



# REVIEW

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*Teen Advisory Board Member*

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## **The AMAZING Lemonade Girl - Review**

*The AMAZING Lemonade Girl* is the official premiere of Prime Stage Theatre's *Sprouts* education program, bringing literature to life for elementary students and their families, inspiring their imaginations, and fostering a love of reading with the joy of live theatre.

Alexandra "Alex" Scott was just short of a year old when she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare form of pediatric cancer. Through her battle with the illness, she met many friends and sought to help them and all children suffering with cancer in a profound way: one cup of lemonade at a time.

*The AMAZING Lemonade Girl* by James DeVita beautifully displays Alex's story in a manner that is lively, meaningful, and inspiring to adults and children alike. The digestible language of the dialogue is perfect for the young theatre-goers in your life, and this simplicity is perfectly matched with wit and quick-paced rhythm. Aiding this process are the children in the production who indulge the audience in an hour of childhood play and sentiment. Maya Anabella, Jayden Greening, Eamonn McElfresh, Cameron Tino, and Kayla Zhu made up the energetic ensemble, each of the actors unique and active, representing those childhood friends you play with on the recess yard. Adding just enough play to the, at times, heavy story of Alex Scott's life, the ensemble perfectly accented the roller coaster ride of Alex's journey.

The story could not be complete without the AMAZING Lemonade Girl Herself, Alex Scott (Rayna Akin), who told an emotional and inspiring story with grace and wit. Being older than the 8 year-old Alex, Akin portrayed the spirit, determination, and grit of the young title

character with excellence. With the help of her active and playful ensemble, audiences were propelled to a standing ovation at the end of the show's curtain call.

From June 16th-19th, The Hazlett Theater is decorated in Alex's spirit. Attendees have many opportunities to donate to the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF), including at a table near the ticketing booth that awards themed stuffed dogs to those who donate \$15 or above, a wonderful favor for the show's younger viewers.

The atmosphere of the theater is pure childhood: a rustic set, playfully decorated with imaginative chalk-drawings and the colorful ensemble, adorned with the ROYGBIV colors of Alex's famous lemonade stand sign (Alex Barnhart); the creative use of markers as microphones and ice packs as IVs (Alex Keplar). Every audience member, child and adult alike, this weekend will be immersed into Alexandra "Alex" Scott's hope and determination and perhaps, leave inspired to further a cause of their own one cup at a time.