

# National Theatre Collection

## *Peter Pan* – Learning Pack

### Contents

About This Pack .....	1
Background Information .....	2
Teaching Information .....	4
Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis.....	6
Find Out More .....	14



## About

This learning pack supports the National Theatre's production of *Peter Pan*, directed by Sally Cookson, which opened on 3rd December 2016 at the National's Olivier Theatre in London after a previous run at the Bristol Old Vic.

Our packs are designed to support viewing the recording on the **National Theatre Collection**. This pack provides links to the UK school curriculum and other productions in the Collection. It also has a plot synopsis with timecodes to allow you to jump to specific sections of the play.

## Background Information

Recording Date – 10th June, 2017

Location – Olivier Theatre, National Theatre

Age Recommendation – 7+

## Cast

<b>Tinker Bell / Curly / Pirate</b>	Saikat Ahamed
<b>Ensemble</b>	Suzanne Ahmet
<b>John</b>	Marc Antolin
<b>Musician</b>	Benji Bower
<b>Musician</b>	Will Bower
<b>Tiger Lily / Slightly</b>	Lois Chimimba
<b>Musician</b>	Richie Crago
<b>Lost Boy Twin / Pirate</b>	Laura Cubitt
<b>Ensemble</b>	Phoebe Fildes
<b>Hook / Mrs Darling</b>	Anna Francolini
<b>Musician</b>	Ruth Hammond
<b>Smee / Mr Darling</b>	Felix Hayes
<b>Peter Pan</b>	Paul Hilton
<b>Ensemble</b>	John Leader
<b>Jane / Nibs / Pirate</b>	Amaka Okafor
<b>Michael</b>	John Pfumojena
<b>Nana / Toots / Pirate</b>	Ekow Quartey
<b>Ensemble</b>	Jessica Temple
<b>Ensemble</b>	Dan Wheeler
<b>Wendy</b>	Madeleine Worrall

*Other parts played by members of the Company*

*With special thanks to Sophie Thompson for creative input  
and for developing the roles of Hook and Mrs Darling*

<b>Professional Counterweighter</b>	Keiran Gonzalez
<b>Professional Counterweighter</b>	Maurycy Kowalski
<b>Professional Counterweighter</b>	Barnaby Wreyford

## Background Information

Recording Date – 10th June, 2017

Location – Olivier Theatre, National Theatre

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## Creative Team

<b>Director</b> .....	Sally Cookson
<b>Writer</b> .....	JM Barrie
<b>Music</b> .....	Benji Bower
<b>Dramaturg</b> .....	Mike Akers
<b>Set Designer</b> .....	Michael Vale
<b>Lighting Designer</b> .....	Aideen Malone
<b>Costume Designer</b> .....	Katie Sykes
<b>Puppet Director</b> .....	Toby Olié
<b>Fight Director</b> .....	Rachel Brown-Williams
<b>Fight Director</b> .....	Ruth Cooper-Brown
<b>Movement Director</b> .....	Dan Canham
<b>Aerial Director</b> .....	Gwen Hales
<b>Sound Designer</b> .....	Dominic Bilkey

## Teaching Information

### This production is particularly suitable for:

- Primary schools looking to inspire their students with a live performance of a classic story.
- Drama and theatre students with an interest in devising.
- Anyone with an interest in the adaptation of novels for the stage.

### In particular you might like to explore:

- How the company create locations and situations using basic props, furniture and pieces of set.
- The decision to double the characters of Mrs Darling and Captain Hook and have the latter played by a woman.
- How the flying is achieved in this production and how it is different to other productions where characters fly.
- How the production is made relevant for young people today.

There are a number of other productions in the National Theatre Collection that relate to this one, which you and your students may wish to explore alongside it.

### Other adaptations of novels for the stage

<b>Production</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Adaptation</b>	<b>Director</b>
<i>Treasure Island</i>	2014	Bryony Lavery	Polly Findlay
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	The Company	Sally Cookson
<i>Frankenstein</i>	2011	Nick Dear	Danny Boyle

## Teaching Information

### Other devised productions

Production	Date	Director
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Sally Cookson

### Other productions featuring members of the same creative team

Production	Date	Artist
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Sally Cookson - Director
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Michael Vale - Designer
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Katie Sykes - Costume Designer
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Dominic Bilkey - Sound Designer
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Benji Bower - Music
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Mike Aykers - Dramaturg
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	2015	Dan Canham - Movement

### Other productions suitable for primary school students

Production	Date	Writer / Adaptor	Director
<i>Treasure Island</i>	2014	Bryony Lavery	Polly Findlay
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	2017	William Shakespeare Ben Power	Beijan Sheibani
<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	2018	William Shakespeare Justin Audibert	Justin Audibert

## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis

### Differences to JM Barrie's Original

This adaptation of *Peter Pan* largely follows Barrie's plot from the novel *Peter and Wendy*, with a few changes to the plot and details. Here are some of the major differences:

- In the novel the Darlings live in Bloomsbury, London, and all of the Lost Boys are children who went missing in Kensington Gardens. The exact location is not alluded to in this version.
- The Darling's maidservant Liza is cut.
- There are only five Lost Boys in the novel; there are numerous more in this version.
- Captain Hook is a woman and much of her backstory is cut.
- The original James Hook's first mate, Gentleman Starkey, is cut.
- In the novel Tiger Lily is a member of a Native American tribe, in this version she is the leader of a pack of wolves.
- Peter's journey to rescue the Lost Boys and use of imitating the Crocodile is cut.
- In the novel Peter tries to prevent Wendy and the Lost Boys from returning to London, and only changes his mind when he is moved by Mrs Darling's grief.
- In the novel it is implied Mrs Darling knew Peter as a girl.
- This version uses Barrie's additional chapter *When Wendy Grew Up. An Afterthought* as an epilogue. In Barrie's, Wendy marries one of the Lost Boys, but this detail is not explicitly stated in this version.

**Prologue:** Wendy, as an adult, introduces the Darling family as they were when she was a child: parents Mr and Mrs Darling, her two brothers John and Michael, and the dog, Nana.

**Act One, Scene One (0:02:23):** The children play with Nana. Humorously, she is able to speak but no one can understand her. Mrs Darling puts the children to bed before she and Mr Darling leave for a

## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis

party. Mrs Darling tells her husband how a week ago she awoke to see a boy in their children's room. She screamed and he escaped, but not before his shadow was caught in the window. She now believes the boy will return for it and wants Nana to stay in the room to protect them. Mr Darling dismisses this idea and insists Nana sleeps outside. They exit and the children go to sleep.



**Act One, Scene Two (0:11:15):** A small light - Tinker Bell - flies across the room. Peter Pan flies into the room looking for his shadow. He catches his shadow but can't reattach it. Wendy is woken up by Peter crying. They introduce each other and Wendy offers to help him sew his shadow to himself. She reattaches his shadow but rebukes him for his arrogance. They reconcile, and exchange "kisses" in the form of a thimble and a small acorn.

**(0:18:22):** Peter introduces Wendy to his fairy Tinker Bell who takes a dislike to her. Peter reveals that he often visits the Darling house to listen to Mrs Darling tell stories to the children before bed, to tell them to his friends - the Lost Boys - in Neverland. Hearing that Wendy



## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis

knows stories he asks her to come back to Neverland with her. Wendy wakes her brothers and Peter teaches them how to fly. Wendy is at first reluctant, but Peter convinces her and the others to fly out of the window towards Neverland.

**Act One, Scene Three (0:27:45):** Mr and Mrs Darling arrive just in time to see the children flying off. They travel past clouds, planets and birds, before arriving at Neverland. As they approach, the pirates, led by Captain Hook, fire their cannons at the children.

**Act Two, Scene One (0:31:40):** At Peter's camp the Lost Boys are playing and singing. Tiger Lily appears, telling them to run as Hook and her pirates are coming. They flee.

**(0:34:40):** Hook, her first mate Smee and other pirates burst in, looking for Peter Pan. She vows to defeat Peter, and even kills one of her crew when he shows softness towards a teddy bear. Hook is spooked when she hears the ticking of a clock, indicating the Crocodile is near, which ate her hand following a battle with Peter. They exit.

**Act Two, Scene Two (0:44:02):** Once the coast is clear, the Lost Boys come out of their hiding places. Tinker Bell enters telling them Peter has instructed them to shoot down the "Wendy bird". They oblige and Wendy falls to the ground. They realise what they've done just before Peter arrives. At finding Wendy unconscious he is furious with Tinker Bell. Peter is about to kill one of the Lost Boys when Wendy recovers; the arrow hit her "kiss". Peter banishes Tinker Bell at first forever, but changes it to a week.

## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis



**(0:50:24):** The Lost Boys go about building Wendy a house, hoping she will stay and be their mother. John and Michael arrive and are welcomed by the others. They play “mummies and daddies” and insist Wendy tell them a story before going to sleep with Peter keeping watch.

**Act Two, Scene Three (0:57:18):** Tiger Lily approaches in the night and challenges Peter to a “death match”. Wendy enters while they’re fighting and meets Tiger Lily. Wendy and Peter exit together.

**Act Three, Scene One (1:00:28):** Wendy hears Tiger Lily’s wolves howling in the distance; they’ve been captured by pirates. John and Michael join them to go and rescue her. They travel across the island before coming to the Mermaid’s Lagoon.

**Act Three, Scene Two (1:03:06):** The mermaids welcome Peter and his friends. John is lured in by the mermaids and is almost drowned before Peter saves him. The pirates arrive, and they hide.

## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis

**(1:06:44):** Smee enters with the imprisoned Tiger Lily. Peter impersonates Hook, instructing Smee to let her go. Once she's escaped, Hook enters with news that the Lost Boys have found a mother. She realises Tiger Lily is gone and Peter is tricking them.

**(1:11:33):** Peter flies above Hook, taunting her.



Their fight is interrupted by the Crocodile, which causes Hook to panic and flee. Peter and Wendy are stuck on a rock and the tide is rising. Peter is wounded and Wendy exhausted. Wendy manages to escape on Michael's kite, leaving Peter stranded. He bravely accepts his fate, saying death would just be another adventure.

### Interval

**Act Four, Scene One (1:16:30):** Captain Hook sings about her hatred for Peter Pan while Smee dresses her. She instructs Smee to find the Lost Boys den.

## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis

**Act Four, Scene Two (1:21:10):** Back at the den, Wendy tells the Lost Boys the story of their fight with Hook and how Peter was rescued by the Neverbird. Peter returns; they all eat and have a party together.

**(1:33:54):** The Lost Boys settle down to sleep but Wendy wakes them up to tell a story. She tells the story of her, Michael and John coming to Neverland, leaving their sad mother behind. This makes Michael and John homesick and they ask to leave Neverland. Peter insists Wendy is wrong about mothers but all the Lost Boys prepare to leave with her.

**Act Four, Scene Three (1:40:20):** Peter fills a pram with blankets and toys and lies down to sleep, feeling frustrated and alone.

**Act Four, Scene Four (1:43:25):** Smee has the Lost Boys captured. Hook creeps up on Peter as he's sleeping. She puts poison in his bottle of medicine and leaves. Tinker Bell enters and wakes him. In order to stop him drinking the medicine she takes it herself. Dying, Peter enlists the audience to clap to bring Tinker Bell back to life.

**Act Five, Scene One (1:49:45):** Aboard her pirate ship the Jolly Roger, Hook sings a triumphant shanty. She tells Wendy Peter is dead, but Wendy insists he will save them.

**Act Five, Scene Two (1:53:55):** Smee brings out the Lost Boys and they prepare to walk the plank. She offers to save one and to join her crew but they refuse.

**(1:56:09):** Peter comes to save them in the nick of time. The remaining pirates on the chase the boys as Peter and Hook battle. The Lost Boys defeat the pirates, Hook is stranded and she loses her hooked hand. They make her walk the plank as the Crocodile swallows her.

**(2:00:40):** The Lost Boys sing a victory song and sail off to the mainland.

## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis



**Act Five, Scene Three (2:01:55):** Back in England, Mr and Mrs Darling mourn, berating themselves for the loss of their children. The children return to surprise their sleeping parents and are joyously reunited. The Lost Boys enter and the Darlings agree to adopt them all. They all exit apart from Wendy and Mrs Darling.

**(2:05:30):** Peter enters, and Mrs Darling offers to adopt him as well, but he rejects the notion of growing up. Wendy asks to go with him but Mrs Darling refuses.

**Act Five, Scene Four (2:07:10):** Adult Wendy returns with her daughter Jane, saying Peter never visited her again and she forgot how to fly. Jane reveals she hears Peter's crow in her sleep. Wendy dismisses this and sings Jane to sleep.

**(2:10:07):** Peter enters, confused that John and Michael aren't there. He asks Wendy to fly away with him but she refuses, turning on the light and revealing herself to be grown up. Peter is devastated at the news

## Adaptation Details & Plot Synopsis

and starts crying. Jane wakes and asks him why he's crying, mirroring the first scene. He teaches Jane how to fly and they go off together. Wendy promises she will always keep her window open for her return.

**The End**

## Find out more

### ***Read***

The **Rehearsal Insights Pack**, featuring notes from the rehearsal room written by Staff Director Ellen Havard.

### ***Watch***

**Adapting novels for the stage** - dramatists including Frankenstein playwright Nick Dear, Jane Eyre director Sally Cookson and playwright Patrick Marber discuss the challenges of adapting novels for the stage.

### ***Explore***

The National Theatre's digital exhibitions on Google Arts & Culture, including **Staging Children's Stories at the National Theatre**

More materials relating to the production including the costume designs, poster, programme, stage management reports and more are held at the National Theatre Archive, which is free to visit. Find out more here: **<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/archive>**