boy." - Yhuv Katwa, Lost Boy

Q: What do you love about the play, Peter Pan, and why?

"I love the fictional world that Neverland is, as well as the moral undertones of the story, letting the audience grow along with the cast." - Kai Galliet, Ensemble

"I love how collaborative and friendly it has been. The storyline is super interesting and very creative, and we have a substantial amount of space and created our own set to present this play as the finest it can be." - Michael King Gomez, Captain Hook

Q: Tell us about a memorable moment in the rehearsal process where you feel you've grown or learnt as a performer.

"A memorable moment is when I was flying in the flying workshop and I was doing a standing lift; at first it was scary as I didn't trust that someone would be there to support me, but for me to progress I needed put my trust in my friends." - Liam Broughton, John

"When I was told I was I understudy I learnt what it feels like to be in that kind of main character's shoes." - Jake Mansour, Lost Boy & Peter Pan Understudy

"It was the first read-through and no one knew who I was and the days coming up to it were really nerve-racking! But by my side was Jake (my understudy) all the time - comforting me and telling me how I got this role for a reason. This then allowed me to try my best and be confident that I am right for this big role." - Jamie Glover, Peter Pan

Q: Tell us about your favourite rehearsal to date and why it was your favourite.

"My favourite rehearsal was the first one ever because this is my first play and it all feels amazing being a part in the show after watching from the audience for all this time." - Lucas Atkins, Pirate

Q: What do you hope the audience will get and/or feel from watching your production of Peter Pan?

"I hope that the audience will be able to embrace their inner child and be free while watching our production." - Max Kan, Pirate

"That all kids are adventurous, but perhaps some more than others." - Zebulon Duffy, Ensemble

"I hope that when watching it they will be amazed with everyone's performance and all the time and effort that has gone into it." - Yhuv Katwa, Lost Boy

Q: Finally, do you have a favourite moment in the play? What is it and why?

"Act 1 Scene 1 - I might be biased, but Nana's presence gives a truly outstanding splash of witty comedy to the play." - Samuel Chapman, Nana

"I like Act 5.2 as it is when I come in and save Wendy and the Lost Boys from the pirates. I like it because it makes me feel quite powerful and brave." - Jamie Glover, Peter Pan

"My favourite moments of the play are during rehearsals, getting to know new people and just coming together and performing as a team" - Yhuv Katwa, Lost Boy

THE MAGIC OF NEVERLAND

E X E J M S H A D O W Y L I L R E G I T Q Z C
 W T R Z N O T V S L U F C F T F M Y S D L U V
 T A D V E N T U R E L A L O Z A V J C B O O W
 T G Y L F V Z Z N I Z A N O U I I J P E S M W
 A H K X R L L E B R E K N I T R D S J L T B J
 N J N H O J V S X U M O S H R Y I P O J B A C
 A N N S T O R I E S E D C I L D D P L I O X R
 N X E I Q C J Z Q S R T P D E U H E L O Y J M
 E P U V F Z T H W Q M X Z N A S O T Y Z S N H
 S J I J E A W Y E T A C T T H T O E R L L O P
 A P A R M R C K N J I R F U C A K R O J G O Z
 X J H B A G L N D O D D Z O I B I P G U A G U
 D D C M X T E A Y O S D Y E M G D A E I Q A F
 U R Q O V R E R N R Y V Z D W A X N R A I L L
 Q H H N J M H S L D Z E L I D O C O R C V J Y
 B J P J J C L O C K K F Z H P F D T L Q P G Q

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ↑ and ↓ and → and ← and ↘

ADVENTURE
 CLOCK
 CROCODILE
 FAIRY DUST
 FLY
 HIDEOUT
 HOOK
 JOHN

JOLLYROGER
 LAGOON
 LOSTBOYS
 MERMAIDS
 MICHAEL
 NANA
 NEVERLAND
 PETER PAN

PIRATES
 SHADOW
 STORIES
 TIGERLILY
 TINKERBELL
 WENDY

THANK YOU

Mounting a theatrical production in such a busy school requires the help and goodwill of a great number of people. We want to thank: the production team, whose dedication, creativity and positivity have been truly remarkable; the Headmaster and the Governors for their support; subject teachers for their patience and good faith in helping the performers to balance their studies with rehearsals; Christine Pennicott for sending all communications and organising the Box Office; Catherine Bamber for designing the programme; the Marketing team for advertising the show; the Catering team for providing dinners during show week and for organising pre-show refreshments; the cleaning staff for cleaning up after long rehearsals and finally, the parents of the cast and crew for supporting their children to attend rehearsals, learn lines and manage their co-curricular and academic work.

WHITGIFT DRAMA'S FUNDRAISER...



IN AID OF
GREAT ORMOND STREET
HOSPITAL CHARITY

We hope you've enjoyed our performance this evening. If you'd like to make a donation to support the work of Great Ormond Street Hospital - the organisation J.M. Barrie gifted the rights to Peter Pan to - please do so by scanning the QR code below.

And may the magic of this show stay with you and work its way to touch the lives of many others!



Free WAVpA Workshop

Saturday 27 June 2026 from 9am-12pm
 (8-13 years) and 12pm-3pm (14-18 years)
 The Performing Arts Centre,
 Whitgift School, South Croydon.



WAVpA
WHITGIFT ACADEMY
OF VISUAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS



Would you like the opportunity to develop your skills and talent in the Performing Arts? Then the Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA) is just for you.

Join us for a fun day of competitive improvisation, where the ultimate goal is to collaborate to create engaging, spontaneous theatre. We laugh all day and there are edible goodies as prizes!

Please scan the QR code to find out more and book your place!



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