

## Theater review:

# Town and Country's "Peter and the Starcatcher" is action-packed

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*Dylan Corbett is Peter Pan in "Peter and the Starcatcher," the current production at Town and Country Players in Buckingham.*

In Walt Disney's version of "Peter Pan," no explanation is offered of how he came to be the boy who won't grow up.

"Peter and the Starcatcher," the current production of Town and Country Players in Buckingham, remedies that oversight by offering backstories of Peter, Mrs. Darling, Tinker Bell and Captain Hook.

Based on a 2004 novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, it came to the stage in 2010 and was performed off and on Broadway.

A rollicking romp, the show is defined as family-friendly and there were plenty of children in the audience the night I visited, including the two who accompanied me. Their attention never wavered as they watched the cast appear alternately as sailors, pirates and mermaids, and they laughed out loud at the comedic antics of the talented Jim Moore portraying the pirate Black Stache, who becomes Captain Hook.

When we meet Peter, ably played by Dylan Corbett, he is an orphan with no name who is being sold into slavery. This grim possibility never takes place as he and his friends are helped to food and freedom by starcatcher-in-training Molly Aster, played by accomplished actress Julie Peterson.

"Star stuff" appears to be the answer to how Peter became a boy who can fly, doesn't trust grownups and doesn't ever want to grow up. The tale explains how he inadvertently becomes immersed in it, changing him forever.

There is a lot of action on the stage, and costume changes for the cast, with their transformation into bewigged mermaids among the funniest. Star stuff, apparently, was responsible for changing fish into semi-humans, and the children in the audience clearly found them hysterical.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" doesn't appear to be written specifically for children, but it is set up in a way that the 7-year-old with me understood the plot if not all the dialogue. This is a show with no lag time and lots of action, which is how it held the

children's attention well after their normal bedtime.

Town and Country's theater in the round had much to do with this; the audience is close enough to the action to almost feel like a part of it, and the cast worked hard to make sure they spoke to both sides of the audience.

The credit for that goes to freshman director Carly Price, who took advantage of the show's sense of freedom and fun with its staging, costumes and props. Where else could a toy version of Han Solo's Millennium Falcon stand in for a British warship?

"Peter and the Starcatcher" continues this weekend with three more shows. See the website [townandcountryplayers.org](http://townandcountryplayers.org) for information.