

PEACE CHILD'S PROGRESS ...

Winter 1992 - 1993

Peace Child is a musical fantasy based on The Peace Book by Bernard Benson which tells how children bring peace to the world. Peace Child International has been set up to promote that fantasy and play a part in making it a reality.



Peace Children of the Middle East - Hana, Eva, Layth, Hili, Rawan, Enat and Ali

BREAKTHROUGH IN MIDDLE EAST

The feeling was the same as that first time Soviet and American children stepped out on a *Peace Child* stage together in Moscow in '85. A feeling like you are watching people walk on the moon in your front room.

"I've been looking forward to this moment for weeks," said Layth Madi, a 14-year old Jordanian. "Now that I'm actually here, with Israelis, I feel nervous. I know it's wrong - but it feels right. It feels more right than wrong because I know this is the only way to make peace, and I want peace more than anything else so that one day I can pray at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem."

So began the Eastbourne Production where children from Peace Child Jordan and Israel met for the first time. Peter Bateman, doing his second Peace Child in 3 months, took a group of them to brainstorm a solution. On the first afternoon, all the familiar horrible stories were ravelled out of atrocities on both sides. The next day, the French and British were singled out: "We were getting along fine until you came along after the first World War and carved up our territory." This was new: suddenly all the French & British kids felt involved and felt an urgent need to help the search for a solution.

It came after three days. We never found out exactly what it was - something to do with "open frontiers, just like Europe!", and Jerusalem controlled by an International Council including children...! Didn't matter: the agreement was just a way to put the past behind them and embrace a positive future. The Jordanians and Israelis became fast friends: they went skating together, went to the movies; one pair skyved off rehearsals to go to London for the day.

The show, thus, was a celebration: with magnificent choreography by Sue Wood, a fine chorus keenly directed by Dorothy Bryant, this *Peace Child* was magnificent to look at. The new script structure allows for examination of both local and international issues. The Eastbourne kids looked at the problem of homelessness, drawing disadvantaged people in their area into helping find solutions for disadvantaged peoples abroad. Local audiences roared their approval.

On the last night, the cast gathered at the Wishtower Restaurant on the sea front and sat in a circle recalling the happy experiences of the last three weeks. The kids had found peace. Their politicians now have to catch up. There was a wonderful feeling of completeness yet also of a new beginning. Many want to do it again next year - in Jerusalem!

Sue Wood already has her ticket!

Peace Child in Jordan:

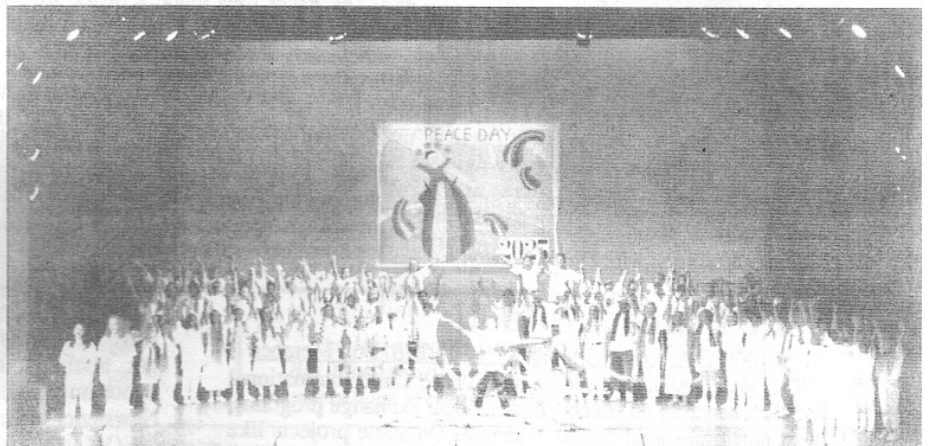
Peace Child Jordan was a magnificent experience for the 60 International visitors who visited the city hewn out of the rose-red rock at Petra, the Dead Sea, the Roman ruins at Jerash and other fascinating historical sites.

The production was initiated by the Crown Princess who, with her husband Crown Prince Hassan, honored the cast by attending the first night. The Jordanian cast numbered over 300 children! The director, committed to ensuring that all Arabic-speaking members of the audience understood exactly what was going on, devised many intricate devices for translating scenes. Though this made the show long (4 hours on the first night!) - it created a real sense of bridging the cultures.

There were fine performances, particularly from Nadia as the young Jordanian drawn into the *Peace Child* story, and winning moments from the Welsh, Scottish and Irish delegations. But the most memorable moment in the show came when a fifty piece army band paraded in through the aisles playing the Jordanian national song on bagpipes - the first, but hopefully not the last, time an Army regiment has participated in a *Peace Child*!



Peter Bateman conducts 300-voice choir



Peace Day 2025 in Eastbourne

1992 - a year for new people, new places and new scripts

Students initiate *PEACE CHILD* in Bulgaria



Antonia Simeonova

This was unique! - a program produced by Peace Child alum, Antonia Simeonova, assisted by John Bartlett, US alum of 5 *Peace Child* tours.

When asked how he would remember the program, chaperone Paul Schwartzman said

two words: "The Beach!" The group rehearsed in a wonderful beachfront complex on the Black Sea. Trouble was, the beach and weather were so gorgeous, cast & staff had difficulty focussing on the show! "20-minute rehearsal, hit a problem: "Let's go to the Beach!" was the cry," explained John.

The show turned out fine, chiefly through the efforts of a really excellent group of kids from Bulgaria, Cyprus, USA, Holland, UK, Croatia and Kenya. The tour took them to some of the most lovely towns in Bulgaria - Varna, Turnavo, Plovdiv, Lovetch and the capital, Sofia, where they performed in the Palace of Culture.

Congratulations Antonia & John, and thanks to Doncho, Mary, Paul, the staff & to the St Cyril & St. Methodius Foundation for helping to make it all happen.



Peace Child at the Earth Summit

Rio was hot - very hot! There were great moments - like when Paul Winter and John Denver played at the open air theatre, but most of the time, we sat in our booth, selling books and networking. Our address book is now bulging with wonderful new friends and contacts from over 100 countries!

Peace Child's booth looked out towards the beach past a stall selling coke and hamburgers on one side, and some New Age therapists on the other. It was the kind of contrast one saw everywhere in Rio and hard to assimilate: why, if we were all so keen to save the environment, had we all flown down here in great polluting planes? - why did all the delegates drive around in ozone-depleting air-conditioned coaches? Why, in a city of so much evident wealth, were there children sleeping on the street?

Most impressive thing was the "Earth Parliament" held by indigenous people. Looking wonderful in their loin-cloths, brogue shoes and brief-cases, they discussed what the Summit should really have been about: how to repair the havoc so-called civilisation has wreaked upon our planet and rediscover the principles by which their societies have lived in harmony with nature for millennia.

PEACE CHILD plays the Shrine

Peace Child played its part in healing the wounds of the Los Angeles riots. Two gutsy ladies, Stacey McEnnan & Janet Parmenter gathered their cast from different parts of the city, including Simi Valley, South Central LA, Hollywood - and also parts like Pasadena where rich kids had looked down and watched their city burning. They found a coach company to donate transportation to bring kids to rehearsals. With the *Peace Child* magic working in overdrive, the show came together in record time.

It hit the stage of the Shrine Auditorium on June 26th - and it was excellent! Starting in a *Peace Child* museum in 2025, a kid checks out displays from the city in the '90s: suddenly, the waxwork statues become animated, and act out the story of how peace was born out of the flames of the riots. The story is told by kids who'd lived through the riots - the cast. Some had seen their friends die; others watched their neighbours' property ransacked; all had experienced fear.



Stacey McEnnan with David Gordon

The River joins 2 streams in a Dutch School

At the end of every summer term, the primary school leavers put on a musical for their parents and school. At the Violen-school in Hilversum, the Dutch stream usually did the play. This year, Rosey Simonds persuaded them to do a bilingual version of "Earth Child" called "The River".

In the adaptation, the rich side of the River were Dutch speaking; the poor side spoke English. Suspicious of the international intrusion, the Dutch staff left Rosey on her own with 70 kids, few of whom understood English! With the help of those few, an excellent music director and two supportive teachers, rehearsals proceeded, slowly breaking down the traditional barriers between the International and Dutch streams.

The performances were hugely successful: the traditionally tedious leavers party became something completely different with romances blooming, friendships flourishing, everybody regretting that it had taken until their last days and a play, to meet each other.

The River thus made a breakthrough for the school and staff. It will hopefully lead to other cross-stream projects.

Their show has already won several awards. It just got a grant from the city to tour schools. Stacey McKinnon said: "I don't think I've ever done anything more challenging - but I feel totally rewarded by the friendships that the kids have made and sustained between each other."



Analia at the Peace Child booth

Join Peace Child !!

• \$10 (£5) Associate Member • \$25 (£10) Full Member

This year, people in contact with Peace Child International had the chance to do several International exchange programs, most costing around \$1000 + airfare. On some projects like Voice of the Children and Earth Train, all selected kids were fully scholarshiped! With the new PC Manual coming out, many new projects will be happening around the world.

Only members and associates of Peace Child International will learn of these opportunities. As a full member, you will get about 4 special mailings each year listing new opportunities as they happen. Associates will receive this Newsletter twice a year. Chapter affiliation is also available.

SO JOIN TODAY !! Just send a letter with your name, address, phone and fax number to either PCI/USA or PCI/UK, enclosing a check or money order in the appropriate currency.

CHILDREN'S STATE OF THE PLANET HANDBOOK

Everything you ever wanted to know about the environment in one beautiful book written and illustrated by children for children - and their parents too!

CHILDREN'S
STATE OF THE PLANET HANDBOOK

It is a wonderful book, interesting and very inspiring. I appreciate the children's creative and inventive work. I believe that it will also become a valuable English teaching tool in our schools.

Josef Vavrousek, Minister of the Environment, Czechoslovakia

The Children's State of the Planet Handbook is one of the best books I have read.

Celeste Gilman, age 10.

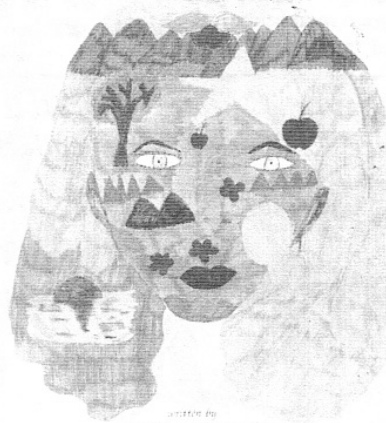


Illustration by
Children of this World

The Children's State of the Planet Handbook contains a lot of wisdom. I wish it all success.

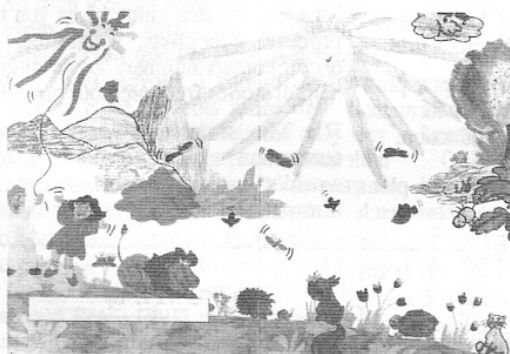
Sir Crispin Tickell,
Warden, Green College, Oxford

I find the book attractive as well as very informative and exciting. It is really wonderful that young people will have this publication to familiarize themselves with this issue of vital concern: environment and development.

Anwarul Chowdhury, UNICEF,
Director for Japan, Australia
& New Zealand

Celeste goes on to describe the book thus:

In the first chapter it shows the earth as we would like it to be. There are many poems and drawings, each different but similar. It helps to let people know that many others share their goal of a perfect world.

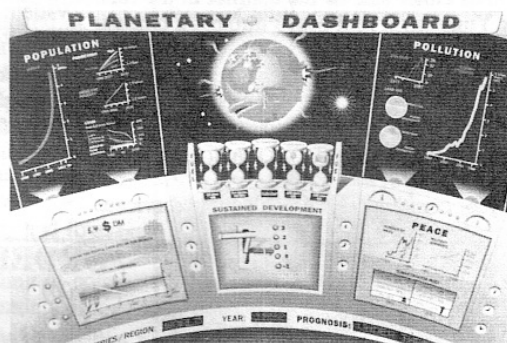


The second chapter is completely different. Instead of seeing big trees and a blue sky, you see the awful truth about the condition of the earth. It's scary, just thinking about some of the things like: in Poland, 78.8% of the rivers are so polluted that they are not classifiable to any water purity standards; a river in Plettenberg, Germany, is filled with bicycles and refrigerators; a village in Bengal, India, people can't breathe because of the smoke from a nearby dump that was set on fire.

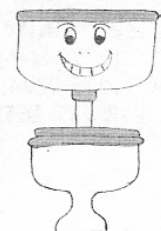
THE TRIUMPH OF CONSUMPTION



The book goes on to answer grave questions from children around the world about the environment. Another thing in that chapter is the Planetary Dashboard. It tells about population, pollution, natural resource, who the moneys go to, and other such things in a really interesting way.



The fourth chapter is about how to take action - organizations taking action and Earth Child, a play about children who find they can do a great deal to help the environment. But I think the best part of the book is the segment about what you can do to help the environment where you live. It goes through a day in the life of an eco-friendly kid and tells real life success stories that are fun to do.



- Four liter flushes, please! -

The last chapter has one simple question: to die or to unite. But that question is the most important question there is. I surely hope everyone makes the right decision.

ORDER NOW: Price \$7.50 (£4.00) incl. postage from PCI-USA & UK
- and all UN & UNICEF Bookshops -

PEACE CHILD GETS NGO STATUS WITH UNITED NATIONS

October 4th 1992, *United Nations, New York*: Peace Child took on a new life today when David Woolcombe and I received our official United Nations passes. It was the proudest moment of my life, walking through that door into the foyer of the UN, displaying my badge, getting a smile from the security guards. I felt not only that I had earned it for helping to found Peace Child ten years ago, but that Peace Child had earned it for all the work it has done to help unite people and nations.

I shall now participate in the UN NGO briefings, lectures and initiatives as Peace Child's representative - your representative. That first day I met with many important and inspiring people.

I was pleased to see that Peace Child's name is highly respected and acknowledged as the fore-runner of many new groups that give young people a voice in the building of their future.

One such new organization is Creative Response - a flower that has grown out of Peace Child's earth. I see my business as tending Peace Child's earth so that it can continue & give birth to other such flowers. I am a Creative Response Board member: I will use my position there to cement a close and profitable relationship between them and Peace Child.

David Gordon, Founder & Vice-President, PCI.

The New Peace Child Manual

Eleven years of Peace Child experience collected in a single boxed set!

Five brand new scripts:

- **Peace Child: Full 2-Act musical; cast 7-17 + adults, and 50-500 kid chorus.** The new basic script deals with local & global issues. All the great songs + 3-cornered romance make this the happiest Peace Child yet.

- **Peace Child Hamburg: for age 7-13; in 1 or 2 Act version, 60-75 mins.** Brother and sister get kids to clean up city. Hamburg can be any town or city.

- **Earth Child: 60 mins; suitable age: 11-15.** Original environmental Peace Child now in new, post Earth Summit version.

- **The River: One Act; 70 mins; suitable age: 10-13.** Hilarious bi-lingual script. Great language/cultural teaching tool. (See review)

- **Peace Child at War: 2 act, 120 mins. suitable age: 12-19 + adults.** Two families either side of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia find peace through a chance meeting of their children; a nuclear threat brings them all into a desperate search for peace. Tense, gripping & plausible, this play can be used to look at situations in Ireland, Cyprus, Middle-East etc. by changing names.

- **Short-form scripts: 3 x 20 min.** texts for conferences, church/temple services,



schools, etc. Can be rehearsed in a few hours & performed on bare stage + minimal lights.

Songs: Full Piano Score of all David Gordon favorites, plus new ones written for *Peace Child* by children around the world.

2 x Audio Tapes: tape 1 contains songs with words; tape 2 is instrumental only.

Video: The very best *Peace Child* productions & atmosphere from around the world.

Computer Disk: contains 5 scripts, plus schedules & budgets in Mac or Dos formats. ready for you to adapt to your production.

A. Study Guide: Series of 10 lesson plans designed to help directors and teachers stretch

students minds as well as their artistic talent. Explores main issues plays raise. Original has now been completely revised & updated

B. How to do *Peace Child* in 3 Parts:

I: Production Guide. Offers helpful hints on how to stage the show itself: sample budgets, rehearsal schedules; ideas for how to find and audition kids, set up production/promotion/fund-raising committees. Plus ideas for sets, sound, lights, costumes, make-up, etc.

II: International Program Guide.

Peace Child pioneered the concept of "*Joint International Programs in the Performing Arts*". These have proved to be one of the most effective and empowering programs for youth aged 12-18. But how do you do them? This step-by-step guide gives you the entire process: checklists, schedules, budgets, useful contact numbers - everything! - plus helpful stories from previous programs!

III: The story of *Peace Child* - from conception in London to performances in the world's major concert halls; lavishly illustrated with photographs and interviews.

ORDER NOW at LOW prices

1. <i>Peace Child</i> Manual: \$75.00 (£45.00)	2. Basic Script & Cassette: \$14.95 (£9.50)
3. Other scripts: - each - \$ 4.95 (£ 2.95)	4. Audio Cassettes: - each - \$7.50 (£3.95)
For Items 1 & 2, add \$2.00 (£1.50) for postage; for Items 3 & 4, add \$1.50 (£1.00)	

In the Manual, you receive all the material described above bound in three folders in an attractive boxed set. Item 2 brings you the Basic *Peace Child* script along with introduction, study guide and vocal cassette bound in a single binder; other scripts come in loose leaf form or as a booklet. For more information, write or call Peace Child in the USA or UK.

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"I have a vision, I have a dream ... "

Peace Child