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Presents





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 "Dreamettes": June Owens, Jennifer Kulik. Bobby: Gerry Neugent, Eric Hastings Katya: Alyssa Paul, Jennifer Luna Talk Show Host: Bill Dobson

Editor: Karri Goeldner

Lisa Zavala, Stephanie Zavala U.S. President: John Wells Soviet President: Peter Borgen Aides: Shawn Eyestone, Tara Monson

Anne Pitts

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 Evestone Amy Fairchild Krisztian Flautner Warren Freeman **Emily Frommelt** Karrie Goeldner Katie Goodrich Melissa Gronert Becky Gruening Stephanie Guely Rachel Guely Shane Guely 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 Ienni Mersereau Damien Mickunas JoLvnn 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 Wavne Olson Matt Oltman Iune Owens Ashley Paul Amanda Paul Alyssa Paul Curt Peterson Laura Peterson Alicia Pfander Natasha Pfander

Martin Poock 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 Ion 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

Penelope Pinneke

Poland: Pawel Sydor, Barbara Kucharska, Krzysztof Glomb (chaperone) Hungary: Krisztian Flautner, Elizabeth Csikos

(chaperone)

Yugoslavia: Mario Mirkovic, Jasna Kovac, Holland: Rupert Luitsz, Vanessa Marylou Kuyper Roman Stipanovic (chaperone) Note: Roles may alternate from performance to performance

Great Britain: Kim Hambleton

Hana Kovarova (chaperone)

Czechoslovakia: Zuzana Pucikova, Jana Rehakova,

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"	e Mar Holt, Eric Whitaker, June Owens, Ensemble
"Now If You Close Your Eyes"	
"Fireball"	Ensemble
"I Want to Live"	Bobby Katya
"I Gotta Story" Karri Goeldner, Tara Monson, Mary Re	
Le Mar Holt, Shane Guely, Eric White	aker, Curt Peterson, Roger Israel, Jeremy Kruempel
"The Impossible Dream"	U.S. President
"Sing"	
"Mwi Zhelayem Shasta Vam (We wish you happiness)"	
"Mr. President"	Bobby, Katya, Ensemble
"Reach Out"	
"Look at Life"	Le Mar Holt, June Owens, Mary Anna Reed
"I Want to Live" Reprise	
"Finale — Peace Day Reprise"	
DANCERS	

★ 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

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

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Angie Bendixen, Amy Fairchild, Becky Gruening, Jennifer Lightner, Jenni Mersereau, Jennifer Marasco, Ann Rezek, Nicole Runge, Tina Santos, Dawn Tigner, June Owens, Rachel Guely, 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

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

RUSSIAN FOLK DANCE

Katie Goodrich, Shane Guely, 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 Poock

"SING" RIBBON DANCERS

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

Production Staff

Director: John Viars Musical Director: Paul Dieke Scenic Designer: Stephen Nance-Poor Costume Designer: Jean Brandenburg

Choreographer: Debbie Westphal Cantrell

Assistant Director/Stage Manager: Antonia B. Nozicka

Rehearsal Assistants: Bev Ellis, Melinda Leseney, Paul Frank

Assistants to the Choreographer: Susan Anania, Chuck Cantrell, Donna Runge

Lighting: Virgil Kleinhesselink (Chair), Graham Filean, Tabitha Hance, Tom Fry, Tomm Duke, Rob McDaniel Set: Peter Poor (Assistant to Designer), Anne Juneau, Fred Miller, Gordon E, Sundby, Charles Wall, Bobbie Miller, Jeff Carty, Jeff Richardson, Marty McCauley, Mary Weldon, Bryan Graham, Pat Robertson, Steve Rhodes, Patti Whitehurst

Costume Crew: Patricia Frazier-Poole, Beth Mulford, Jodi Van Hoosen, Dee Santos, Beth Zavala, Sharon Wolver, Sally Tigner, Mary Lou Neugent, Cathy Dickes, JoAnn Marlenee, Jean Corbin, Helen Wallace, Patty Steingrabe, Dan Ekstrum, Cathy Keenan, Bessie Luna, Gayle Paul, Barb Backman

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Make-up: Gwen Paton (Chair), Judy Frommelt, Sheryl Poths, Bryan Doty, Dana Weir, Rashelle Wagasky, Jim Perkey, Tracey Judd

Props: Irma Solar (Chair), Joy Kripal, Barb Meier, Jeanne Gaworski, Sue Crawford, Leslie Faulkner, Marcy Bonner, Linda McIntosh, Kathy Dickes, Heidi Dacre, Jean Erickson, Connie Grimes, Bey Lightner, Virginia Bradish, Bobbi Wynn, Bobbie Miller, Bessie Luna, Carol Plawsky, Alneta Davis, Gladys Williams, Jean Boland

Shift Crew: Melinda Leseney (Chair), Terri Close, John Norquist, Julie Kaster, Thornton Kimes, Ken and JoEtta Doolittle, Marla Hall, Audry Scigliano, Jodi Van Hoosen, Sharon Wolver, Chris Leonard, Vince Leseney, Joe Marquart, Dan Ekstrum, Tom Walker, Tammy Calhoun, Rose Barcellano

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Peace Education Project. Sherry Hutchison

International Cast



ZUZANA PUCIKOVA is from Prague, Czecholovakia. 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 Grundel. She began performing as a dancer in musicals and operettas at the age of 5 and hasn't stopped.

RUPERT LUITSZ 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 Woollcombe, 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 Woollcombe 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, Woollcombe 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 Woollcombes 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 Purpich, 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.

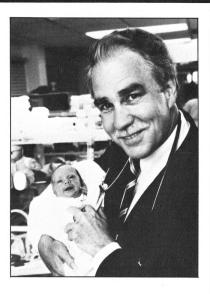
The most recent chapter in the Peace Child story is the Soviet-American Peace Child Tour of 1986. That tour, and the ones that have taken place in 1987, have developed a closer understanding of what Soviet children feel about the Nuclear issue.

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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