



Preview Guide for Parents and Teachers
to Childsplay's Production of

Lost and Foundling

By Eric R. Pfeffinger

Directed by David Saar

Scenic Design by Holly Windingstad

Costume Design by D. Daniel Hollingshead

Lighting Design by Rick Paulsen

Sound and Projection Design by Anthony Runfola

Stage Manager: Samantha Ries

The Cast

Pryce.....	Yolanda London
Staci.....	Debra K. Stevens
Jesse.....	Jon Gentry
Custodian.....	Dwayne Hartford
The Slasher	} Katie McFadzen and D. Scott Withers
The Demanding Shopper	
Lost and Found	
P.A. Announcer	
Associates	

Tempe Performing Arts Center
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Arizona Commission on the Arts
Bashas' Markets

City of Tempe/Tempe Municipal Arts Commission

We hope you find this guide helpful in preparing your students for an enjoyable and educational theatrical experience. Included you'll find things to talk about before and after seeing the performance, classroom activities that deal with curriculum connections and education standards, and resource materials.

The Story:

"It was a glorious and magical place where every kind of person under the sun came whenever they needed something and always left happy." This was the Mega Price-Mart, the place for one-stop shopping. A baby was discovered in the truck mirrors and oil filters aisle so the associates took her in and moved her to the employee break room. After a few weeks when nobody claimed her, the associates decided she needed a name. It was agreed that her name would be Pryce and she would be raised in the Mega Price-Mart. Lucky. Price-Mart has everything and there was always someone around. Her first word was "affordable" and she taught herself how to read in the books and magazine aisle.

When she discovers that there's a Lost and Found Department at the western edge of the store, she's curious: has anyone come there looking for Pryce? Is she lost or is she found – or both? Pryce sets off on a hero's journey that will take her into strange and scary territory where demanding shoppers and Price Slashers lurk in the aisles. When she finally gets to the Lost and Found, she doesn't find anything tangible. She wasted all that time and went all that way for nothing? She then understands her journey was more about courage, problem-solving, and self-discovery than about finding an answer to her question. The story ends with Pryce making the biggest decision of her life: will she leave the Price-Mart or stay?

Arizona Academic Standards:

Your visit to the theater as well as the preparation and follow up activities can involve many content areas from the Arizona Department of Education K-12 Academic Standards. Many of the suggested discussion topics and activities can be tied to standards in several areas. *If you would like help with standard connections for your particular grade we would be happy to assist.* Simply email Katie McFadzen at kmcfadzen@childsplayaz.org or call 480-350-8105. Check out the newly updated Arts Standards at www.ade.az.gov/asd/arts/ArtsStandards.asp

Things to Talk About and Do Before Seeing the Show

Theater Etiquette: It's helpful to review the rules of theater etiquette before seeing a show, especially since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students. Please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance:

- ~Stay seated during the performance.
- ~ Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance.
- ~ Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.
- ~Use of cell phones, cameras or any other recording device is *not allowed in the theater at any time!*

Journey of Self-Discovery: *Lost and Foundling* is about a little girl who takes a risk when she decides to leave the comfort of her universe in search of the truth about who she is and where she came from. Though she makes no tangible discoveries, Pryce does learn some things about herself. She learns that she is capable of solving problems and overcoming obstacles on her own. Pryce takes a tremendous and brave risk by making her trip across the expansive store. Ask students to share personal experiences about taking risks (good and bad), about solving problems on their own or overcoming obstacles in their lives. Ask students: Did you make any discoveries about yourself?

Did your experience change you in any way? Have students write about their experiences. Think about journeys of self-discovery in literature. There are many stories, myths, fairy and folk tales that focus on a character's journey and the lessons they learn. Can you think of any? Find other examples of similar stories to talk about. Look at characters like Hercules, Telemachus, Percival (from the Arthurian Legends) and even Little Red Riding Hood. What kind of obstacles do the characters have to overcome? What do they discover about themselves? Are the lessons learned important today? Can you relate to any of the characters or situations?

The Big Box:

The play takes place in the Mega Price-Mart, a fictional and exaggerated version of a *big box* store. *Big box* is a colloquial term used to describe a style of retail store, and the company behind the store. Typical characteristics include the following:

- *Floor space several times greater than traditional retailers (generally more than 50,000 square feet and sometimes approaching 200,000 square feet)
- *Free-standing, windowless, rectangular, single story construction, with a high ceiling
- *Expansive open air surface parking lots and general orientation to automobile-driving consumers, as opposed to pedestrians.
- *Location in suburban or rural areas, often in proximity to

freeways, as opposed to downtown shopping districts. This design provides space for a large amount of merchandise and serves as an enormous billboard to attract customers. Opponents criticize *big boxes* especially for being visually overbearing, wasteful of open space, and deleterious to community and small businesses. Proponents point to consumer benefits from greater convenience and lower cost of goods, and the ability of such stores to draw in tax-generating consumers from a wide area. Generally, *big box* stores can be broken down into two categories: general merchandisers, such as Wal-Mart and Target, and so-called category killers, such as Home Depot or Best Buy which specialize in goods within a specific range, such as hardware or electronics. (From answers.com)

Retail Research Factoids:

- Upon entering a store, most people go to the right
- According to market research, light purple makes customers want to spend money
- Marketers plan campaigns to appeal to the right side of the brain because that is where emotions and the unconscious mind reside. The right side is more susceptible to images and suggestions
- 12% of groceries we buy go to waste
- Men who take jeans into fitting rooms are more likely to buy than females (65 percent vs. 25 percent)

Things to Talk About and Do After the Performance:

※ All plays have three P's: *People* in a *Place* with a *Problem*. Where does the play take place (setting)? Who are the people (or characters)? What are the problems (conflicts)? What happens at the beginning of the play? The middle? The end?

※ For older students, talk about the five components of story structure. Identify the exposition (character and setting), rising action, climax, falling action and resolution in the play.

※ There are many unanswered questions in the play. What are *your* answers to the following questions? *Where did Pryce come from? Who left her? Why did she stay inside the store all of her life? Why did she make a choice to leave? What did she discover on her way to Lost and Found?*

Theater/Creative Drama:

※ Pryce gets ready for her trip across the store by packing things she thinks she'll need. What would you bring if you were going on a trip? Sit in a big circle on the floor. Have one person start by saying "I'm going on a trip and I'm going to bring... (ex. my sunglasses)." Each player adds an object and pantomimes it. The next player says the line and adds their object to the list, repeating the last one (my dog, and my sunglasses) and pantomiming both. The third player adds theirs (my iPod, my dog and my sunglasses) and so on. Make sure each player starts

with the sentence and lists the items in order with the accompanying pantomime. Another challenging way to play is by using pantomime only.

※ Collect several items that might end up in lost and found. Take turns choosing one of the objects and making up a story about what it is and how it ended up in the lost and found. Items can be used more than once and have different stories. Encourage students to be creative and spontaneous with their stories.

Writing:

※ Using the previous lost and found activity, expand the story you created by writing it down. Once you have a first draft, trade with another student, read each other's and offer constructive ways to improve the story. Go back and write a second draft and then read it aloud to the class.

※ If you could stay in your favorite store by yourself or with a friend overnight, what would you do? Write about where you would want to stay, what it would be like to be alone in the store, what you would do, etc. Be as detailed in your descriptions as possible.

※ Pryce doesn't know where she came from. Do you think Pryce is adopted or do you think she was abandoned or lost? Write a letter to Pryce explaining how she ended up in the Price-Mart. Make it as real or fantastical as you wish.

※ At the end of the play, Pryce leaves the store and her

umbrella buoys her away. Based on what you know about what she wants and how she feels, where do you think she goes? What happens to her? Write a short story about what happens to Pryce after she floats away.

※ Everyone in the Price-Mart seems to be afraid of what's outside the store which makes Pryce afraid, too. What are you afraid of? Write about something you are afraid of and ways that you might be able to overcome your fear.

Reading/Drama:

※ Pryce reads about celebrities and all the crazy things they do. Find a gossip magazine at a store checkout or an article in a newspaper or online and find the most outrageous article you can about a celebrity. Practice reading it aloud (with dramatic effect, of course). Have an outrageous story sharing day in class where you take turns reading your discoveries out loud.

Visual Art:

※ Think about the layout of a store that you've been to (or make one up). Using colored pencils, draw a map of the store from a bird's eye view making pictures to describe where things like entrances, restrooms, and different departments are located. For example, a football might represent sporting goods and a shoe the shoe department. Write out directions of how to get from one part of the store to another (for example, customer service to sporting goods).

Lost and Foundling Booklist

Prepared with the help of Tim Wadham, Youth Services Coordinator for the Maricopa County Library District

Curriculum Connections:

Self-discovery

Melonhead by Michael DeGuzman



Fantasy

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

Arthur Spiderwick's FieldGuide to the Fantascal World Around You by Tony DiTerlizzi

Fog Magic by Julia Sauer

Fergus Crane by Paul Stewart

Maps and Directions

The Once Upon a Time Map Book by B. G. Hennessy

Around the World in One Hundred Years: From Henry the Navigator to Magellan by Jean Fritz

Mapping the World by Sylvia A. Johnson

Small World: Maps and Mapmakers by Karen Romano Young

The Road to There: Mapmakers and Their Stories by Val Ross

Retail/Stores/Shopping

Best Foot Forward by Joan Bauer

Crusader by Edward Bloor

Mama and Papa Have a Store by Amelia Lau Carling

General Store by Rachel Field

Hobie Hanson: Greatest Hero of the Mall by Jamie Gilson

Secrets of the Shopping Mall by Richard Peck

Problem Solving

The Pepins and their Problems by Polly Horvath

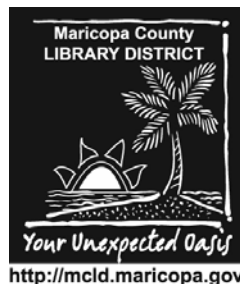
Leaving the Nest

Terrible Times by Philip Ardagh

Leaving Home by Sneed B. Collard

Someday by Jackie French Koller

Words West: Voices of Young Pioneers by Ginger Wadsworth



Overcoming Fear

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Some Things are Scary by Florence Parry Heide

About Childsplay:

Childsplay is a non-profit professional theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families. Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood, which are the keys to the future.

We love to hear from our audience members!



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Email us at: info@childsplayaz.org

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Want Some Drama in Your Classroom?

If you would like help incorporating drama into your curriculum by having an actor teach in your classroom, Childsplay can help. We offer a variety of artist-in-residence and teacher training experiences. We can also help with pre- and post-show activities related to the production. For more information, contact Debra K. Stevens at dstevens@childsplayaz.org or 480-350-8101

The Outside World

Pryce never leaves the Price-Mart until the end of the play. Imagine if you never went outside of the place you live. Knowing what you know now about the world we live in, what would you miss the most about "outside?" Using crayons, markers and or colored pencils, draw a picture of at least five things you would want Pryce to know about in the outside world. Label each so she can understand what they are. Share with the rest of your class and then hang them around the room!