

Acting Edition

Tuck Everlasting: Theatre for Young Audiences Edition

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Lyrics by
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Based on the novel by
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Originally Produced on Broadway by
Grove Entertainment, Arlene Scanlan & Michael Jackowitz, Howard &
Janet Kagan, and Barry Brown

World Premiere Produced by Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA
Susan V. Booth, Artistic Director

JESSE TUCK	Andrew Keenan-Bolger
MAE TUCK	Carolee Carmello
MILES TUCK	Robert Lenzi
ANGUS TUCK	Michael Park
WINNIE FOSTER	Sarah Charles Lewis
MAN IN THE YELLOW SUIT	Terrence Mann
MOTHER	Valerie Wright
NANA	Pippa Pearthree
HUGO	Michael Wartella
CONSTABLE JOE	Fred Applegate
ENSEMBLE	Timothy J. Alex, Chloë Campbell, Ben Cook, Deanna Doyle, Brandon Espinoza, Lisa Gajda, Jessica Lee Goldyn, Neil Haskell, Justin Patterson, Marco Schittone, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Voytko, Sharrod Williams

Sharrod Williams

TUCK EVERLASTING: TYA EDITION received its co-world premiere at Nashville Children's Theatre on September 13, 2018. The production was directed by Ernie Nolan, with music direction by David Weinstein, lighting design by Scott Leathers, scenic design by Court Watson, and sound design by Joanna Lynne Staub, with costumes provided by A.T. Jones and Sons. The stage manager was Isaac Krispin. The cast was as follows:

JESSE TUCK Imari Thompson
MAE TUCK Jennifer Whitcomb-Oliva
MILES TUCK James Rudolph
ANGUS TUCK Bakari J. King
WINNIE FOSTER Rebecca Keeshin
MAN IN THE YELLOW SUIT Geoff Davin
NANA Nan Gurley
HUGO Jaiirus Maples
CONSTABLE JOE Matthew Carlton

TUCK EVERLASTING: TYA EDITION received its co-world premiere at Virginia Repertory Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, on October 18, 2019.

CHARACTERS

JESSE TUCK

MAE TUCK

MILES TUCK

ANGUS TUCK

WINNIE FOSTER

MAN IN THE YELLOW SUIT

MOTHER

HUGO

CONSTABLE JOE

ENSEMBLE – various memories, spirits, travelers, townsfolk, carnival workers, and patrons

SETTING

Treegap, New Hampshire and its surrounding wood

TIME

August 1893, with a few exceptions

Scene One: The Spring

[MUSIC NO. 01 "OPENING"]

(A family of four crosses the stage to a bubbling spring at the base of a giant tree.)

JESSE. Come on, I think I see water up ahead!

MAE. Slow down, boys!

MILES. Are you kidding, Ma? We're dying of thirst!

(Each of the TUCKS – MAE, ANGUS, JESSE, and MILES – takes a turn drinking.)

ANGUS. This spring is a good omen. Where there's water, there's opportunity. And where there's opportunity, there's our new life. Let 1808 be our best year yet.

MAE. *(A toast.)* To the Tucks!

ALL TUCKS. To the Tucks!

(The lighting shifts.)

ENSEMBLE MEN.

DAY NA NA DAY NA NA DAY NA

ENSEMBLE.

DAY NA NA DAY NA NA DAY NA

AH AH AH AH

(The TUCKS exit.)

Scene Two: The Foster Garden**[MUSIC NO. 02 "LIVE LIKE THIS"]**

(WINNIE FOSTER enters in a green dress; we are now in present-day 1893.)

WINNIE.

TODAY IS THE DAY
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOREVER
IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST 1893
TONIGHT THERE'S A FAIR
AND IF HANDLED JUST SO
I MIGHT GET MY MOTHER TO SAY I CAN GO

MOTHER. Winnie?

WINNIE. Coming, Mother!

LET THIS BE THE DAY
I STAY OUT ALL EVENING
AND FALL RIGHT INTO STEP
AS A BAND STARTS TO PLAY
NOT ANOTHER BORING DAY
IN TREEGAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS FOREVER!

ENSEMBLE.

DAY NA NA DAY NA NA, DAY NA
DAY NA, DAY NA NA
DAY NA NA DAY NA NA, DAY NA
DAY NA, DAY NA NA

(Scene shifts to in front of the Tuck family cottage.)

MAE.

TODAY IS THE DAY THE WAITING IS OVER
TONIGHT WE WILL ALL BE A FAM'LY AGAIN
MY BOYS WILL BE HOME
BY THE END OF THE DAY
I CAN'T WAIT, I SHOULD WAIT, NO, I'LL MEET THEM
HALFWAY

Angus! Angus!

ANGUS. What's wrong?

MAE. I'm going to meet the boys in Treegap Wood.

ANGUS. You sure that's a good idea, Mae?

MAE. Either I walk them home or they wring each other's necks.

ANGUS. Well, be careful.

MAE. I will. I love you Angus.

MAE.

LET THIS BE THE DAY

ENSEMBLE.

I'M FREE OF THIS CABIN

I'M FREE

WHERE THE ONLY THING

THAT MOVES

IS THE CLOCK ON THE WALL

LET THIS BE THE DAY

BETTER OFF TO START

THE HAUL

TO TREEGAP NEW

HAMPSHIRE

I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS

LIVE LIKE THIS

I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS

LIVE LIKE THIS

FOREVER!

ENSEMBLE.

DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA, DAY NA

DAY NA, DAY NA NA

(A train whistles. MILES appears.)

MILES.

OFF THE TRAIN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

AND IT'S BACK IN AN INSTANT:

THE FEELING THAT I'M SOMEWHERE I DON'T BELONG

(JESSE appears.)

JESSE.

HELLO TREEGAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE!

CATCH ME UP ON WHAT'S NEW

YOUR SILO, I SEE, STILL HAS THE BEST VIEW

I SWEAR

MILES.

I SWEAR

IS THERE ANYONE WHO

ALMOST THERE

STILL KNOWS ME?

MILES.

THIS TOWN NEVER
OUTGROWS ME

JESSE.

ALMOST THERE
UNAWARE

UNAWARE

MILES & JESSE.

I'LL NEVER KNOW WHY THIS WORLD CHOSE ME
TO LIVE LIKE THIS
LIVE LIKE THIS
LIVE LIKE THIS FOREVER!

(*A MAN IN YELLOW SUIT enters.*)

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT.

TODAY A NEW TOWN
AND A NEW ONE TOMORROW
MY WHOLE LIFE EMPLOYED TO A TRAVELIN' FAIR
YOU MAY WONDER WHY
THIS OLD BARKER BARKS ON
IT'S THE TRAIL NO ONE KNOWS I HAVE STUMBLED UPON!

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT.

LET THIS BE THE DAY
THAT I LEARN THE
SECRET
AND FIND WHO HOLDS
THE KEY
TO WHAT I'M LOOKING
FOR
I WILL KNOCK ON EV'RY
DOOR
IN TREEGAP, NEW
HAMPSHIRE TO

ENSEMBLE.

DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA
DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA,
DAY
DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA
DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA,
DAY NA

MAE, JESSE & MILES.

LIVE LIKE THIS
LIVE LIKE THIS
I COULD
LIVE LIKE THIS

LIVE LIKE THIS
LIVE LIKE THIS
LIVE LIKE THIS

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT & MAE.

FOREVER!

WINNIE.

LET THIS BE THE DAY

WHERE SOMETHING WILL
HAPPEN

LET ME SEE THE FAIR

LET MY MOTHER AGREE

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT. (*Echoing.*)SOMETHING WILL
HAPPEN**MAE.** (*Echoing.*)

LET ME SEE MY BOYS

JESSE & MILES.

LET ME SEE!

ALL.I FEEL IT COMING OVER ME
IN TREGAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE
I COULD LIVE LIKE THIS
I COULD LIVE LIKE THIS
LIVE LIKE THIS**WINNIE, MAE, JESSE, MILES****& YELLOW.**

FOREVER

FOREVER

ENSEMBLE.DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA,
DAY NA
DAY NA DAY, NA NA
DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA,
DAY NA
DAY NA, DAY NA NA**WINNIE & MAN IN YELLOW SUIT.**

I COULD

WINNIE, MAE, JESSE, MILES**& YELLOW.**

LIVE LIKE THIS FOREVER!

ENSEMBLE.DAY NA NA, DAY NA NA,
DAY NA**WINNIE & MAN IN YELLOW SUIT.**

I COULD

ALL.

LIVE LIKE THIS

WINNIE, MAE, JESSE, MILES & YELLOW.

FOREVER!

ENSEMBLE.

FOREVER!

(WINNIE stands in front of the family home. MOTHER stands on the porch in black mourning attire.)

MOTHER. What in heaven's name are you wearing?

WINNIE. Mother, I can't wear black to the fair!

MOTHER. The fair?

WINNIE. It's coming to town tonight. Can't we bend the rules? Just once?

MOTHER. I'm sorry, but no. It's not yet been a year since your father's funeral. And we can't be seen carrying on in public, as if nothing has happened.

WINNIE. But nothing does happen, not anymore.

MOTHER. Winnie, please march inside and put your proper attire back on.

WINNIE. Father would have taken me to the fair.

MOTHER. I know. But things are different now, and if you won't be a good girl for me, at least try to be a good girl for him.

[MUSIC NO. 03 "GOOD GIRL WINNIE FOSTER"]

WINNIE.

I'M TRAPPED IN A HOUSE OF SAD AND LONELY
ON A STREET NAMED "MAIN" BUT YOU COULD CALL IT
"ONLY"

IS IT RUDE TO SAY I'D VOLUNTEER
FOR A DAY OF FUN JUST ONCE A YEAR?
I'D FLY THE COOP IF ONLY I COULD
BUT I'VE GOT A REALLY BAD CASE OF BEING GOOD

I'D GO FIND TROUBLE IF THERE WAS SOME TO GET IN
ASK A FRIEND TO PLAY, IF I HAD ONE TO LET IN
MOTHER'S ROCKER SAWING THROUGH THE FLOOR
EV'RY DAY JUST LIKE THE ONE BEFORE
WE LOCK OURSELVES BEHIND THAT DOOR
IS IT WRONG TO WISH FOR SOMETHING MORE?

(A croak is heard.)

MOTHER. Winnie, why did your dress just croak?

(WINNIE pulls a toad out of her pocket.)

WINNIE. Meet my new friend, "Toad." I found him by the fence.

(The toad croaks in MOTHER's face.)

MOTHER. Winnie, you know better than that! Take that filthy thing back – where it belongs!

WINNIE. Yes, Mother.

GOOD GIRL WINNIE FOSTER EV'RY DAY
IS IN BED AT SEVEN
GOOD GIRL WINNIE FOSTER EV'RY DAY
IS A WELL-BEHAVED ELEVEN
BUT SOME DAYS I WANT TO RAISE
A LITTLE SOMETHING MORE THAN HEAVEN

Well, Toad, we blew it.

(The toad croaks again.)

But at least it kept us out of the house.

(WINNIE sets the toad down. It hops away.)

ARE YOU FROM THE WOOD? I'M NOT ALLOWED THERE
BIG NEWS, I KNOW, I'M NOT ALLOWED ANYWHERE
WELL NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO DISAPPEAR
GO HAVE FUN, I'LL BE RIGHT HERE
TIED TO A STRING LIKE A PRECIOUS PEARL
IT'S A PRETTY TIGHT LEASH FOR A REALLY GOOD GIRL

WINNIE.

GOOD GIRL WINNIE
FOSTER EVERY DAY
IS IN BED AT SEVEN

GOOD GIRL WINNIE
FOSTER EVERY DAY
IS A WELL-BEHAVED
ELEVEN
BUT SOME DAYS

MOTHER & WOMEN.

WINNIE! WINNIE!
BE A GOOD GIRL WINNIE!
WINNIE! GOOD GIRL
WINNIE!

COME INSIDE!
WINNIE! WINNIE!
BE A GOOD GIRL WINNIE!
COME INSIDE!

WINNIE.

I WANNA RAISE

MOTHER & WOMEN.

WINNIE! WINNIE!

WINNIE! WINNIE!

WINNIE.

A LITTLE SOMETHING MORE THAN HEAVEN

SOME DAYS

I WANT TO RAISE

A LITTLE SOMETHING MORE THAN HEAVEN

(Cymbals crash, trumpets blare. A rag-tag parade is led by the MAN IN YELLOW SUIT.)

[MUSIC NO. 04 "JOIN THE PARADE"]

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT & CARNIVAL BAND.

JOIN THE PARADE

FALL IN LINE FOR THE FAIR

BEFORE THE SUN SETS

BEFORE WE ROLL ON

LADIES AND GENTS, OUR MIDWAY PRESENTS

A TONIC FOR THE WOEBEGONE!

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT.

COME TO THE FAIR

THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR

THEY SAY IT WON'T LAST

YOUNG LADY, THEY'RE RIGHT!

A MERRIMENT MAKER FILLING AN ACRE

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT & CARNIVAL BAND.

BUT THE TENT COMES DOWN TONIGHT

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT. Good morning!**WINNIE.** It is now! The fair is here!

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT. Well, now. Aren't you wise beyond your...

(He looks into her eyes.)

Eleven years, is it?

WINNIE. How did you guess?**MAN IN YELLOW SUIT.** I'm a carnival man, young lady!

(Producing a coin from behind WINNIE's ear.)

It's my business to know un-knowable things! Why, I can guess a girl's age just by looking into her eyes. Now, I don't suppose you've noticed anyone strange around here recently...

WINNIE. What do you mean, strange?

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT. Been up and down the state, looking for a highly unusual family. Used to live here in Treegap, some time ago.

WINNIE. I don't recall meeting anyone unusual. Until today.

(MOTHER appears back at the front door.)

MOTHER. Pardon me, is there something I can help you with?

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT. No, pardon me. Just spreading the word about the fair!

[MUSIC NO. 04A "FAIR MUSIC BOX"]

That tune. Do you hear it?

MOTHER. I've heard that very melody on and off my whole life. My grandmother heard it when she was a girl – and it always comes from our wood!

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT. Your wood, did you say?

MOTHER. Yes, I did.

MAN IN YELLOW SUIT. I'll keep that in mind. For now: much as I'd love to stay, ladies, a man only has so much time.

(He exits.)

MOTHER. Where do you find a suit that color – and why would you buy it?

WINNIE. Don't you see, Mother? It's a sign! We could go to the fair, like we used to!

MOTHER. No – and that's the final word.

WINNIE. But –

MOTHER. No more buts. The world can be a dangerous place, Winifred, and it is my job to protect you.

WINNIE. From what? Having fun? I hate your rules!

MOTHER. That is enough. Now come inside and change your dress – and your attitude.

(**MOTHER** goes inside. The toad croaks at the fence.)

**[MUSIC NO. 05 "GOOD GIRL WINNIE
FOSTER - REPRISE"]**

WINNIE. Toad, you're back! Do you have to follow the rules?

(The toad croaks.)

I didn't think so. I want to be daring too. I don't want to just be "good."

(The toad croaks again.)

WITH A CAGE FOR A YARD YOU CAN ONLY MOPE IN...
WHEN A FRONT DOOR SHUTS, SHOULD A GATE OPEN?
IF I DON'T LEAVE NOW, I'LL ONLY WISH I HAD
HOW CAN ONE KNOW GOOD WITHOUT TRYING BAD?
TO THINK I'VE NEVER SEEN MY WOOD
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT
WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD

(**WINNIE** runs from the yard as the scenery changes to reveal a mossy, mysterious wood.)

ENSEMBLE.

DAY NA NA

DAY NA NA, DAY NA

WINNIE. Toad, wait for me!

ENSEMBLE.

DAY NA NA

DAY NA NA, DAY NA

DAY NA, DAY NA NA

WINNIE. Toad! Where are you?

Scene Three: The Spring**[MUSIC NO. 05A "JESSE AT THE SPRING"]**

(In a clearing at the same spring from Scene One.)

(JESSE swings down from the tree and takes a drink of water.)

(When he stands, he comes eye to eye with WINNIE.)

JESSE. Excuse me, are you lost?

WINNIE. That's exactly what I was going to ask.

JESSE. You shouldn't be here right now.

WINNIE. But these are my woods!

JESSE. I don't care whose woods these are, it's not safe for you to be here.

WINNIE. You're not old enough to boss me.

JESSE. Believe me. I am.

WINNIE. Oh, really. How old are you?

JESSE. 102.

WINNIE. No. Really.

JESSE. Let's just say I'm...seventeen.

WINNIE. Oh. That is old.

JESSE. You have no idea.

(WINNIE brushes past JESSE.)

Uh, where do you think you're going?

WINNIE. I'm thirsty. I'm getting a drink from that spring, like you did.

JESSE. Oh no, you saw me drink? Look, you need to leave right now.

WINNIE. But it's just water!

JESSE. No, no, listen: When little girls drink from this spring, they turn into...

(The toad hops into view and croaks.)

Toads?

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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