

Peter Pan: Director's Statement

I'm thrilled to have the honor of directing ALSCT's upcoming production of *Peter Pan*. Interpretations of this show have transfixed audiences for over one hundred years. I'm excited to create a version that is both true to the story and also speaks to contemporary audiences in the Pioneer Valley. I aim to reveal the deeper meaning in J.M. Barrie's script and the universal conflicts the characters face.

Most people are aware of *Peter Pan*'s problematic history. J.M. Barrie crafted a story intended for Victorian audiences who proudly maintained that the sun never set on the British Empire. We do not live in those times. ALSCT looks forward to presenting a show appropriate for 21st-century audiences and one that divorces itself from racist depictions of historically marginalized communities.

In this production, Peter and his Lost Boys will be joined in Neverland by Tiger and her Runaways. Where the Lost Boys are children that accidentally "fall out of their prams when their nurses look the other way," the Runaways are children who jump out of their prams on purpose and run away to Neverland, where they can be free.

In addition, this production of *Peter Pan* will see Captain Hook played by a woman-identified actor. This choice is crucial for the story, as the mother figure is both Peter's dream and his nemesis. (Historical documents also indicate that this was Barrie's original intention for Hook.) I also look forward to casting people of all genders as the Lost Boys, Runaways, and Pirates.

I am committed to representing our wonderful community on the stage in *Peter Pan* and believe a diverse cast is always a stronger one. I hope to see folks of all ages, genders, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and experience levels coming out for auditions. My ultimate goal is for this production to offer a magical and meaningful experience that resonates with the entire cast and audience. I look forward to working with everyone – cast, crew, and the creative team – to bring *Peter Pan* to life!

– Olivia Murphy-Boyle