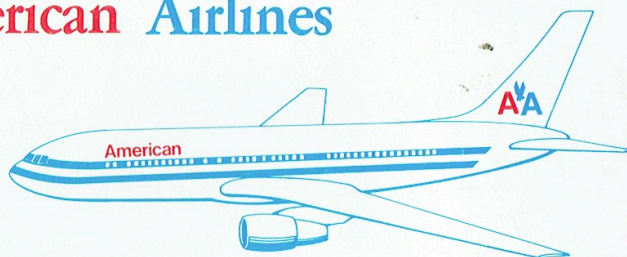
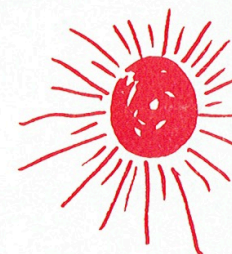


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PEACE CHILD
Dec. 4-13, 1987

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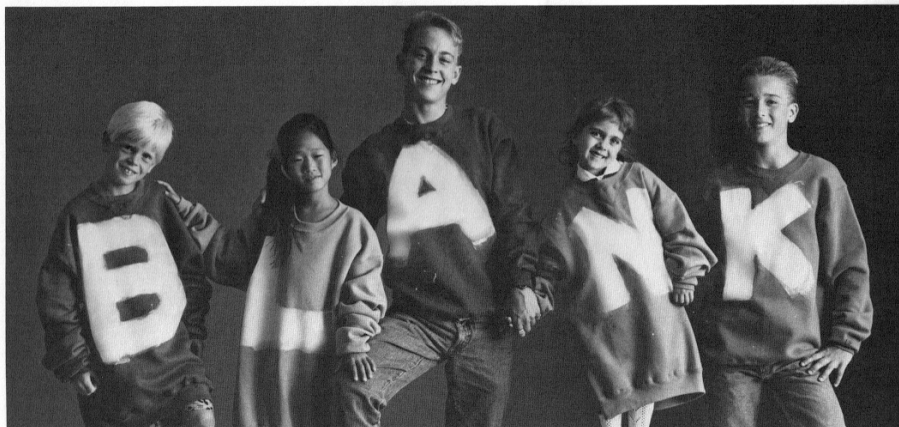
The Des Moines Playhouse

Presents

PEACE CHILD



Peace Child is supported in part by a grant from the Gannett Foundation.



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Des Moines Playhouse

presents

PEACE CHILD

A Children's Celebration for Peace

Music and Lyrics by
DAVID GORDON

Written by
DAVID WOOLCOMBE

Adapted from *The Peace Book* by Bernard Benson
Published by Bantam Books

Directed by
JOHN VIARS

Musical Direction by
PAUL DIEKE

Set Design by
STEPHEN NANCE-POOR

Choreography by
DEBBIE WESTPHAL CANTRELL

Costumes Designed by
JEAN BRANDENBURG

This production supported by a grant from the Gannett Foundation



Travel Arrangements by American Airlines

Peace Child Cast

Storytellers: Wayne Olson, Patricia Frazier-Poole
Bobby: Gerry Neugent, Eric Hastings
Katya: Alyssa Paul, Jennifer Luna
Talk Show Host: Bill Dobson
Editor: Karri Goeldner

"Dreamettes": June Owens, Jennifer Kulik,
 Lisa Zavala, Stephanie Zavala
U.S. President: John Wells
Soviet President: Peter Borgen
Aides: Shawn Eyestone, Tara Monson

Jennifer Abler
 Sonja Anderson
 Aaron Ashby
 Angela Ashby
 Alison Bachman
 Anne Bannister
 Cara Barber
 Angie Beckley
 Meggan Bender
 Angie Bendixen
 Peter Borgen
 Chandler Bowerman
 Jessica Bradish
 Lauren Burger
 David Chasten
 Stephanie Clarke
 Ellie Close
 Eric Damman
 Bob De Somber
 Ryan Denman
 Bill Dobson
 Matt Easter
 Brad Ekstrum
 Katie Ericson
 Shawn Eyestone
 Amy Fairchild
 Krisztian Flautner
 Warren Freeman
 Emily Frommelt
 Karrie Goeldner
 Katie Goodrich
 Melissa Gronert
 Becky Gruening
 Stephanie Guey
 Rachel Guey
 Shane Guey
 Erika Hall
 Kim Hambleton
 Teresa Haney
 Erik Hastings
 Le Mar Holt
 Roger Israel
 Julie Jensen

Amy Jermier
 Jessica Keenan
 Trev Kelderman
 Justus Koester
 Jasna Kovac
 Jeremy Kruempel
 Barbara Kucharska
 Jennifer Kulik
 Vanessa Kuyper
 Laura Langdon
 Eric Lee
 Jennifer Lightner
 Robin Little
 Rupert Luitsz
 Jennifer Luna
 Jennifer Marasco
 Krista Marlenee
 Jenni Mersereau
 Damien Mickunas
 JoLynn Midkiff
 Brian Midkiff
 Jamie Miller
 Mario Mirkovic
 Lindsey Monson
 Tara Monson
 Brent Moore
 Bernardo Mourao
 Laura Nelson
 Elizabeth Neugent
 Gerry Neugent
 Ann Nugent
 Karen Olson
 Wayne Olson
 Matt Oltman
 June Owens
 Ashley Paul
 Amanda Paul
 Alyssa Paul
 Curt Peterson
 Laura Peterson
 Alicia Pfander
 Natasha Pfander
 Penelope Pinneke

Anne Pitts
 Martin Pooock
 Patricia Frazier-Poole
 Allison Prouty
 Zuzana Pucikova
 Tullio Randullo
 Mary Anna Reed
 Emily Reis
 Jana Rehakova
 Elizabeth Rezek
 Ann Rezek
 Leslie Routman
 Nicole Runge
 Kristina Santos
 Stephanie Schodde
 Robbie Scigliano
 Tony Scigliano
 Mary Scigliano
 Emily Selden
 Luke Shors
 Joel Shuler
 Amy Sprague
 Ann Marie Steffen
 Chris Strohmaier
 Jon Stuck
 Pawel Sydor
 Howard Tempero
 William Thompson
 Dawn Tigner
 Chris Tracy
 Kristina E. Valada-Viars
 John Wells
 Eric Whitaker
 Justin Wills
 Charles Wittmack
 Ellen Wittmack
 Darcy Wolver
 Melvin Woods
 Jamie Wynn
 Stephanie Zavala
 Lisa Zavala
 Naomi Zeff
 Jami Ziegler

International Cast

Poland: Pawel Sydor, Barbara Kucharska,
 Krzysztof Glomb (chaperone)
Hungary: Krisztian Flautner, Elizabeth Csikos
 (chaperone)
Holland: Rupert Luitsz, Vanessa Marylou Kuyper

Great Britain: Kim Hambleton
Czechoslovakia: Zuzana Pucikova, Jana Rehakova,
 Hana Kovarova (chaperone)
Yugoslavia: Mario Mirkovic, Jasna Kovac,
 Roman Stipanovic (chaperone)

Note: Roles may alternate from performance to performance

Music Personnel

PEACE CHILD
 Des Moines Playhouse ★ December 4-13, 1987

ORCHESTRA

Trumpet: Brent Sandy
 Saxophone: C. Tom Lane
 Trombone: Jim Davis
 Guitar: Geoff Schodde

Piano: Bruce Martin
 Synthesizers: Karen Hutzell
 Bass: Cindy Crowell
 Drums: Brian Parizek

STAFF

Musical Director: Paul Dieke
 Assistant Musical Directors: Peggy Golden, Bruce Martin
 Vocal Coaching: Peggy Golden
 Orchestra Conductor: Bruce Martin

Orchestra Manager: C. Tom Lane
 Music Coordinator: Dennis Patten
 Rehearsal Accompanists: Karen Hutzell,
 Shelley Sanders, Peggy Golden

Acknowledgements: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Drake University

PEACE CHILD MUSICAL NUMBERS

"Peace Day" Le Mar Holt, Eric Whitaker, June Owens, Ensemble
 "Now If You Close Your Eyes" Stephanie Schodde
 "Fireball" Ensemble
 "I Want to Live" Bobby, Katya
 "I Gotta Story" Karri Goeldner, Tara Monson, Mary Reed, Stephanie Schodde, Peter Borgen, Bob De Somber,
 Le Mar Holt, Shane Guey, Eric Whitaker, Curt Peterson, Roger Israel, Jeremy Kruempel
 "The Impossible Dream" U.S. President
 "Sing" Ensemble
 "Mwi Zhelayem Shasta Vam (We wish you happiness)" Ensemble
 "Mr. President" Bobby, Katya, Ensemble
 "Reach Out" Christopher Strohmaier, Jessica Keenan
 "Look at Life" Le Mar Holt, June Owens, Mary Anna Reed
 "I Want to Live" Reprise Ensemble
 "Finale — Peace Day Reprise" Ensemble

★ DANCERS ★

PEACE DAY PARTNERS

Angie Bendixen, Katie Ericson, Jenni Mersereau, Ann Rezek, Tina Santos, Dawn Tigner, Peter Borgen,
 Roger Israel, Bernardo Mourao, John Saunders, Bob De Somber, Bill Dobson

PEACE DAY FLAGS

Jennifer Abler, Cara Barber, Angie Beckley, Meggan Bender, Jennifer Kukik, Ann Nugent, Laura Peterson,
 Emily Reis, Elizabeth Rezek, Ellen Wittmack, Lisa Zavala, Stephanie Zavala

PEACE DAY JAZZ GROUP

Angie Bendixen, Amy Fairchild, Becky Gruening, Jennifer Lightner, Jenni Mersereau, Jennifer Marasco, Ann Rezek,
 Nicole Runge, Tina Santos, Dawn Tigner, June Owens, Rachel Guey, Darcie Wolver, Krista Marlenee

PEACE DAY TAMBOURINES

Jennifer Abler, Angela Ashby, Katie Ericson, Amy Fairchild, Katie Goodrich, Becky Gruening,
 Julie Jensen, Amy Jermier, Jennifer Lightner, Jennifer Marasco, Natasha Pfander, Leslie Routman,
 Anne Pitts, Krista Marlenee, Stephanie Schodde, Alicia Pfander

FIREBALL

Angie Bendixen, Jenni Mersereau, Jennifer Marasco, Ann Rezek, Tina Santos, Dawn Tigner, June Owens,
 Nicole Runge, Rachel Guey, Darcie Wolver, Katie Ericson

RUSSIAN FOLK DANCE

Katie Goodrich, Shane Guey, Becky Gruening, Roger Israel, Amy Fairchild, Matt Oltman, Alicia Pfander,
 Howard Tempero, Natasha Pfander, John Wells, Leslie Routman, John Saunders, Nicole Runge, Bob De Somber,
 Anne Pitts, Bill Dobson, Bernardo Mourao, Lauren Burger, Aaron Ashby, Emily Frommelt, Chandler Bowerman,
 Krista Marlenee, David Chasten, Lindsey Monson, Eric Damman, Laura Nelson, Damien Mickunas,
 Ashley Paul, Joel Shuler, Penny Pinneke, Chris Tracy, Emily Selden, Justin Wills, Anne Marie Steffen,
 Charles Wittmack, Jennifer Abler, Willie Thompson, Angela Ashby, Trev Kelderman, Katie Ericson, Martin Pooock

"SING" RIBBON DANCERS

Angela Ashby, Angie Bendixen, Katie Ericson, Rachel Guey, Jenni Mersereau, Jennifer Marasco,
 Ann Rezek, Tina Santos, Dawn Tigner, Darcie Wolver, June Owens

International Cast



ZUZANA PUCIKOVA is from Prague, Czechoslovakia. Zuzana is 17 years old and a student at Stredni Pedagogicka' Skola. She is also a member of the singing choir "Radost" (Joy) in Prague. Zuzana is a good student and talented in music and drama. Her hobbies include sports, dance, literature, and singing.

JANA REHAKOVA is a student in Prague, Czechoslovakia, where she attends Stredni Bdravotnicka' Skola (school). Jana is a member of the singing choir "Radost", which means "Joy". She is 16 years old and lists as her hobbies singing, dance, and literature. Her teacher says she is a good student, musically talented and experienced in drama.



HANA KOVAROVA is the chaperone from the group from Czechoslovakia. She is a specialist in the International Relations Department at the Prague Cultural Institute.

KIM HAMBLETON is from Bradwell, England. She is 15 years old and is studying for her final exams at her local college in Sheffield, England. Acting and music (playing the piano) have been among her main extracurricular interests while at school and away from school. She has studied music for six years and it is one of her true loves. She also enjoys working on a computer. Kim has appeared in a number of plays in England with the Bradwell Centenary Players.



VANESSA KUYPER is eighteen and from Hengelo, Holland, where she attends school at the Lyceum de Grondel. She began performing as a dancer in musicals and operettas at the age of 5 and hasn't stopped.

RUPERT LITSZ is from Almelo, Holland. He is 20 years old and has been a drummer for several musicals in Holland including *The Magic Flute* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Rupert has also had theatre technical experience as well as publicity. He enjoys windsurfing, drumming, glider-flying, running and tennis.



KRISZTIAN FLAUTNER, from Budapest, Hungary, is in the eighth grade at Egry Jozef Primary School, a specialized school for learning English. He started studying piano at the age of six and flute at ten. He takes part in performances and competitions on a regular basis and has won several awards in both district and national competitions. Since he joined the school drama group three years ago he has appeared in all their performances. Krisztian enjoys swimming, diving, skiing, travelling, and the computer.

ELIZABETH CSIKOS a chaperone from Budapest, Hungary, has received several awards for directing with her theatre group, Domdodom ("A Tale"). The group works with children aged 10 to 14. Elizabeth also teaches English and Hungarian Literature and Grammar at the Egry Jozsef Primary School. She enjoys theatre, teaching, music, travelling, and "playing with my children."



BARBARA KUCHARSKA, aged 18, from Poland is a grammar school student in Tarnow, where she will take the final exams in 1988. She is interested in English and attends classes in the enlarged English program. She studied guitar and violin for many years in the State School of Music in Tarnow. She has a wide range of musical interests - from classical to jazz. In 1986, she took part in a festival of young talent. She is a member of a drama club at her school.



PAWEL SYDOR, is from Poland and 17 years old. An accomplished musician, Pawel started to play the piano at the age of 6 and three years later performed a piano concerto accompanied by the children's orchestra of the Bialystok Philharmonic. Since 1981 he has lived in Tarnow. He is a pupil of the 1st Grammar School in Tarnow. In 1986, he was first prize winner at the Festival of Young Talents in Tarnow. In October, he took part in the meeting of young musicians, organized by the Union of Polish Composers, Tarnow's Musical Society, State Concert Agency, sponsored by the ministry of Art and Culture.

KRZYSZTOF GLOMB, the chaperone from Tarnow, Poland, is a theatre critic and artistic manager of the Theatre Centre "Warsztowa" in Tarnow. Krzysztof writes for the weekly magazine, "Culture" and the monthly "Stage" in Warsaw, as well as a bi-weekly publication called "Student" in Cracow, and for the local press. Last year he received an award from the Polish Union of Journalists for articles and theatrical reviews published in the Polish press. He will soon publish a monograph on Polish alternative theatre in the years 1970-1985. He is a playwright and a director of workshops.



JASNA KOVAC is from Zagreb, Yugoslavia and is 15 years old. She attends a school for Culture and the Arts in Zagreb. Jasna has been involved with the Zagreb Youth Theatre for about 10 years and enjoys skiing and swimming.

MARIO MIRKOVIC is from Zagreb, Yugoslavia. He has been involved with theatre for about 12 years with the Zagreb Youth Theatre. Mario attends a Zagreb school for Culture and the Arts.



ROMAN SUSKOVIC-STIPANOVIC is the chaperone for the group from Yugoslavia. He has been with the Zagreb Youth Theatre for 20 years, and for the past 3 years has worked as that group's director. Roman enjoys fishing, skiing, and football.

Production Staff

JOHN VIARS (Director) has been executive director of the Des Moines Playhouse for the last five seasons. Prior to coming to Des Moines, he was director of the La Crosse Wisconsin Community Theatre. He taught theatre courses at Elmira College in Elmira, New York and has a Masters Degree in Theatre Arts from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a member of the Board of the American Association of Community Theatre and recently led a National Conference of Community Theatre Professional Directors. He is married and has two children.

PAUL H. DIEKE (Musical Director) has been musical director for all Playhouse productions since 1980, including *The King and I*, *West Side Story*, *Brigadoon*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and the recent success, *My Fair Lady*. He is also choir director for St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Tifereth Israel Synagogue. He was musical director for all of the musicals presented at the famed Charlie's Showplace. He worked professionally in musical theatre in New York, having been musical director for nearly three hundred different productions before coming to Des Moines. Directing large forces is nothing new to him, as he conducted a massed chorus of ten thousand singers for the New York State Fair for a number of years. He is also a tenor soloist and has sung in concert and oratorio presentations throughout the midwest. His most recent local appearances were with the Des Moines Symphony for Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, and with the Des Moines Choral Society for Bach's *B Minor Mass*, and Orff's *Catulli Carmina* which was performed with the Des Moines Ballet. He also teaches vocal technique and coaches vocal performance privately.

DEBBIE WESTPHAL (Choreographer) is the Artistic Director, Business Manager and owner of the Betty Hill Dance Studios. Her expertise includes ballet, tap, pointe and acrobatics. Last spring Debbie and her dance studio represented the state of Iowa at the Young Americans National Invitational Dance Festival in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, where they won gold medals for four of their five dances. Creator of Dance Diversity, a local performing group, Debbie has a BA in English, a Master's Degree in Business Administration, has taught junior high school and high school English, and taught Marketing and Retailing at Drake University for six years.

STEPHEN NANCE-POOR (Set Design) is now in his third season as resident designer with the Playhouse, having created settings for such productions as *The Mousetrap*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Anything Goes*, to name but a few. Stephen has earned his Master's of Fine Arts Degree in Design from Ohio State University. He has worked in both community and Equity theatres in his native North Carolina, as well as in New York and Massachusetts. One of his more memorable endeavors was doing costumes for Agnes de Mille's national ballet tour.

JEAN BRANDENBURG (Costume Designer) has been a volunteer on the costume crew at the Playhouse for the last three seasons, but this is the first year her talents have been used in costume design. Jean has designed costumes for the Playhouse productions of *Pinocchio* and *My Fair Lady*. She graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of General Studies Degree, with emphasis in textiles, sociology and communications.

Peace Child History

The story of *Peace Child* begins in 1978. Former Canadian Ambassador, James George, was staying with British author, Bernard Benson whose books use the device of a storyteller telling simple stories to children to put across complex ideas. He suggested to Benson doing a story of how peace came to the world. It would be set in the future in a world already at peace: the storyteller would then explain how children were instrumental in bringing about peace. Inspired, Bernard Benson then wrote the Peace Book. *Peace Child* became the launch vehicle for the Peace Book in the English language.

Eirwen Harbottle was the co-director of the World Disarmament Campaign in London. She was looking for a way to "Celebrate" peace, to make a contrast to the negative, anti-nuclear protesting that was endemic in Europe in 1981. Her daughter, Rosey Simonds, was working for a casting agency: one of her calls at that time was to a man named David Gordon who was planning to put on a musical about Peace in London's West End.

Eirwen invited David to make his work the centerpiece of her Celebration for Peace. A few months later, the first draft of "The Peace Book" in English landed on her desk inviting her to help promote it. She read the simple story of children working to bring peace to the world and was moved. She wondered if there was any way that this touching story could be spliced to David's lovely music?

David was greatly in favor of the idea and, with astonishing daring, they went ahead and booked London's colossal Royal Albert Hall for the Children's Celebration for Peace on October 30th, 1981.

Simond's husband, David Woolcombe, had been a theatre director ten years before at University. When both wife and mother-in-law begged him to help out with the Celebration for Peace, something struck a chord. One morning, he dashed off a 13-page memorandum which he called impetuously the "Peace Oratorio" - or *Peace Child*.

He took the bare bones of the Peace Book story and sandwiched it into the middle of David's musical. He added a few scenes, and incorporated a few new songs that David had been working on. The story, following closely that of the Peace Book told of two children who visited the presidents of "East" and "West" and persuaded them to "change places for a year and govern each other's countries".

The Royal Albert Hall was respectably filled, and the audience reported a triumph. It seemed to them that peace had broken out on stage that night - that music had created harmony in a discordant subject. "This show must be seen at the United Nations," agreed the two Nobel Peace Prize winners, Philip Noel Baker and Sean McBride, who were present that evening.

The next time the play was performed was at the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC. Taking advantage of being strangers in a strange town, Simonds and Woolcombe held auditions all over Washington, bringing together the black and the white community in a theatrical production for perhaps the first time. For many, this was as grand a peace achievement as putting Soviets and Americans together on the same stage three years later.

The show launched *Peace Child* in America. Via national public radio and other journals, the show was heard about all over the USA. A simplified version was produced at the Riverside Church in April '83, and the first Peace Child Study Guide for Schools was published in July of that year. Through December 1986, it has sold close to 5,000 copies and been the source of about 500 presentations of the play.

Prompted by a visit to Moscow in 1984, Woolcombe produced a revised version of the play to be presented at the Vision of America at Peace exhibition in San Francisco during the Democratic National Convention. This was the first production to use the concept of a "Space Bridge" program - a means whereby the children communicated to each other, and advanced the peace project by TV satellite.

From San Francisco, the Woolcombes went to Minneapolis. The idea of a "Children's TV Space Bridge" was now in negotiation with the Soviet authorities, and was featured prominently in the show. It caught the attention of the Governor of Minnesota, Rudy Perpich, who was planning a visit to the USSR in late November. He attended a number of meetings in Moscow for the Peace Child Foundation. Minnesota was also the site of the First Peace Festival - a gathering of peace educators, performance artists, and children to explore peace themes. The production of the play was the centerpiece of the Festival, which also included a Peace Child Parliament.

1985 was the year that *Peace Child* went out around the world. Touring groups went out to Jamaica, France, Switzerland and England, and the first performance in the Soviet Union was achieved.

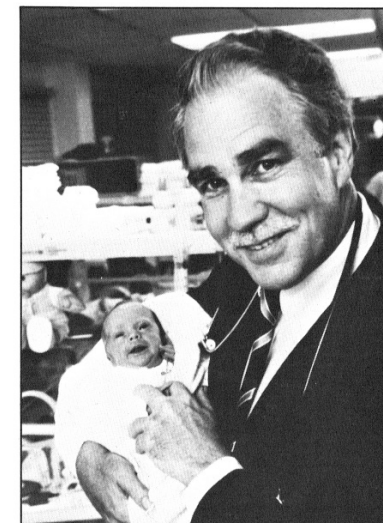
The most recent chapter in the Peace Child story is the Soviet-American Peace Child Tour of 1986. That tour, and the ones that have taken place in 1987, have developed a closer understanding of what Soviet children feel about the Nuclear issue.

Following this tour, the Peace Child Foundation set about consolidating its Summer Exchange programs, wanting the experience of performing the show with Soviet children to be available to thousands of American young people. Also the first steps toward expanding the Peace Child experience into other areas were made - the Middle East, Central America and Cyprus. Peace Child Australia continues to grow: there have been more than forty performances there since 1984. The Soviet Union has agreed to place *Peace Child* under the umbrella of its new organization, the Fund for Human Survival. Local performances inside the USSR will be promoted.

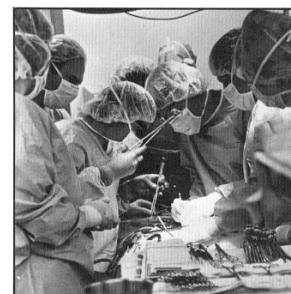
But the story of *Peace Child* does not end there. The play's message will be brought to a new audience in December, 1987, in Des Moines, Iowa.

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