



imaginary theatre company

2014–15 Season

Presented by



MONSANTO FUND



Book by Kim Esop Wylie

Music by Joe Dreyer, Lyrics by Sheila Schultz

Directed by Kat Singleton

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by Kim Esop Wylie

Music by Joe Dreyer, Lyrics by Sheila Schultz

Directed by Kat Singleton

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Musical Director | Larry Pry |
| Scenic Designer | Scott Loebel |
| Costume Designer | Dorothy Marshall Englis |
| Stage Manager | Mike Dowdy* |
| Director of Education | Marsha Coplon |
| Associate Director of Education | Sarah Brandt |
| Education Programs Manager | April Strelinger |
| Study Guide Writer | Laura Schlereth |

The Company

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jason Contini* | EMPEROR |
| Alan Knoll* | MINISTER OF FINANCE, PRIME MINISTER, BOY |
| Laurie McConnell* | URLEEN, NARCISSUS |
| Kristen McGuire* | PACHYSANDRA |

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



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Setting the Scene



Welcome to the Emperor's palace! You're not catching him on one of his good days—though, to be honest, he hasn't had many of those lately anyway. Today's specific distress is mostly about how his precious pooch, Narcissus, can't be found. It turns out she was actually just outside enjoying nature and the outdoors, a concept totally foreign to the Emperor who is mostly concerned with decorum, etiquette, reserved manners, and most importantly, style. The Emperor's wife, Pachysandra, laments that he wasn't always like that, but it seems that power has made him mostly care for material things.

It breaks Pachysandra's heart because she misses the days when the two of them used to climb trees and fly kites. However, things change when Pachysandra's servant Urleen, who has the least patience for the Emperor's narcissistic ways, comes up with a scheme to put the Emperor in his place and remind him what's truly important in life. But will the trick actually work? Or will it only embarrass and anger the Emperor, making him even more difficult than before?



Who's Who?



Emperor: a self-absorbed prima donna who prefers fittings and fabric swatches to trees and fresh air

Pachysandra: the Emperor's introverted, loyal wife who loves him deeply but is tired of playing second fiddle to fittings and fabric swatches

Urleen: Pachysandra's sharp-tongued, faithful servant who wants to teach the Emperor a lesson

Minister of Finance: employee of the Emperor who seems to have a hopeless crush on Urleen

Prime Minister: employee of the Emperor who speaks in rhymes when he gets anxious...which happens a lot

Narcissus: the spoiled royal poodle who would really rather just go play outside

Boy: a young lad who speaks his mind



What's the Story?



The Emperor is not happy. No one can find his dog Narcissus, and even though his employee, the Prime Minister, is searching desperately for her, he is only making the Emperor more agitated because he keeps talking in his rhymes (a symptom of his frazzled nerves), and rhymes are strictly against the law by the Emperor's order. Just when he thinks things can't get any worse, the Emperor realizes all his fidgeting has resulted in wrinkling his clothes! Fortunately, before things erupt into total chaos, his wife's maid Urleen volunteers to go find the dog.

While the Emperor waits, he talks about how much he loves Narcissus and how she's the only one he trusts, and he can't for the life of him imagine why she keeps running off. He then launches into a love song... only it's about how much he loves himself.

After he's finished singing his own praises, the Prime Minister runs in to inform the Emperor that his pooch has been found, and from the looks of her it appears she was taking a walk with the Empress, Pachysandra. The Emperor tells his wife he doesn't like her taking the dog outside, but Pachysandra insists the walks are good for her; she mentions the sun, the birds and the fresh air, and reminisces about how she and the Emperor used to take walks together and how happy they made her. But all the Emperor can remember is the dirt and splitting his royal knickers when climbing a tree. Pachysandra then mentions her birthday and how all she wants is to take a walk with her husband, but he says he's terribly busy. He has a new line of men's wear coming out and then a luncheon with the

castle interior decorator to review fabric swatches. He suggests buying her a new gown or robe instead. But Pachysandra has no interest for material things and doesn't understand her husband's obsession.

Seeing how unhappy and lonely her mistress is, Urleen devises a plan. Without giving Pachysandra much detail, she advises her to just follow her lead. She tells the Minister of Finance that she and Pachysandra are going on a trip for three days.

The two women come back later disguised as men, and Urleen tells the Emperor that they're famous tailors who will make him magical clothes that no one has ever seen before. She and Pachysandra pretend to drape beautiful fabric around themselves, while Urleen informs the Emperor that the magic is that only smart, sophisticated people can see the fabric. Although hesitant at first, the Emperor doesn't want anyone to think he's a nincompoop, so he pretends to see the fabric, and orders Urleen and Pachysandra to make him a new royal suit at once. Urleen even suggests he wear it to a parade in his honor. Delighted, the Emperor agrees.

At the parade, the Emperor steps out in his new "suit," and the crowd is shocked. A young boy yells out that the Emperor is not wearing any clothes! The Emperor realizes he's been tricked—though he still doesn't realize the tailors are his wife and her servant in disguise. He runs away deeply humiliated.

Later on, Pachysandra and Urleen return from their "trip." Urleen encounters the Minister of Finance who tells her he knew it was her and Pachysandra all along, but

Please feel free to adapt these materials to suit your classroom needs and reproduce them for future use.

loving Urleen, he chose not to snitch. Charmed, Urleen begins to return the Minister's feelings.

Meanwhile Pachysandra finds the Emperor, who tells her how much he missed her. In fact, while she was away, he realized how important she is and that she makes

him a better person. He then gives Pachysandra her birthday gift. Already touched by the Emperor's kind words, Pachysandra is beyond excited when she opens the present to find a large kite. Together, they go outside to enjoy some sunshine.



Words to the Wise



Levy: the collecting of a tax by an authority, often royalty

Napoleon and Josephine: a French military and political leader and his wife who are famous for not only their important place in history during the French Revolution but also for their love letters

King Henry: also known as Henry VIII, who ruled over England during the 16th century and was famous for having six wives

Mon amour: French for "my love"

Ravishing: extremely beautiful and enchanting

Derrière: French for "rear end"

Splendiferous: splendid or magnificent

Enraptured: delighted beyond measure

Terpsichore: the Muse of dancing and choral song in Greek mythology

Narcissus: a character in Greek mythology who was so fixated on himself he inspired the term "narcissistic"

Bosh: absurd or foolish talk

Knickers: loose-fitting short trousers gathered in at the knees

Sumptuous: luxurious

Decorum: dignified behavior, speech and dress

Etiquette: proper social behavior

Dialect: a different spin on a language based on the region

Aristocratically: characteristic of nobility or wealth

Pomp: splendor usually displayed in ceremonies

Emanate: radiate or send out

Looking glass: a mirror

Tailor: a person who makes clothes

Temperamental: moody or unpredictable

Apropos: appropriate or just right

Loom: an apparatus for weaving clothes

Ornate: highly decorative, fancy

Austere: severe or uncompromising

Pheasant: a large long-tailed bird

Cherubim: angels

Dunce: an unintelligent person

MEMORY GAME ANSWER KEY

Splendoopy = wrinkled
(The Emperor said his ruffles were getting all splendoopy.)

Tinkerdoodled = agitated
(When the Emperor can't find Narcissus, he gets very tinkerdoodled.)

Swelligant = wonderful
(The Emperor refers to himself as "elegant" and swelligant.)

Moogelish = not good
(The Emperor says outside makes Narcissus all moogelish – he says he's not sure exactly what it means yet, but he knows it's "not a happy word.")

Binkerlicious = better than good
(Pachysandra says she can't think of a word that "means better than good" and the Emperor happily offers up binkerlicious.)

Chunkadilly = excited
(The Emperor says that when he thinks about the many different kinds of fabric, he gets all chunkadilly.)

Hans Christian Andersen

You've probably heard the story of *The Emperor's New Clothes* before. It's one of those stories that seems to have been around so long that no one remembers who wrote it. But actually, we know very well who wrote the story—it was none other than Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, who produced some of the most famous fairy tales of our time, including *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Princess and the Pea*, *Thumbelina*, *The Little Mermaid* and *The Snow Queen*, among countless others.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Born in Odense, Denmark, in 1805, Andersen was the only child of a poor shoemaker and washerwoman. Although they weren't financially rich, Andersen's father made sure his son became rich in imagination, often entertaining him with stories from *The Arabian Nights*, a collection of folktales. Andersen was also taken to the theatre introducing him to one of the great loves of his life.

TRAGEDY AND OPPORTUNITY

Sadly, Andersen's father died when he was only 11, but Andersen still followed his dream just a few years later, when he moved to Copenhagen to become an actor, singer and dancer in the Royal Danish Theatre. After three years, he had failed to make a strong enough impression with talent alone, but the theatre's director, Jonas Collins, took Andersen under his wing and paid for the young man, who only had received the most basic of educations so far, to go away to grammar school. Unfortunately, Andersen later described these years in his autobiography as some of the unhappiest in his life, one reason being that his teachers discouraged him from writing. He was taken out of the school by Collins, who arranged for him to have a private tutor until he later attended and graduated from Copenhagen University.

THE WRITE DIRECTION

After graduation, Andersen spent many years traveling and producing several different written works, including poems, books and plays, which were well-received. Surprisingly, he didn't even start writing fairy tales until he

was 30 years old. His first fairy tales, including *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Princess and the Pea*, *Thumbelina* and *The Little Mermaid* were published in volumes between 1835–1837 bringing Andersen moderate success, though he was better known for his novels aimed at a more mature audience.

HIS OWN FAIRY TALE

His fairy tales began to appear in English translation around 1845 bringing Andersen new levels of popularity and renown. Already a familiar favorite of the elite, even royalty, in his home country, Andersen gained international fame with his work, enjoying the same social circles as Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind and fellow author Charles Dickens, who was also famous for writing about the impoverished classes and the innocence of childhood. Andersen published the last of his fairy tales in 1872 and died just three years later of liver cancer. However, his legacy lives on in his classic fairy tales, which have stood the test of time as international treasures.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: One might think it's insulting to a writer that their stories are so famous that many people don't think about who actually originated them. This can very possibly be true, but perhaps it speaks to the talent of a writer that their stories create such a legacy and have such a lasting place in our culture that many assume they've just always been around. What do you think? If you ever wrote a story that becomes a classic, how would you want people to remember it and you?

Other Famous Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

If you've never heard of *The Emperor's New Clothes*, we bet you've heard of at least one of Hans Christian Andersen's other famous fairy tales.

THE UGLY DUCKLING



One day, a mother duck's eggs hatch, and one of the little birds is viewed as particularly ugly. He is relentlessly teased by the other birds and animals on the farm, so he wanders away to

find a new home, and soon comes across a flock of migrating wild swans. He desperately wants to join them, but he's too young and cannot yet fly. He ends up spending the winter alone hiding in a cave on a lake that freezes over in the cold. But soon spring arrives and a flock of swans descends on the now thawing lake.

The Ugly Duckling approaches the swans expecting the same treatment he's experienced all his life, but the swans warmly welcome him. He then catches a reflection of himself in the water and sees that he has grown into a beautiful swan himself. The flock then takes off, and the former Ugly Duckling spreads his wings confidently and joins his new family.

See the story come to life in: the 1939 Disney animated short.

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA



A prince is searching for a princess to marry but is having a hard time finding one that suits him, and he is never certain that they are real princesses.

He finds something wrong with each candidate, and he feels he'll never be able to find a wife. Then one stormy night, a young woman, drenched from the rain, seeks shelter in the prince's castle. She claims to be a princess, but the prince's mother is doubtful. So as a test, she places a pea in the bed the woman will sleep in for the night—under 20 mattresses. The next morning, the princess thanks them for the hospitality, but admits she tossed and turned all night unable to fall asleep because there was a hard bump in the bed. The prince is thrilled as he believes only a real princess would have the sensitivity to feel a small pea under 20 mattresses, and the two marry.

See the story come to life in a production of the live musical *Once Upon a Mattress*, which opened on Broadway in 1959 starring Carol Burnett as the sleep-deprived princess.

THUMBELINA



A beggar woman has given a peasant's wife, who desperately wants a child, a barleycorn in exchange for food. Once planted, the barleycorn sprouts

a tiny girl named Thumbelina from its flower. One night Thumbelina is kidnapped by a toad who wants the tiny Thumbelina as a bride for her son. With the help of friendly fish and a butterfly, Thumbelina escapes the toad and her son, but all alone, she suffers from the elements, and keeps coming in contact with creatures who want her to marry other creature friends of theirs. Luckily,

Thumbelina is eventually able to flee to a faraway land with a swallow she nursed back to health during the winter. In a field of flowers, Thumbelina meets a tiny flower-fairy prince just her size, and the two wed. She even receives a pair of wings so that she can fly with her husband from flower to flower.

See the story come to life in: the 1994 animated Warner Brothers film *Thumbelina*.

THE LITTLE MERMAID



The Little Mermaid lives in a sea kingdom with her father and five sisters. When a mermaid turns 15, she is allowed to swim to the surface to view the world

above. Growing up listening to her sisters' descriptions, the Little Mermaid becomes increasingly curious about the world outside the sea. When it's finally her turn, she falls in love with a handsome prince she sees on a ship. Just then, a great storm hits, and the Little Mermaid saves the prince from drowning. She brings him to shore but leaves before he awakes and watches as another young woman sees him and fetches help. Desperate to meet the prince, the Little Mermaid visits the Sea Witch who sells her a potion that will give her human legs in exchange for the Little Mermaid's beautiful singing voice. The Sea Witch warns her that if the prince does not fall in love with her, she will die of a broken heart. On land, the Little Mermaid meets the prince who is enchanted with her despite her being mute. However, his father orders that he marry the neighboring king's daughter, who turns out to be the young woman who found the prince after the Little Mermaid saved him. Thinking that the young woman was the one who saved his life, not the Little Mermaid, the prince marries her. The Sea Witch then informs the Little Mermaid of a loophole; she can avoid death

herself if she kills the prince. Heartbroken, though still full of love, the Little Mermaid gives up her own life, but her compassionate and selfless deed allows her to live on happily as a spirit, also known as a "daughter of the air."

See the story come to life in the wildly popular Disney animated 1989 film *The Little Mermaid*, which has a much happier ending!

THE SNOW QUEEN



A tale told in seven individual stories, *The Snow Queen* features many characters, two of which are a

young boy named Kai and a young girl named Gerda who live next door to each other. One day Kai's grandmother tells them the story about the Snow Queen, who rules over snowflakes. Kai eventually encounters the Snow Queen who takes him in her sleigh to her palace. The heartbroken Gerda goes out searching for him. After she learns the Snow Queen has taken him, Gerda travels north with reindeer to the Snow Queen's palace. Finding him alone on a frozen lake under a spell, which has given him an icy heart, Gerda runs up to Kai and kisses him. Her warm tears and love melts his heart and breaks the spell. Without encountering the Snow Queen, the two travel back home together with the reindeer and are delighted that it is now summertime.

See the story come to life in the Disney 2013 film sensation *Frozen*, which was loosely inspired by *The Snow Queen*.

Interested in reading the full versions of these stories? Check out a book from your local library that features a compilation of Anderson's fairy tales. Or read them online at FairyTalesCollection.com.

What Makes a Fairy Tale Anyway?

The different characteristics of fairy tales, myths, legends, fables, and folktales

The Emperor's New Clothes is what we call a "fairy tale" but there are many other kinds of stories that are a lot like a fairy tale, including fables, folktales, legends and myths, just to name a few. And while many these genres have a lot in common, they each have their own distinctive traits that make them unique. Read on to see which category some of your favorite stories fall in!

| CATEGORY | PURPOSE | FEATURES | FAMOUS STORYTELLER(S) | EXAMPLES |
|------------|--|---|---|--|
| Fairy Tale | Usually to entertain children | Magic and imaginary beings and lands | Hans Christian Andersen, The Brothers Grimm (Jacob and Wilhelm) | <i>The Emperor's New Clothes; Rapunzel</i> |
| Folktale | To entertain or speak to timeless themes | Supernatural elements or sometimes just the story of the common person | Popular culture and oral tradition | <i>The Headless Horseman; Paul Bunyan</i> |
| Fable | Teaches a moral lesson through a short story | Talking animals as characters | Aesop | <i>The Tortoise and the Hare; The Boy Who Cried Wolf</i> |
| Legend | To pass down stories of well-known people and places from generation to generation | A historical basis—though often exaggerated and not completely factually accurate | Popular culture and oral tradition | <i>Robin Hood; King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table</i> |
| Myth | To teach a important lesson or offer reasoning for a natural wonder | Symbolism and supernatural or godly beings | Popular culture and oral tradition | The stories of Narcissus, who drowned in a puddle while staring at his own reflection, and Helios, a god who drove his Sun chariot across the sky each day |

RHYME TIME

Because he wants to be the only one who is creative with language, the Emperor outlawed rhyming in his kingdom; but lucky for us, we don't live there! So we can rhyme in phrases all we want. Want to give it a try? It's easy to learn. Write out a few rhymes based on different parts of your life. We give you lists below to help you.

Write a rhyme about. . .



SCHOOL



HOME



A FRIEND



SUMMER



YOUR PET

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|---------|-----|
| Fool | Comb | Mend | Bummer | Wet |
| Rule | Foam | Lend | Drummer | Bet |
| Cool | Gnome | End | Plumber | Vet |
| Drool | Dome | Defend | Hummer | Yet |
| Pool | Roam | Send | Glummer | Get |

Now write a few rhyming sentences about anything you want!



Memory Game

The Emperor has a lot of fun making up words, but can you remember what all those words meant? Give it a try and match the words below to their meaning.

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Sploondoopy | Not good |
| Swelligant | Agitated |
| Moogelish | Wonderful |
| Chunkadilly | Better than good |
| Tinkerdoodled | Wrinkled |
| Binkerlicious | Excited |

Answers on page 5

Now it's time to make up some of your own words! What are some creative words you can think of that mean. . .

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Happy | _____ | _____ |
| Shy | _____ | _____ |
| Messy | _____ | _____ |
| Angry | _____ | _____ |
| Loud | _____ | _____ |
| Shiny | _____ | _____ |

Crazy Costumes

For Imaginary Theatre Company's production of *The Emperor's New Clothes*, our costume designer, Dorothy Marshall Englis, created lots of wonderful costume designs. Choose your own colors for the design below.

