



THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL
STUDY GUIDE



THE
NATIONAL THEATRE
FOUNDATION

Peter Pan

The National Theatre

April 9-21

Original Play by Sir J.M. Barrie
Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh
Music by Morris “Moose” Charlap
Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green
Additional Lyrics by Amanda Green
Additional Music by Jule Styne
Original Direction and Choreography by Jerome Robbins
Additional Book by Larissa FastHorse
Directed by Lonny Price
Choreographed by Lorin Latarro
Packet prepared by Dramaturg Leayne C. Dempsey

This high-flying musical has been thrilling audiences of all ages for close to 70 years and is now being brought back to life in a new adaptation by celebrated playwright Larissa FastHorse, directed by Emmy Award winner Lonny Price and choreographed by Lorin Latarro. The adventure begins when Peter Pan and his mischievous sidekick, Tinker Bell, visit the bedroom of the Darling children late one night. With a sprinkle of fairy dust and a few happy thoughts, the children are taken on a magical journey they will never forget. This extraordinary musical full of excitement and adventure features iconic and timeless songs including “I’m Flying,” “I Gotta Crow,” “I Won’t Grow Up” and “Neverland.” *Peter Pan* embraces the child in us all so go on a journey from the second star to the right and straight on ‘til morning—your entire family will be Hooked!



For almost 200 years, The National Theatre has occupied a prominent position on Pennsylvania Avenue—“America’s Main Street”—and played a central role in the cultural and civic life of Washington, DC. Located a stone’s throw from the White House and having the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site as its “front yard,” The National Theatre is a historic, cultural presence in our Nation’s Capital and the oldest continuously operating enterprise on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The non-profit National Theatre Foundation oversees the historic theatre and serves the DC community through three free outreach programs, *Saturday Morning Live! At The National*, *Community Stage Connections*, and *Teens Behind the Scenes*. These programs provide the greater Washington area with access to high quality performing arts experiences while promoting and employing local and regional artists.

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Necole Lelarue, Development Coordinator

Written and Curated by Leayne C. Dempsey, Dramaturg
Designed by Carolyn Donarski

1321 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20004

www.nationaltheatre.org

Dramaturgical Essay

For over 100 years, the story of *Peter Pan* has enchanted audiences young and old. The tale of a high-flying, adventurous young boy who defies age and the infamous Captain Hook captures the essence of both childhood joy and the fear of growing up. So what is it about this story that makes it so iconic? Why is it that this story is constantly reborn and retold on stage and on film?

The character Peter Pan was first introduced in 1902 by author J.M. Barrie in his novel *The Little White Bird*. In the novel, Peter Pan is a baby who comes to Kensington Gardens in London to learn how to fly. That baby became the hero of Neverland that we've come to love today. Barrie went on to write the stage play *Peter Pan*, which debuted in London in 1904. In 1905 the play debuted on Broadway at the Empire Theatre. In 1911, Barrie decided to turn the book into a novel called *Peter and Wendy*, which was an instant best-seller.

The first *Peter Pan* Broadway musical debuted in 1950 with music and lyrics by Leonard Bernstein, but the most well known version of the musical is the version that debuted in 1954, directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins. The production won two Tony Awards for Mary Martin and Cyril Ritchard, who played Peter Pan and Captain Hook, respectively. A number of NBC telecasts made the show very popular, and several revivals followed in the 1990s. In 2014, NBC debuted *Peter Pan Live!* on television.



(from L) Nolan Almeida as Peter Pan, Cody Garcia as Captain Hook, Hawa Kamara as Wendy and the cast of *Peter Pan*. Photo: Matthew Murphy

“Second to the right, and then straight on till morning”

—Peter Pan

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