



Stone Soup and Other Stories

By: Skylar Gallo - Grade 4, Western School, Naugatuck

On October 15, 2009, another student from Western School and I were able to go to the Palace Theater. The Palace Theater is very beautiful. We went to see Stone Soup and Other Stories. It was presented by the Pushcart Players.

The first story was Freddie Lee Fisher who is 8 years old. One day her grandma gave her a cake to take home. On her way home she dropped the cake. Papa told her the next time to carry it under her hat. Next visit to Grandma's house she gets a stick of butter. She put the stick of butter under her hat like Papa said but the butter melted. Papa said next time wrap the butter in leaves and cool it in the creek. The next visit she gets a puppy. So she wraps it up in leaves and then cools it in the creek. The puppy got all wet. When she got home Papa had baked some pies and said be careful stepping in the pies. So Freddie Lee carefully stepped right in the center of the pies. Papa was mad. Then Papa realized that all Freddie Lee had been doing was what he told her to do and wasn't mad any more.

The second story was The Greatest Being in the World. Rashi was a Princess who was in love with Kashi the mouse catcher. Her father the King said that Kashi wasn't good enough for the Princess to marry. The King said Rashi should marry the greatest being in the world. The King thought the Sun is the greatest being in the world because if the sun didn't rise in the morning the whole world would have no sunlight. So they went to see the sun. The Sun said Cloud was the greatest bring in the world because Cloud could block Sun and Sun can't do anything about it. So they go to see Cloud but Cloud says no the greatest being in the world is Wind because Cloud gets pushed everywhere because of Wind. When they get to Wind he says the greatest being in the world is Mountain because nobody in the world can push Mountain not even the Wind. So when they get to Mountain he says the greatest being in

the world is someone who catches mice because they crawl all over Mountain. Kashi catches mice. So Kashi must be the greatest being in the world. So Rashi and Kashi married and they lived happily ever after.

The third story is The Long One. It's about a rabbit and a monkey in the jungle. The monkey talks a lot. Rabbit thought Monkey was annoying. One day when Rabbit came home and a deep voice from inside his house said, "I am the Long One. Go away or I will trample on you!" Rabbit was terrified. Monkey tried to help him but Rabbit shooed him away not listening to him. Then along came Ostrich. He told Rabbit he wanted to put sticks and twigs in front of Rabbit's door and burn the house down. Rabbit told him no in a not kind way. Tiger came along a little while later and he wanted to scratch the door down. Rabbit said no in a non kind way. Then Rhino wanted to roll the house down the hill. Rabbit said no in a non kind way. Monkey came back and offered to help. Rabbit finally said ok he will try anything that will not knock his house down. Monkey bravely scared The Long One out. The Long One ended up only being a small caterpillar. If Rabbit listened to Monkey he would of saved himself a lot of trouble.

The last story is Stone Soup. This story is about Matushka, Petrushka and Babaganushka. They were annoyed with Setonka. They didn't want to feed him so they made up a lie about there being no more plants or chickens in the pen. Setonka was lonely and hungry and he thought of tricking them. He told them they could make soup with a stone. First you need a stone so they found a nice round stone and then they needed a stirring spoon so they got a stirring spoon. After that he says if only we had onions and carrots but they said there are no plants left. They said maybe they had a few left and went and got carrots and onions. Last he said they needed a chicken but the chickens ran away. So they had to make up another lie and say that they found a black chicken wandering. By the time they were done they made a delicious soup. All the time they were making the soup they sang the stone soup song. They finally all came together and forgot that they were mad at Setonka and had a good time.

This play was a lot of fun. There were many lessons learned. The crowd really liked it. Everyone really enjoyed singing during Stone Soup. It was a very silly song. My favorite was The Greatest Being in the World. Anyone can be the greatest being in the world in someone else's eyes. So can you!

Palace Theater Review

By: Alyssa Peterson - Grade 4, Western School, Naugatuck

These shows were absolutely amazing!!!! The shows are Freddie Lee Fisher, The Greatest Being, The Long One, and Stone Soup. They were humorous and entertaining. The audience was allowed to participate in two stories and each had a unique moral. Freddie Lee Fisher is about a girl who likes to visit her grandma. Her Grandma always gives her presents when she leaves. The first present was a cake. As she was walking home, she dropped it. She tried to fix it. When she arrived home, her Dad wondered why the cake was squashed. She told him what happened. Freddie Lee's Dad told her that she should have put the cake under her hat and carefully walked home. A few days later, she went to Grandma's house to visit. Her Grandma gave her a stick of butter before she left. Freddie Lee remembered her Dad's directions about the cake and decide to follow his advice. She put the butter under her hat and walked home. Unfortunately, the butter melted. When her dad saw the melted butter on her head, he was upset and told her the correct way to carry home a stick of butter. At her next visit, her Grandma gave her a puppy. Freddie lee remembered her father's directions about carrying the butter and decided to follow them for carrying home the puppy. However, the puppy was not happy when she got home. This continued for several more times. Every time she would get home, her presents were ruined. Although she was following her father's directions, she was doing it for the wrong items. At the end of the story, the actors and actresses sang no matter what you do, you will always be loved.

The Greatest Being is about a princess and her royal mouse catcher who fall in love and want to get married. Her Dad tells her that she must marry the greatest being in the world. So she went to sun. The King asked the sun, "Will you marry my daughter since you are the greatest being in the world?" The sun replied, "I am not the greatest being in the world, the cloud is. He keeps blocking me. He is the one you want." So they went to the cloud. The King asked cloud, "Will you marry my daughter since you are the greatest being in the world?" The cloud answered, "I am not the greatest being in the world, the wind is. He is always blowing me around. He is the one you want." So they traveled to the wind. The King asked the wind, "Will you marry my daughter since you are the greatest being in the world?" The wind replied, "I am not the greatest being in the world, the wind is. I can't blow him anywhere. He just sits there all day." So they went to the mountain. The King asked the mountain, "Will you marry my daughter since you are the greatest being in the world?" The mountain answered, I am not the greatest being in the world, the mouse catcher is. Mice keep running through me and I can't sleep." So the King allowed his daughter to marry the mouse catcher, just like she wanted.

The Long One is about a rabbit and a monkey who are neighbors. Monkey is very playful and full of ideas. Rabbit is not. He likes to sit and read. One day, Monkey was annoying Rabbit by continuously asking Rabbit what he wanted to do. Rabbit told Monkey to be quiet.

Rabbit did not want to play so he went home. When Rabbit arrived at his house, he heard a voice inside. This is when the audience came in. Whenever Rob the narrator, said "and the dreadful voice said," the audience said,, "I am the Long One, go away or I will trample on you." Rabbit was terrified and thought there was a monster in his house! He had a bunch of his friends come over to try to get the monster out, but none of them could do it. The audience continued to say, "I am the Long One, go away or I will trample on you." Rabbit was so upset and afraid to go into his house. Finally, he was so desperate that he asked Monkey to help him. Monkey was able to get the mysterious monster to come out. Once he came out, the friends realized the "monster" was only a caterpillar. Rabbit was so thankful so he threw a big party for Monkey to celebrate.

Stone Soup is about four friends. Three friends lived next door to each other and the other one comes over to eat with them. One day, the fourth friend was three hours late for dinner. The three friends were angry with him and didn't want to feed him. They decided to lie to him and say they were out of food. When the friend finally arrived, they told him there was no more food. He did not believe them so he created a plan to prove to them they were lying. He decided to make his own soup and called it "Stone Soup". He got a rock and carved it into a bowl. He said to the three friends, "It's too bad that I don't have any water for my soup." One of the three friends said she has water and goes and gets it for him. While she is getting the water, the audience sings, "Stone Soup, Stone Soup, soup from a stone, Hey!" Next he says, "It's too bad that I don't have a spoon". The other friend replied, "I have a spoon" and he goes off to get one. While he is getting the spoon, the audience sings "Stone Soup, Stone Soup, soup from a stone, Hey!" Next he says "It is too bad I don't have any carrots." The third friend replied, "I have some carrots" and he goes off to get them for him. While he is getting the carrots, the audience sings "Stone Soup, Stone Soup, soup from a stone, Hey!" This continues until the soup is complete. In the end, his plan worked. He proved that three friends were lying. All friends apologized to each other and they all eat the soup together.

I would give the show four thumbs up! You should definitely try to see it next time it plays.

Visit to Palace Theater to See "Stone Soup and Other Stories"

By: Saumya Shah - Grade 4, Prospect St. School, Naugatuck

The Palace Theater is in Waterbury, Connecticut. In 1920, the theater began construction. After 2 years, the Palace had officially opened its doors to the public. The palace is so large it can seat 2,600 people and the orchestra pit can hold up to 65 musicians!

On October 15th, I had chance to go the Palace Theater from my school Prospect St School in Naugatuck. There were 4 plays.

Freddy Lee The first play was about a girl whose name was Freddy Lee. She could not remember about her grandma's warnings so she ended up dropping a cake, churned butter, losing a puppy, and stepping on her dad's pies but her dad still loved her.

The Greatest Being The second play was from India and was about finding who the greatest being in the world was. The girl's father was a king and the girl was a princess. They were on a search to find the greatest being so the princess could marry him. They thought sun was the greatest. But it wasn't. They asked Cloud, Wind, Mountain, and found that the mouse catcher was the greatest being of all because he caught the mice that stopped mountain from sleeping.

The Long One The third play is about a rabbit and a monkey who weren't friends. One day, though, The Long One was in Rabbit's house. He asked all the animals in the jungle to help him get the Long One out of his house. But Monkey's plan was the only one able to get the Long One out. But the Long One was really just a caterpillar.

Stone Soup The last play was Stone Soup. This one came from Russia and is about 3 people who are angry with a man so they lied to the man and said they don't have any food for him to eat. The man told them about stone soup because he felt sorry for them. The 3 people were confused but brought a stirring spoon, an onion, carrots, some chicken, and the most important ingredient, a stone to help make the soup. When they drank the soup they thought it tasted great.

Interviews : Actors : Oscar, Phebe, Rob and Robin

We had chance to ask few questions after the plays. We received some advice from the actors and actresses. They said things like it is very important to act natural. Rob said one of his favorite roles was, the man in Stone Soup, for Phebe it was Freddy Lee and for Oscar it was the sun and the mountain, and for Robin it was being one of the three people in Stone Soup.

I also interviewed few kindergarteners they said their favorite play was Stone Soup and they liked the singing best about the show.

Stone Soup and Other Stories

By: Tajanik Jones, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury

On Thursday October 15, 2009, many children gathered in excitement at the beautiful Palace Theater in Waterbury, CT to see the wonderful production of Stone Soup and other stories by the Pushcart Players. This play told four stories of happiness, love, friendship, and remembering. Many elementary schools included Maloney, St. Mary's, and Regan grades k-2nd. They all came to watch this production. Children anxiously waited, looking at the amazing hall of the Palace. As the lights went down, the children, their chaperones, and the teachers clapped as the talented actors entertained everyone, singing songs, dancing, and the kids were jumping up and down, singing along.

Through all four short stories of the play the actors stayed true to their characters with different costumes and accents such as western, Italian, and African accents. Actors had great projection and used the space very well, moving around. The children were always paying attention and always interested; they never wandered nor talked. My favorite story of the play was the first short story about a young southern boy named Freddie Fisher who always became side tracked and couldn't remember the directions his grandmother and his father would give him. That was my favorite because it had a little bit of everything in it: dancing, singing, and they also involved the audience and sent a message to children that they could understand.

After the show was over, I met with one of the actors and got to ask a question. I met with Robert Rivera and I asked him what made him want to become an actor and be in the entertainment business. He answered, "When I was a little boy, I used to love to dance and sing, but when I was in high school I was in the high school musical and that's when I determined this was right for me ." He also said that his director helped get him into other projects making him known which led him into this play which I think he enjoyed and did a great job!

All Agree-Palace is the Place to Be!

By: Emily Hazelton, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury

My fellow reporters and I walked into our gorgeous Palace to the sound of upbeat music and little kids laughing. The show was *Stone Soup and Other Stories*, performed by the Pushcart Players. There was an atmosphere of excitement in the air! The people in the house were anxious for the show to start. Before the lights went down, however, I decided to interview a few audience members.

Thomas, from Maloney, when asked what he thought of the Palace, said, "I like it here. I've been here before, and it's so pretty!" His teachers could only agree. Jacob, from St. Mary's, simply put it this way, "I'm really excited. I can't wait for the show to start." It was evident that he was not the only one. I could tell that by the faces of all the youngsters as they bounced impatiently in their seats.

Personally, I loved the show! I could tell the crowd did, too. What I loved the best was the audience participation, something you just can't get with older kids. Elementary school students have no problem singing along with the people on stage. I also liked the versatility of the actors' character costumes. Just add a feather boa and a fancy mask and the Indian princess suddenly transforms into an ostrich for the next story!

"I liked playing the ostrich because she's a very bold and dramatic character," Robin, one of the Pushcart Players, told us. "I think that really fits my personality. I'm a dramatic person." Well, no matter where we're from, we all agree-- our beautiful Palace is the place to be!

Stone Soup and Other Stories

By: Talia Marino, St Mary's School, Waterbury

"Stone Soup and Other Stories" was a great play. The cast played many mind-provoking characters. In my opinion, they were able to transform into different characters with ease. They were also very enthusiastic and they interacted with the children very well. When we interviewed the cast, they answered us with educational and helpful answers. Another amazing factor of this experience was the audience. The cast got the audience to sing and dance with them. All of the children were having so much fun! In addition, Mrs. Streeter seemed to be eager to share her knowledge about the Palace Theater. She gave us a nice tour and told us about the history of the Palace. In conclusion, the cast was very professional and they had fun. The Palace is a very nice theater and I hope they continue their excellence.

Stone Soup and Other Stories

By: Khira Francis, St. Mary's School, Waterbury

The cast of the show is very funny and confident. All four of the actors, Oscar, Phoebe, Rob, and Robin, are very enthusiastic about their roles. The cast seems to like their roles and plays. They transition story to story very well. Their stories seem very well chosen and funny. All their stories were about memory, listening, sharing and love. These stories take place in Russia, an African jungle, and in a rural area. The audience is having a great time saying lines and singing along with the cast. Some sections of the audience are clapping rhythms to the songs. The audience had a lot of fun. All in all I had a fun time and everyone had fun especially since there were a lot of little kids. Everyone liked the songs, especially the opening and closing songs. In my opinion it was great. This play was probably the best I have ever seen out of all the plays at the Palace Theater. I'd like to see another one soon.