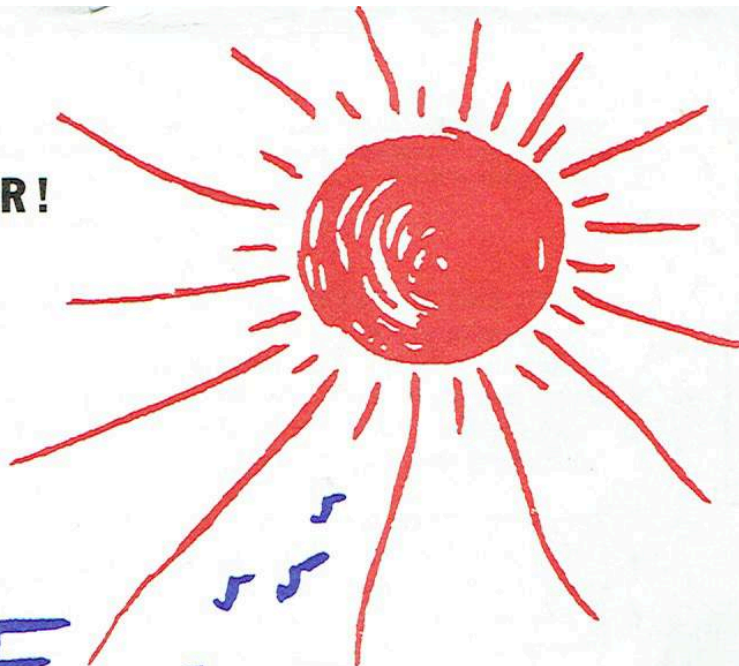


From the USA ~

~ En Route to USSR!



PEACE CHILD



As the climax of their European Tour, 50 American children bring their musical vision of a peaceful world to London.

ST. JAMES'S PICCADILLY

SATURDAY 13th APRIL at 7.30pm

SUNDAY 14th APRIL at 3.00pm



Tickets: £3.00 (Adults) £1.50 (Under 12)

Call: 267 9159

Tickets are on sale at The Whole Bookshop, St James's, Piccadilly, W1.

"You cannot see 'PEACE CHILD' without being made happy, without being made hopeful..... 'PEACE CHILD' engenders joy, it engenders generosity of spirit — it engenders above all the will to do something positive in the cause of peace and love."

*Susannah York, Story-teller
Royal Albert Hall, London 1981*

"PEACE CHILD" is a musical fantasy about Soviet and American children becoming friends and bringing peace to the world. It has come a long way since its premiere in the Royal Albert Hall, London in October 1981. It has spread across America and become one of their most popular peace - teaching materials. The script has been translated into Russian and this summer, a group of 'Peace Children' will go to Moscow to present the show with Russian children — bringing the fantasy temptingly close to life!

TEENS ON STAGE is one of more than a hundred American groups who have presented the show. Each group that performs it becomes empowered to work more positively for peace, but this group is special: on their own initiative, they have raised the funds to bring their message of peace to Europe. They will perform first in Paris, then visit Geneva where they hope to present their show to delegates to the US-Soviet arms talks.

Each group presents the show differently : the script is published in a Study Guide which encourages children to use the show as a framework on which to hang their own ideas about peace and how it may be achieved. The Teens on Stage reconstruction of "PEACE CHILD" is one of the most imaginative we have seen. It includes lively dances, new arrangements of the songs, and a host of new script ideas. After each performance, the cast will be on hand to answer questions from the audience.

" 'PEACE CHILD' expresses our feelings in an incredibly overwhelming and positive way, — singing and dancing and acting with a script that we've worked out and put ourselves into."

Derek Milloy, Cast Member

COME TO "PEACE CHILD" ! ! — get a sense of the energy that this great British Musical has generated in America, — positive energy for peace and hope in our world. Come see it, then plan your own production in your school, church or drama group.

Tickets : £3.00 — General Admission
 £1.50 — Children Under 12
 £10.00 — Front Row reserved seats.
 £ 5.00 — Central Area reserved seats.

Please Send Cheque and SAE to : Peace Child, 44 Roderick Road, London NW3.
Tickets are also available from: The Whole Bookshop, St James's Piccadilly, London W.1., and from the Center for International Peace-Building, Wickham House, London E. 1.
For all ticket information call : 01 - 267 9159 or 790 2424
"PEACE CHILD" materials are now available in Britain. Study Guide — £10.00
Script only — £4.00. Call : 790 2424 for details.

" 'PEACE CHILD' is one of the few messages being sent from the adult's world to the children's world that we are not yet helpless before global fear and nuclear death. Every audience that has seen the play has leapt to its feet in applause and gratefulness — and the highest leapers may well be children."

Colman McCarthy, Washington Post.

"The strength of 'PEACE CHILD' lies in the honesty of the children's approach to their leaders..... Major world changes have come from even stranger and smaller beginnings."

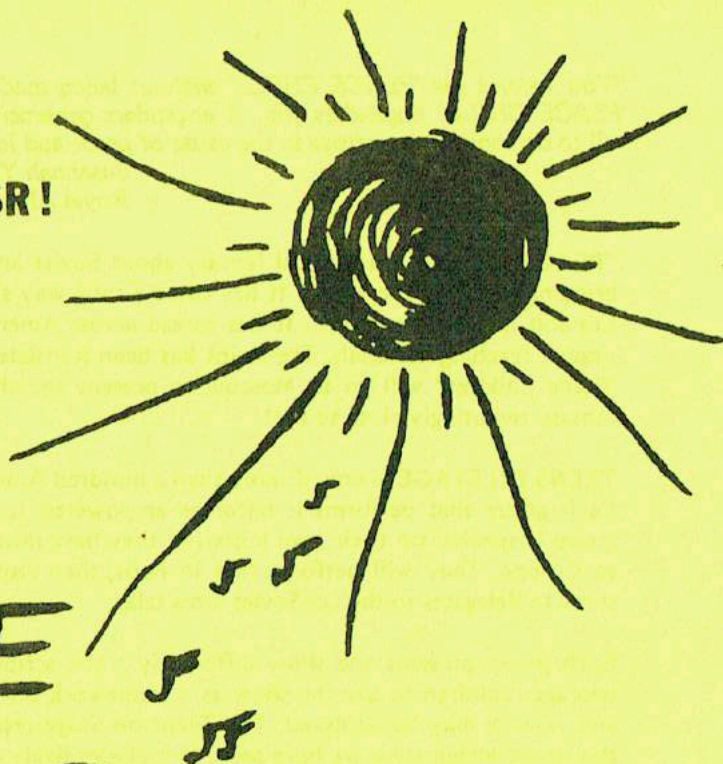
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THE STANDARD

Monday, April 15, 1985

20p

Incorporating the Evening News



Standard Picture: ROY JONES

CHILDREN OF PEACE: Chris Lambros and Laura Solomon and other members of the cast.

Peace children with a message for the world

by Lynda Murdin

ALL-AMERICAN boy meets all-Russian girl and in one way and another their story brings the Presidents of their two nations together.

This topical idea may just be the fantasy theme of the children's musical Peace Child but as 50 American teenagers flew home from London today after performing the work in France, Geneva and St James's Church, Piccadilly, they could feel satisfied they had done a small bit for international relations.

Not only have audiences been enthralled by the poignant story created by British writer David Woolcombe, with music by David Gordon—the brother of Cat Stevens—but in Geneva last week, American delegates at the arms talks came to a show and said how impressed they had been.

"They were very enthusiastic and told me they were optimistic about the talks," said Chris Lambros, 14, who plays the part of the boy Bobby.

Hopeful

"It was all very hopeful. They said they knew that we were the ones that will be taking over in the future, and so were prepared to listen," he added before the group travelled back to Columbia, Maryland.

In the story, Bobby's father works at the Pentagon and the girl Katya, played by Laura Solomon, 15, is the daughter of the Russian military attaché.

They become friends and eventually decide to ask the leaders of their countries to try to achieve a similar friendship.

Production

Bringing the peace message to Europe cost the group £75,000 which was raised by the performers and their parents.

Chris said: "This is our human plea to Europe. It's non-political and of course it's a dream but we are doing everything we can to get our message across."

They could also be taking it to the Soviet Union. Plans are underway for 15 of the group to go to Russia in June to create the first joint production with youngsters there.

"If we get the go-ahead, it will be a very meaningful experience and a very good learning experience for all of us," said Chris.

DADDY SAYS OUR T.L.D.
IS ONLY 115, BUT IF THEY
CAN GET IT UP TO 125.....
WE WILL BE SAFE!

IT IS REALLY NOT A
SUBJECT SUITABLE
FOR CHILDREN, SAID
THE PRESIDENT.

BUT DOES IT AFFECT US?

YES! SAID THE PRESIDENT.

WELL THEN IT IS OUR
BUSINESS... I WANT TO
KNOW!



THERE WAS A SILENCE.
THE PRESIDENT MUNCHEDED
ON A BISCUIT.....

From 'The Peace Book' by Bernard Benson, on which 'Peace Child' was based.

'Peace Child's' author hopes musical will become an example of life imitating art

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.'

By LINDA WEINER SELIGSON
Daily Record staff writer

It's not a new theme "...and a little child shall lead them." In the musical *Peace Child*, coming to the Strand in April, The Little Boy leads the world to peace.

It is, of course, a fictional work. But those responsible for *Peace Child* hope the production will become a matter of life imitating art — a self-fulfilling prophecy.

And they are launching that grass-roots level hope in York.

One hundred local youngsters will join a professional company of 15 on stage at the Strand at 7:30 p.m. April 14 for the road company premiere of *Peace Child*.

After it leaves York, the tour and its message will cross the nation and, its sponsors hope, the world. *Peace Child* will play the Democratic convention in San Francisco this summer. A Russian version is also in the works.

The ultimate goal is to present the play with an international children's cast. The ultimate ultimate goal is for the plot — the attainment of world peace — to come true.

Peace Child was born in 1981 — the brainchild of a disarmament group in London, England.

"We didn't want another protest against the bombs," explains David R. Woolcombe, the British playwright and film-maker who wrote *Peace Child* "with my infant son under my arm."

"We wanted something positive for peace. Having a child is what made this so important to me."

He based his work on *The Peace Book* (Bantam Books) by Bernard Benson, a children's fantasy that was a best-seller in much of Europe. Woolcombe married the book with songs by David Gordon, best known for the songs he has written for Cat Stevens, his brother.

Peace Child is a play-within-a-

play in which the children of the future look back and tell how the children of the 1980s brought peace to the world.

It was first performed before an international audience of 3,500 in London's Royal Albert Hall in 1981 and later played before a similar audience at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The play has also been staged at Riverside Church in New York City.

Those shows were presented by professional casts, including actress Susannah York.

The York performance is to be the first hometown effort. The play has also developed, according to its

'We wanted something positive for peace. Having a child is what made this so important to me.'

David Woolcombe
'Peace Child' author



writer, into "a much better show."

"This is not like bringing *Annie* to York," says Woolcombe. "It's your community show."

But will the community be receptive? There is some worry about that among Woolcombe and the local sponsors, Bill Schintz and an ad hoc group of (mostly Catholic) religious leaders.

They are finding, Woolcombe says, "There's a lot of hostility toward that little word 'peace.'"

"But *Peace Child* has nothing to do with the Nuclear Freeze," he emphasizes. "It ain't a disarmament show."

"It's not really this red rag to a bull kind of show. I wish it were more controversial."

"Peace," as defined in *Peace Child*, is much more than the absence of war, or the absence of nuclear weapons. "Peace" refers to harmonious living with the planet," Woolcombe says.

"It is not a state of serene tedium: it is demanding, dynamic, effort-full. It is a state of self-confidence born of unselfishness and integrity."

"That's our reading of the word, at least — though remember that we are coming at it from a European perspective where our memory is untainted by the memory of the Vietnam War and its attendant peace movements."

Peace Child is a little bit *Wizard of Oz*, a little bit *The Emperor Has No Clothes* and even a hint of a squeaky clean *Hair*.

It is an American boy/Russian girl innocent young child version of *West Side Story* — but with the

wish that everyone in the world would open their hearts to let in the Little Boy of *The Peace Book*," the pontiff has said.

"But we want children of other faiths to be involved too," says Bill Schintz, the York photographer who asked Woolcombe to bring *Peace Child* to town.

"I didn't even know there was a place called York, Pa.," recalls Woolcombe, who went to university in York, England.

Those youngsters (ages 7 to 13) interested in being in the show may contact Schintz at 846-4584. He thinks "it would be a great project for Sunday schools."

"It's a totally ecumenical play — for people of all faiths. And that includes people who don't believe in a God," Woolcombe explains.

"It's being used as part of the curriculum in the Washington, D.C., public schools. I would like to see it presented by every school in the country."

Woolcombe and Schintz are much like The Little Boy in the play. They believe the message of *Peace Child* can come true. "We are going to do this, Bill," says Woolcombe. "We are."

They say it must. "We have children," they explain, like The Little Boy in the play.

"Yes, you will die because you are old," he tells a world leader in the play. "And you became old because you have lived a long time. . . But we, the children, have not yet lived our lives. . ."

"Old men who have had their lives should not be allowed to take away the lives of children who have not yet had theirs!"

At the end of the play "peace breaks out."

"A fairy tale," said Donald Cogan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, in commenting on *Peace Child*. "Yes. But there is a wisdom in the children that men and women would do well to ponder."

□□□

Tickets for 'Peace Child' are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. They may be ordered by contacting Schintz at 846-4584 or from St. Rose, St. Patrick's or St. Joseph's Catholic schools. Twenty-five dollar patron tickets are also available.

THURSDAY

February 16, 1984

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Area children to bring message of peace

Section

B

York Daily Record
