



WITH TWO WINGS

BY ANNE NEGRI

Department of Theatre and Dance

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY





The **Appalachian Young People's Theatre** is committed to bringing high quality, low-cost live theatre experiences to young audiences in North Carolina and the surrounding region. The AYPT touring program has been offered as part of the Appalachian State University Department of Theatre and Dance curriculum since 1972.

The mission of Appalachian Young People's Theatre is to produce a variety of quality plays with educational value including fairy tales, folk tales, audience participation plays, and musicals primarily for elementary school audiences. AYPT's productions are seen by up to 6,500 young people each spring, largely in rural areas. The company consists of dedicated undergraduate students from the Department of Theatre and Dance at Appalachian under the direction of Professor Teresa Lee. If you would like more information or have questions concerning the play or this study guide, please let us know. Also letters and/or pictures and projects made by your students are always welcome and most appreciated!

Contact:

Teresa Lee

Director of Appalachian Young People's Theatre

Appalachian State University

Department of Theatre and Dance

Boone, NC 28608

Phone: (828) 262--6376

Email: leete@appstate.edu

To our Fellow Educators:

This performance study guide provides some background information about the play and our company as well as activities, which can be integrated into your curriculum. These activities are intended to further the students' appreciation of the play as well as introduce to both the teacher and the student the many ways in which drama can be incorporated into the classroom. We believe this experience should encourage creativity, nourish an appreciation of live theatre, and allow a further insight into ourselves, resulting in the cultural enrichment of our young people. Since our audiences range in grade levels, we have included a variety of activities. We encourage you to choose and use the information and age-appropriate activities in a way that will best suit the needs of your students. Feel free to photocopy any part of this booklet for educational purposes.

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With Two Wings

by Anne Negri

Play Synopsis

Imagine if you will, a world of flight. A world in which humans are born with wings to soar through the skies. In this world lives a boy named Lyf who lives a sheltered life with his Mom and Dad away from others of their own kind. His whole life has been a series of rules but none more important than Rule #1- Never, ever try to fly. And Lyf has never questioned these rules, until the day Meta and Taur flew over the wall and into his life. Now Lyf must look at his life and decide if there is more to Lyf than what his parents have raised him to believe. This play hopes to remind audiences that there is nothing wrong with being different and the importance of letting children grow and learn, freeing them to spread their wings and fly.

About the Playwright

A graduate of Arizona State University, Anne Negri is a drama specialist working out of Evanston/Skokie Public schools in Illinois, with a specialty in K-5. She is an award winning writer of plays for families and young audiences. In 2014 she won the American Alliance for Theatre



and Education's Distinguished Play Award for her play *With Two Wings*, which also won Kennedy Center ACTF-Theatre for Young Audiences Award and served as finalist for the Bonderman Playwriting for Youth Symposium. Negri is also known to collaborate with the Purple Crayon Players of Northwestern University and their Playground Festival of Fresh Work held annually. *Girls Who Wear Glasses, Cave Boys, The JunGirl Book, Maddi's Fridge, Robin's Hood, and The Dancing Dog! Are among some of Negri's other published works.*

The Myth of Icarus and Daedalus

(Warning: adults, please note that live links below may contain ads.)

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there lived a talented artist. His name was Daedalus. He used his art to make buildings and temples. He was probably the finest architect of his time.

King Minos invited Daedalus to the lovely island of Crete. The king wanted Daedalus to build a maze, a Labyrinth, as a home for the king's beloved pet, the Minotaur. The Minotaur was a horrible monster, with the head of a bull on a human body. The king loved that awful monster and wanted him to have a lovely home.

Daedalus was a bit amazed at the king's choice of pet, but a job was a job. Daedalus planned to make the maze a challenge, so complicated that anyone who entered it would be lost until rescued. That way, the king would be happy, the monster would be contained, and the people would be safe. Daedalus had no doubt he could design such a maze. He really was a fine architect.

Daedalus brought his young son Icarus with him. He was sure the child would enjoy swimming and playing with the other children on the island. Both Daedalus and Icarus were happy they had come. King Minos was happy with his maze. It was peaceful and pleasant on the island. Daedalus was in no hurry to leave.

One day, [a group of Greek children sailed to the island](#). The next day, they sailed safely away, taking with them the king's lovely daughter, and leaving behind them one dead Minotaur.

King Minos was beside himself with grief. He did not believe anyone could have entered the maze and escape alive without help from someone, most probably help from the man who had designed the maze in the first place. (Actually, the children did have help, and not from Daedalus, but that's [another myth](#).) King Minos punished the innocent Daedalus by keeping Daedalus and his young son Icarus prisoners on the island of Crete.

Daedalus tried to think of ways to escape. One day, Daedalus noticed birds flying overhead. It gave him an idea. Wings. He needed wings. Daedalus began to gather all the bird feathers he could find. He glued them together with wax. When two pairs of wings were ready, he warned his young son not to fly too close to the sun or the wax would melt.

Daedalus fastened the wings to their arms. They flapped their wings and took to the sky. They left the island of Crete far behind them. Water sparkled beneath them as far as they could see. The sky was blue. The breeze was brisk, more than enough to keep them in the air. It was glorious!

Icarus flew higher and higher. He flew so high that before he knew what was happening, the sun had begun to melt the wax on his wings. Icarus felt himself falling. He flapped his arms faster and faster. But it was no use. Poor Icarus plunged into the water and drowned.

Sadly, Daedalus continued on alone.

Source Citation for text:

<https://greece.mrdonn.org/greekgods/icarus.html>

What did they say?

Vocabulary and Phrases

Inventor- A professional who creates and innovates new ideas to address problems in the real world. Famous inventors include Benjamin Franklin, George Washington Carver, Hedy Lamar, and many more.

Fledgling- A young bird at the age in which they learn to fly

Conch Shell- A shell commonly believed to allow people to hear the ocean by putting it up to their ear

Gazette- A journal or newspaper

Aerodynamics- The properties in which objects move with the wind

Smidgen- A small amount of something

Flock- A number of birds of one kind feeding, resting, or traveling together.

Dodo- An extinct flightless bird

Lift- The force that directly opposes the weight of an airplane and holds the airplane in the air.

Gravity- The force that attracts a body toward the center of the earth, or toward any other physical body having mass.

Thrust- The force which moves an aircraft through the air.

Drag- The force that opposes an aircraft's motion through the air.



Before the Performance Activities...

Theatre Vocabulary

- **Actor/Actress:** Someone who portrays a character in a play, movie, tv show, etc.
- **Character:** A fictional person portrayed by an actor/actress
- **Protagonist:** The central/main character or hero in a given show
- **Antagonist:** The principal opposing character/force in a given play or narrative
- **Theme:** The central idea or point made by the play
- **Dialogue:** What the actors say to each other in character
- **Prop/Property:** Something moveable, usually held by an actor and moved around the stage to help enhance the story.
- **Set:** The built structure to represent where the story takes place
- **Costume:** The clothing worn by the actor to help embody the character

Discussion Questions

- What makes someone a good audience member?
- In what ways is watching TV/Movies and watching a live theatre show different?
- What other kinds of live performances have you seen? Was it a dance show, concert, another play? How do they differ from each other?
- Before seeing the show read aloud the original myth of Icarus and Daedalus. Then after watching the show discuss the connections between the play and the myth.

Write!

- In this play, the characters are humans with wings. Of course, humans do not have wings in real life! Write a story in which humans have something else we don't have in real life. Give humans tails, gills, two extra arms, or anything else your mind can think of. What is life like for these humans? How does it differ from real life or the people in the play?

Perform!

- Have you ever been involved in a live performance of any kind? What do you need to create theatre? What is the difference between live performance and creating a video?

After the Performance Activities...

Discussion Questions

- Which character was your favorite and which was your least? Why?
- What moment in the show do you remember more than anything else?
- In the show, Taur encourages Lyf to break his mother's rules. Talk about a time where you were encouraged to break the rules. Did you do it? Why or why not? What happened after?
- What other kinds of live performances have you seen? Was it a dance show, concert, another play? How did it(they) differ from what you saw?
- Lyf has been told the story of the boy and his mother his whole life. What kind of stories have your parents told you since you were little?

Write!

- In this show we meet Taur who is a reporter interviewing Lyf about his life. Interview one of your family members and write a newspaper story about what they said.
- This play tells the story of humans who have wings. Write a story about another version of humanity that's different from this one and real life. It could be about humans who can breath underwater, or able to breath fire, etc. Let your imagination run wild!
- In this show Lyf takes a risk to try something he has never tried before. Think back on a time that you took a risk to try something. Write a first hand narrative about that experience. How did it turn out? Did you enjoy it?

Perform!

- Create your own character with wings. What kind of personality do they have? What do they do for fun? Join your friends with their own winged personas and form your own colony. What is a day in the colony like?
- Perform your favorite scene from the show.
- Perform what kind of adventures you think Lyf and Meta had after they flew off at the end of the show.

Cross-Curricular Activities & Resources

Art:

- Draw a picture of you/or someone you know with wings. Their wings can look like anything you can imagine and they can be doing anything. Standing, sitting, flying.
- Draw a picture of an invention. It could be original or one of your favorites. Remember that everything around you was at one point an invention so don't limit yourself to big inventions like cars or airplanes. Draw an invention that helps you do something.
- Draw a picture of the ocean. If you've never seen the ocean draw what you think it looks like.

Science:

- In the show, the term dodo is used to describe those who are unable to fly. In reality a dodo is an extinct flightless bird. In groups, research dodos and other flightless birds. Discuss why they use dodo as opposed to other flightless birds.
- Investigate how birds fly. Meta describes "lift, gravity, thrust and drag" as the four factors of flight. How do those four things work together to result in flight?

Social Studies/Language Arts:

- In this story we learned about how it is okay to be different. What other stories can you think of that emphasize this lesson. In groups, discuss the different stories you've heard.
- In this show, Lyf's dad is an inventor. Research other famous inventors. What did they invent and how is it still utilized today? Prepare a report about your inventor for your class.

Math:

- Lyf's dad is trying to build something in his worknest. He needs 23 pieces of metal to finish his project but only has 9. How many pieces of metal does he still need in order to finish his project?
- If Meta and Lyf flew 20 miles per hour for 6 minutes, how far did they travel? Hint: the formula for distance problems is: $\text{distance} = \text{rate} \times \text{time}$ or $d = r \times t$.



With Two Wings Word Search

W	W	R	D	C	U	N	L	I	G	N	A	L	H
O	R	L	O	W	O	O	L	N	A	I	A	D	A
C	E	L	E	C	D	F	A	V	O	D	R	R	C
L	C	H	S	O	D	M	W	E	I	L	E	L	U
O	W	O	O	E	C	I	A	N	N	O	H	L	T
A	I	U	N	D	K	I	E	T	H	I	T	F	A
K	N	F	E	C	O	G	D	O	H	A	A	L	H
L	G	R	E	C	H	D	D	R	T	A	E	I	I
A	S	O	N	F	O	F	T	T	O	C	F	G	T
N	O	R	D	G	Y	A	K	L	A	M	O	H	H
D	N	O	T	L	R	U	L	E	E	U	E	T	L
I	E	T	S	E	N	K	R	O	W	I	R	T	E
N	H	O	L	F	C	F	L	O	C	K	N	A	A
G	E	O	C	E	A	N	R	L	W	I	R	R	L

INVENTOR

DODO

WALL

CONCH

WINGS

FLOCK

WORKNEST

FLIGHT

TAUR

CLOAK

META

LYF

FEATHER

RULE

OCEAN

LANDING



Director's Note

Last year when I chose *With Two Wings* to produce for our 49th tour production, little did I know about what the coming year would bring. Little did any of us know that nearly everything resembling our “normal” lives would come to a complete stop. Because of the pandemic, we could no longer gather in groups. Schools shut down in-person instruction, which meant we could not bring live theatre to school audiences. For forty-nine years, that’s what AYPT has done. For thirty-three of those years, I have had the privilege to be the director of this special outreach program. Until this time last year when we had to cancel our production of *Pinocchio*, we had never had to cancel a tour. But our story is not unique. Countless arts organizations all over the world have shut down and theatres have been dark.

One of my favorite lines from *With Two Wings* is, “My teacher says, ‘With two wings and a willingness to try!’” With the commitment to wear protective equipment, practice all other safety precautions, and “a willingness to try,” my students and I decided to take the risk to produce a show. We knew there was little to no chance of performing in front of a live audience, but being able to engage in the process of creating theatre again has been, well, like having our wings back!

With few options available, the world has turned to technology to bring the “Out There” into our own isolated daily lives. In the play, we step into an isolated world of Lyf, Mom and Dad. Lyf’s mom is determined to protect her son from the harsh world “Out There,” because she has lived with the pain of being unable to fly like others. Dad is determined to find a way to fly with his son and release him to fly on his own. In a way, this is a metaphor for the struggle we’ve all been enduring. We want to protect ourselves and our loved ones from illness that could potentially be life-threatening, but we are also longing to “fly” out of our isolation and reenter the outside world.

We too are relying on technology to bring our production to you via the internet. No, it is not the same as sitting together in a theatre and having a live collective experience. But, sharing a video of our live production is the next best thing. We hope you enjoy watching this lovely story as much as we have enjoyed telling it. And we truly hope to see you live and in person next spring! Until then, thank you for inviting us into your “nest” and for supporting the Appalachian Young People's Theatre.

Teresa Lee
Director, AYPT



Appalachian State Univ. Department of Theatre & Dance
Appalachian Young People's Theatre
PRESENTS

With Two Wings

By Anne Negri

Spring 2021

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Matthew Borneman.....Dad
Allison Tuttle.....Mom
Aby Brady.....Lyf
Sarah Turner.....Meta
Savanna Hodge.....Taur

Directed By
Teresa Lee

Stage Manager: Kailin Sweet

Video projections designed by Michael Helms
Sound designed by Allison Tuttle and Matthew Borneman
Costumes and sets designed and coordinated by the company and director.

Special thanks to Matthew Tyson, Kristen Grieneisen, Elaine Hartley, Mike Helms

Video recording and editing by W.S. Pivetta