

the AMAZING lemonade girl



June 16 - 19, 2022

at the New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts

Prime Stage Sprouts will bring literature to life for elementary students and their families, as we inspire their imaginations and foster a love of reading with the joy of live theatre.

Family Resource and Activity Guide



**Welcome to Prime Stage Sprouts as part of
Prime Stage Theatre's 2021-2022 Season
*Beyond Imagination***

Bringing Literature to Life!

Dear Family and Friends,

The Amazing Lemonade Girl by James Devita is the inaugural production of our new performance series: Prime Stage Sprouts. Prime Stage Sprouts will bring literature to life for elementary students and their families. We hope to inspire imaginations and foster a love of reading with the joy of live theatre.

This play tells the true life story of Alexandra Flynn Scott, the founder of Alex's Lemonade Stand. Throughout her life, Alex's noble efforts inspired donations of over \$1 million dollars and a foundation that has raised \$200 million and funded over 1,000 medical research projects for children's health.

In preparation for this performance, Prime Stage Theatre has prepared a Family Resource and Activity Guide. We encourage you to read the contents of this guide and use the provided activities to spark personal connections with this remarkable story and to enliven your young person's experience. A special thanks to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for much of the background and educational information.

If you have any questions about the information in this resource guide, please contact me and I will be happy to assist you. I welcome your suggestions and comments!

Monica Stephenson, Education Coordinator

Prime Stage Theatre

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I love flowers.
I think they are beautiful.

My favorite kind of flowers are roses and tulips.
All the flowers make me happy whenever I am sad.
They need lots and lots of water and sun.
They grow from little seeds.
You can make gardens out of them.
There are lots and lots of different kinds of flowers.
-- Alex Scott



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The mission of Prime Stage Theatre is to entertain, inspire and enrich through professional theatre by bringing literature to life.

Prime Stage Sprouts will bring literature to life for elementary students and their families, as we inspire their imaginations and foster a love of reading with the joy of live theatre

About Alex's Lemonade Stand



Alex poses at her lemonade stand. Photo from <https://www.alexislemonade.org>.

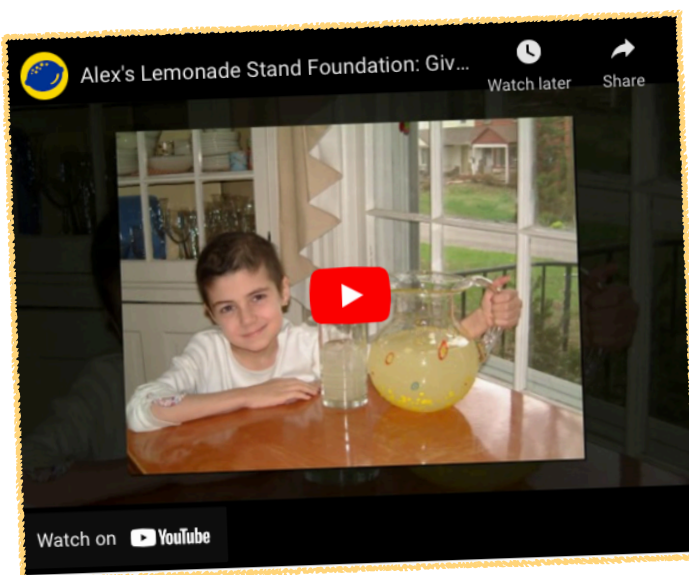
Alexandra “Alex” Scott was diagnosed with childhood cancer just before her first birthday. At 4 years old, she told her parents she wanted to set up a front-yard lemonade stand. Her plan: to give the money to doctors to help them find a cure to childhood cancer. Her first “Alex’s Lemonade Stand”, held with the help of her older brother Patrick, raised an astonishing \$2,000 in one day.

While bravely fighting her own cancer, Alex continued to set up lemonade stands every year. As news spread of the remarkable girl so dedicated to helping other sick children, people everywhere were inspired to start their own lemonade stands—donating the proceeds to her cause.

In 2004 when Alex passed away at the age of eight—her stand and inspiration had raised more than \$1 million towards finding a cure for the disease that took her life. Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation was started by her parents in 2005 to continue the work that Alex began. Since then, it has raised over \$150 million and funded nearly 1,000 breakthrough research projects all across the country. Our mission is simple: to change the lives of children with cancer through funding impactful research, raising awareness, supporting families, and empowering everyone to help cure childhood cancer.

Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation is the living embodiment of Alex’s spirit of determination and hope. To learn more go to the website at <https://www.alexislemonade.org> and click on the link below to watch a video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWkg7ollaME>



The information is sourced from <https://www.alexislemonade.org/about/our-mission-history>.

Meet Alex!

Alexandra “Alex” Scott was born to Liz and Jay Scott in Manchester, Connecticut on January 18, 1996, the second of four children. Shortly before her first birthday, Alex was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of childhood cancer.

On her first birthday, the doctors informed Alex’s parents that if she beat her cancer it was doubtful that she would ever walk again. Just two weeks later, Alex slightly moved her leg at her parents’ request to kick. This was the first indication of who she would turn out to be — a determined, courageous, confident and inspiring child with big dreams and big accomplishments.



By her second birthday, Alex was crawling and able to stand up with leg braces. She worked hard to gain strength and to learn how to walk. She appeared to be beating the odds, until the shattering discovery within the next year that her tumors had started growing again. In 2000, the day after her fourth birthday, Alex received a stem cell transplant. She told her mother, “When I get out of the hospital I want to have a lemonade stand.” She wanted to give the money to doctors to allow them to “help other kids, like they helped me.” True to her word, she held her first lemonade stand later that year with the help of her older brother and raised an amazing \$2,000 for “her hospital.”

While bravely battling her own cancer, Alex and her family continued to hold yearly lemonade stands in their front yard to benefit childhood cancer research. News spread of the remarkable sick child dedicated to helping other sick children. People from all over the world, moved by her story, held their own lemonade stands and donated the proceeds to Alex and her cause.

In August of 2004, Alex passed away at the age of eight, knowing that, with the help of others, she had raised more than \$1 million to help find a cure for the disease that took her life. Alex’s family — including brothers Patrick, Eddie and Joey — and supporters around the world are committed to continuing her inspiring legacy through Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

The information is sourced from <https://www.alexslimonade.org/about/meet-alex>.

About the Play!

The Amazing Lemonade Girl

by James DeVita

A true story inspired by the life of Alexandra Flynn Scott

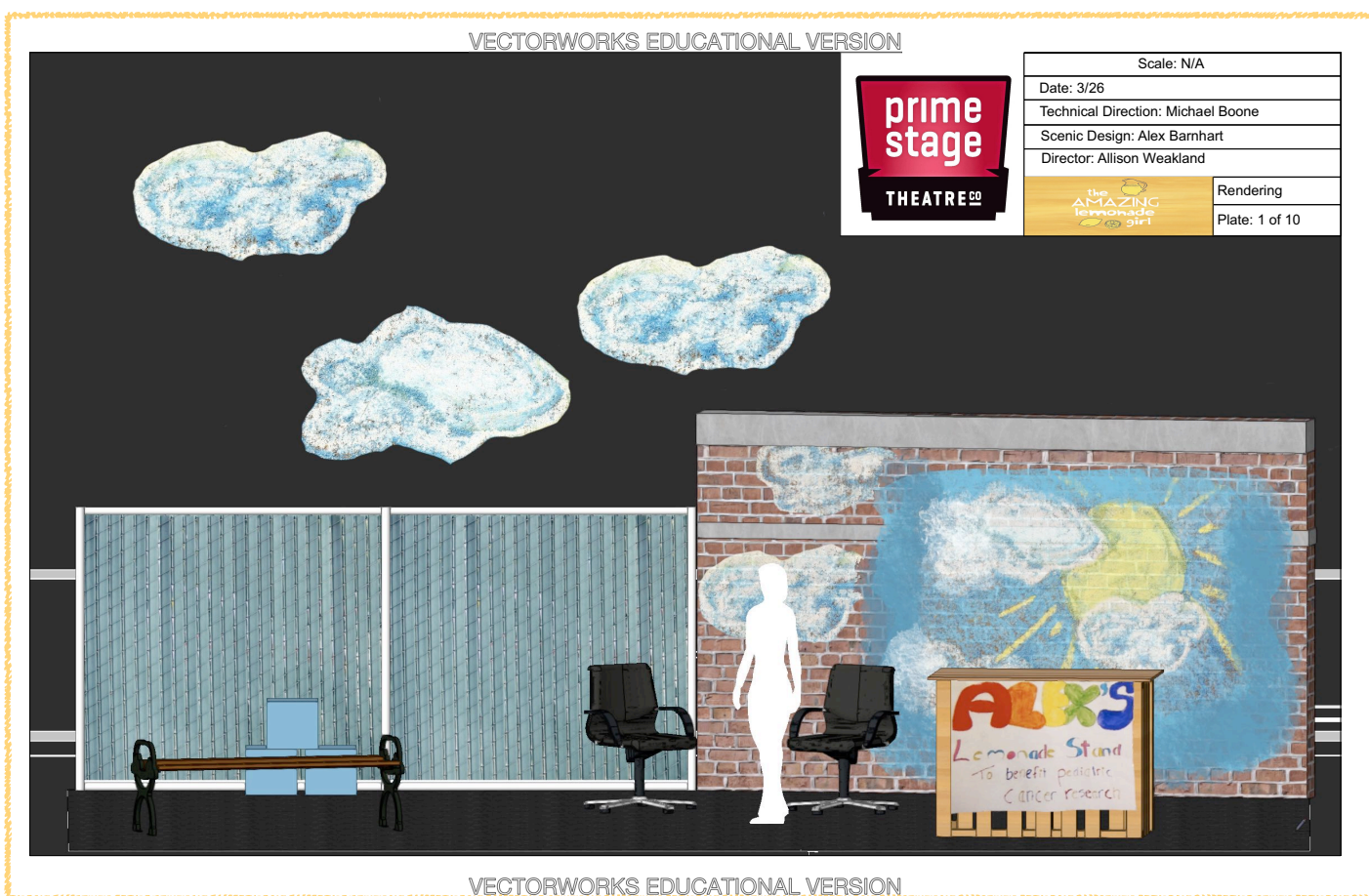
With the permission of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Directed by Allison Weakland

Alex Scott wasn't going to let her rare childhood illness get her down — she started a front yard lemonade stand to raise funds to help other kids. Based on the book written by her parents, this regional premiere shows how a single person can change the world one act, or even one cup at a time. Watch as her noble efforts inspire donations of over \$1 million dollars and a foundation that has raised \$200 million and funded over 1,000 medical research projects for children's health.

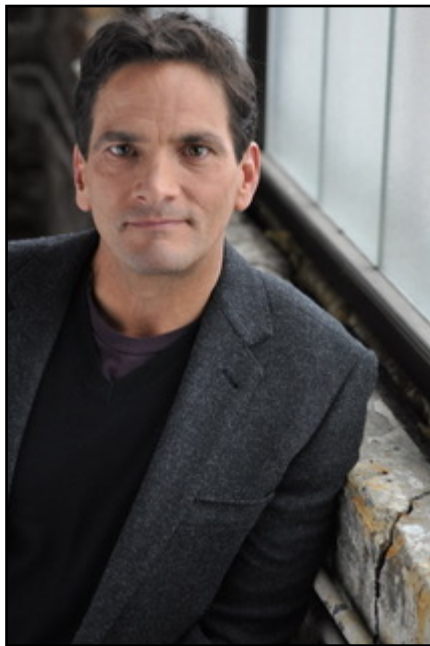
The performance time is approximately 60 minutes without an intermission

Age Recommendation: Suggested for families with children between 5 and 11 years old.



The Amazing Lemonade Girl set design rendering by scenic designer Alex Barnhart; PST 2022

About the Playwright



James DeVita is a native of Long Island, NY. Along with his novels, *Blue*, *A Winsome Murder*, *The Silenced*, which earned him the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for Fiction, he has also worked extensively as a playwright. His plays for young audiences have been acknowledged with The Distinguished Play Award from The American Alliance of Theater and Education; The Intellectual Freedom Award by the Kentucky Council of Teachers of English/ Language Arts; the Shubert Fendrich Memorial Playwrighting Contest; and The American Alliance of Theater and Education honored his body of work for Youth Theater with the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Award. He a resident playwright at First Stage Children's Theater, Milwaukee, WI.

Some of his plays for youth include: *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*, *The White Rose*, *A Little House Christmas*; *A Midnight Cry*; *Treasure Island*; *Looking Glass Land*; *Bambi*, *A Life in the Woods* (AATE Distinguished Play Award), *The Christmas Play*; *Arthur*; *The Boy Who Would Be King*; *Swiss Family Robinson*; *The Christmas Angel*; *Tom Sawyer*; *Huckleberry Finn*; *Excavating Mom*; *The Thief Lord*. Jim's adult plays include: *Learning to Stay*, *Christmas in Babylon*, *Gift of the Magi* (a musical adaptation); *In Acting Shakespeare*; *The Desert Queen* (the life of Gertrude Bell); *Dickens In America*; *Waiting for Vern*, a new adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac*

His education began as a first mate on the charter boat JIB VII out of Captree Boat Basin, NY, where he worked for five seasons. He then studied theater at Suffolk County Community College. Long Island, where he received an AS Degree, then the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he received a BFA. He also attended Madison Area Technical College where he was licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician. Jim is a member of The Dramatists Guild and Actors Equity Association.



Photos from *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* world premiere performance at First Stage Theatre in Milwaukee, WI.

Photo Credit: Paul Ruffolo

Theatre Etiquette and House Rules

It goes without saying that when most children today hear the word “theatre” they think, “oh, MOVIE theater.” And with that thought comes all of those things that we do at movie theater: eat popcorn, drink noisily from soda cups, put feet on the seat, text message—and the list goes on from there.

But live theater is just that: it’s LIVE with LIVE HUMANS who react and respond to the audience, something that we at Prime Stage think is the beauty of the theatre experience. Because of this, live theatre requires a higher level of respect between the audience and performer in order for the experience to be a positive one. As an audience member, you are the final and most important component of this production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*!

Please review the following “house rules” with your students prior to attending our production:

- Please stay together with your group and wait for an usher to help you find your seat.
- Please turn all cell phones **completely off** before the performance. If you are texting during the performance, you will be asked to leave. (FYI, the theater will be dark, and light from your phone shines up on your face when you text. Everybody, including the actors on stage, can see you!)
- No photography or videotaping.
- Please stay in your seat until the intermission or the end of the play.
- No eating, drinking, or chewing gum during the performance.
- We encourage active listening and appropriate responses such as laughing or clapping. Please do not talk during the performance!
- Be polite and attentive. Show your appreciation by clapping. (FYI – the actors really love to see how much you enjoyed the show!)

Thinking Like a Critic

Critics play an important role in theatre. They are often the first to see the show and can write a wonderful – or horrendous – review for all the world to see. Prepare your students to attend the show by “thinking like a critic.”

Read the following questions before the show.



Think about the questions as you’re watching the show and write your answers in a notebook or journal during intermission or on the bus ride home.

Write a critique of the show based on your responses.

Actor choices—How did they move and speak? Did they seem like people we know? How did they relate to other characters?

Designer choices—What design element captured your attention the most - the set, costumes, lights, or sound - and why? How did the design elements work together to support the entire production? What choices did the designers make in materials, colors, intensity, detail, etc.? What symbols were in the design elements?

Director choices—What was the style, pace, and rhythm of the play? What stage pictures helped to tell the story? How did the director unify all of the elements of the production?

Interpretation—Did the director make a statement about life in our

current time? How did the characters, design, and play make you feel? What did the play mean to you? What might it mean to others?

Evaluation—Why do you suppose the playwright wrote the play? Why was the play produced now? When were moments where the storytelling was very clear? When were moments you were confused about the story? Who would enjoy the play and why?

Remember—it’s all about choices!

Whether you loved the play or not, identify the specific choices that made you feel that way!



Behind the Scenes with Prime Stage Theatre

Directors, actors and production teams have to make many decisions when they bring a play to life. They must consider what emotions, images, sounds or movements to highlight from the play and how to portray them on stage. It is an exciting and collaborative experience.

Meet the Director!



Allison M. Weakland made her New York City debut in the fall of 2011 when she directed *Take Two Aspirin and Call Me in the Morning* for The Manhattan Theatre Source's Estrogenius Festival. In the greater Pittsburgh area, she has directed for various companies including The Rage of the Stage Players, South Park Theatre, Old Schoolhouse Players, Little Lake Theatre, Throughline Theatre Company, Prime Stage Theatre, and off the WALL Productions. Allison had the wonderful opportunity to assistant direct the Broadway hit *Seminar* and the world premiere of *Hope and Gravity* at City Theatre. Allison earned her BA in Performance and Technical Theatre from Seton Hill University, and is a proud member of The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Prime Stage Education was delighted to interview Allison about her role as the director and her experience working on *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*!

What does a theatre director do?

Directors are like the captain of the ship. They lead cast and crew to make sure everyone is working together and heading in the same direction. They provide support and guidance so everyone can work to the best of their ability and contribute to the journey.

How is directing *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* different from directing other plays?

Most of the time, plays are fictional stories. Every so often, an artist gets the opportunity to

work on a true story. The cast, crew, and I feel a great responsibility to this show. We want to honor Alex's memory and respect the opportunity that her family has provided us.

What is it like to collaborate with the actors, designers, and producers?

It is the best part of the process. Many art forms are a solo experience. The collaboration between artists is what drew me towards working in theatre. It is a great challenge, but also extremely rewarding.

Behind the Scenes

Meet the Director Continued!

What are you most excited for audiences to see?

I'm excited for audiences to learn more about Alex. Also, I can't wait to see their reactions to the world we are creating onstage to help tell Alex's story.



Above: Allison Weakland provides direction to members of the cast during rehearsal.

Right: The Cast of *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* from left to right: Rayna Akin, Maya Anabella, Eamonn McElfresh (center) Cameron Tino, Jayden Greening, Kayla Zhu and director, Allison Weakland.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with young people and families before they attend this production?

This play is for all ages. Be prepared to go on a rollercoaster ride with this story. It is filled with many ups and downs.



What if YOU were the Director?

After attending a performance of *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*, discuss how you might have directed the show!

What subjects would you want to research?

How might you portray the happy moments and the sad moments?

Which characters do you enjoy the most and how do you think your feelings might affect the way you portray the characters in your version?

What would you want your audience to discover?

Behind the Scenes

Meet the Lighting Designer!



Hope Debelius is the lighting designer for *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*. A lighting designer is responsible for lighting the stage so that the performers can be seen by the audience.

Hope is a recent graduate from Point Park University with a BFA in Theatre Production: Design. Recent lighting design work includes *Spring Awakening*, *Little Children Dream of God*, and *Water by the Spoonful* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. She also recently worked as the assistant lighting designer on *Murder on the Orient Express* at the

Pittsburgh Public Theatre. She is so thankful to be working at Prime Stage for her first professional lighting design post-grad! You can visit her website at hopedebelius.com.

Prime Stage recently sat down with Hope to learn more about the job of a lighting designer and her inspiration for *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*.

What does a lighting designer do?

A lighting designer uses light to create different environments on stage that help tell a story. They use color, angle, and brightness to recreate environments that people will recognize from their own life. Lighting designers also use light to make people feel different emotions during a show. When people think of the color red, they think the color means danger. When people think of blue, they might think of sadness. Lighting designers use what colors people associate emotions with to help tell the story.

What is your inspiration for designing *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*?

My inspiration while designing this show has been to put myself in the mindset of a kid again. The design team talked a lot about what the show would look like if we handed all of the design jobs off to kids to do, and that has really stuck with me throughout this process.

I'm using a lot of primary colors, and thinking of what children imagine some of the environments we're showing onstage look like in their head.

What makes this play unique?

This play is unique because of its ability to tell the story of Alexandra Scott in a way that isn't just about the sad moments of her life. It really emphasizes Alex's wish to help others and tells the story in a truthful way from the perspective of a child. Growing up I always knew about the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, but since starting work on this show I've realized not everyone knows what it is, so I'm excited to help share this story with the community.

Behind the Scenes

Meet the Lighting Designer Continued!

Are there any design moments in the show that you are excited for audiences to see?

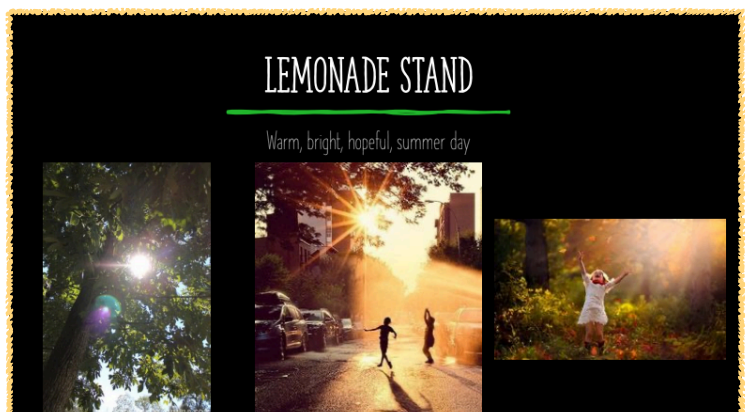
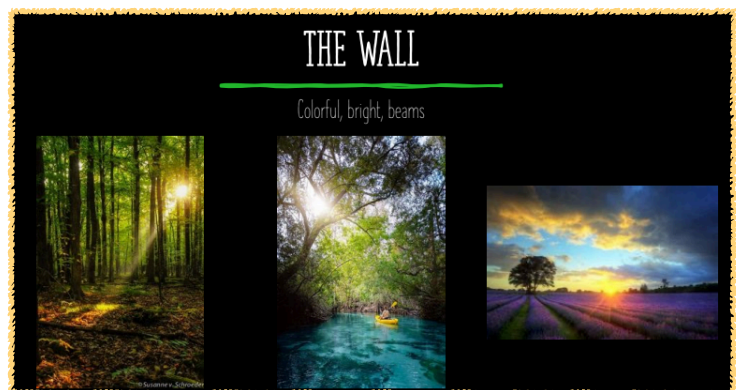
I really think the entire show is going to be fun when it comes to the design. As designers, it's really fun to imagine handing your job off to a kid and seeing what they make of it. Some of the scenes take place in an operating room in a hospital, so we've been working on imagining what a kid thinks an operating room might look like or sound like. Taking inspiration from different kids shows and games has been a really fun process, so I'm really excited for people to see our interpretation, especially for the operating room.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with young people and families seeing this production?

I really hope everyone enjoys the show! It has been so fun to work on, and I can't wait to see how kids like it!

Researching and gathering information is an important part of the job for designers, playwrights, directors and actors. Designers often collect photos to help inspire their vision and design.

The photos to the right are a part of Hope Debelius's research for the play.



Behind the Scenes

Meet the Actors!

The cast for Prime Stage Theatre's production of *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* is made up of six incredible young actors. Most of the actors play several roles and act as an ensemble to tell Alex's amazing story. An ensemble is a when all the members of the cast work together on behalf of the play rather than emphasizing individual performances. Get to know this incredible ensemble of talented performers!

Rayna Akin

What role(s) are you playing in *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*?

"I am playing the role of Alex. She is a positive, determined 8 year old who has a rare cancer called neuroblastoma."

What do you love about the play?

"What I love about this play is that even though this is a difficult story to tell, it is still so positive and everyone makes the best out of it. It is so inspirational."

What are some of the challenges in the play?

"One of the hardest challenges in the play is portraying Alex correctly. Throughout the show, she gets weaker and weaker. I definitely think that personally it is a difficult challenge to showcase correctly."

What advice do you have for young people who might be interested in acting?

"Some advice I have for kids who want to pursue acting is just go for it. Do not be afraid to try out different things, even out of your comfort zone."

What are you most excited for audiences to see?

"I am super excited for audiences to see this show! I do not have a favorite scene or action that I am excited for people to see but I am excited for people to get the message and be apart of the story that we tell when they go see our show!"



Jayden Greening

What role(s) are you playing in *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*?

"I play Ensemble 2 who has roles including, Brian Mickelson (the reporter), Alex's dad, and a customer at Alex's lemonade stand. Brian Mickelson is an outspoken newspaper reporter looking to promote the lemonade stand. Alex's dad is a real father figure who simply wants what is best for his daughter and is not afraid to fight for it."

What do you love about the play?

"What I love most about this play is its ability to find the light in a dark situation and help show young people that it's possible to do so. This play has a way of transforming someone's mind set to make them realize that there is always a bright side. It makes you think that if Alexandra Scott can find the light so can you."

What are some of the challenges in the play?

"I think the biggest challenge I have faced in this play is switching between characters so fast. Sometimes I will be in the middle of an emotionally charged scene and then instantly have to turn into a much lighter character in an entirely different situation."

What advice do you have for young people who might be interested in acting?

"My best advice for a young person who might even be remotely interested in acting is to just go for it. If acting is something that interests you, there's no other way than just diving in headfirst. So yeah my advice would be to get yourself out there, and who knows, maybe you might just be on the stage with me one day!"

What are you most excited for audiences to see?

"I am most excited for audiences to see the purity of Alex and the way in which she inspired so many people. I am excited for audience to see the happy, the good, the bad, and the sad. Because all of it is the story of Alexandra Scott. I'm excited to show young people that they are their own happy."



Meet the Actors continued!



Kayla Zhu

What role(s) are you playing in *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*?

"I play Ensemble 1, and throughout the play I kind of transform into different characters in Alex's life. I play her mother, and at some point I also become an interviewer as well! While I am just an ensemble member, since I am the only "adult female", I end up taking on the role of the sort of "mom friend" or just the one that tries to be comforting."

What do you love about the play?

"The writing in this play is absolutely amazing. There are so many details and so many moments of such raw emotion, but there are also those beautiful moments of hope and happiness as well. Being able to find that balance is what makes this play

so great, and it's what makes it so moving."

What are some of the challenges in the play?

"A challenge I've faced is trying to figure out how to make the characters I play very noticeably different from each other. I think a huge part of playing multiple roles is making the clear distinction between those roles so the people watching can immediately see the switch and don't have to take time figuring out who they're seeing. Along with that, I've never played a character that was based on a real person, which can be nerve wracking because I want to make sure I'm doing it right."

What advice do you have for young people who might be interested in acting?

"If you try acting, and you find that you love it, keep doing it. There will be ups and downs and it'll get harder and easier (it'll get harder before it gets easier), but if you love doing it, keep doing it. Your passion will drive you and your hard work WILL pay off."

What are you most excited for audiences to see?

"I'm excited for audiences to see just how much detail there is in this play. The entire creative team and everyone working on making this show real have paid such close attention to the details, and it's very clear that that's the case. I think audiences will be surprised at how well the play truly balances itself, and how heartfelt it really is."

Maya Anabella

What role(s) are you playing in *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*?

"I am playing the role of Ensemble 3. As an ensemble member I'm challenged to physicalize multiple different characters. For example, I play a radio announcer, a reporter, an employee, a doctor, Theresa, and more! Then of course, Ensemble 3 has a personality of her own. The most special role to me is Theresa, who is Alex's best friend that she meets at the hospital."

What do you love about the play?

"It is so full of hope and innocence. Alex Scott just wants to get across the wall and have fun and play. The other Ensemble players don't really understand much until the end of the show, when they realize more of what is happening. I think it's charming to watch kids just genuinely enjoy learning about each other's stories."

What are some of the challenges in the play?

"Honestly, this is not an easy show. The subjects discussed are so heavy and so real sometimes it's really hard. With a show that has so many comedic beats and then shifts so dramatically can be really difficult. Sometimes I find myself not knowing whether to laugh or cry. The show puts such a terrible thing that happens in this world in a positive light in such a powerful way."

What advice do you have for young people who might be interested in acting?

"That they should try it! Acting isn't like a job where you sit behind a desk and fall asleep. You are always kept on your toes and it's the best feeling."

What are you most excited for audiences to see?

"I am most excited to share Alex's story. We had the pleasure of talking to her mother and hearing about her is fascinating. Her story desperately needs to be known worldwide and I cannot wait for audience's to watch the show and see what they think afterwards. I hope this show adds some good!"



Meet the Actors continued!



Eamonn McElfresh

What role(s) are you playing in *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*?

"I play Ensemble 4 & Alex's brother. Throughout the show, my character has to witness his sister progressively getting weaker and tries to maintain positivity for her."

What do you love about the play?

"I love the connections that the characters have, and by the last scene, you can see how close the characters have become."

What are some of the challenges in the play?

"Though it may seem like a very basic challenge, for me, it was challenging figuring out all of the basic emotions that different ages feel for different characters."

What advice do you have for young people who might be interested in acting?

"Don't give up when something doesn't go your way. You can audition for 100 things, and you might only get casted for one of them. You can't let that bring you down. Enjoy the production you are cast in, and I can almost guarantee that while in rehearsals, you will understand why you were meant to be in that production. Enjoy what you are in!"

What are you most excited for audiences to see?

"I'm most excited for audiences to see how truly amazing Alex was and the things that she was able to accomplish!"

Cameron Tino

What role(s) are you playing in *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*?

"I am playing Ensemble 5! He is one of the 5 kids on the playground that help Alex tell her story! This brilliant concept of storytelling allows the ensemble to switch in and out of characters freely and fluidly. My character portrays many of the doctors. My character was based off of Dr. John Maris, an oncologist who works at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and who provided Alex with new experimental medicine to help treat her!"

What do you love about the play?

"What I love about the play is the hope that it can ignite in those who watch. There is such an excellent balance of happy and sad in the piece, and it really allows one to feel for the characters, while motivating the individual to make a difference. The message isn't just about the hope for ending childhood cancer, but the hope of the good of humanity."

What are some of the challenges in the play?

"A very big but very exciting challenge is differentiating what moments in the play are imaginary and which ones are real. Because we are kids on a playground telling a story, we need to use our imaginations to tell the story with the knowledge and school supplies available to us. You have to create all these different characters and scenes through pure imagination, which is amazing, and something I will definitely take away from this production."

What advice do you have for young people who might be interested in acting?

"As actors, we have the incredible job to create life onstage, to be reborn in the moment, and to live in other people's stories. Love every minute of it, and keep pushing yourself to work hard and be inspired by the story you are telling."

What are you most excited for audiences to see?

"I cannot wait for audiences to see the concept of the play. Since *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* is told through an imaginative lens, audiences are able to become a kid again, and actually help Alex tell her story and achieve her dreams! We get to become very creative in how we tell the story!"



Elements of a Theatrical Production

A play or musical is much more than the two hour show the audience sees. The production process often takes many months, even years, to complete and requires many skilled people.

Creative Team

Every play or musical starts from the imagination or inspiration of the authors. Many times an idea for a show grows from an existing book, play, article, or movie. Other times, authors write an original story or concept. Once an idea is developed, the play writing begins. A dramaturg may be brought on to provide vital knowledge, research, and interpretation along with a director to help guide to overall artistic vision of the show. Once a production is scheduled, a stage manager will be brought on to manage all aspects of the rehearsal and performance.

Cast

The director works with the casting agent or theater company to cast the characters. Each performer must have acting skills and fit the look of his /her character. These elements are all evaluated during the audition process. Actors are generally asked to prepare a monologue or scene from the play and bring a headshot as well.

Rehearsal

The cast will do an initial read-through of the script, followed by daily rehearsal. During rehearsals, the director coaches the actors' reading of the lines and emotions, and also gives them their blocking, line by line, scene by scene. A technical rehearsal is when the full cast and crew walk through the entire show, ensuring every light cue, sound effect, microphone, etc. works as planned. This rehearsal is mainly for the tech staff. The cast and crew will also get a dress rehearsal, many times more than once, to bring all of the different elements (costumes, lights, sounds, movement) together.

Sound

The sound designer plans the layout of all sound playback and equipment for the show, and adjusts the pitch, volume, duration, and overall quality of the music to meet each specific scene's needs. The sound operator executes the sound designer's plans and handles the mixing equipment for the show. The adjustments are

made using the soundboard. The sound effects designer is responsible for creating or enhancing sounds distinct from music and dialogue, such as doorbells or running water.

Lights

Lighting design goes beyond simply making sure that the audience can see the stage. A lighting designer's job is to make deliberate decisions about what the audience sees in the stage space. Light can be used to establish the time or location of a performance, or to create and enhance mood and atmosphere. A lighting technician hangs and adjusts the lighting instruments according to the lighting designers plans while the designer programs the light cue changes on a computer.

Scenic

The set designer's job is to design these physical surroundings in which the action will take place. A theater set should: suggest the style and tone of the whole production, create mood and atmosphere, give clues as to the specific time and place of the action, and offer creative possibilities for the movement and grouping of the actors. The designer will create a scale model and a rendering with technical plans so that the builders can start making the set. Sometimes the set designer helps to build the as well.

Costumes

The costume designer first researches the setting of the play and the characters. Costumes must be appropriate for the time period and vision of the show, and simultaneously be practical enough to allow for movement. They decide which styles and fabrics to use, and draw up the costumes in renderings. Through costume fitting, they may tailor adjustments for each performer.

Audience

At the front of the theater, audience members will see a marquee displaying the name of the show being performed. After purchasing tickets at the box office and entering the theater, audience members will receive a program, which provides information about the show and actors' biographies. An usher escorts them to their seats. Some shows may have an intermission. When the show ends, audience members will applaud and give a standing ovation if they feel the show was exceptionally good. The house manager oversees aspects of the audience, including supervising the ushers and contacting the stage manager about any audience delays for starting the show.



PST's production of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, 2017

Putting it in Content

Childhood Cancer and Research

Childhood cancer is a general term for a large group of diseases that can affect any part of the body. There are dozens of types of childhood cancer and countless subtypes.

Like adult cancer, childhood cancer types are diseases of the cells: abnormal cells grow in an uncontrolled way, getting in the way of healthy, normal cells. These cells can sometimes metastasize and spread through the body.

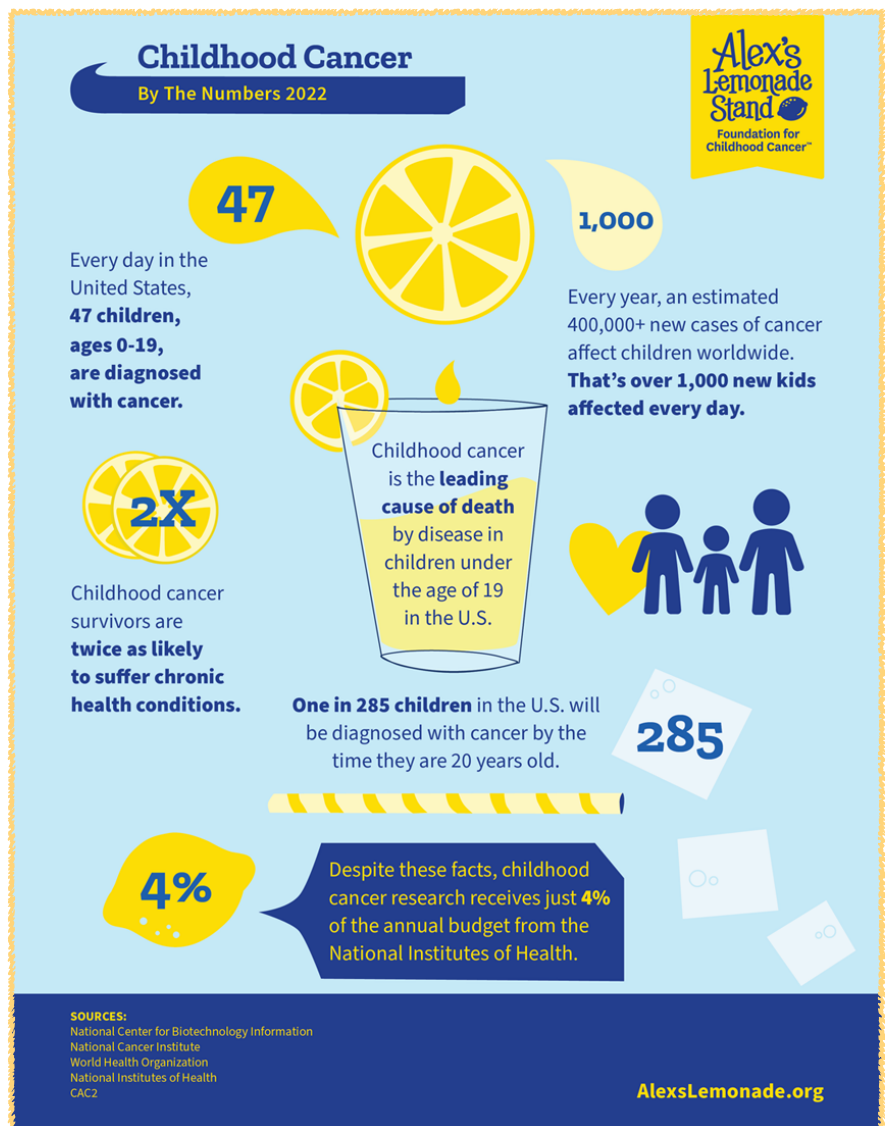
However, cancer in children requires its own type of treatments and cures. Understanding each type and subtype of childhood cancer can help researchers move closer to innovative specialized cures.

Learn more about the types of childhood cancer, the heroes battling these diseases and the innovative childhood cancer research funded by Alex's Lemonade Foundation at the website below.

<https://www.alexslimonade.org/childhood-cancer/types>

Childhood Cancer Facts

- Childhood cancer research is consistently underfunded. Less than 4% of the federal budget for cancer research is dedicated to childhood cancer.
- Each day, 47 children are diagnosed with cancer in the United States, which means more than 17,000 children in the U.S. are diagnosed each year.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in American children, resulting in the death of approximately 1,800 kids each year.
- As of 2015, there are approximately 429,000 survivors of childhood cancer in the U.S.
- In the United States, 84% of children diagnosed with cancer are alive at least five years after diagnosis; however this does not mean they are cured or free from long-term side effects.
- Even those who are cured may suffer long-term side effects as a result of the cancer treatments they received. Children who were treated for cancer are twice as likely to suffer chronic health conditions later in life versus children without a history of cancer.



Putting it in Content

Talking to Kids About Cancer

What is cancer?

Cancer is a group of many related diseases that all have to do with cells. Cells are very small building blocks that make up all living things, including the human body. There are billions of cells in each person's body and they work together in a controlled way to keep us healthy and strong.

Cancer happens when cells grow too quickly and are not controlled by our bodies - these cells, called cancer cells, won't stop growing unless something is done to stop them. If they continue to grow out of control, they can hurt the normal cells that are supposed to be in our bodies and then the person can get very sick.

Why do kids get cancer?

When a person under the age of 18 gets cancer, it is called childhood or pediatric cancer. Doctors do not know why some children get cancer. They do know that children can't "catch" cancer from someone else - it is not contagious. Although most children with cancer will get better, cancer is a very serious disease and doctors have to work very hard to find the right ways to get rid of cancer in children. So, when a child gets cancer, the doctors will give special cancer medicines or have the person get a special surgery to remove the cancer cells. Most of the time, the cancer goes away and does not come back! Sometimes the cancer does not go away and the child gets sicker and even dies. This is what happened to Alex Scott, the little girl who started Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

What can kids do to help?

Because not all kids with cancer get better, the doctors are still working hard every day to find new medicines and ways to get rid of all cancers in kids - they call this doing research to find a cure. This research can cost a lot of money.

Alex was just a kid, but she knew that there were kids with cancer, just like her, who were not getting better from their cancer. She decided she could do something to help those kids by selling lemonade in her front yard. Her idea was that if she could give the doctors the money from her lemonade stand, they could work faster to find ways to make kids with cancer better.



Photo from <https://www.alexislemonade.org>.

Alex died when she was 8-years-old, but with the help of kids all over the country selling lemonade, she had raised more than \$1 million to make sure other kids with cancer had a chance to get better.

Today, kids all over the world keep Alex's stand going by holding their own lemonade stands and sending their money to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. The great news is that because of all of this lemonade stand money, more kids are getting better from cancer every day! To get involved or to donate to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation visit their website at <https://www.alexislemonade.org/get-involved>.

Putting it in Content

Glossary

Alex was diagnosed with a type of cancer called neuroblastoma just before she turned one year old. Below is a list of words you will hear throughout Alex's story that may be new to you.

CANCER

Cancer is a disease that happens when the body makes cells that are sick. These cells can grow very quickly. Cancer can spread to different parts of the body.

CELLS

Your body is made up of billions of teeny tiny pieces called cells. These are the smallest piece of you. All these pieces together make you who you are.

CHEMOTHERAPY

Special medicines to treat cancer.

CT SCAN (also called a CAT SCAN)

An X-ray machine that looks like a spaceship and takes many pictures all around your belly and chest. A test that helps doctors find cancer in the body.

METASTASIZED

When the cancerous tumor spreads from one part of the body to another part.

MRI

A special scanner that uses a powerful magnet to take very detailed pictures of the brain and spine. MRIs can be very loud, but they don't hurt.

NEUROBLASTOMA

A kind of cancer that mostly affects young children.

ONCOLOGIST

A doctor who treats patients with cancer. Oncologists who treat kids with cancer are called pediatric oncologists.

PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY NURSE

A person specially trained to give care to children with cancer.

RADIATION THERAPY

A type of cancer treatment that uses a beam of energy from a machine to kill cancer cells.

REMISSION

When cancer symptoms go away completely.

SIDE EFFECTS

The body sometimes reacts to medicine or other treatments. In cancer treatment, some of these may include feeling very tired or losing your hair.

STEM CELL TRANSPLANT

A treatment that uses your body's own stem cells to help make you stronger. This involves taking the person's healthy stem cells and putting them back into their own bloodstream. This is done through an intravenous (IV) line. It's similar to having a blood transfusion. When the stem cells get inside the person's body, they start making healthy new blood, bone marrow, and immune system cells.

TUMOR

Cancer cells growing together in a mass or lump inside your body.

X-RAY MACHINE

A machine used to take special pictures of the bones inside of your body.

Glossary from First Stage Theatre

Before Activities

The activities below are intended to spark enthusiasm, interest and inquiry into the story before your child attends the performance.

Alex's Lemonade Stand Video

Watch *One Cup at a Time: The Story of Alex's Lemonade Stand* to learn more about Alex and how ALSF helps children all across the country!

Go to the following website to watch the video:

<https://www.alexslimonade.org//about/videos/one-cup-time-story-alexs-lemonade-stand>



Interview with Alex

In 2004, Alex had some things to say about herself. Before attending a performance of *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*, read her interview below and answer the same questions using the worksheet on the following page! You can use the same worksheet to interview family and friends! Use a journal to rewrite the questions and answers into paragraph form.

Here's what Alex had to say about herself in 2004...

Full name: Alexandra Flynn Scott

Birthday: January 18, 1996

About me: I'm Alex, I'm 8 years old. I have neuroblastoma and I raise money for pediatric cancer research with the help of other kids and grown-ups through my lemonade stand. I give the money I raise to research to find cures for pediatric cancers.

Who do I live with?: My parents, my brother Patrick, my brother Eddie, my brother Joey, my dog Shammy, and my cute kitten Herbert.

Where do I live?: I live in Pennsylvania, right down the street from Philadelphia.

Favorite colors: Blue and purple

Favorite animal: Penguin

School year: Second grade

Favorite part of school: Everything

Favorite food: French fries

Favorite sport: Soccer

Favorite books: Junie B. Jones Series and The Little House on the Prairie books

Favorite movie: Scooby Doo

Favorite TV show: Pokemon and American Idol

What I want to be when I grow up?: Fashion designer

Favorite activity: Making stuff and designing clothes

Place I most want to visit: France



Questions from: <https://www.alexslimonade.org/about/meet-alex/interview>

The Amazing Lemonade Girl Interview Worksheet

Full name: _____

Birthday: _____

About me: _____

Who do I live with?: _____

Where do I live?: _____

Favorite colors: _____

Favorite animal: _____

School year: _____

Favorite part of school: _____

Favorite food: _____

Favorite sport: _____

Favorite books: _____

Favorite movie: _____

Favorite TV show: _____

What I want to be when I grow up?: _____

Favorite activity: _____

Place I most want to visit: _____

Before Activities

The activities below are intended to spark enthusiasm, interest and inquiry into the story before your child attends the performance.

Act it Out

Get into the action by performing a short scene selection from the play.

1. Read the following short scene selection from *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* by James DeVita. There are lines and stage directions.*The stage directions are written in parenthesis.
2. Discuss the setting and what is happening in the scene. How might your group prepare the scene? Where should the stage be? What props or costumes are necessary? Can there be design elements including sound effects, lighting cues, and music?
3. Assign parts! These parts can include reading the stage directions, character roles, and even sound and lighting effects.
4. Rehearse and perform the scene. (Remember to follow the stage directions and work together!)
5. After the performance, discuss the scene. What do you think happens next?

The Amazing Lemonade Girl Script Selection from Scene 2; page 10

ENSEMBLE 1

Tell your story.

ENSEMBLE 5

(*With clipboard.*) Excuse me, but I'm reading the rules, and it says here. Section 4, article 7b: "Active participation is not advisable. The function of the *Ensemble* --" that'd be *us* "-- is to listen, learn, and encourage." I'm sorry, it says it right here.

ENSEMBLE 1

This is all in her *imagination*. We can do anything that she wants. (*Takes his clipboard.*) Alex, could you please imagine that there aren't any rules here?

ALEX

. . . okay. (*She imagines.*)

ENSEMBLE 1

(*Looks at clipboard.*) Hm. (*The rules are still there.*) Could you imagine a little harder, please. (*Alex imagines harder.*) Good! There we go. Gone. (*Hands clipboard back to 5.*) No more rules. (*5 looks at board amazed.*) Alright, Alex, are you ready?

ALEX

Look, I appreciate you wanting to help, but, really, I don't want to do this.

ALL

What? Why not? What's wrong? How come? *Etc.*

ALEX

Because I *hate* talking about myself.

ENSEMBLE 2

Oh, it's not that bad. I do it all the time

ENSEMBLE 1

It's not just talking about yourself, it's *your story*. Everyone has one. And your story is a very special one. (*All agree.*)

ALEX

But you don't even know me.

ENSEMBLE 5

Exactly!

ENSEMBLE 2

Bingo!

ENSEMBLE 4

That's the whole point!

THE END

After Activities

The activities below are intended to provide opportunity to synthesize the learning and make personal meaning after they have read the play or attended the performance.

Reflection Snapshots

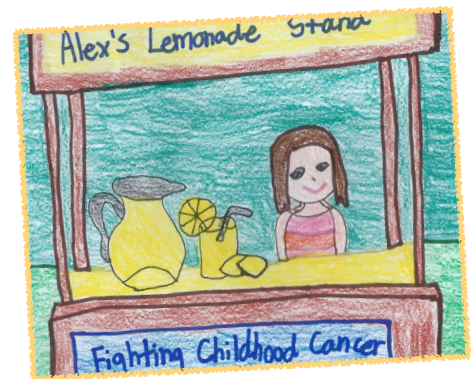
Create a frozen picture or tableau of favorite moments from the play.

After the performance, ask your family to recall highlights by using their bodies to create frozen “snapshots” of what they saw. Prompts may include: Show me a moment when Alex was sad or when she was happy; show me a favorite moment, a funny moment, or a moment that surprised you. As young people create each moment, ask them to explain their ideas. Pay attention to physical details such as posture or facial expression. Discuss in detail how the actor used physicality to bring the characters to life.

Make a Cartoon

Make a cartoon drawing of a favorite scene or character from the play!

Who was your favorite character? What was your favorite scene? Quote? Make a short cartoon of a scene or conversation that is one page and a maximum of five images to tell the story. Work individually or pair up. Afterwards you can use the posters, cartoons, and quotes to decorate.



Drawing by Ishani Sathianathan at <https://www.alexslimonade.org/blog/2016/07/iulv-shareable-kids-helping-kids>

Surprising Choices

What surprised you about this production by Prime Stage Theatre? Consider the costumes, set design, music, lighting, special effects, acting and directing.

What do you think motivated the production team or actors to make the choice that surprised you? Were they trying to solve a unique problem, create a strong response from the audience, make a creative statement or address some other need? Write a statement describing the surprising choice, explaining why you think it was part of the production and whether or not you thought it was a good choice.

Feelings Collage

How did the show make you feel? A collage can provide a great means of expressing feelings through art and can lead to more rich discussions or journal entries on self-reflection. Plus, this is a fun activity to try at home!



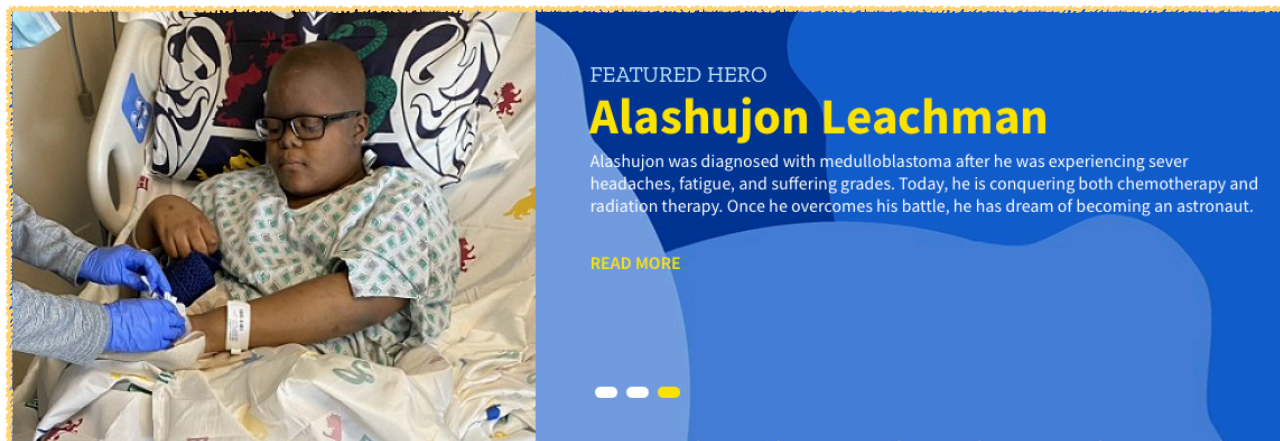
1. Gather a stack of magazines and art supplies: poster board or construction paper, scissors, glue sticks.
2. Invite your family to cut pictures from the magazines of people expressing any kind of feeling, and instruct them to use these images to build a “feelings collage” based on their experience watching *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*.
3. Label each picture in the collage with a feeling word; then, take turns explaining the collages.

*Encourage young people to elaborate on the details of regarding the person’s facial expression, body language, and the feeling word that they chose.

After Activities

The activities below are intended to provide opportunity to synthesize the learning and make personal meaning after they have read the play or attended the performance.

Learn About ALSF's Childhood Cancer Heroes



A message from Jay and Liz Scott, Alex's Parents (Found on ALSF's Website):

Many of you think of Alex as a hero ~ the sweet and courageous lemonade girl who inspired others to help children with cancer. Although she did not get the chance to live a long life, she showed us what it means to live a full life. Her bravery, strength, and love of life continue to inspire us every day. **She is indeed our hero!**

Since Alex was diagnosed in 1997, over 2 million more children worldwide have suffered because of cancer. These kids all have hopes and dreams of long lives. They have parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, and cousins who cherish them. **They all inspire those who know them with their bravery, strength, and love of life. They are all heroes.**

Read their stories here: <https://www.alexlemonade.org/heroes>

Discussion or journal entries prompts.

Have your young person answer the following questions after seeing the performance.

1. What emotion(s) did the performance make you feel? Describe the scene that stirred your emotions.
2. How did the sound and lighting add meaning to the performance?
3. How did the play end? How would you change the ending?
4. Is there a part of the performance you would change? What would you change (script, lighting, music, set, costumes, etc)?
5. What five words best describe the performance?
6. What skills and knowledge are needed to create a performance?



Improvisation and Theater Games

Actors have to think fast on stage and trust each other to remember lines and hit their marks. Try these fun acting games and activities teach valuable theatre skills while allowing students to have fun, build confidence, stretch their imagination and grow as an ensemble.

8 Count Shake Down

1. Count 1-8 while shaking your left hand then right hand then left foot, then right foot.
If you have a group of people, it works best to stand in a circle.

Left hand shake - "1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8" Right hand shake - "1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8"
Left foot shake- "1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8" Right foot shake- "1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8"

2. You do the sequence again but this time count up to 7.
3. You repeat this decreasing every time.
4. On the last set of 1 you jump up and shout out "shake down!"

Hey, What Are You Doing?

Develops focus and creativity.

To start the game, ask for eight student volunteers. Two stand up facing the class and the other six line up behind each of the two. (Two vertical lines of 4 each facing the class) One volunteer in the front row starts an 'activity' (brushing teeth, tap dancing, swimming). The other person in the front row asks "Hey, what are you doing?" While that person continues to, for example, 'brush their teeth', they say "I'm washing my car". The asker must immediately start 'washing their car' while the first volunteer goes to the back of the line and the next volunteer moves up. That person who just moved up immediately asks "What are you doing?" Again the other person in front must continue to 'wash a car' while they say, for example, "I'm curling my hair." And so on. Go until you are down to one student. Bring up the next eight students, etc.

Note: This could also be done in one big standing circle

The group challenge is to move through this activity; if students struggle, pause the game, discuss strategy and try again.

Three-Headed Monster

A simple game that helps students work together and be creative at the same time.

1. Ask three student volunteers to take the stage and link arms.
2. They are now a Three-Headed Monster. As a Three-Headed Monster, they talk in one-word turns, keeping the same personality.
4. Ask the class for a suggestion of an "object" or "place".
5. The monster must tell a story about that object or place, making it up as they go along.
6. After the monster has finished the story. Students may ask the monster questions.



Encourage the students to tell a story that has a beginning, middle and end.

Encourage the students to make a strong physical and character choice for their monster.

The "three-headed monster" can be used within any other improv activity.

Activities from Prime Stage Education

Research shows that using games in teaching can help increase student participation, foster social and emotional learning, and motivate students to take risks!

If this play has piqued your interest, why not check out a book and explore more? Your public libraries have many online resources you can access from home through online services Libby, Hoopla, or Flipster!

Check your library's website for help in getting started or use this handy link:

[Your Library From Home.](#)



For Younger Kids

***Freedom Zone* by Sam Kieffer (juvenile poems)**

Sam is a local kid who raised money with this book for his Dad who has cancer. "Poetry lets me express my feelings freely. In my freedom zone, I feel comfortable sharing my thoughts. This book includes poems that have impacted my life. Freedom Zone is written and illustrated by 8 and 9-year-old kids. With each book purchase, I will donate half of the proceeds to an organization close to my heart, The Epidermoid Brain Tumor Society."--Amazon

***The Lemonade Ripple* by Paul Reichert (picture book)**

A young girl is inspired to raise funds for a new wheelchair for a disabled friend.

***The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst (picture book)**

This picture book "explores questions about the intangible yet unbreakable connections between us, and opens up deeper conversations about love." Highly recommended by educators and therapists.

***The Lemonade Club* by Patricia Polacco (easy chapter book)**

When a student in Miss Wichelman's fifth-grade class is diagnosed with leukemia, her best friend and the whole class find a way to show their support.

***How Do You Care for a Very Sick Bear* by Vanessa Bayer (picture book)**

Sweet, gentle advice on helping a friend with cancer from an author who had childhood cancer.

***And Still They Bloom: A Family's Journey of Loss and Healing* by Amy Rovere**

This award-winning book tells of two young children's journey to cope with the loss of a parent.

***Butterfly Kisses and Wishes on Wings: When Someone You Love Has Cancer* by Ellen McVicker**

"The story, as told through the eyes of a little boy as he explains his mom's cancer to other children, lends itself to a simple and clear understanding of cancer." --Amazon

Young Adult Fiction

***Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews (Also a movie!)**

When Greg's mom forces him to become friends with a girl who has cancer, his whole world implodes. Considered "the funniest book you'll ever read about death."

***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green (Also a movie!)**

Young Hazel has a tumor. When she meets Augustus Waters at Cancer Kid Support Group, everything changes. Highly acclaimed author John Green has written a moving story about living, love and loss.

***Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

A young man juggles all the trials of adolescence....along with learning to deal with his younger brother's illness and his parents' attempt to keep the family together.

Young Adult Memoir

***This Star Won't Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl* by Esther Earl**

"This moving read will have you reaching for the tissues and smiling with delight....Stunningly alive on the page, Esther shows that sometimes the true meaning of life—helping and loving others—can be found even when bravely facing death." --People Magazine

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Please go to our website: www.primestage.com to find this form and send it back directly online!

Or you can mail it to us at: Prime Stage Theatre P.O. Box 99446 Pittsburgh, PA 15233.

THE RESOURCE GUIDE EVALUATION FORM

Prime Stage constantly assesses the work provided by our education department. Your feedback is vital to our ongoing need for funding for this program. Please fill out the following forms and mail or email them to the address given below. Thank you.

YOUR NAME _____

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Which part(s) of this experience you find most helpful for you and your students?

Was the guide useful to you?

Which part(s) did you find most helpful?

How can we improve the theatrical for the future?