

**THE LION,  
THE WITCH AND  
THE WARDROBE**

**February 21 through March 1**



# The Chattanooga Theatre Centre Staff

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Chelsea Weiss, Costume Shop Manager

*The Chattanooga Theatre Centre gratefully acknowledges these people without whose help this production would not be possible.*

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Carina Miller

*“All my seven Narnia books... began with seeing pictures in my head.... The Lion all began with a picture of a Faun carrying an umbrella and parcels in a snowy wood. This picture had been in my mind since I was about sixteen. Then one day, when I was about forty, I said to myself: ‘Let’s try to make a story about it.’”*

*C. S. Lewis*

# *Narnia's First Citizen: C.S. Lewis 1898-1963*

Clive Staples Lewis was born in 1898. Because he hated his given name, he later took the name of his pet dog after its death, and was known as “Jack” to his good friends. He spent in his early days in a large house outside Belfast Ireland. After his mother died of cancer when he was the age of ten, Lewis found himself all alone during the days while his father worked. In his own words:

Alone in a big house full of books. I suppose that fixed a literary bent. I drew a lot, but soon began to write more. My first stories were mostly about mice (influence of Beatrix Potter), but mice usually in armor killing gigantic cats (influence of fairy stories). That is, I wrote the books I should have liked to read if only I could have got them. That's always been my reason for writing.

(Jacobs xviii)



After attending boarding school in England, Lewis received a scholarship to Oxford University. But with the outbreak of World War I, he enlisted in the British army and was sent for officer's training. He served as an officer in a light infantry division and was wounded in action in 1918. After the war, he returned to Oxford where he received his degrees in literature and philosophy. From 1924 to 1954, he served as tutor (lecturer) in English and Philosophy at Magdalene College, Cambridge. It was here around 1933 that Lewis became the center of an informal meeting of authors and scholars known as the “Inklings.” Among its many men (and they were all men) of letters was J.R.R. Tolkien, who would become a lifelong friend to Lewis. It was the purpose of the Inklings to gather, either in Lewis' offices or at local pubs, and read either drafts of works from the authors present, or discuss other literature and philosophical questions.

It was also during this time that Lewis, who had given up his Christian upbringing after his mother's death, re-affirmed his faith with the help of Tolkien, a devout Catholic. From this time, his faith became an important part of his literary work.

In 1949, Lewis showed the first few chapters of a children's book he had been working on to some of his friends. With their encouragement, he continued to form them into *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Its genesis came from a combination of his interest in mythology, his Christian beliefs and his early interest in Fairy stories.

In 1950, Lewis began a correspondence with Joy Davidman, an American poet and writer. After separating from her husband, Davidman and her two sons came to visit Lewis. By 1956, after divorcing her husband, the two were married in a civil ceremony. This was more a marriage of convenience, giving Joy legal residence in England. By the fall, she was diagnosed with bone cancer. Because of her imminent death, the marriage of convenience turned to one of love, and the two were joined in a religious ceremony at her bedside. But Joy's cancer went into remission and the married couple enjoyed another four years of happiness until she finally relented to the cancer in 1960.

In the meantime, Lewis was made the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge. Though never a happy student or teacher, he remained in this position until shortly before his death. He continued to write essays as well as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, which gained him more fame and followers than any of his previous work. After his wife's death Lewis continued his work, though his health began to deteriorate. Then, on November 22, 1963, the same day as the deaths of Aldus Huxley and John F. Kennedy, C. S. Lewis passed into immortality.

# *On The Chronicles of Narnia*

The seven books in the Chronicles of Narnia series were written between 1949 and 1953. Much of it was likely influenced by conversations between C.S. Lewis and his good friend J.R.R. Tolkien. Both were scholars of ancient mythology and literature and both had an interest in fairy stories. As members of the informal group, the Inklings, much of their work was read out loud in its early drafts. Lewis was particularly fond of hearing readings of written material. This process encouraged the authors and influenced the finished books.

## On The Order of the Books

*The Chronicles of Narnia* starts with *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. According to C.S. Lewis, he never intended to make a series of books at all, but rather, each book came as an image came to him. Since they were never written as a series, their order of publication was not in the chronological order of the events in Narnia. Also, the original publisher never numbered the books in the series. Later, the first American publisher numbered the series in order of publication date. It was much later that the second American publisher renumbered the books to fit the chronology of Narnia. Here is the series list in both publication order and chronological order:

### Publication Order

1. The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe
2. Prince Caspian
3. The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
4. The Silver Chair
- 5 The Horse and His Boy
- 6 The Magician's Nephew
7. The Last Battle

### Chronological Order

1. The Magician's Nephew
2. The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe
3. The Horse and His Boy
4. Prince Caspian
5. The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
6. The Silver Chair
7. The Last Battle

There is great debate among Narnia fans as to the best way to read the series. Some believe you get the scope of Narnia better if you read them chronologically. The other side believes that reading them as published allows the reader the glimpse of Narnia that Lewis himself had, and therefore the mysteries and sagas are revealed in a much more satisfying way. However you read the series, each book has its own charm as well as its own fans. They are books of incredible scope made personal by a man who searched long in his own life for the meaning of God and faith.



# Activities

## Themes within *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*

**Honesty** - Edmund's lack of honesty with his siblings

**Truth** - Aslan ultimate knowledge of the truth beyond the 'Deep Magic.'

**Loyalty** - The animals of Narnia's loyalty to Aslan; the children's loyalty to Edmund; Lucy's loyalty to Tumnus.

**Sacrifice** - Aslan's sacrifice for Edmund

**Courage**- Tumnus' strength in not turning Lucy over to the White Witch.

**Responsibility** - The children's responsibility to Narnia.

**Redemption** - Edmund's redemption from betrayer to hero.

## Dramatic Activity

### Coat Of Arms

*"With these words he handed to Peter a shield and a sword. The shield was the colour of silver and across it there ramped a red lion, as bright as a ripe strawberry at the moment when you pick it."* *The Lion, The witch and The Wardrobe.*

The coats of arms of medieval knights were symbols of who they were. Various designs, emblems, and colors told others about the knight's family, interests, and exploits. Make a coat of arms like Peter's by cutting out a piece of paper in the shape of a shield and drawing or pasting in pictures of things that illustrate the history of your family, or your interests and talents.



### Commercials

Tell students that they are to act as members of the Narnia Tourist Bureau. Divide them into groups of 3-5 students. Give each group the task of creating a commercial that advertises a different aspect of Narnia. Some Examples are:

Narnian celebrations

Narnian Scenic places

Narnian historical sites

Narnian food

## Source Material

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Nokes, Dr. Richard. *Unlocked Wordhoard*. 2005.  
<http://unlocked-wordhoard.blogspot.com/2005/more-on-maugrim>,

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## ***Evacuation of Children in World War II***

In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* the Pevensie children, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are evacuated from London to the English countryside to live in the manor of an old professor. Millions of children were evacuated from major cities to rural areas that were at less risk of seeing war activity. The voluntary evacuation came in waves and began on 1 September 1939 - two days before the British declaration of war. More evacuations happened in the summer and fall of 1940 as the war began to creep closer to England's shores. That same fall was the beginning of the Blitz in London. This is around the time of the Pevensie's evacuation. The countryside was a drastic change for many children. Some had never left urban London. Since the evacuation was voluntary, many opted to return home from the initial evacuation because the full effect of the war was not yet felt on the city. In 1940, millions who had returned were re-evacuated due to German attacks.

The children evacuated often had no idea where they were going or when they would be returning home. The evacuees were asked to bring an emergency gas mask, a change of underclothes, night clothes, slippers, spare stockings or socks, toothbrush, comb, towel, soap, face cloth, handkerchiefs and a warm coat, however not all families could afford to provide these things.

This division of family was difficult for parents and children across Great Britain. Many children were gone for four to five years, not only was this a significant amount of time apart from family, some young children didn't remember the home they left behind initially. A special song was written for children in 1939 by Gaby Rogers and Harry Philips, entitled 'Goodnight Children Everywhere' and broadcast every night by the BBC:

### **Goodnight Children Everywhere**

*Sleepy little eyes in a sleepy little head,  
Sleepy time is drawing near.  
In a little while you'll be tucked up in your bed,  
Here's a song for baby dear.*

*Goodnight children everywhere,  
Your mummy thinks of you tonight.  
Lay your head upon your pillow,  
Don't be a kid or a weeping willow.*

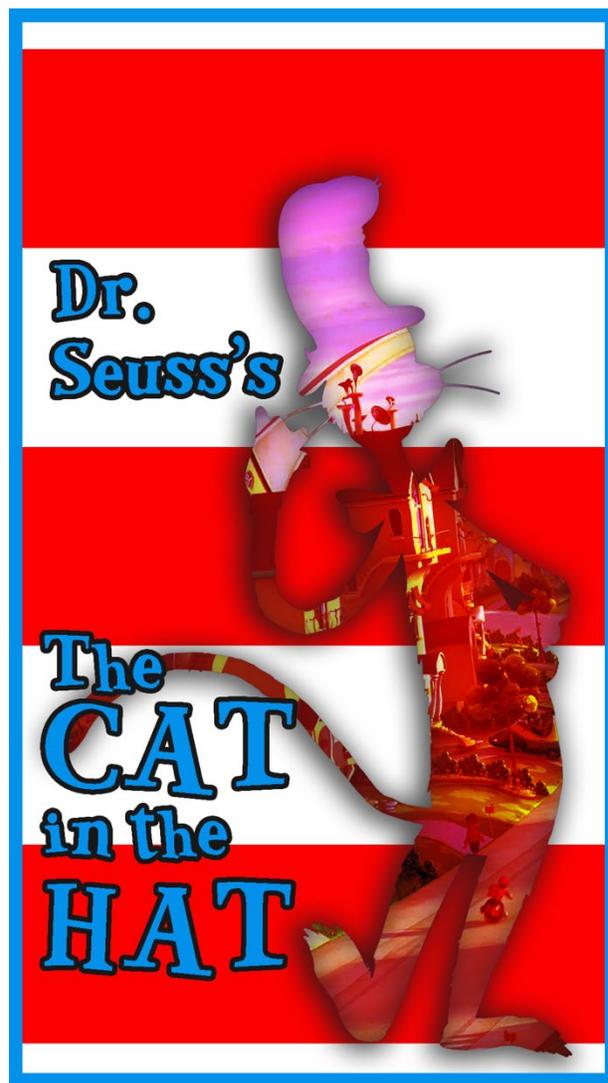
*Close your eyes and say a prayer,  
And surely you can find a kiss to spare.  
Though you are far away, she's with you night and day,  
Goodnight children everywhere*

*Soon the moon will rise, and caress you with its beams,  
While the shadows softly creep.  
With a happy smile you will be wrapped up in your dreams,  
Baby will be fast asleep. Goodnight children everywhere.*

Though, this was a challenging and emotionally traumatic time for evacuees, parents, and host families, these evacuations helped save millions of young lives in London and other major cities.

# Coming up in the Youth Theatre season at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre!

Performance Run: May 8<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>  
School Performances:



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A poster for the Chattanooga Theatre Centre Summer Academy. The top half features a group of diverse young children of various ages, some with their hands raised as if in a performance or rehearsal, against a background of a blue sky with white clouds. In the bottom left corner, there is a green square with the text 'Chattanooga THEATRE Centre'. Below the image, the text 'Play! Learn! Perform!' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'CHATTANOOGA THEATRE CENTRE' in a bold, sans-serif font, and 'SUMMER ACADEMY' in a very large, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a black bar with white text: 'TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION | 423.267.8534 | TheatreCentre.com'.

Also coming up:  
Summer Academy  
2020!

