

“Peace Child is a skillful child’s view of the world. Its strength lies in the honesty of the peace child’s approach to world leaders . . . Major world changes have come from even stranger and smaller beginnings.”

—The Guardian Newspaper (London)

“A lot of people don’t think about the arms race. They don’t think about the future. A show like this can open their eyes and tell them we [the children] want them to think about the future. We want to have a world of peace.”

—Bridget Condon,
the Russian Girl in the Kennedy Center performance

“No doubt the concept of [The Peace Book] will help contribute to preaching peace in a way that touches the hearts of millions thirsty for seeing it established and widespread.”

—The Late President Anwar Sadat

“This imaginative book tells the story of two children who, using modern communications, persuade the nations of the world to give up their arms and to usher in an era of Peace for Mankind. A fairy-tale?—yes, but there is a wisdom in the children that men and women would do well to ponder.”

—Donald Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury

“It is my fervent wish that everyone in the world would open their hearts to let in the child of the Peace Book.”

—His Holiness, Pope John Paul II

In Papua, New Guinea, when certain warring tribes of headhunters make peace they exchange a child. Growing up with the other tribe, the child keeps in touch with his own people and thus ensures against future conflict.

Such a child is called the “Peace Child”.

Peace Child Foundation
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hat will our world be like fifty years from now? What is the solution to the arms race? Is it solvable? Can nations with fundamentally opposed political philosophies ever be genuinely at peace? What can ordinary people do that would make a difference?

"Peace Child" presents an opportunity for teachers and students to confront such questions through the enjoyably challenging process of putting on a musical play.

As a result of engaging in that process, students will get a sense that they really can play a part in creating the future—that they can make their voices heard—and their participation will generate an interest in current events, a flow of ideas, and a thirst for learning that will carry over into the general curriculum.

A Story Of The Future Created By Children

The setting of the play is in the future in a small town on Peace Day, a holiday celebrating the time when all the nations of the world gave up their arms and achieved lasting peace. As part of the festivities for the holiday, the children of the town enact a play. The play recalls the story of how an American boy and a Russian girl became friends and shared a dream of peace, and how they then brought together the other children of the world and persuaded their leaders to overcome their fear and distrust of each other and break the vicious circle of the arms race.

Students Envision Their Future World

The story is set in the world that today's generation of school children will have created by the time they approach retirement age. The initial challenge of the play is to require them to think about how they would like that world to be. Having decided on that, they must then look to the realities of today and work out ways in which to bring about a peaceful world.

The students play not only the roles of the children, but also the roles of the adults—the political leaders, scientists, business men, and military men—and thereby benefit from having to examine the problems from more than one point of view.

Teachers and Students Become Playwrights and Peacemakers

The play may be performed as written, but its major purpose is to encourage the students to rewrite the scenes (and even the songs) or alter the story to reflect their own ideas. The text is intended to be simply a starting point for discussion, placing the highly-charged subject of nuclear deterrence in a context in which the problem is solved by children.

Everything in the text is open to challenge and exploration by the students under the leadership of their teachers. The discussion notes provided with the text suggest avenues for exploration which different teachers will develop in their own way.

An Educational Catalyst

"Peace Child" is intended to work as a catalyst in the educational process. In the course of grappling with the questions raised by the play, students will be stimulated to begin acquiring the knowledge and skills they will need to play a part in shaping the future they envision. Their interest in other subjects in the curriculum—history, geography, government, economics—will be heightened. Their horizons will expand further to include more of the world and its peoples. They will begin to see how the problems among nations are reflected in their own relationships. They will be encouraged to create fresh solutions and express their own ideas.

A Variety of Uses

There are many ways in which "Peace Child" can be used. Music and drama teachers might wish to produce a polished theatrical performance, while current affairs or general studies teachers might wish to concentrate on the intellectual content and not give much attention to costumes, music, or stage sets. Production of a show could be a term-long project for a whole class or several classes (or even several schools), or an individual teacher might wish to have students improvise from a scene or two to enliven a single classroom discussion, or rewrite a scene as a homework assignment.

The play is intended for students approximately in the 10-16 age group. It contains sixteen scenes and eighteen songs (scored for piano and rhythm section), stage and lighting directions and other production notes, and suggested teachers' discussion points.

There are six principal roles, as many as twenty-seven additional speaking parts, and the choruses can provide participation for up to one hundred more. A number of these scenes, songs, and roles are intended to be extra building blocks that will allow for variations on the basic story.

The Peace Child Foundation

The play is based on Bernard Benson's European best-seller *The Peace Book* (Bantam Books). The script was written by David Woollcombe, a British playwright, and the songs were written and composed by David Gordon, the brother of Cat Stevens. "Peace Child" is being promoted by the Peace Child Foundation, a non-profit organization.

The purposes of the Peace Child Foundation are to educate children and adults in the need to end the arms race through peace and international friendship, to encourage planetary thinking among adults and children, and to instill in all people an attitude of unselfishness and concern for the survival and improvement of our planet. Especially in the case of children, it is an aim of the Foundation that this education be both fun and relevant.

The Foundation will be responsible for creating a network of schools and teachers who have performed the play and who are willing to provide advice and support to those using the play for the first time. A quarterly newsletter will be published to provide news on how the play is being used.

"Peace Child" has been performed with a cast of adult professional actors and school children to enthusiastic audiences at the Royal Albert Hall in London, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Riverside Church in New York City.

Cost

The basic package costs \$30 and includes script, music scores, an audio cassette of the music from the Kennedy Center performance, *The Peace Book*, and a year's subscription to the newsletter. Additional sets of the script and scores are available for \$5 each and additional audio cassettes are \$7.50. Copies of *The Peace Book* are \$9.95. A thirty-minute video cassette of the Kennedy Center performance is available for \$25.

For further information contact: **Peace Child Foundation**, P.O. Box 33168, Washington, D.C. 20033-0168, (202) 835-0928.

PEACE CHILD

Please send me the following:

- _____ Peace Child school packages @ \$30
- _____ Additional sets of script and scores @ \$5
- _____ Additional audio cassettes @ \$7.50
- _____ Copies of *The Peace Book* @ \$9.95
- _____ Video Cassettes @ \$25 (specify format: Beta _____ VHS _____ U-matic _____)

Prices include postage and handling.

Allow thirty days for delivery.

Payment must accompany all orders. make checks or money orders payable to "Peace Child Foundation."

\$_____ Total Amount Enclosed

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