

The New York Times



Building Character Onstage™
Children's Theatre Company



By Laurel Graeber

Although those who rise to power often do so on the backs of others, this is literally true in the *Dr. Seuss* story “Yertle the Turtle,” in which the title character makes himself the tallest throne from a stack of his subjects. The hero is the bottommost turtle, Mack, and by the end, well, how the mighty have fallen.

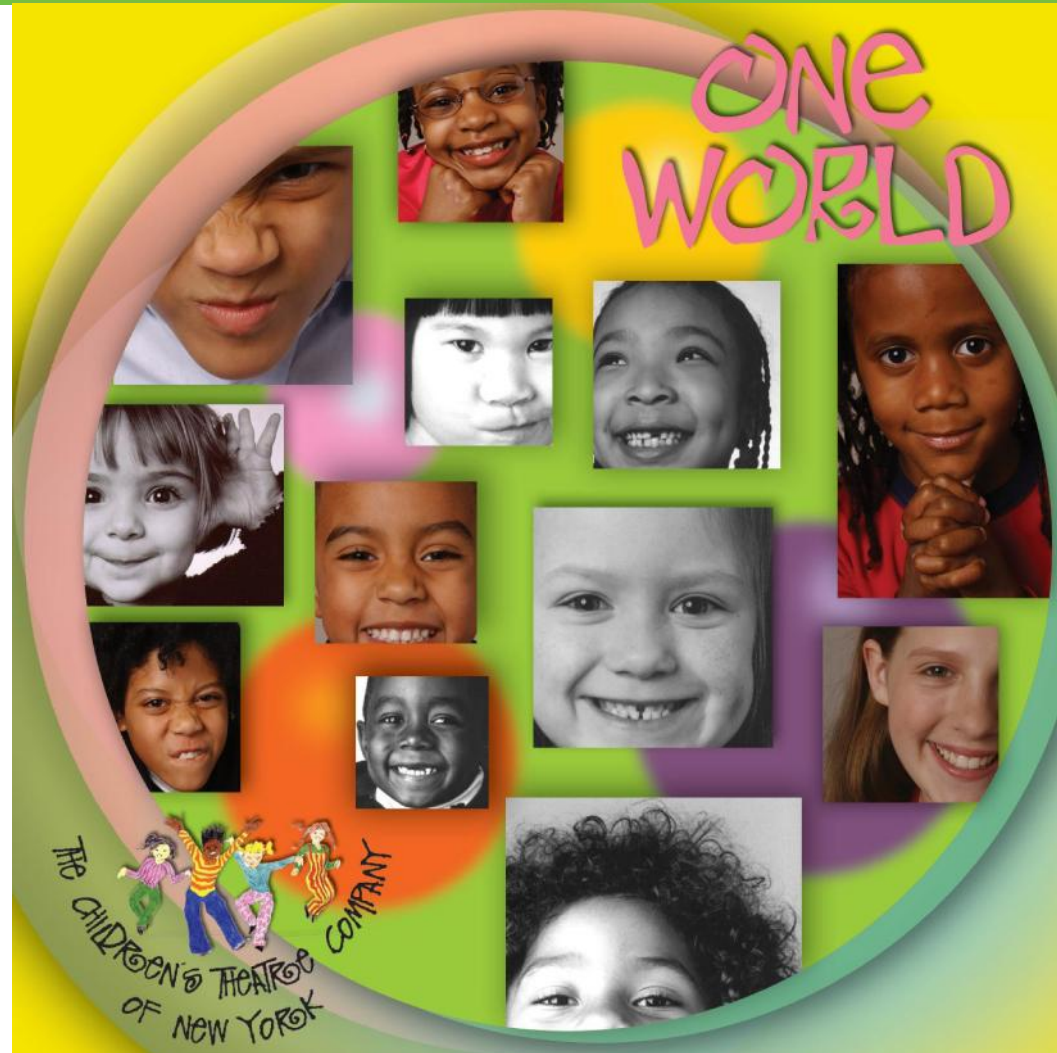
This tale, beloved by young readers is now being performed by them in a triple bill of one-act musicals by *The Children's Theatre Company*.

The showcase is dividing according to the age of the actors, and “Yertle,” adapted by Lory Lazarus, presents the talents of the tiniest. Training 4 to 7-year olds is an art in itself, and what this production lacks in seamlessness it makes up for in charm. “*King Kunka Bunka and the Rotten Royal Rascals*,” by Mehr Mansuri (the troupe’s founder and artistic director), Frank Sanchez, features 11- to 14-year olds. Written in Seuss-style rhyme, the show centers on a widowed monarch’s search for an heir. Her children, hopelessly unqualified, represent vices indicated by their nicknames: Proudaska, Chatterina, Rudekof, etc. Their deficiencies exposed, the royal offspring are sent off to spend a year at tasks intended to reform them. (Chatterina, for instance, has to work in a library.) Acted with great brio, this tuneful fairy tale emphasizes the value of service without being preachy.

The final one-act, “*Respect: A Musical History of Women*,” based on a book by Dorothy Marcic, uses popular song to chronicle American women’s struggle for rights and self-awareness. Enthusiastically performed by actors ages 7 to 11, it travels a musical route from “*Bill Bailey*” (1902) to “*I Will Survive*” (1978) and beyond. It’s all great fun, with one caveat: The program runs slightly over two hours. Like children at the table, those at the theatre often do better with a delicious snack - say, one or two of these shows - than with a three-course banquet.

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CHORAL SONG BOOK

CTC Resident Composers:
 Eric Dozier, Lory Lazarus, Jack Lenz, Frank Sanchez
 Grammy Winning children's songwriter
 Red Grammer*

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Dear Music Educator -
 CTC Choral Residencies provide a unique opportunity to address social, ethical, global issues while introducing young musicians to a **variety of choral music styles from Gospel / Spirituals to Folk and R&B- CTC Choirs are lively and physical.** When possible, we partner with in-school music faculty and musician students- in a full collaboration. If not, we come equipped with a full rehearsal kit and orchestral accompaniment CDs, songbooks, scores and more.

**Children's Theatre
 Company Mission**

Building Character Onstage

Utilizing theater and music as a tool for moral reasoning, CTC is rooted in the belief that through the magic of theater, children and youth can become the voices of positive change and agents of healing in the world.



Three-Time Tony Winner Hinton
 Battle Recording CTC Songs



Youth can move the world I know,
 With our hearts, our minds and with our souls.
 We can help all the world to see that
 What we need to have is more peace.
 Youth can change the world in time,
 If we work to let our inner light shine,
 And believe that we really do need peace.

Youth can change the world I know,
 For Baha'u'llah tells us so.
 Work to bring about unity and
 Create a world where all can be free.
 Youth can give us hope for today,
 As we live and work to keep our faith,
 And believe that we really must have peace.

Peace, wonderful peace.
 Peace universal peace,
 One world, one world.....

Youth can move the world I know,

For Licensing Information

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Sometimes I wish I was in the sky
 That my arms they had propellers and I could fly
 I'd go skywriting and up above
 I would zoom around and spell out a word called love.

Sometimes I wish that my hands would glow
 And they held the talent of Michelangelo
 My sculpture would be a cut above:
 In the marble I would carve out a word called love.

When the heart is stirred
 It's a special word
 But it's never heard enough.
 Say it every day
 Give that word away
 And life may not play so rough –
 It's a word called love.
 La la la la la la la la (etc.)

And sometimes I wish I was president
 At the podium of some very big event
 While speaking I would release a dove
 And the only word that I could say would be love.

When the heart is stirred
 It's a special word
 But it's never heard enough.
 Say it every day
 Give that word away
 And life may not play so rough –
 It's a word called love.
 La la la la la la la la (etc.)

(Say it every day
 Give that word away).... It's a word called love.

Civil Rights Medley	1
Earth Alive	2
Everything is God	3
Greatest Moments	4
I am a Promise.....	5
I Think You're Wonderful.....	6
Lazy Waves.....	7
One World.....	8
Prophet Song.....	9
Say Hi.....	10
Soon I Will Be Done.....	11
Teaching Peace.....	12
We are Drops.....	13
What Do We Want.....	14
Word Called Love	15
Youth Can Move the World.....	16

This little Light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
 This little Light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
 This little Light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine
 Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine
 Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine
 Because I love humanity, I'm gonna let it shine
 Because I love humanity, I'm gonna let it shine
 Because I love humanity, I'm gonna let it shine

(MUSIC)

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around, turn me around, turn me around!
 Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around! Keep on walkin'; keep on talkin,
 Marchin' onto freedom land.

(MUSIC)

Ain't gonna let racism turn me around, turn me around, turn me around!
 Ain't gonna let racism turn me around, turn me around, turn me around!
 Keep on walkin'; keep on talkin',
 Marchin' onto freedom land.

I'm gonna lay down my burden down by the riverside.
 Down by the riverside, down by the
 riverside.

I'm gonna lay down by the riverside.
 Study war no more -I ain't gonna study war no more.

I ain't gonna study no more.

Study war no moreeeee!

I ain't gonna study no more!

I ain't gonna study no more!

Study war no more- I aint gonna study war no more!

I ain't gonna study war no more

Study war no moreeeee!

I ain't gonna study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more

Study war no more.

Study war no more.

Study war no more (slow)

NO MORE WAR, NO MORE WAR, NO MORE WAR!

Leader: What do we want
 What any human being wants
 What do we want
 What any human being wants

Verse 1: When will we tire of living in a state of war
 Put an end to all this killing
 Can't remember what we're fighting for

Leader: What do we want

Response: What do we want

Leader: What any human being wants

Response: What any human being wants

(REPEAT)

Verse 2: When we care about our children more than we do ourselves
 We'll put an end to all their suffering
 Put our differences up on the shelf

Leader: What do we want

Response: What do we want

Leader: What any human being wants

Response: What any human being wants

(REPEAT)

Chorus: We want food to eat
 Shoes on our feet
 Shelter overhead
 Tired of all this death

We want to be free from suffering
 We want to hear our freedom ring
 We want to live in peace
 In peace and harmony

(REPEAT)

Vamp: We want to sing the harmonies of peace

Free just to be!

VERSE 1:

We are drops
Of one ocean
We are waves
Of one sea

CHORUS:

Come and join us
Come and join us
In our quest for Unity

(REPEAT VERSE 1 and CHORUS)

VERSE 2:

We are flowers
Of one garden
We are leaves
Of one tree

(CHORUS)

(REPEAT VERSE 2 and CHORUS)

VERSE 3:

All the world
Is one country
Man is one
Can't you see

(CHORUS)

(REPEAT VERSE 3 and CHORUS)

There's a fish and a turtle swimming in a lake
Searching for the way to go back home
They both are lost because
They can't see through the pollution,
And ev'ry creature in the lake
Is praying for a quick solution...

(CHORUS)

Someday when we wake up the sky may not be blue!
Someday wild animals might all live in the zoo!
And someday we're going to all be grown-ups just like you,
And when that day comes...
We want the earth to be alive!

There's a rare jungle orchid in the amazon,
Its petals drop and wither in a fire.
A man burns down the forest
So there's room to raise his cattle—
We hear our planet crying out
But there's still time to win the battle!

(CHORUS)

Someday when we wake up the sky may not be blue!
Someday wild animals might all live in the zoo!
And someday we're going to all be grown-ups just like you,
And when that day comes...
We want the earth to be alive!

A dancer swaying, an Irish woman praying
 A minstrel playing – everyone is God.
 An old man snoring, an eagle scout exploring
 A gymnast soaring – everyone is God.

A young girl skating, a congressman debating
 Two school kids dating – everyone is God.
 A new babe crying, a wounded soldier dying,
 His spirit flying – everyone is God...

Just look at anyone,
 God is everyone,
 Why should that be so odd?
 And since God is everyone,
 Talk to anyone
 And you can talk to God.

The beehive swarming, a new stalactite forming,
 A campfire warming – everything is God.
 Lilacs blooming, Persian kittens grooming,
 Fireworks booming – everything is God.

The night owl calling, turtle babies crawling,
 Snowflakes falling – everything is God.
 Starlight gleaming, Kirk and Scotty beaming,
 Hugging, dreaming – everything is God...

Just look at anything,
 God is everything,
 Why should that be so odd?
 And since God is everything,
 Be with anything
 And you can be with God.

Everyone and everything is God, everyone and everything is God...
 (Everyone and everything, everyone and everything...)
 (Is God.... Is God....)

Chorus

Teaching peace all the world around
 You and me every city every town
 One by one in our work and in our play
 We are teaching peace by what we do and what we say

It's up to us to show we care
 Reaching out to everybody everywhere
 Heart to heart and friend to friend
 Circling all around the world and back again

(Chorus)

So take my hand and come along
 It's time to sing the world a brand new song
 So sing it loud and sing it clear
 All together now so everyone can hear

(Chorus)

Sound off! One, two, three, four...
 It's up to us to show we care
 Reaching out to everybody everywhere
 Heart to heart and friend to friend
 Circling all around the world and back again

(Chorus)

Soon I will be done with the troubles of the world
Troubles of the world
Troubles of the world
Soon I will be done with the troubles of the world
Going home to live with GOD.
GOD.

TENOR / BASS:

Soon I will be done (REPEAT X3)

SOPRANO/ ALTO:

Soon I will be done with the troubles of the world
troubles of the world
troubles of the world

TENOR / BASS:

Going home to live with

SOPRANO:

God

No more
Weepin' and a wailin'
No more
Weepin' and a wailin'
No more
weepin' and a wailin'

Going home to live with God.

Verse 1

If we could see- what
just one could imagine
Imagine for a moment
What could be done
A moment of insight
Of inspiration
The greatest moments
The greatest moments
The greatest moments
Are still to come

CHORUS

Now is a great time to alive
The world is moving to a brilliant sun
Now is a great time for man, wom-
an, child
I tell you children, I tell you some-
thin'
My human family, I tell you some-
thin'
The Greatest Moments are still to
come

Verse 2

Believe in our best
Do your best to believe
A moment of truth
A moment for one
One man, one woman, one child,
one planet
The greatest moments
The greatest moments
The greatest moments
Are still to come

CHORUS

Now is a great time to alive
The world is moving to a brilliant sun
Now is a great time for man, woman,
child
I tell you children, I tell you somethin'
My human family, I tell you somethin'
The Greatest Moments are still to
come

BRIDGE

We will be
One human family
We will be
One family
We will
Forever, together
We will see
A new world comin'
Our star is rising
Our star is shining
Shining through the night

SOLO

"We will be
One family"
Please say yes,
Say yes for children everywhere
(repeat 4X)

Repeat Verse 1
Repeat Chorus

I am a promise
I am a possibility
I am a promise
With a capital P
I am a great big bundle of potentialities.
And if I listen
I can hear God's voice
And if I try it
He'll help me make the right choice.
I am a promise to be
Anything God wants me to be.

(REPEAT)

Did you know some folks are shy
When it comes to sayin' hi!
They feel funny deep inside and they turn their heads away
They think no one wants to meet 'em
And nobody really needs 'em
So when you go up to greet 'em they turn their heads away

Chorus

You've gotta stand up tall
Gather up a smile
Take a big breath
Look 'em in the eye and say "Hi!"
So take it from your dog or cat
They've got their hellos down pat
Meow, meow, meow, woof, woof, yap, yap,
They don't turn their heads away
So when someone is sayin' hi!
And its your turn for feeling shy
You might want to run and hide but don't turn your head away

(Chorus)

So when you're walking down the street
Say hello to those you meet
Don't be looking down at your feet
You've got to look 'em in the eye and say "Hi!"

Noah, Abraham, Krishna
Moses, Zoro Aster, Buddha
Jesus Christ and Mohammed
The Bab and Baha'ullah
They are the ways of one seed
They are the birds of one tree
Singing one song
They are the lamps of one light
Come and be there lovers
Be lovers, be lovers of light

REPEAT

Noah, Abraham, Krishna
Moses, Zoro Aster, Buddha
Jesus Christ, and Mohammed
The Bab and Baha'ullah

I think you're wonderful,
When somebody says that to me
I feel wonderful as wonderful can be
It makes me want to say
the same thing to somebody new
And by the way I've been meaning to say
I think you're wonderful too.

When we practice this phrase in the most honest way
Find something special in someone each day
To lift up the world one heart at a time
It all starts by saying this one simple line.

I think you're wonderful,
When somebody says that to me
I feel wonderful as wonderful can be
It makes me want to say
the same thing to somebody new
And by the way I've been meaning to say
I think you're wonderful too.

When each one of us feels important inside
Loving and giving and glad we're alive
Oh what a difference we'll make in each day
All because someone decided to say.

I think you're wonderful,
When somebody says that to me
I feel wonderful as wonderful can be
It makes me want to say
the same thing to somebody new

And by the way I've been meaning to say
I think you're wonderful too.

And by the way I've been meaning to say
I think you're wonderful too.

CHORUS:

Lazy waves come rolling on the sand,
I hold a wildwood flower in my hand.
Driftwood floating in across the bay
Like old familiar songs that come from far away.

Sing about the laughing of the wind
And – sing about the mood you’re in,
And the used car dealers
And the preachers and the healers
And the first time you learned how to pray –
Sing about anything you want –
It’s okay.

Silver fishes glistening in the sun,
I wonder how they dance and move as one?
On the breeze a sea bird floats on by –
My soul it feels just like it’s soaring in the sky.

(CHORUS)

I sing into a seashell as I lift it to my ear –
My song spirals back to me, and then the notes disappear.

Lazy waves being playful where I stand,
I watch my footprints melting in the sand.
Colored beads of beach glass roll and sway,
And slowly smooth the edges of my life away.

(CHORUS)

Sing about anything you want –
It’s okay.

There’s a brown man telling stories
to children in Bombay
As a black man and a white man
play baseball in L.A.
While the yellow man in Bangkok
sips tea beneath a fan,
A red man sells his pots and wares
in the Yucatan.

They may look different on the outside,
Speak many languages and seem so far
apart,
But take a good look on the inside:
The design is all the same, starting with
each beating heart.

We’re really just One World –
spinning in the night.
One World – a jewel of blue and white.
One World – will heaven’s work be done?
From the heart of God
may light shine from the sun,
And on this earth awaken everyone.

There’s a Buddhist burning incense –
and somewhere while he chants,
A woman worships Gaia,
doing mother nature’s dance.
While the Jew prays the Messiah
is going to reappear,
A Hindu and a Muslim are
embracing in Kashmir.

They may seem different on the outside,
Have some beliefs that to another
might seem odd.
But take a good look on the inside:
Everyone’s a shining light –
equal in the eyes of God.

We’re really just One World –
spinning in the night.
One World – a jewel of blue and
white.
One World – will heaven’s work be
done?
From the heart of God may light shine
from the sun,
And on this earth awaken everyone.

Bridge:
We wonder why in Belfast
peoples’ lives are sacrificed
When Protestants and Catholics
both worship the same Christ.
We wonder why Jerusalem
can’t be a city where
Every inch of street everyone could
share....

We’re really just One World –
spinning in the night.
One World – a jewel of blue and
white.
One World – will heaven’s work be
done?
From the heart of God may light shine
from the sun,
And on this earth awaken every(one)

(One) World – spinning in the night.
One World – a jewel of blue and
white.
One World – will heaven’s work be
done?
From the heart of God may light shine
from the sun,
And on this earth awaken everyone.

One!