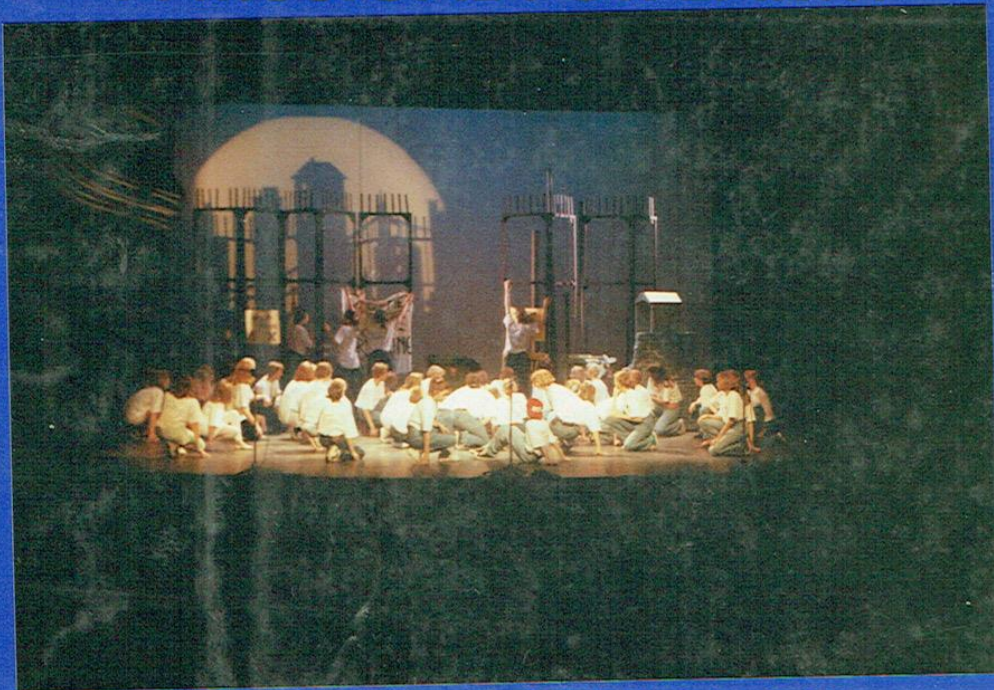


PEACE CHILD AOTEAROA 1991 A MUSICAL FOR EARTH



**PREMIERE SEASON BY
RAINBOW THEATRE CENTRE
WANGANUI NEW ZEALAND
MARCH 16, 17 2 & 8pm**



WANGANUI CHRONICLE 19 MAY 1986

Musical recommended to children

"Peace Child," which played at the Wanganui Amdram Theatre during the weekend, is a musical by children with a message for children.

Although the peace readings from the Bible and prayers in different languages at the beginning were difficult to understand, compensation came later when the whole audience was drawn to a scene in the year 2025, in which a storyteller (played by Lisa McDonald) explains why they pick a peace child each year.

The story then goes back to our time, the mid-1980, and we see the story of Katy (Tracy McDonald) and

Peter (Rohan Mouldey), two children who decide they want to stop nuclear weapons being made and make peace between the nations by visiting their respective presidents and pleading for peace.

The story is divided into 10 different scenes, all of which contain at least one song. All the children participate in singing and doing actions to songs.

The lighting was extremely dramatic and helped emphasise certain things, especially the nuclear war scene, which was superbly choreographed and was very professionally done.

The message stressed in the musical was that the children wanted to be allowed to live their lives.

Adults and people making the weapons had lived their lives and the children should be given the chance to live their lives and die of old age, not of nuclear radiation.

Children will be able to relate to this musical more than other pleas for peace, as all roles are played by children.

In fact, there were no adults at all in the cast of 34.

This was a New Zealand premiere and can be recommended to children (and adults, too) of all ages everywhere. — By AUDREY J. SCOULLAR, aged 12.

'Peace Child' applauded

Sir.— May I, through your paper extend congratulations to each and every participant in the "Peace Child" production.

I really attended because I had a grandchild performing but came away astounded. I could not believe until I asked that all that cast were our Wanganui youth. It was just magnificent acting throughout and the message in the play was inspiring.

All my regrets are that I could only send a few more people to the final session. Please could not the performance be repeated because every child and adult would surely benefit from it.

What a refreshing change from all the trash on television and the producers must feel very proud.— MRS MAVIS O'DONNELL, Wanganui East.

Sir.— Congratulations to Hazel Menchira, Paulane McLean and the children of "Peace Child". It was a wonderful experience.

I hope there is an opportunity for this play, with the powerful message it portrays, to be seen by everyone in New Zealand.— JENNY SAYWOOD, Wanganui.

SIR, Several performances of a children's musical, Peace Child, were given during Wanganui's Festival of Light, one of which I had the pleasure of attending. This was a remarkable production by talented youngsters, who told in song, dance and the spoken word a message of peace — that children have a right to live in a peaceful world.

The Wanganui team deserve the warmest congratulations for an excellent performance: it is to be hoped that they will come to Wellington to let others see the show, and hopefully to inspire school and drama groups to mount productions of the musical themselves. Peace Child was first performed in 1981 at the Royal Albert Hall in London, with Susanah York as the storyteller, and has since been given in many countries, particularly the USA. Last year it was shown in Moscow in front of an audience of 2000 and given a standing ovation. The play looks at problems then spends time and energy finding solutions. The words of the lively songs (music by David Gordon, brother of Cat Stevens) spell out a timely message for the International Year of Peace. Laurie Salas

OPENING WANGANUI'S
FESTIVAL OF LIGHT
WEEK

PEACE CHILD

FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF PEACE

A
CHILDRENS
MUSICAL



PERFORMED AT ANDRAM — DOOR SALES ONLY!

Children talk politics of peace with conviction

WANGANUI HERALD NZ

19 May 1986

What's so "super" about the superpowers, asks the little girl, if they're planning to rob us of the only planet we've got?

It's one of several pertinent lines in "Peace Child", a musical which had its New Zealand premiere at Wanganui's Amdram Theatre over the weekend.

Making good theatre out of a strong moral message is not easy. "Peace Child" steps into awkward territory once or twice but carried along by a lively script, memorable songs, tight direction and an energetic cast, the lack of character depth and other hallmarks of a "message" play matter not at all.

"Peace Child", first performed in Britain in 1981, has since been played in other "superpower" nations including the USSR where it met with enthusiastic audiences.

It tells the story of an

American child who, at a cocktail party for diplomats, meets a little boy from Russia, and becomes determined by going to the media to drive home the folly of gambling with the future of the young.

On learning from the US president about TLD, the Tolerable Level of Destruction theory, which allows for over a hundred million of one's own people to die while still allowing a "win", the little girl warns the presidents:

"You old men who have had your life should not be allowed to stop the children having theirs."

"Peace Child" is about children, but its urgent message is for adults. The Wanganui production found its mark.

Director Hazel Menehira and choreographer

Paulane McLean, both also largely responsible for lighting, pulled together a mixture of experienced and raw new chums, and with only a week's rehearsal (up to 10 hours a day) provided a pacy, totally involving show.

The cast had some worthy vehicles for their enthusiasm, including "Fireball" and "Hiroshima Dance Drama" which, combined with spectacular lighting effects, left the audience

gasping; and "Mr President", a lustily-delivered message of condemnation and hope.

There wasn't a young person on the stage who wasn't right up with the play. Cues were snappy, voices clear and confident, faces animated.

It seems pointless singling out individuals. Among the principals, there was considerable talent.

During the International Year of Peace, this play is bound to be given more New Zealand performances. I understand this cast may have the chance to perform it in Wellington. I hope it gets that chance, it deserves it.— JF.

Letters to Editor

The Editor welcomes letters to this column. Noms-de-plume may be used but name and address MUST be supplied.

A memorable message

Sir.— I had the pleasure and privilege on Sunday of attending a performance of "Peace Child", a children's musical and I want to congratulate most warmly all those who were responsible for this remarkable production, particularly the stars, the children, who performed so well.

The message of the play — that children have the right to grow up in peace and without the threat of nuclear war and that they have the potential to persuade the "presidents" of the world to abandon the arms race and to work toward permanent co-operation among nations — is told in song and spoken word and dance by talented youngsters whose clear diction and liveliness ensured a performance of excellent standard.

I hope we shall be able to arrange for the "Peace Child" team to come to Wellington before too long so that people here will have the opportunity to share the enjoyment of such a memorable Year of Peace message.— MRS LAURIE SALAS, Vice-chairperson Aotearoa Committee for the International Year of Peace.

Musical cast may go to Wellington

The Wanganui cast of "Peace Child" may perform part of the musical at Parliament.

Negotiations are also underway for the children to perform in a Wellington hall, producer Hazel Menehira said last night.

Several Wellington people watched the play at the Wanganui Amdram Hall on Sunday afternoon and told the children afterwards they would try to get them to the Capital.

They were the United Nations Associations's national vice-president Laurie Salas, executive officer of the Aotearoa committee for the United Nations Year of Peace — Barbara Holt, and Julia Gray, a secretary from the Prime Minister's department.

"They have made the suggestion and we have said OK," Mrs Menehira said.

They have indicated they would be willing to pay expenses and

Confirmation of the visit could come later this week.

"Peace Child" was performed at Amdram over the weekend. It was a New Zealand premiere.

It was sponsored and organised by the Wanganui International Year of Peace Committee, Wanganui Peace Forum, Wanganui Lodge of the New Zealand Theosophical Society, National Council of Women and various churches.

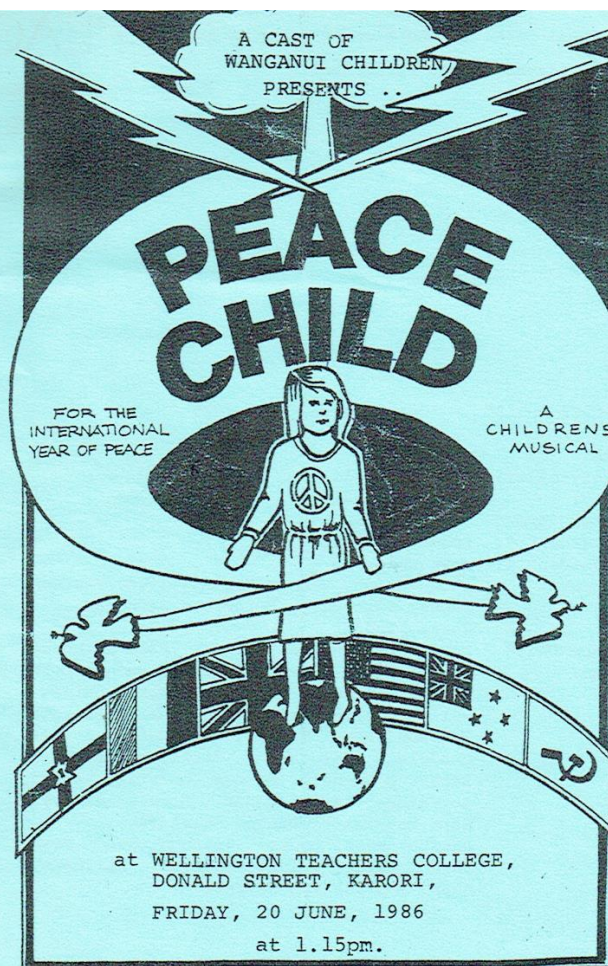
This production of "Peace Child" has been made possible by the co-operation of the Wanganui International Year of Peace Committee, Wanganui Peace Forum, Wanganui Lodge of the New Zealand Theosophical Society and the Andram Community Theatre.

Arrangements for bringing it to Wellington have been made in co-operation with the Aotearoa Committee for the United Nations International Year of Peace 1986, Box 12-247, Wellington. Telephone 730-724.

History of "Peace Child"

Originally scripted by David Woolcombe, President of the Peace Child Foundation with music by David Gordon (older brother of Cat Stevens) the theme is taken from 'Peace Book' by Bernard Benson. It was first performed in June 1981 at the Royal Albert Hall in London with Susannah York as the storyteller. It has since been performed throughout U.S.A. and in IYP year 1985 it was shown in Moscow to an audience of 2,000 and gained a standing ovation. This year it will be seen in three Soviet cities. David Woolcombe will visit New Zealand and Australia in Autumn this year and it is hoped branches of Peace Child Foundation will be set up in Australasia.

Gita & Anthony Brooks.



at WELLINGTON TEACHERS COLLEGE,
DONALD STREET, KARORI,
FRIDAY, 20 JUNE, 1986
at 1.15pm.

Musical Director and Pianist - Dee Gray

Bass Player - Alec Bridgeland

PEACE CHILD

Script by Yvonne Duncan

Music by David Gordon

Choreography - Paulane Maclean

Costuming - Margaret Webb

DIRECTED BY HAZEL MENEHIRA

'Peace Child' takes 1 1/2 hours and there is no interval.

Musical Numbers

"Peace Day"
"Fireball"
"Hiroshima Dance Drama"
"I Want to Live"
"I'm Sorry"
"Mr President"
"Child for a Day"
"Military Industrial Complex"
"Let there be Peace on Earth"

Credits

Production Assistant & Prompt:	Yvette Deerness
Lighting Technician:	Paulane Maclean assisted Geoff Campbell
Stage Manager:	Barbara McGrail
Stage Crew:	Betty & Laurie Lamont Chris Ford
Properties:	Michelle Deerness
Properties Construction:	Maurice Hurford
Banners:	Bev Hogg & Peter Hogg
Poster Design:	Patrick Duffy

Special thanks to: Mothers who provided national costume
Sharon Underwood, National Council of Women, River City
Press, Wanganui Newspapers, Radio 2ZW, Hospitality Wanganui

Sponsors:

Miles Bockett Motors	Chainey Bros.
Ian Wilks Motors	R. & N. Palmer (Plumbers)
Guthrie Motors Limited	River City Tracks
River City Press	and Individuals

"PEACE CHILD" - Opens in the year 2025

CAST

Storyteller: Lisa McDonald
Katy: Tracy McDonald
Peter and
President 2: Rohan Mouldrey
President 1: Rhys White
Dancers: Sara McLean, Dean McKerras, Trudy Pearson,
Tamela Sainsbury, Bridgette Stoneman,
Carla Vincent.
Peace Child
Team: Lars Sorensen, Kelly Timms, Kara Berube,
Tara-Lee Day, Joanna Peebles, Rachel Corkery,
Hayden Robinson, Glyn Gray, Marie Haira,
Philipa Doyle, Felicity Butchart, Rawinia
Jackson, Renei Te Tua, Anne Haira, Angela
Chadfield, Nicola Cox, Jacki Comrie,
Robert O'Donnell, Marcus Christie, Raymond
Loveridge, Lee Haukedahl, Mark Sainsbury,
Sara Mathieson, Daniel Sklenars,
Shantay Webb, Louise Sorenson, Heidi Dash,
Shanna Eaton, Sylvia and Evelyn Willmann,
Shane and Philipa Merino.



July 1986

PEACEMEAL

Newsletter 9

THE PEACE CHILD

If you haven't heard about the "Peace Child" musical yet, you probably will. It is a children's musical for a cast of 34 children (no adults). The original script is by David Woollcombe, President of the PEACE CHILD FOUNDATION in the USA. He plans to come to New Zealand later this year to help set up a foundation here. He took the theme of the play from "The Peace Book" by Bernard Benson. The music is composed by David Gordon, a brother of Cat Stevens.

The musical was first performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1981. Since then, it has been performed all over the world, including in Moscow where it received a standing ovation from an audience of 2000. Yvonne Duncan, Auckland President of STOP (Students and Teachers Organised for Peace) was the first to produce a version of it in New Zealand. She heard about it from an American she met in Sydney in 1982, bought the book by Bernard Benson in Brisbane at a One Earth gathering and saw a video there of part of the Albert Hall production. She received programmes and music for the show from Brigadier and Eirween Harbottle (Generals Against Nuclear Weapons) when they visited New Zealand. She had to write to a friend in Minneapolis to get the address of the "Peace Child Foundation". Yvonne felt that the script by David Woollcombe was more suitable for America than New Zealand. She wrote her own script from the original book, changing the last scene to the United Nations to involve more children.



Her production was performed four times in December 1983 with 100 children at Sherwood School. As a result of it, she was invited by her American friend to take 3 of the children to the Minneapolis Peace Child Festival in October 1984. Yvonne took with her a video of the NZ production.

In May 1986, Hazel Menehira, a teacher of drama, directed the first production of the "Peace Child" in an Australasian theatre in Wanganui for five performances. She used the script prepared by Yvonne Duncan. The idea of doing the show came from Gita Brooke who had seen it performed overseas. It was sponsored by the Wanganui International Year of Peace Committee and groups associated with it.

In co-operation with the Aotearoa Committee, they brought it to Wellington for a part performance at Parliament on 20 June for the benefit of Hon Frank O'Flynn, Hon Russell Marshall and others. The children performed the same day at the Wellington Teachers College before 500 school children and some adults.





A production is now being prepared in Palmerston North, and the Australian premiere is to be launched soon in Sydney.

The story is set in the Year 2025 when a storyteller explains why they pick a Peace Child each year. It then goes back to the 1980's to the story of Katy and Peter, two children who want to stop nuclear weapons being made. They visit their respective presidents making pleas for peace. The little girl warns the presidents: "You old men who have had your lives should not be allowed to stop the children having theirs." The play is divided into 10 scenes, each one highlighting some aspect of peace: what are the obstacles to peaceful relations, what are the solutions, etc. The Peace Child Foundation promotes this musical fantasy and plays a part in making it a reality.

Branches have been established in USA, UK, Israel and Belgium. There is growing interest in creating regional branches within Australia and New Zealand. Such a regional organisation would, among other things:

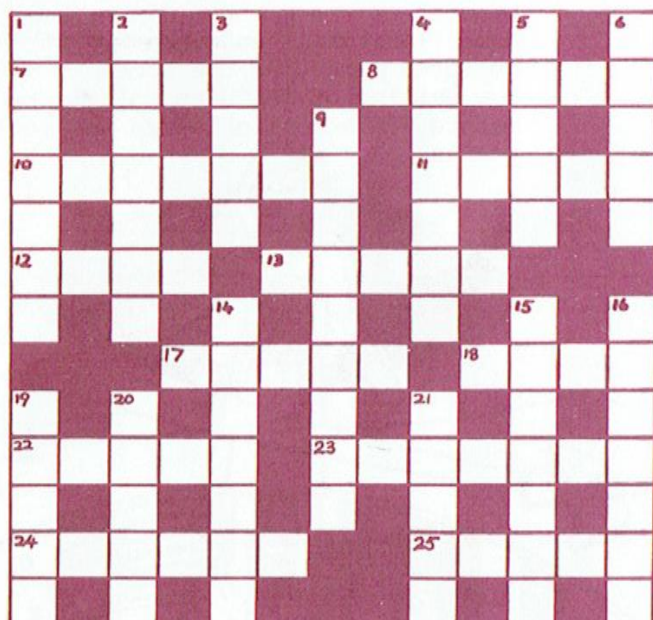
- * act as a central distribution point for the Peace Child Study Guide and related materials;
- * licence and support school and community productions of the "Peace Child"
- * solicit for and select students to participate in Peace Child exchange visits to the Soviet Union, USA and elsewhere;
- * contribute a page three times a year to the Peace Child Newsletter about activities and productions within the country.

A new Peace Child Study Guide will be published in September, 1986. It aspires to be the most comprehensive introduction to peace and human survival issues yet developed for schools.

Yvonne Duncan, (8 Auld Street, Torbay) will be giving a Workshop on Peace Education at the Nelson UNIYP Committee's National Conference "Peace & Personal Power", 29-31 August, 1986. Hazel Menehira is willing to speak to interested schools and show a video of her production. You may contact her C/- UNIYP Committee, Box 4047, Wanganui. Enquiries may also be made to David Woollcombe, Peace Child Foundation, 3977 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 204, Fairfax, VA22030, USA.



PEACEMEAL CROSSWORD



ACROSS

7. Theme for the Year
8. Creative person
10. Strong Regret
11. Time (mus.)
12. In right mind
13. Heavenly bodies
17. Fire
18. Volume
22. Weavers' tools
23. Unadulterated
24. Scandanavian country
25. Spanish mother

DOWN

1. Inform
2. Concord
3. Joyful
4. Authors
5. Celluloid entertainments
6. Bend
9. Statement of belief
14. Shine brightly
15. Companion
16. Adept
19. Extreme happiness
20. Sweetheart
21. Stalks

THE PEACE CHILD

THE PEACE CHILD is a musical, script by DAVID WOOLLCOMBE, President of the PEACE CHILD FOUNDATION, music by DAVID GORDON (older brother of Cat Stevens).

The theme of the Peace Child was taken from the PEACE BOOK. by BERNARD BENSON

The scene is set in 2025, looking back on the 1980s, telling the story of how peace came about, thanks to the initiative of the first "peace children", an american girl and a russian boy. They become friends and decide to visit their presidents. The "peace children" together with their friends finally succeed in persuading their presidents to believe in and work for peaceful relations between the nations.

The Peace Child was first performed in June 1981 at the Royal Albert Hall in London, with Susannah York as the storyteller.

In 1983 the first script for a school version was produced.

This school version is divided into 10 different scenes, each one highlighting some aspect of what PEACE might mean; what are the obstacles to peaceful relations; what are the solutions etc.

With the Peace Child comes a Study Guide which can be used by teachers to introduce the whole concept of Peace to students of almost all ages, allowing and encouraging them to develop their own thoughts and solutions and finding ways of expressing these to others. They are invited to re-write the spoken scenes in the Peace Child within the framework of the story, so that these scenes express more accurately the thoughts and feelings of the performers. Therefore the Peace Child is ever new, ever changing, ever growing and developing -

The Peace Child seeks solutions and does not dwell on the horrors of a possible Nuclear war. It looks at the problems; then spends time and energy on finding solutions.

The Peace Child has in the past years been performed throughout USA and in 1985, the International Year of Youth, it was shown in Moscow in front of an audience of 2000. It was given a standing ovation.

In 1986, the International Year of Peace, US students will be performing the Peace Child in 3 Soviet cities. Several tours are being prepared for 1987.

Branches of the Peace Child Foundation have already been established in USA, U.K., Israel and Belgium. There is a growing interest in creating regional branches of the Peace Child organisation within Australia and New Zealand as well.

Such a regional organisation would, among other things,

- 1) act as a central distribution point for The Peace Child Study Guide and related materials,
- 2) licence and support school and community productions of the Peace Child within the country,
- 3) solicit for and select students to participate in Peace Child exchange visits to the Soviet Union and the USA and elsewhere,
- 4) contribute a page three times a year to the Peace Child newsletter about activities and productions within the country.

David Woollcombe will be visiting Australia and New Zealand in the Autumn of 1986 and will then be most interested in meeting people who would like to discuss the possibility of setting up such regional organisations.

A new Peace Child Study Guide will be published in September of 1986. It will include: three scripts, a new lesson plan, a Russian language section, anecdotes related to the happenings around the production of the Peace Child. It aspires to be "... the most comprehensive introduction to peace and human survival issues yet developed for schools".

Gita Brooke

PEACE THROUGH UNITY
14 DICKSON CRES.,
WANGANUI,
NEW ZEALAND,

Imagine all the world



SYLVIA WILLMAN, 6, left, and her sister Evelyn, 4, present Defence Minister Frank O'Flynn with a peace petition at Parliament yesterday on behalf of the world's children.

They were part of a cast of 41 Wanganui children who performed 15 minutes of their musical, *Peace Child*, to an audience of about 150 in the

legislative chamber.

The musical had its New Zealand premiere in Wanganui last month. It tells the story of an American girl and a Russian boy who become friends and together persuade their presidents to believe in and work for world peace.

The junior peace promoters, aged from four to 15,

used the universal language of song and dance to get their message across.

Wanganui MP and Education Minister Russell Marshall told the children they had talked about the most important thing in the world — life. "You children have had a prouder old man and reminded us of that fact," he said.