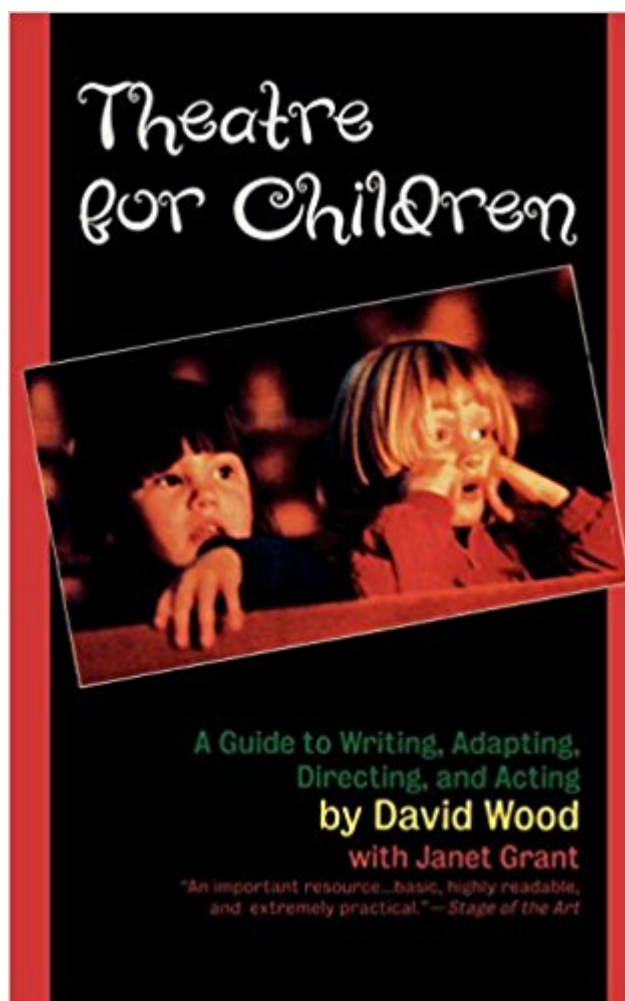


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# Theatre For Children: A Guide To Writing, Adapting, Directing, And Acting



## Synopsis

David Wood has been called by the London Times “the national children’s dramatist.” Presenting theatre for children as a separate art form, Mr. Wood here draws upon his experience as a magician, actor, director, producer, composer, and playwright, and analyzes the skills involved in entertaining and involving audiences of children everywhere. He reveals his special techniques for catching and holding a child’s attention, provides a practical handbook illustrated with excerpts from his plays, and offers a behind-the-scenes look at the work that goes into them. He also examines the business side of children’s theatre, showing exactly how a good synopsis will help to sell an idea. “The challenge,” he writes, “is to give a unique theatrical experience to an audience, many of whom will be first-time theatergoers, to involve them emotionally, to sustain their interest in a story, to inspire and excite them using theatricality, to make them laugh, to make them think, to move them, to entertain and educate them by triggering their imaginations.” This comprehensive guide written with Janet Grant is essential reading for professionals and amateurs alike and for anyone wishing to be involved in the theatre for children.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wood’s great quality as a playwright is his confidence in his audience’s ability to make giant imaginative leaps, coupled with a refusal to shortchange them artistically. (Financial Times) A marvelous contribution to the world of Youth Theater...A must. (Robyn Flatt, Dallas Children’s Theater) An important resource...basic, highly readable, and extremely practical. (Stage Of The

Art)The national children's dramatist. (London Times)For over thirty years David has had the ability to captivate children's minds.... He has often been called the National Playwright for Children and he deserves it. (Sir Cameron Mackintosh)

David Wood has been writing, adapting, directing, and acting in plays for children for more than twenty-five years. His best-known work has enjoyed international success and has entered the repertory of amateur companies and school dramatic societies. "Wood's great quality as a playwright is his confidence in his audience's ability to make giant imaginative leaps, coupled with a refusal to shortchange them artistically." Financial Times.

This is really great book to understand the aspects of childrens' theatre that may not be obvious to most. While many think of childrens theatre as (as I like to call it) puppet, marionets and cartoon figures, children can and do appreciate the classics and original theatre with appropriate plot development, reasonable character development, and a number of subplots. This book simple and impressively breaks out a perfect approach to develop childrens theatre. I especially like the sections on writing or adapting to suit the children and youth. It covers most everything you need to set up a theatre if you were interested in starting out or to add a childrens/youth program to an established adult theatre.

This book is about two times the thickness it should be - the majority of the book is personal recounts of shows the author has directed or in which he has had a hand, and it ends up being a constant self-citing. The book imparts some information about theatre for young audiences, and it is indeed informative, but it certainly takes a measured amount of digging. Also, as I was asked to obtain this book as a text book, I was somewhat disappointed that the book is not indexed. But no matter - the book will teach you a thing or two about theatre for young audiences, and it will not cost you an arm and a leg, either.

I ordered this book to be used as a textbook for a class on children's theatre (adults acting for audiences of children), and have found it to be very helpful from an acting standpoint. It is written by a British children's playwright, and consequently has a few unfamiliar terms, but most are contextually clear. The author writes like he is THE expert on plays for young audiences (which can be slightly annoying), but the useful information is worth it. He looks at every aspect of children's theatre - design, directing, acting, writing/adapting, even producing - which makes it a good

all-around book and single source.

David Wood is nothing short of a genius. Having taken a class of Children's Theatre and watched several Children's plays I can say without a doubt that the theories presented in this book hold up to scrutiny. If you want to write a Children's play start by reading this book.

This book has some very well thought out examples of how to write children's plays. However, it sometimes gets a little too long and detailed.

good info

it taste good, and I like it. I dont like that # of words are required here though. that is dumb.

Walter Piston is a composer, but in his music theory textbook, he can bring in samples from the work of other composers. Why, then, can't David Wood bring in samples from the work of other playwrights? Incidentally, don't buy this book if you are interested in theatre for children as actors. This book is about theatre for children as spectators.

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