

THE GARDEN BEHIND THE MOON

Terrie Robinson, at the time Dance Supervisor at Cats Hamburg, gave me the book, 'The Garden Behind the Moon' written by Howard Pyle, as an idea for a Musical. After writing the music and lyrics, based on her choreographic and staging concepts, we held a large workshop in Hamburg with 20 professional dancers and singers. We then took it to Maui, where Terrie was living. It was staged in its basic form comprising performers from Hamburg and a unique cast of people from the island who really embodied the spirit of the piece and its characters.

In 2004 it was staged with a full cast of 25, including 10 children, at Brantford, Ontario, which was made possible by the tenacity of Juliann Kuchocki who was really on a mission to bring it to the world's attention.

It was for all that took part a special, positive and memorable experience. The four songs I've chosen, 'Beautiful Garden' sung by Carolanne Wright, 'The Man in the Moon', sung by Brian Bowley and Dino Di Iorrio, 'The Moon Beam Ballet', and 'Lady Lady' sung by Japheth Myers just have good memories for me of that time. Eternal thanks to everyone!



Songs

Beautiful Garden

The first song of the show and describes the Moon Garden and all it promises.

Moon Beam Ballet

This song describes David's journey up the Moon Path.

It starts tentatively with choreographically thought music depicting him taking the first steps, then develops into a wonderful journey, with David describing his excitement at leaving his sad past and going onto something amazing.

The Man In The Moon

The moment when David reaches the Moon and meets the man in the moon who is a hectic busy man who's function is to do everything that no-one else wants to do. He's happy to have David there but irritated that he distracts him from his work. It's a patter duet. light hearted with a dance break.

Lady Lady

Sung by the Moon Angel to the Princess Aurelia who is also sad in her life and will also go to the Moon Garden and eventually meet David under the Moon Angels spell.

Synopsis

The Garden Behind The Moon is the story of a young boy named David who is mocked by the children in his village for being different and to their eyes, simple.

He is understood by only one man, Hans the Cobbler. Hans tells David stories about walking the Moon Path and David dreams that he could one day walk the Moon path too. On the beach one night, he meets the Moon Angel who tells him the Moon path awaits and if he has the courage and belief, he can go. He travels the Moon path and meets The Man in the Moon.

Through the windows in the Moon house he sees many injustices of life on Earth. He is horrified at what he sees, but as he looks on he is amazed at what the Moon Angel can do. He follows him into a garden, The Garden Behind The Moon, where he meets many children who not only love and accept him, but also make him their King. They are all children like David who were abandoned, forgotten, bullied or abused on earth.

David meets Phyllis and falls in love with her. All the children, however, must leave the garden at a certain age. The teacher explains to David that it is time for him to leave and if he were to fulfill his wish of marrying Phyllis, who is a very special girl and actually a princess, called Princess Aurelia on earth, he must face the challenges of man hood and fulfill his purpose of being there

On leaving, he must go beyond the Moon Angel and he finds himself in a hostile world, but he must pass through it and in this time grows into a man. He meets a magical old woman who shows him a beautiful couple, tempted by the Moon Angel to open The Wonder Box.. This box contains the knowledge of evil and sorrow. The couple, who have never known evil, open the box and they release the terrible Iron Man. David must confront the Iron Man to bring back peace and harmony and to rescue his beloved Phyllis, who is now kidnapped by him. He eventually slays the Iron Man with a single strike. Victorious and his love for Phyllis earned, they return together to their brown earth. However, as they step onto the Moon Path to return, he looks back to find Phyllis gone.

He knows that one-day they will find each other. For although she has left with box in hand, David still holds the key. He knows now that he need only wait, for it is their destiny to be together and for him to share his knowledge with the world.