

THE LITTLE PRINCE

A modern fable by
Antoine de Saint Exupéry

for

Miss Abby A. Sutherland

Adaptation and
lyrics
David Crownover

Music
by
Don Cobb

Directed by Don Cobb

Premiere Performance
August 12, 1959

OGONTZ WHITE MOUNTAIN CAMP

THE LITTLE PRINCE is taking a trip
thru outer space to the Earth. His
travels, his friends, his ideas are
your story tonight.

Time: Now

Place: The Sahara Desert

Scenes: The Descent of the Little Prince

The Little Prince and His Planet

The Little Prince Travels the Cosmos

The Little Prince on Earth

The Ascent of the Little Prince

Associate Director.....Liz Brown

Scenery..... Mary Johnson
Shelby Hiatt

DRAMATIS PERSONAE (In order of appearance)

The Little Prince..... Diane Parker
The Aviator..... Jennifer Beard
The Flower..... Shelley Tharaud
The King..... Betsy Peale
The Conceited Man..... Cynthia Perron
The Businessman..... Susan Hall
The Lamplighter..... Nina Meyer
The Geographer..... Janet Weber
The Snake..... Goodwin Schaefer
The Fox..... Sandford McGrail
The Switchman..... Sallyann Doonan
The Merchant..... Linda Yancy

CHORUS

Elizabeth Andrews, Elizabeth Anglin, Anne
Bauer, Debora Booth, Zoe Durrell, Patty
Hallett, Dorothy Hoskins, Lida Matheson,
Barbara Nyere, Ann O'Hear, Nancy Rudd,
Margaret Vinton

ARIA

My little man

Where do you come from?

My little man

Where do you come from?

Where is this planet of which you speak?

Where do you want to take your sheep?

My little man where do you come from?

My little man where do you come from?

Where do you come from?

Is it very far away?

LP The thing that is so good about the box you have given me is that at night he can use it as his house.

A That is so. And if you are good I will give you a string too, so that you can tie him during the day.

LP Tie him! What a ^{queer} ~~great~~ idea! Where I live everything is so small! Straight ahead of him nobody can go very far.....

what to do

LP Because where I live everything is very small

Look! He has gone to sleep.

A There will surely be enough grass for him. It is a very small sheep I have given you.

(looks at drawing more closely)

LP What is that object?

A It is an airplane. It is my airplane. But something is broken in its engine and I must attempt the difficult repairs all alone.

LP What! You dropped from the sky?

A Yes

LP Oh! That is funny! (laughter) So you too came from the sky! Which is your planet?

A Do you come from another planet? (No answer)

LP (LP looks at the plane)
It is true that on that airplane you can't have come from very far away!

CHORUS

Scene II

There's the Earth
 There's the
 The moon and

Hundreds and hundreds of stars

There's Jupiter planet and

Venus planet

And the big red planet Mars.

And according to a Turkish man

Out there in Cosmic void,

There's a small numerical, house-sized one

That's called an Asteroid.

I am very fond sunsets.

LP Come, let us look at ^a the sunset! now

A But we must wait.

LP ^{Wait?} For what?

A For the sunset. We must wait until it is time.

LP (laughs) I am always thinking that I am at home.

One day, I saw the sunset 44 times

ARIA

On my tiny planet the sunsets

Just a step away

I move along the twilight toward

The end of day..... ~~(Repeat if desired)~~

(Lp suddenly steps aside)

LP Does a sheep eat flowers ?

A A sheep eats everything in its reach.

LP Even flowers ?

XX (Aviator nods)

ARIA

I know a place out in space very far

A man who lives there has never seen a star

Has never seen a flower

Has never loved

Yet one simple blossom grows

In all the millions of stars like those

On one star, my star

There's a flower to be loved.

Thurs

- end of music

LP But if the sheep eats the flower, in one moment the stars
will be darkened.

Don Cobb

PROLOGUE

stand

This, the loneliest place in the world.

Wait patiently under this star.

See why this man is sleeping, sleeping,

yes love

See why his plane is lying, lying.

Its useless watch is keeping, keeping.

This, the loneliest place in the world,

This, the loneliest, loveliest place in the world.

Ly-f... and h.s.

A - stage R (F)

SCENE I

(The Little Prince comes in and wakes the Aviator)

L LP If you please, draw me a sheep. X to C LP from L

A What?

LP Draw me a sheep. X

(Aviator jumps to his feet - blinks eyes - sees the Little Prince who is examining him.)

A Bt - What are you doing here?

lp If you please, draw me a sheep.....(begins to draw) A

A I don't know how to draw. — take out paper

LP That doesn't matter. Draw me a sheep....

A (Draws) C - u s s e s

LP No. This sheep is already very sickly. Make me another.

LP You see yourself, that this is not a sheep. This is a ram. It has horns.

A This is only his box. The sheep you asked for is inside.

LP This is exactly the way I wanted it. Do you think that this sheep will have to have a great deal of grass?

A WHY?

A - stage R (P)

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A What?

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LP This is exactly the way I wanted it. Do you think that this sheep will have to have a great deal of grass?

A WHY?

A The flower that you love is not in danger. I will draw a muzzle for you sheep. I will draw you a railing to put around your flower. I will ...

Flower

ARIA AND DANCE

Please excuse me

Excuse me

I'm scarcely awake

And not quite ready

Please excuse me

Excuse me

I was born the same moment as the sun.

LP Oh! How beautiful you are!

(Flower coughs two or three times)

F But I am afraid of drafts.

I am a very complex creature
At night, put me under a glass globe.

LP I should not listen to a flower. I should simply look at her and breathe her fragrance. I am too young to know how to love. Good-bye I have decided to go away.

F Oh! My cold is not so bad as all that. The cool night air will do me good. After all I'm a flower.Don't linger like this. You have decided to go away. Now go!

(The LP and the F move off. The stage is empty).!

LP off L

Scene 3

R

(The King moves out of the Chorus. Sees the LP)

King Ah! Here is a subject.

Aria

My subjects come and go

I order them to do so

I order you, I order you to do so.

K

Approach that I may see you better.

(LP yawns)

It is contrary to etiquette to yawn in the presence of a king.

I forbid you to do so.

LP

I can't help it. I can't stop myself. I have come on a long journey, and I have had no sleep.

K

Ah, then. I order you to yawn. It is years since I have seen anyone yawning. Come, now! Yawn again! I order you.

LP

That frightens me - I cannot, anymore.

K

Hum8 Hum! Then I .. I order you sometimes to yawn and sometimes to

something new comes to me

LP-R

LP Sire, I beg you to excuse my asking a question

K ~~(Sing) I order you to do so.~~ *I order you to ask me a question.*
This platter is so tiny.

LP Sire, over what do you rule.

(The King gestures in ~~an~~ an all inclusive way)

K Overeverything. *clear*

LP And the stars obey you

K Certainly they do. I don't permit insubordination. *done great by up king*

LP I should like to see a sunset sire, *X* Do me the kindness to order the sun to set.

K ~~I order it to do so~~ (Sing)

One must require from each one the duty which each one can perform.
 K I shall command it when conditions will permit.

LP When will that be.

consult almanac
 K In the evening about twenty minutes before eight. Then you will see how well I am obeyed. *hum hum*

LP Order me to be gone (Yawn) *It seems to me the conditions are favorable.*

K (Sing) ~~I order you to do so.~~

Scene 4

C HORUS

stand

Grownups are so very, very strange.

Oddly out of little children's range.

(Conceited man emerges from the chorus)

Conceited Man

Oh, a visit from an admirer.

LP Good morning. What a queer hat you're wearing.

CM It's a hat to salute people who acclaim me. Unfortunately, nobody ever passes this way. Now, clap your hands one against the other.

(The CM raises his hat and holds it ~~h~~here.)

LP How do I make the hat come down?

Aria

I'm the only man on my planet

The only one here is me

I'm the only man under my hat

And that's the way it ~~w~~always will be.

(chorus sings first two lines and last line)

LP How do I make the hat come down? (Pause)

The man doesn't hear me . Conceited people never hear anything but praise.

Chorus and Businessman

Grownups are so very, very strange

Grownups are so very, very strange

BM Three and two make five

Five and seven twelve

Twelve and three make fifteen

(LP) Good morning (BM) Eh, what?

Grownups are so very, very strange

Grownups are so very, very strange

Fifteen and seven make twenty-two

Twenty-two and thirty phew

Grownups are so very, very strange.

BM That makes five hundred million, six hundred thousand

LP Five hundred million what?

BM Eh? Five hundred and one million - I can't stop ... I have so much to do. I am concerned with matters of consequence.

I don't amuse myself with balderdash. Two and five make seven.

LP Five hundred million what?

BM What, ~~of those~~.....of those little objects *3*

LP Flies?

BM Those little glittering objects *7/2*

LP ~~Those?~~ Bees?

BM Oh No those little golden objects that set men dreaming
.....But not me

LP Oh! You mean the stars. What do you do with the stars

BM Nothing. I own them.

LP But I have already seen a king who.....

BM Kings do not own. They reign over.

LP What good does it do you to own the stars

BM It makes me rich

LP What do you do with them

BM I count them and recount them. I put them in the bank

LP *But* You are no use to the stars

(Exit Little Prince)

*I myself own
- a flower - which
I water - every
day.*

Scene 6Piano - Grownups

LP Good morning. Why have you just put out your lamp?

LL Those are the orders. Good morning.

LP What are the orders.

LL The orders are that I put out my lamp. Good evening.

LP But why have you just lighted it again?

LL Those are the orders.

LP I do not understand.

LL There is nothing to understand. Orders are orders. Good morning.

(mops forehead)

I follow a terrible profession. In the old days it was reasonable I put the lamp out in the morning, and in the evening I lighted it again. But the orders have not changed since that time. That is the tragedy. From year to year the planet has turned more rapidly and the orders have not been changed. Once every minute I have to light my lamp and put it out.

Aria

My planet is so small, so small, so small

Three strides will take in all, in all, in all.

It turns more rapidly, 'pidly, 'pidly.

One a minute, see

LP

But one simple blossom grows, on a star like those
On my star, my star - there's a flower to be loved.
(reprise of On My Tiny Planet)

LP

This man is the only one of them all whom I could have made my friend, perhaps it's because he is thinking of something else besides himself. What a shame his planet is too small for two people.

Scene 7

Old Geographer (comes out of chorus)

Oh look! Here is an explorer. Where do you come from?

LP What is that big book. What are you doing?

OG I am a geographer.

LP What is a geographer?

Aria

What is a geographer?

Is he a longhaired scholar?

What is a geographer?

Is he a longhaired scholar?

He knows here the seas are

He knows where the rivers, towns and deserts are ...

That is a geographer

Yes he's a longhaired scholar. (chorus)

LP Is your planet very beautiful? Has it oceans, rivers, mountains?

OG I shouldn't tell you.

LP But you are a geographer.

OG Exactly, but I am not an explorer. I haven't a single explorer on my planet. It is not the geographer who goes out to count the rivers and mountains. The geographer is much too important to go loafing about. ~~He receives the explorers in his study and if the moral character of the explorer is shown to be good, an inquiry is ordered into his discovery.~~ ... But you come from far away, describe your planet to me.

LP Oh where I live is not very interesting. I want to see interesting places. What would you as a geographer advise me to see?

OG The planet earth. It has a good reputation.

~~LP Thank you and good-bye~~

(Little Prince exits)

Scene

CHORUS

There's Jupiter Planet

There's Venus planet

And the red old planet Mars

There's the Moon

There's the Earth

~~Out among those hundreds of stars~~

Now the earth is not an ordinary planetary body

One can see their kings and ~~cabbage~~ and assorted hoddody-toddy

There's the earth

T There's the moon

Hundreds and hundreds of stars

(A coil of gold light crosses the stage and comes to rest on the snake who comes from the Chorus)

LP Good evening. What planet is this

S ~~This is the Sahara Desert, Africa, Earth~~

This is the Earth. This is Africa.

LP Ah! Then there are no people on the Earth?

S This the desert. There are no people in the desert.

LP The earth is very large. My planet is very small. It is right there above us. How far away it is!

S It is very beautiful. What has brought you here?

LP I have been having some trouble with a flower.

S Ah!

LP Where are the men? It is a little lonely in the desert

S It is also lonely among men.

LP You are a funny little animal. ~~You are no thicker than a finger.~~ *You have no feet.*

S ~~But I am more powerful than the finger of a king.~~ *I am a snake* Whomever I

I touch I send back the the earth from whence he came. You move me to pity - you are so weak on this earth made of granite. I can help you, someday, if you grow too homesick for your own planet.

Aria

I'm a funny little animal

No thicker than a finger, no thicker than a finger

But more power than the finger of a king

If I touch you I can help you

If you're homesick for your star

I'm a funny (etc)

(they part)

Scene 9 (Alone, the LP climbs a few steps on the stage and looks around and says to himself)

LP From a mountain as high as this, I should be able to see the whole planet.

goes left

LP (sings) Good morning

Echo - good morning, good morning, good morning.

LP Who are you?

Echo - who are you, who are you, who are you?

LP Be my friends, I am all alone.

Echo - all alone, all alone, all alone.

LP (spoken) What a queer planet, they repeat whatever one says to them. On my planet my flower was always the first to speak.

Flowers- (from good chorus)

Good morning.

LP
Who are you?

Flowers

~~We are flowers.~~

LP

*5000 flowers
good morning*
A field of flowers, 5000 flowers.
My flower told me that she was the only one of her kind in

all the univers. And here are five thousand of them, all alike,
in one single garden. I thought that I was rich, ^{that I had} with a flower
that was unique in all the world; and all I had ~~was~~ ^{was} a common
flower. ^{music} That doesn't make me a very great prince.

(he cries)

laughter

(A fox appears at the right side on the stage)

Fox Good morning.

LP Good morning.

Fox I am right here under the apple tree.

LP Who are you? You are very pretty to look at.

Fox I am a fox.

LP Come and play with me, I am so unhappy.

F I cannot play with you, I am not tamed.

LP Ah! Please excuse me What does that mean - "tame"?

F You do not live here, what is it that you are looking for?

LP I am looking for me^u. What does that mean - "tame"?

F Men! Then have guns, and they hunt. It is very disturbing.

They also raise chickens. These are their only interests.

Are you looking for chickens?

LP No, I am looking for friends. What does that mean - "tame"?

F It is an act too often neglected. It means to establish ties.

LP To establish ties?

F Just that.

ARIA

You are a boy

Just like a hundred thousand other little boys

I am a fox

Just like a hundred thousand other little foxes

But if you tame me

If you tame me

We shall need each other

(LP sings second chorus)

LP I am beginning to understand, There is a flower ... I think that she has tamed me ...

F It is possible. On the Earth one sees all sorts of things

LP Oh, but this is not on the Earth.

F On another planet?

LP Yes

F Are there hunters on that planet?

LP No.

F Ah, that is interesting. Are there chickens?

LP No

F Nothing is perfect. My life is very monotonous. I hunt chickens. Men hunt me. But if you tame me, it will be as if the sun came to shine upon my life. I shall know the sound of your step. Please tame me.

LP I want to very, very much, but I haven't much time. I have a great many things to understand.

F One only understands the things that one tames.

LP What must I do to tame you.

F You must be patient. First you ~~sit~~^{stand} a little distance from me - like that - ~~in the glass.~~ I shall look at you out of the corner of my eye and you will say nothing. You will ~~sit~~^{stand} a little closer to me every day.

(Reprise of Aria)

LP I must go

F I shall cry.

X LP But you wanted me to tame you. And now I know that my flower is more important than all the hundreds of other flowers because it is she that I have watered, because it is she that I have put under the glass globe. She is my flower. You really see with your heart-
F not with your eye at all.

Scene 11 (RS emerges from Chorus)

LP Good morning.

RS Good morning.

LP What do you do here?

RS I sort out travelers, in bundles of a thousand. I send off the trains that carry them: now to the right, now to the left.

LP They are in a great hurry. What are they looking for?

RS Not even the locomotive engineer knows that.

LP Are they coming back already.

RS These are not the same ones. It is an exchange. No one is ever satisfied where he is.

LP Are they pursuing the first travelers?

RS They are pursuing nothing at all. They are asleep in there, or if they are not asleep they are yawning. Only the children are flattening their noses against the window-panes.

LP Only the children know what they are looking for.

(Switchman hurries off) (A merchant strolls on)

LP Good morning.

M Good morning

LP What are those pills you are seeling?

M They quénch thirst

LP Why do you seel them?

M Because they save so much time. With these pills you save fifty-three minutes in every week.

LP And what do you do with those fifty-three minutes?

M Anything you like

LP As for me, I should walk toward a spring of fresh water.

(Merchant hurries off during this speech)

Scene 12

*culver
music
chord.*

(The aviator who has observed the play from the edge of one dramatic plane comes forward)

A I, too, here in this desert should like to walk toward a spring of fresh water. I am about to die of thirst.

books words

LP I'm thirsty too. Let's both look for a well

(They start walking, singing together)

My Little Man -chorus

~~Aviator--~~

Little Prince - Do you hear? We have wakened the well, and it is singing.

Aviator - It is strange. Everything is ready to use - the rope, the pully, the bucket.

LP ③ What makes the desert beautiful is that somewhere is hides a well. ② The stars are beautiful, because of a flower that cannot be seen. ① What we are looking for can be found in 1 single flower or in this water. The eyes are blind. One must look with the heart.

LP You know - my descent to the Earth tomorrow will be its anniversary. I came down very near here.

A Then it was not be chance that on the morning I met you you were on your way back to the place where you landed.

Ah, I am a little frightened

LP Now you must work. You must return to your engine. I will be waiting for you here. Come back tommorrow eveing.

(lights out on well)

My Little Man - chonns

(LP sits on the mountain ladder) (snake light)

LP Yes, it's the right day, but it's not the right place. You have good poison? You are sure that it will not make me suffer too long?

A What does this mean? Why are you talking to snakes?

LP I am going back home today. It is far - it is difficult. Before I go I am going to make you a present. (he laughs)

A Dear little prince I love to hear that laughter.

LP You will have stars that can laugh. You must always be my friend. You will want to laugh with me. Here is my present.

ARIA

Look at the sky

We'll hear five hundred million bells in the sky.

Look at the stars

We'll have five hundred million springs on those stars

on my star

on your star

Each shall have his flow'r

LP Tonight you must not come.

A I shall not leave you. It is because of the snake. This one might bite you just for fun.

(~~lights are lowered~~)

Just snake light

LP ~~.....Are you there? It was wrong of you to come~~

.....I shall look as if I were dead. That will not be true.

..... All the stars will be wells with rusty pulleys

They will pour out fresh water for us to drink..... Let me

go by myself.

(he disappears behind the chorns)

Choral Epilogue

loveliest
(This, the loneliest place in the world

Wait patiently under this star)

Our little prince is sleeping, sleeping

Hear how like gold his laughing, laughing

Our nightly watch we're keeping, keeping

loneliest
This the loneliest place in the world

This the loneliest, loveliest place in the world.

The End