

PERTH THEATRE PRESENTS PERTH YOUTH THEATRE
AND AN INTERNATIONAL CAST OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN



PEACE CHILD

BY DAVID WOOLLCOMBE MUSIC AND LYRICS BY DAVID GORDON

With additional songs by Stas Namin and others Story adapted from THE PEACE BOOK by Bernard S. Benson

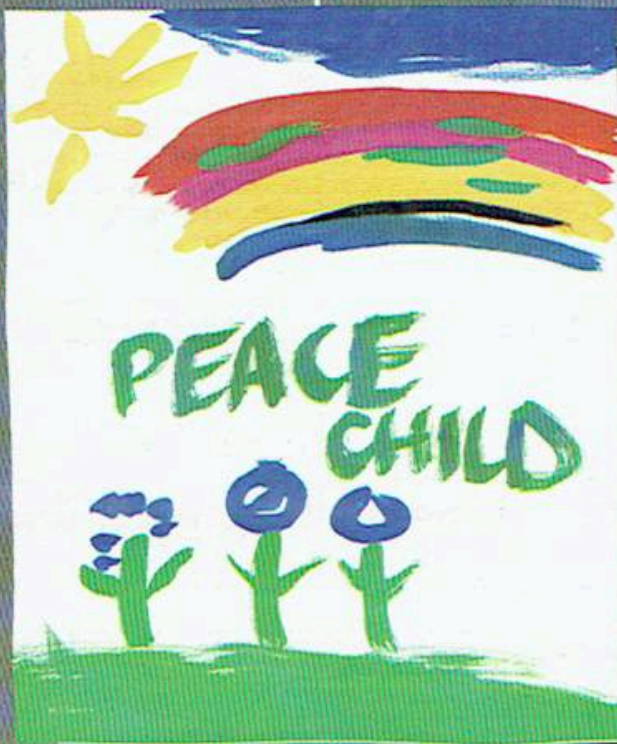


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Adequate parking on site or on Rose Terrace or Barossa Place after 6 p.m. Pedestrian access to Centre from Rose Terrace.

THE GANNOCKY RESTAURANT is open for drinks, snacks and meals before or after all performances. For information on party arrangements and bookings phone 0738 28441.

Poster designed by NAOMI OSWALD (Aged 1)

BOX OFFICE (0738) 21031

Perth Theatre: 185 High Street, Perth PH1 5UW.
Open Monday - Saturday 10.00 am - 7.30 pm

THE COACHING HALL, BELLS SPORTS CENTRE, HAY STREET, PERTH (NEXT TO THE NORTH INCH PARK)

SATURDAY 18TH - SATURDAY 25TH MAY (NOT SUNDAY) 7.30 p.m.

TICKETS: £8.00 MATINEE SATURDAY 25TH MAY AT 2.30 P.M.

Students, Schoolchildren, UB40's, OAP's, Registered Disabled, Young Scot Cardholders - £4.00 Parties of 15 and above - Adults £7.50, Children £3.50

FROM:- "NEWSCAN 14/7/91.

ST. ANDREW'S
DIOCESEAN
NEWSPAPER

PEACE CHILD — BUT WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Heather Brand, a member of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, writes about
Peace Child:

THE announcement of Peace Child's arrival came last autumn. Brainchild of David Woollcombe, in conjunction with Joan Knight, Artistic Director of Perth Theatre, children of Perth Youth Theatre were to give a performance during the 1991 Perth Festival of the Arts.

"That sounds nice dear, but what's it all about?"

Our daughter returned from rehearsals and slivers of information were fed to us.

"Children from all over the world are coming to join us."

"It's a musical."

"We're having a professional choreographer."

"The budget is £40,000."

"Are you sure?" we asked.

"Oh yes."

"And where's the money coming from?"

"Sponsors, the public, you know." We didn't. Theatrical productions had yet to come within the sphere of our experience.

"Yes, but what's it all about?"

The pace quickened. A large degree of commitment was asked for — from a teenage group? It was met. Rehearsals increased.

"Good rehearsal?"

"Great / awful."

"What did you do tonight?"

"Sang, danced — you know."

"But what about all this

time spent in the library?"

"Research — facts about the environment, population growth, world health."

"But what's it all about?"

Articulate teenage answers of "Well it just is itself," "It sort of comes together," "We're writing it as we go along."

"What! All of it?"

"No, some guy, David Woollcombe, has written it too," enlightened us only a little.

Meanwhile we had offered hospitality to children coming from abroad, bought raffle tickets to help towards the £40,000, hoping, for once, we might win one of the genuinely fabulous prizes, generously donated by local businesses. We spent a hilarious evening at a charity concert given for the same end. Peace Child was growing.

More information.

"X hotel has donated lunches for the children from abroad."

"Buses have been put at our disposal."

"The visitors are being given days out all over Scotland."

"They are spending a day at Perth Grammar School and being given lunch there — poor things."

"Primary schools are painting banners 30m long to be used on the set."

"Yes, but what's it all about?"

By now this question was being asked by many people in and around Perth. Peace Child was reaching out to the whole community. Apart from financial help, practical help was needed to board, feed and entertain one hundred children from thirteen different countries, and many local people, businesses, churches and organisations were pleased to be involved.

The whole company rehearsed, lived, ate together from 9.30-9.30 for two weeks. Ken Alexander the skilled young director commanded a fierce loyalty from all the young people.

"So it's going well?"

Dropping our children at rehearsals or collecting them was electrically exciting. Hugs, kisses and greetings between nations and cultures. They were all so involved.

First night came. It was WONDERFUL. And what was it about? Well, it was about 140 children from all over the world meeting in Perth, living with each other and working together to put on a vibrant, thought provoking musical play, Peace Child. The thoughts were provided by the children's discussions which were incorporated into the script. It was about their concerns for the future of our world, the environment, peace, democracy and their resolutions to go back to their own countries and work towards implementing them in their own school or town. It was about making friends, communicating, arguing, laughing and on the last night crying as they sang "Auld Lang Syne." It was about having created ripples and then waves of goodwill and involvement through the whole community. It was about the imagination of adults such as Michael, Joan Knight, Ken Alexander and above all David Woollcombe making Peace Child possible.

"Stand up, stand up for your future

Stand up, stand up for your beliefs, you've got to Stand up for your freedom, Stand up for your world."

(Words by Perth Youth Theatre).





THE CROWN Princess of Jordan made a special visit to Perth to attend last night's performance of "Peace Child," part of the Festival of the Arts.

When the princess, who lives and works in London, heard that six youngsters from Jordan were taking part in the production she invited them to visit her in the capital.

When they met she told them she would come to Perth to see the show.

The princess's party included the Duke of Atholl, Bishop Hare

Princess watches show

Duke and Perth Provost Alex Murray.

During her visit the princess was introduced to Perth Theatre staff, including director Ken Alexander, and to the "Peace Child" cast.

Despite rumours of poor ticket sales, last night's performance was a sell-out.

During their stay in Perth the international members of the cast have been treated to lunch at various locations.

Today they are to be given a meal courtesy of Crieff Hydro.

They will also get to use the hotel's leisure facilities.

● Our picture shows the princess arriving at Bell's Sports Centre for last night's performance.

Arts

The Scotsman

Tuesday, 21 May 1991

Standing up for the world's future

TAKE 150 children from 14 different countries, some rock music, mix with a solid dough of environmental issues, adding a few magic ingredients, and you'd probably come up with something like David Woolcombe's *Peace Child*.

In 1989, the play's central ambition was realised: children made a presentation to the United Nations expressing determination to, as one song puts it: "Stand up for our world." *Peace Child* gives an outlet to the idealism of children.

Peace Child is an artistic and organisational triumph for Perth Theatre, involving groups of children from all over the world: China, United States, Africa, the Middle East, as well as from Europe. This Scottish premiere has a special feature, the largest representation from Central and Eastern Europe ever to participate in *Peace Child*. A powerful statement is made by groups from Germany, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, also Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia — and the play's flexible structure allows the Baltic children to make their impassioned plea for independence and democracy. They join a 60-strong contingent from Perth Youth Theatre to produce this powerful rock extravaganza.

The hall at Bell Sports Centre transforms

Children from around the world made a dramatic and moving spectacle in 'Peace Child' at Perth, reports Joy Hendry

into a theatre remarkably like Glasgow's Tramway — but even more capacious — just as well, because you need space for all those children to move, to dance, sing and act. Each country parades its cultural riches. The show opens with a brilliant array of national costume, from the luscious blacks of Hungarian dress to the sparkling green of the Russians. Each country is celebrated through song, dance and music.

The story is simple: the setting is Peace Day, 2025, and a group of sceptical youngsters are shown how this World Festival developed from a group of kids with determined commitment to save the planet forming the World Youth Corps back in the 1990s.

The spark of inspiration comes from the vision of two children (played in the American 1982 premiere by a Russian girl and an American boy) to cries of "dangerous nonsense" from the *Washington Times*, and in

this production by a Perth lass, Angela Watt and an African boy, Victor — two talented, indeed charismatic, figures even at whatever tender age they are).

The direction is slick and effective — no mean feat to keep so many moving in the right direction and singing at the same tempo, but Perth's team, director Ken Alexander, musical director John Scrimger and choreographer Antony Ellis have tackled this project with enormous enthusiasm. The two adults, Penda the Caretaker and The President are played with charm and not a little courage by Yasmin Pettigrew and Janet Michael — competing with all those bairns!

You'd need to have a heart of stone not to be moved by Perth's *Peace Child*. The message of peace and a better world, in which our air is less polluted and rain forests burgeoning instead of burning, is one we all can countenance. The play, thankfully, is not intellectually naive but is based on a firm recognition of current political realities. The company members assembled by Perth are a credit to their respective countries and work together in a spirit of friendship and co-operation. The beat, bounce and zip of the production would convert the unconverted — even adults — and that's the whole point.

A practical Pentecost

Rt Rev Michael Hare Duke, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, assesses the significance of a remarkable international gathering of young people in Perth

WHITSUN is the time for churches to focus on communication. The Pentecost story recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit when the diverse nationalities who were gathered as pilgrims in Jerusalem broke through the language barrier. Whatever one imagines a tape recorder would have picked up, the confident assertion is that they understood one another. "We hear ... in our own language the wonderful works of God."

All through history, the breakdown of international communication has fuelled hostility and produced wars. The 20th century offers the people the positive opportunity of travelling to other countries and experiencing their cultures. The next stage is to help people move from the curiosity of tourists to affectionate friendship.

As the churches of Perth keep the Feast of Pentecost and the town of Perth holds its Arts Festival, something of this is being achieved. The mechanism is a play called *Peace Child*, based on *The Peace Book*, by Howard Benson.

David Woolcombe and David Gordon have written a musical fantasy about children bringing peace to the world.

The production involves as large a cast of young people as possible, always of mixed nations.

Peace Child has been performed in New York, in the United Nations building and around the world. For the first time, it has come to Scotland.

Working through the Youth Theatre of the Perth Rep, a young professional producer, Ken Alexander, has gathered over the last few months a cast of 60 Perth schoolchildren. Meantime, participants were sought around the world. Groups were recruited in Pskov in Russia, in China, America, Hungary, Poland, France and Germany and finally from Amman in Jordan. They arrived in Perth at the beginning of May, a company of 120 including their chaperones, to start rehearsals.

Three things have happened. First, the children themselves have been exploring ideas of peace and of international exchange. A tense moment occurred when the American group expressed anger at Saddam Hussein and said he should be hanged. They were challenged by the Jordanians, who saw George Bush as the war criminal. It was a shock to both sides to face each other's anger and a miracle worthy of Pentecost

occurred as they worked it through and came to a fresh understanding. The company have welded together in a remarkable way and their perceptions have been radically altered.

Meanwhile, the visitors have been staying with Perth families and, at a different level, new insights and ideas have been exchanged. Around the edges, the chaperones, who include teachers, doctors, actors, and publicists, have been meeting others of their own profession and exchanging understanding.

Finally, for Perth itself all sorts of friendships have been formed and a community spirit centring on the charismatic director of the theatre, Joan Knight, has developed.

The Minister for the Arts, visiting Scotland, saw something of the *Peace Child* and was impressed. Princess Alexandra came last week to see the multi-national cast in rehearsal, and finally the Crown Princess of Jordan is due to attend the gala performance today with the Duke of Atholl and leaders from the civic community and the church.

It really is a story to give a new angle to the gift of tongues of Pentecost.

Monday, 20 May 1991

THE PLAYHOUSE
— and —
PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL

— *present* —

PEACE CHILD

AN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Friday 23rd - Tuesday 27th July 1993



PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL

— and —

THE PLAYHOUSE

— present —

PEACE CHILD

A Musical To Promote Peace

Written by David Woolcombe

— and —

Adapted by the cast

Based on THE PEACE BOOK by Bernard S Benson

Songs by David Gordon

★ ★ ★

Director Andy Farrell
Musical Director Frank Buckley
Choreographer Anita McGinley
Set Designer Dee Conaghan
Lighting Designer Malachy Martin
Stage Manager Donna Docherty
Assistant Stage Manager Mary-anne McNulty
Playhouse Photographer Jim Hughes
Community Artist Jaci Wilde
Chaperone Frank Kelly
Produced by Pauline Ross and Rosey Simonds
Production Co-ordinator Dee Conaghan

THE PLAY IS SET IN THE YEAR 2025.

There will be an interval of 15 minutes.
Refreshments are available in the reception hall.

PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL

What is PEACE CHILD? It is a musical show - yes! And that is what you will see tonight. But it does more, it also organises international exchange programmes and creates publications written and illustrated by children for children. Last year it published the 'Children's Edition of Agenda 21' (the document produced by the participating nations of the Global summit at Rio last year). PEACE CHILD has been set up to give young people a voice that will be heard.

The PEACE CHILD show has been adapted around the world, from Arab/Jewish shows in Israel to Armenian/Azerbaijani shows in Armenia. Other issues, such as inner city problems, the environment and the Central American conflict have also been addressed. There have been over 3000 performances in over 30 countries. Each one is unique and reflects the ideas and experiences of that particular cast.

This is the first time we have brought together young people specifically from different areas of conflict. We have local Protestants and Catholics, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, Israelis, Jordanians, children from the different countries of the former Yugoslavia, Americans and Germans.

The participants have spent the last 3 weeks improvising and role playing, imagining what they would like their world to look like in the year 2025 when the play opens. The main part of the story is told in flashback to the present 1993 when the children start the process that brings about change.

THE PLAYHOUSE

It warms my heart and gives me a great sense of encouragement to think that The Playhouse is hosting Peace Child International during the month that we celebrate our first birthday. Just one year ago The Playhouse opened its doors and proclaimed to the world, like all other Play Resource Centres, that our objectives were to turn waste things into creative playthings.

Well, I guess you could say that we took this idea to its limits and turned two old redundant school buildings into The Playhouse, with our aims being to create within our magnificent spaces a multi-cultural, multi-functional, multi-disciplinary approach to Community Arts Education, embracing universal values and a wide range of individuals and cultures open to diversity and cultural exchange.

In this production of Peace Child we have achieved all of these and much, much more. I hope you agree.

Best Wishes.

PAULINE ROSS

RT REV DR J MEHAFFEY, THE BISHOP OF DERRY AND RAPHOE:

'There is a growing appreciation throughout the local community that diversity of cultures is something to be welcomed and understood. Far from being a threat it can enrich our entire community life. The establishment of The Playhouse has come at the right time and its contribution to community relations and to community development is to be welcomed.'

'I am delighted to give my support to the work of The Playhouse and to the proposed Peace Child International Project.'

EDWARD DALY, BISHOP OF DERRY:

'I have always been a great believer in the inherent value of the creative arts and especially in the theatre and music. I believe that the health and vitality of these arts is very important for the social good health of any community and that a facility like The Playhouse can make a great contribution towards this.'

'I wish you well in your efforts to bring the Peace Child International Project here.'

DESMOND TUTU:

'Peace Child is a most worthwhile project for our threatened planet Earth. I wish all involved in this project God's richest blessings.'

GLENDA JACKSON, ACTRESS:

'I send all my best wishes to Peace Child'

TED HUGHES, POET LAUREATE:

' Peace Child should have everyone's support. It certainly has mine.'

DAVID PUTTNAM, FILM PRODUCER:

'The young people of today are our only hope for the future, and a project like Peace Child can only serve generations to come in a positive manner. All the luck in the world!'

— CAST —

— INTERNATIONAL CAST —

Kyriakos Peletas - Cyprus
Radoula Charilou - Cyprus
Mutlu Azgyn - Northern Cyprus
Franjo Jeretic - Croatia
Jan Mrchacz - Germany
Julianne Greissler - Germany
Abber Jirgyes - Israel

Natalie Hilo - Israel
Lora Khazer - Jordan
Nora Hafizademi - Kosovo
Dusan Popov - Serbia
April Hems - U.S.A.
Peter Isbister - U.S.A.
Jaime McEnnan - U.S.A.

— LOCAL CAST —

Martin Shiels
Louise McCloskey
Charlene Whorriskey
Judith McGillan
Arlene McMahon
Nichola Kelly
Jacqueline Crumlish
Caroline Eyre
Karen Cunningham
Vanessa Brown
Naomhi Denney
Kiera Whorriskey
Kieran Flanagan
John Ross
Janice Smyth
Sandra Kerr
Darren Houston
Leanne Doherty
Anisa Lake

Johanne McNally
Damien McDonnell
Pamela Donnell
Pauline Clarke
Farrah Duddy
Diane Porter
Deborah McNally
Orla Kelly
Kathryn Kelly
Suzanne Moran
Aisling Nicholas
Vincent Doherty
Diarmuid Nugent
Declan Beattie
Cathie Taggart
Joanne Fearon
Cathy McGroarty
Rianna Docherty

Catriona Campbell
Alan Bradley
Conor Doherty
Ann Marie Bannon
Sandra Kerr
Nichola McKeegan
Catherine Pollock
Catriona Cunningham
Katherine Haslett
Nuala McGirr
Edele Lindsay
Theresa Toner
Charmene McNally
Gillian Quigley
Katherine Rowlandson
Sara Taggart
Madelaine McCready
Diarmuid Hughes



THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Kaleidoscope and the Petra Youth Bureau of the European Community for making this possible.

We also thank EMU for giving us the grant to enable us to work with the schools in creating the banners.

All the internationals would like to thank all the people they have met for their warmth and generosity.

Thank you to the following for their most welcome donations.

AUSTINS
COCA COLA
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WATERSIDE CHURCHES
JET CENTRE, COLERAINE
FOYLE FURNISHINGS

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STEWARTS
FRUIT OF THE LOOM
FOYLESIDE TYRE AND BATTERY CENTRE
FORDLAND LIMITED

Thank you homestay families for being so wonderful to your overseas guests.

The Shields Family	Ms Gallagher	The Young Family	The Lake Family
The Beattie Family	The Hazlett Family	The Hazlem Family	The Duffy Family
The Ferran Family	The McNally Family	The Feagon Family	Isabel McCaul
Rowlandson Family	The Kelly Family		

Additional thanks to all those who helped with putting the production together, especially:

Anthony Davis	Declan Kelly	Franky Roddy	Sean Lynch
Elaine Duffy	Grace Gallagher	Jim Harkin	Liam Ferguson
Bill Leaky	Keiran McGuinness	Gabrielle Conaghan	Mary Tudor
Elma Marshall	Thelma Auther		



PERTH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

REMARKABLE 'PEACE' OF THEATRE

Peace Child

Bell's Sports Centre

IN 20 years of Perth Festivals, I have never seen anything quite like 'Peace Child.' Nothing has even approached it for its raw and restless energy, the explosion of sound and its wonderfully fresh vitality.

It succeeds as a musical play for young people, not because of its message — important though that may be — but because it tears down the barriers that divide people. Here we have 140 children from 14 countries throughout the world singing with one voice.

The music is attractive, though not particularly memorable, but the themes are and the

sheer mighty weight of the singing carries the story of the play relentlessly and with great persuasion. When one little Jordan girl says in her introduction: "You know I am not a terrorist" — the words hit like a knife to the heart of prejudice.

The show has gone beyond its original early 80s call for nuclear disarmament to the issues of the moment. The young people take on board pollution, the environment, the loss of the rain forests, famine in Africa and Prince Charles's theme about the menace of the motor car.

A girl from Perth — Angela Watt — and Victor Muntune from Kenya, meet and sing about their desire to live in a better world. She

has a regular belter of a voice and a great stage presence while he has a smile as big as the North Inch and a personality to match.

He is the persuasive one and together their vision of a better future is taken to the other kids and then finally to a presidential figure, played by actress Janet Michael. She and Yasmin Pettigrew, who acts as storyteller in the form of a caretaker sweeping up and linking the children of tomorrow with the children of today, are the only adults in the cast.

There is a parade of nations which rattles the emotions and opportunity for the different nationalities to perform traditional pieces. The Russian kids from Pskov with dancing and the fresh green of their costumes; the vigour of the Hungarians; the dignity of the Chinese.

It is all incredibly moving but does your heart good.

It is also a wonderful effort from director Ken Alexander and the 60 children of Perth Youth Theatre who form such an important backbone to the show. There is excellent choreography from Anthony Ellis, John Scrimger's direction at the piano and Henry Neil's conducting which links frequently and perfectly with recorded music for the big scenes.

This Scottish premiere of David Woollcombe's show is also a tremendous act of faith by a few people faced by what must have been a monumental task. Their reward must surely be the giving to young people an experience they will never forget — and neither shall we.

Graham Fulton



Peace on Earth

And Goodwill to all Nations