

A Little Princess

A play by Grace Gasper

March 4th

5pm

Washington

Hall Lab

Theatre

Free

at the

door!

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Co.

About the Club

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company (NSR) is Notre Dame's only student-run organization for producing works of Shakespeare. The club prides itself in putting the B.A. back in the Bard since 1997!



Spring 2023 Officers:

Emily Hannon, Executive Producer

Dominic Keene and Grace Gasper, Producers

Christina Randazzo and Isabel Olesinski, Marketing Team

Natalie Allton, Assistant Producer

Ballard Powell, Technical Director

Corinne Niezgodzki, Treasurer Supreme

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Special Thanks to:

Carys Kresny

Tarryn Chun

Scott Jackson

Notre Dame Department of Film, Television, and Theatre

Lynn Holbrook

Paige Dooley, Kat Van Vleet, and the Washington Hall Staff

Lori Butchko

Hannah Smith

Cate Cappelmann

Savannah Miracle

Emily Hannon

Dominic Keene

Christina Randazzo

Director's Note

The novel, *A Little Princess*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett found me when I was in about 4th grade. I remember poking around the upper shelves of the children's section of the school library (mostly because I wanted to use the stepstool) and discovering an old blue hardcover copy of this book. I subsequently checked it out 4 times. In my lunches in the library, I met Sara.

I grew up as an undiagnosed neurodivergent kid. When I found Sara, I found parts of myself on the page. This adaptation seeks to reexamine Sara through a neurodivergent lens. A hope of mine in creating this piece was to show Sara's differences, not as obstacles to overcome, but as beautiful, integral parts of who she is that don't need to be changed. This is a story of kindness that knows no social class and of imagination that knows no age limit. I hope that this story can help us all recognize where we can judge less and imagine more.

Thank you to the cast of this reading. You all worked so hard over such a short rehearsal period to get this thing on its feet and I cannot thank you enough. It is a surreal joy to see my work brought to life by such wonderful actors. I would also like to thank my incredible stage manager, Brittany Alvarez. You are my right hand woman in more ways than one. Thank you for dealing with all the tiny pieces that go into something like this and for dealing with my last minute rewrites and 4am texts with ideas for the play.

Thank you to the board of NSR. This reading would not be possible if you all had not said yes to doing a third show this semester!

I would also like to thank my thesis advisors, Carys Kresny and Tarryn Chun for their continual support. This play started as an assignment in Carys Kresny's class, two years ago, and it is only because of a push from Carys to "keep writing" that this piece exists today. Thank you for believing in me, Carys, and giving me permission to keep going. Thank you, Tarryn, for taking a chance on a thesis project that was thrown at you (while you were on leave!) and jumping in with so much support.

I hope you enjoy *A Little Princess* and I challenge you to throw yourself into this story with childlike wonder and try to see the world like a story too!

Written and Directed by
Grace Gasper

Cast

Sara Crewe.....Natalie Allton
Becky.....Corinne Niezgodzki
Emily.....Mariko Jurcsak
Lavinia.....Jacqueline Cox
Miss Minchin.....Isabel Olesinski
Captain Crewe/Monsieur Dufarge.....Marven Corrielus
Ermengarde.....Alyssa Miulli
Louisa.....Mack Pittman
Jessie.....Anna Falk

Crew

Stage Manager.....Brittany Alvarez
Technical Director.....Ballard Powell

About the Cast and Crew

Natalie Allton (Sara) is a junior Neuroscience/English double major from Columbus, OH, which she never shuts up about. With NSR, Natalie has previously acted in *Taming of the Shrew* and *M*cbeth*, improvised the hell out of *Comedy of Errors* in *Shakespeare: Unrehearsed!*, and assistant directed *Measure for Measure*, and she looks forward to seeing you all again later this semester as *Beatrice* in *Much Ado About Nothing*. When she first read *A Little Princess* over ten years ago, she found a role model in Sara's dedication to kindness and love of imagination and storytelling. She is beyond thrilled and considers herself incredibly fortunate to present Sara to you all in this staged reading. Natalie would like to thank the entire cast of *A Little Princess* and every member of NSR for their love, support, and laughter. Most importantly, she wants to thank Grace Gasper for trusting her to tell Sara's story as she wishes it had existed a decade ago. She hopes you enjoy this production as much as she enjoys *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* (2022, dir. Joel Crawford).

Brittany Alvarez (Stage Manager) is a fourth-year student studying Civil Engineering and Environmental Earth Science. She really likes concrete and rocks.....like really likes concrete and rocks. She *will* lecture you about them if provoked. When she is not spending her time by the CEEES department to ambush her professors with questions, she partakes in clubs like NSR and TEA. In her time here she has done two NSR shows (*Romeo and Juliet* and *Measure for Measure*). She is so proud of everyone in this show, especially with such a quick turnaround from auditions to the performance. She is so happy to support her best friend Grace who has been by her side since they met freshman year. There's no other cast she would lose sleep over and consume copious amounts of caffeine for. She thanks you all for seeing the show and hopes you embrace being a kid again.

Jacqueline Cox (Lavinia) is so happy that you get to be one of the only people to see the one and only performance of this incredible show! She would like to thank her Mom for flying across the country to come see her first live production of theatre in 2 years! Jacqueline is so excited to take the stage again after many unfortunate years in limbo due to covid and college. Her favorite role she's ever had in a production previously was Mrs. Potiphar in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, so maybe she was born to play the villain. However, she promises the audience that the only things she shares in common with Lavinia in real life is her confidence and maybe her love of complaining. Jacqueline would also like to thank her friends at ND she's made both in the show and that came to see it for their unending support and love. She hopes you enjoy it! Xoxo

Marven Corrielus (Captain Crewe/Monsieur Dufarge) is a third year Ph.D Student at Notre Dame studying Mediterranean History. He has been acting and doing shows since he was in High School. His favorite color is purple, and his hobbies are villainy and mischief. He loves swords and allowing his imagination to run wild.

Anna Falk (Jessie) is thrilled to be playing the illusive and illustrious Jessie in her first theater production at Notre Dame. The meatball fall off my little plate of spaghetti. The spaghetti too slippery for the little meatball. She pop off so fast. The strong wind blow all the noodles off the plate. Ragu on my niece and nephew. Thank you to my muse Brennan Lee Mulligan.

Grace Gasper (Director/Playwright) is thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to both write and direct A Little Princess. She wants to thank you for coming to see her work. She has a million more thank yous to make and encourages you to read them in the Director's Note! Grace is an FTT and Theology major. This is her first time playwrighting and directing! Previous acting and costuming credits include The Winter's Tale, Measure for Measure, Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew, Julius Caesar, and Romeo and Juliet.

Mariko Jurcsak (Emily) has warm brown eyes that open and close, golden hoop earrings, and long, shiny mahogany-colored hair. She comes in an authentic 1824 outfit: (1) A white camisa edged with lace. (2) A colorful print skirt. (3) A blue woven belt. (4) White drawers. (5) Faux-leather moccasins. (6) A little pretend sprig of yellow primroses tied with a blue ribbon in her hair. This 5'4" doll has a huggable cloth body, and her movable head and limbs are made of smooth vinyl. Check out her backstory at americangirdoll@urmom.com

Alyssa Miulli (Ermengarde) is an Anthropology and History double major who is very grateful to be part of A Little Princess. Ermengarde has been one of her favorite characters to bring to life, and she would like to congratulate the director for creating such a genuinely beautiful story. She would also like to thank everyone in the production that has made her love for theater grow more and more. 🙌

Corinne "Cori" Niezgodski (Becky) is a Senior Computer Science major and Anthropology minor who is thrilled to be a part of this creative process! She is excited to be involved in a contemporary play, having been heavily involved in the Not-So-Royal Shakespeare company since her Sophomore year at Notre Dame, continuing her love of theater from her high school and younger years. Grace Gasper is a **goddess** who deserves so much praise for bringing a wonderful story to life and

Corinne would like to thank her for deeming her worthy enough to assist.

Isabel Olesinski (Miss Minchin) is so excited to be in her 5th NSR-adjacent production as Miss Minchin in *A Little Princess*. She's from Chicago and is a junior at Notre Dame, double majoring in Political Science and English with a minor in Constitutional Studies and a Creative Writing concentration. Isabel's main theatre credits include Eddie (USTA's *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*), Mistress Overdone (*Measure for Measure*), Fleance/Macduff's Son (*Macbeth*), Grumio (*Taming of the Shrew*), Lucius/Cinna the Poet (*Julius Caesar*), Penelope Pennywise (*Urinetown: The Musical*), and Katalin Hunyak (*Chicago*). Fun fact, she's performed at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater! Isabel has been doing theatre since 5th-grade improv class (she then vowed never to do improv again) and is very proud to be a part of NSR for her third year. Isabel would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support and keeping up with her crazy passions (she loves you all very much). Enjoy the show!

Mack Pittman (Louisa) is so excited to participate in *A Little Princess*! When not performing, you can find Mack carving wood, sleeping on futons, poorly attempting to rock climb, or ushering at DPAC. Mack would like to thank Grace, fellow cast members, and Claire Ann<3 for their support and love. She hopes you enjoy the show!