

# STUDY GUIDE

## THE LITTLE PRINCE

BOOK AND LYRICS BY  
JOHN SCOULLAR

MUSIC BY  
RICK CUMMINS

BASED ON THE BOOK BY  
ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
ILYSE ROBBINS

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY  
TODD C. GORDON

SCENIC DESIGNER  
MATTHEW LAZURE

COSTUME DESIGNER  
CHELSEA KERL

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
KAREN PERLOW

SOUND DESIGNER  
MICHAEL POLICARE

STAGE MANAGER  
ANNA BURNHAM\*

**CAST**  
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

ANDREW BARBATO\* Men of the Planets, Fox

WIL MOSER The Little Prince

NICK SULFARO\* The Aviator

LAURA JO TREXLER\* Rose, Snake

**administrative office**  
200 dexter avenue  
watertown, ma 02472

artistic director **jim petosa** managing director **harriet sheets**

Production sponsors:



**new  
rep**  
THEATRE

the **professional theatre company**  
in residence at the  
**arsenal center for the arts**

## Contents

- 2 The Little Prince Summary
- 3 Meet the Characters
- 4 Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- 5 Meet the Artists
- 7 Pre-Show and Post-Show Questions
- 7 Bibliography

Since its debut in 1943, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* has continued to stir imaginations and entertain all ages. The novella sells nearly two million copies each year and has been translated into more than 250 languages and dialects. A renowned author in France, Saint-Exupéry wrote *The Little Prince* in New York City during his two-and-a-half-year stay in the United States, where he fled after France fell to Nazi Germany. His friend Elizabeth Reynal had suggested Saint-Exupéry turn his doodles into a picture book for children. Her husband's company, Reynal and Hitchcock, published the book both in the original French and in an English translation. *The Little Prince* was not published in France until 1945, after the country's liberation from the Nazis.

### The Little Prince Summary

After making an emergency landing during a storm, the Aviator becomes stranded somewhere in the Sahara desert. There he meets the Little Prince, a young boy from Asteroid B-612 who tells the Aviator of his home and his travels.

Before leaving his tiny planet, the Little Prince had grown and protected a single Rose. They were very fond of each other until the Rose's demands became too great. Because of this, the Prince leaves home to explore other nearby planets. At each small planet, he meets its single inhabitant: a king of no one, a conceited man with no admirers, a greedy businessman, a lamplighter who never rests, and a geographer without any maps. Lastly, the Prince comes to Earth, looking for more

people. Here he encounters the Snake, who offers to someday help him return home. Further on, the Prince meets the Fox, who asks the Prince to "tame" him. Over a period of time, the Fox teaches him the value of close relationships and what is truly essential in life. Realizing the importance of his Rose, he must leave the Fox and make his way back to her.

Over the course of the Prince's story, the Aviator must attempt to repair his damaged airplane and search for food and water. Where at first he seems to resent the Little Prince's intrusion on his distress, soon the Aviator becomes fond of the strange boy. Just as the Aviator runs out of water, the Prince leads

him to a well, though the Aviator must carry the Prince's weakened body there. Then mysteriously, the Aviator's airplane is fixed. Finally, on the anniversary of his own landing on Earth, the Little Prince must return to his Rose. With the help of the Snake, he journeys back to Asteroid B-612.



ILLUSTRATION BY ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

# Meet the Characters

## THE AVIATOR

We don't know the man's name, but the Aviator narrates our story. He is a solo airmail pilot with the nickname "Solitaire." However, his somewhat reckless and careless attitude gets him into trouble. The flight that strands him in the desert is "the third unauthorized flight" that month, getting him "grounded" as punishment. A loner, as his nickname suggests, the Aviator's only friend is his airplane, and he wants little to do with the Little Prince. Yet he shows an odd talent for drawing sheep just as the strange little boy likes.

## THE LITTLE PRINCE

The Little Prince is the only inhabitant of tiny Asteroid B-612. Every morning there he cleans out its three volcanoes and weeds the baobabs. He has also grown very fond of a beautiful Rose that grows there. However, he left to explore other planets when the Rose's demands became too great. After meeting men on other planets, the Little Prince feels very strongly about the problems with grown-ups. He believes, as the Fox does, that truly important things are invisible. This leads him to very much miss his Rose.

## ROSE

The Rose grew on the Little Prince's asteroid as the first and only rose there. He nurtured and protected her. However, when the Prince leaves her side to do other tasks, the Rose becomes jealous. She tries many tricks to regain his attention, but they only drive him away. While the Prince is away on his journey, she misses him terribly and remains anxious over expressing her love.

## SNAKE

A mysterious creature, the snake claims to be "more powerful than the finger of a king" and to be able to "carry you further than any ship." She is the first being on Earth to greet the Little Prince and pities his innocence and long journey. Though the Aviator believes her to be dangerous, the Snake is the only one with the power to send the Prince back to his planet.

## FOX

The Fox lives in the woods in a foxhole and is chased all day by hunters. Running from them and chasing chickens with no companions, the Fox gets bored. He dreams of meeting a friend who will "tame" him. Upon seeing that the Little Prince is small and has no gun, he believes that the boy may be just that friend.

## MEN ON THE PLANETS

**KING:** This King rules his planet, yet has no subjects. He makes nonsense orders to prove his nonexistent authority.

**CONCEITED MAN:** This vain man craves admiration from others for his looks, his talent, and numerous other qualities.

**BUSINESSMAN:** The Businessman continuously counts the stars, claiming to own them in order to make himself rich. He is only concerned with "important" things.

**LAMPLIGHTER:** Every time the sun comes up or down on his tiny planet—once every minute without rest—the Lamplighter must put out or light the lamp.

**GEOGRAPHER:** The Geographer does not know any geography because he sits and waits for an explorer to travel the lands.



# Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry—known to his flying peers as Saint-Ex—was born on June 29, 1900 in Lyon, France to an aristocratic but non-wealthy family. When he proved to be a poor student in grade school, he studied architecture for a few months at the École des Beaux-Arts before he was conscripted into the French Air Force. There, in 1922, he qualified as a military pilot. Yet it was his career transporting mail for the airline Aeropostale that gave Saint-Exupéry fodder for so much of his writing. Aeropostale took him to far-off destinations in his travels all over the Mediterranean and to South America and back. He helped establish air routes to these locations, daring to explore unknown territories under sometimes frightening conditions. During his career, Saint-Exupéry had several serious accidents, including a crash in the Sahara similar to the one that occurs in *The Little Prince*.



After a break from flying—which included his transition to award-winning author—Saint-Exupéry piloted again during WWII. He led several reconnaissance missions until his last flight from Corsica in 1944, from which he never returned. His death remained a mystery until sixty years later when the wreckage was found off the coast of Marseille. In 2008, retired sports journalist Horst Rippert claimed he had shot down the plane while piloting for the Germans.



The view from thousands of feet above ground led Saint-Exupéry to reflect upon life and human nature. In his most autobiographical book, *Wind, Sand, and Stars*, he writes, “one of the miracles of the airplane is that it plunges a man directly into the heart of mystery. You are a biologist studying, through your porthole, the human ant-hill, scrutinizing objectively those towns seated in their plain at the centre of their highways.” His works, including *The Little Prince*, are born from such musings. As 1943 critic Beatrice Sherman described it, they have a “fine, clear, rarefied quality of the high lonely spaces where a man’s mind has the range to ponder and question and wonder about the meanings of things.”

# MEET THE ARTISTS

## ANDREW BARBATO\* (Men of the



Planets, Fox) makes his New Repertory Theatre debut. Recent credits include *Peter Pan* (Disney Cruise Lines); *The Secret Garden* (Stoneham Theatre); and *The Hobbit* (Wheelock Family Theatre). Recent directing credits

include *Alice! The Musical* (Wheelock Family Theatre). He will next direct the tour of his newest musical *Jack and the Giant*. Mr. Barbato splits his time between New York and Boston and is a proud member of World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms.

## WIL MOSER (The Little Prince) makes his



New Repertory Theatre debut. Other area credits include *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *An Enemy of the People*, and *The King and I* (Monomoy Theatre); *Cymbeline* (Barnstable HS Drama); *The Sound of Music*

(Chatham Drama Guild); *Tom Sawyer* and *The Little Prince* (Eventide Arts); *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* and *Freckleface Strawberry* (Harwich Junior Theatre); *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Barnstable Junior Music Theater). Mr. Moser is a freshman at Barnstable High School in Hyannis, MA. Born in Salem, MA, he is a year-round resident of Cape Cod. He will appear next in *HONK!* at Eventide Arts in February. wilmoser.com

## NICK SULFARO\* (The Aviator) returns



to New Repertory Theatre after appearing in *Camelot* and *RENT*. Other area credits include *Home of the Brave* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Something's Afoot*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *The Full Monty* (Stoneham

Theatre); *Anne of Green Gables* (Wheelock Family Theatre); *Photograph 51* (Nora Theatre Company); and *Bat Boy: The Musical* (IRNE nomination, Best Actor, Metro Stage Company). Mr. Sulfaro holds a BFA from Emerson College. A life-long resident of Massachusetts, he currently resides in Boston. nicksulfaro.com

## LAURA JO TREXLER\* (Rose, Snake)



makes her New Repertory Theatre debut. Recent credits include *The Seagull*, *Cabaret*, and *Escape from Happiness* (Brandeis University). She recently wrote and starred in a workshop production of her one-woman musical

*PLAY ON! A One-Woman Musical Romp with Shakespeare's Heroines*. A subsequent soundtrack

and personal album will be recorded this winter and released in the spring. Ms. Trexler received a BFA from Ithaca College and an MFA in Acting from Brandeis University. She is originally from Denver, CO. laurajotrexler.com

## ILYSE ROBBINS\* (Director & Choreographer)

returns to New Repertory Theatre after directing/choreographing *Marry Me a Little* and *World Goes 'Round*; choreographing *A Christmas Carol*, *Moby Dick*, and *Das Barbecü*; and performing in *Tongue of a Bird*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Wild Party* (IRNE Award/Best Ensemble). Other recent directing credits include *Working* (Lyric Stage Company); *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* (Stoneham Theatre); *42nd Street* (IRNE Award, Best Choreography, Stoneham Theatre); and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Elliot Norton Award, Best Director, Stoneham Theatre). Other recent choreography credits include *The Addams Family* (Stoneham Theatre); *Brundibar* (Underground Railway Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Hanover Theater); *The Full Monty* (Stoneham Theatre); and *On the Town* (Best Choreography, Entertainment World Awards, Lyric Stage Company). Other recent area performance credits include *On the Town* (Lyric Stage Company); *Love, Faith and Other Dirty Words* (Modern Theatre); *The Full Monty* (Stoneham Theatre); and *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Wheelock Family Theatre). Ms. Robbins earned her BS in Theater from Northwestern University, certification from the British American Drama Academy, and EdM from Harvard University. Originally from Worcester, she now resides in Belmont. Ms. Robbins serves as Clerk on the board of the Theater Community Benevolent Fund. She will next appear in the cast of *MOMologues* for a benefit performance and will be directing/choreographing *How to Succeed...* for Stoneham Theatre's 15th Anniversary Season.

## TODD C. GORDON (Music Director)

returns to New Repertory Theatre after serving as Music Director for *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Rent*, *World Goes 'Round*, *Passing Strange*, *The Last Five Years*, *Darling Divas Deck the Holidays*, *Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas*, *Hot Mikado*, *Cabaret* (IRNE Nominee, Best Music Director), *Gutenberg! The Musical*, *Dessa Rose*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *The Wild Party* (IRNE Nominee, Best Music Director), *Ragtime* (IRNE Award, Best Music Director), *Into the Woods* (IRNE Award, Best Music Director), *The Threepenny Opera* (IRNE Nominee, Best Music Director), musical supervision for *According to Tip*, and pianist for *Marry Me A Little*. Mr. Gordon earned his undergraduate degree from University of Arkansas, and his master's degree from New England Conservatory. Originally from Claremore, Oklahoma, he resides in Jamaica Plain.

## MATTHEW T. LAZURE (Scenic Designer)

makes his New Repertory Theatre debut. Recent credits include scenic designing *Alice! A New Musical*, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *The Hobbit*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Oliver!* (Wheelock Family Theatre); *Snow White and the Seven Bottoms*, *It's a Horrible Life*, *Peter Pansy*, and *All About Christmas Eve* (The Gold Dust Orphans). Mr. Lazure earned his BFA in Painting from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Originally from Southbridge, MA, he resides in Somerville. He will next design *Shrek: the Musical* (Wheelock Family Theatre).

## CHELSEA KERL (Costume Designer)

returns to New Repertory Theatre after designing costumes for *Assassins*, *Tongue of a Bird* and costume construction for *Our Lady*. Recent area design credits include *Emilie* (The Nora Theatre Company); *Macbeth* (Brown Box Theatre Project); *Henry V* (Arts After Hours); *Der Vampyr* (OperaHub); and *Pacific Overtures* (Boston University). Ms. Kerl received an MFA in Costume Design from Boston University, and a BA in Theatre and a BA in English from the University of Maryland. Originally from New Jersey, she currently resides in Allston.

## KAREN PERLOW (Lighting Designer)

returns to New Repertory Theatre after light designing *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Cherry Docs*, *Mr. Roberts*, *Indulgences*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Frozen*, *Scapin*, and *Waiting for Godot*. Recent credits include lighting design for *Far From Heaven* (SpeakEasy Stage); *Dear Elizabeth* (Lyric Stage Company); and *Reconsidering Hanna(h)* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre). She teaches Lighting Design at Northeastern University, and serves as treasurer of the Theater Community Benevolent Fund. She is the recipient of the 2002, 2006, and 2008 IRNE Awards for Best Lighting Design, and Best Light Design at the NYC United Solo Theater Festival 2013. Originally from Pawtucket RI, she resides in Somerville. She will next design *Light up the Sky* (Lyric Stage Company); and *Big Fish* (SpeakEasy Stage).

## MICHAEL POLICARE (Sound Designer)

returns to New Repertory Theatre after sound designing *Assassins*, *Closer Than Ever* and assistant sound designing *Rancho Mirage*. Recent credits include sound design for *Assassins* and *Shelter* (Boston Conservatory); Audio 2 for *Light Princess* (ART Institute); sound board operator for *Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Last Days of Doowop*, *The Rat Pack is Back*, *Theatro*, *The Movin' Out Band*, and *Lumberjacks in Love* (Stoneham Theatre). Mr. Policare is currently the AV Supervisor for New England Conservatory's Opera Department. Originally from East Greenwich, RI, he currently resides in Lowell.

# MEET THE ARTISTS

**ANNA BURNHAM\*** (Stage Manager) returns to New Repertory Theatre after stage managing *Assassins* and *Imagining Madoff*. Area credits include *Other Desert Cities*, *The How and the Why*, *Good People*, *Red*, *Quality of Life*, *Distracted*, and *Superior Donuts* (New Century Theatre). New York credits include *Corner Pocket* (Extant Arts); *Notice Me* (Foglight Productions); and *In Paradise She Plundered Him* and *Summer Shorts Festival IV & V* (Interactive Arts). She received a BA from Bennington College. Originally from Westport, CT, she currently resides in Jamaica Plain. She will return to New Rep to stage manage *King of the Schnorrers*, *Stronger Than the Wind*, and *God Box*.

**RICK CUMMINS** (Music) is the composer/author of several Off-Broadway and regional theatre musicals and plays including *That's Life!*, *The Little Prince*, *Pets!*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Red-Headed League*, *Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol*, *Amos & Olga*, and *A Virtual Woman*. His incidental music scores include plays such as *Death of a Salesman*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, Sam Shepard's *Icarus's Mother*, and others which have been performed in New York, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Canada, and across the U.S. On compact disc, his music can be heard on Varese-Sarabande's *Broadway Bound: New Writers for the Musical Theatre*, Dottie Burman's *I'm In Love With My Computer*, and Leahy Production's *That's Life!* He has also written music and lyrics for children's songs, industrials, and film. He is an alumnus of New York's BMI/Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and is a member of the Dramatists Guild and ASCAP.

**JOHN SCOLLAR** (Book & Lyrics) has written lyrics for cabaret performers, children's songs, books, and rock videos. His musical *Canticle*, about St. Francis of Assisi, was produced at the Orleans Arena Theatre on Cape Cod and the Hartman Conservatory Theatre in Stamford, CT. *Old Fashioned Bargain Days*, a drama, was part of the playreading series at Playwrights Horizons. Along with *The Little Prince*, Mr. Scoullar has collaborated with Mr. Cummins on numerous television treatments, scripts, and the theme song for a teen series called *Yo! TV*. As a Broadway performer, he was in the original productions of *Hot L Baltimore*, *Over Here*, *Candide*, *King of Hearts*, and *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater*.

**ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY** (Author) was born in Lyons, France in 1900. He took his first flight at the age of eleven, and became a pilot at twenty-six. He was a pioneer of international commercial aviation and flew in the Spanish Civil War and World War II.

His writings include *The Little Prince*, *Wind, Sand and Stars*, and *Southern Mail*. In 1944, while serving with his French air squadron, he disappeared during a reconnaissance flight over the Mediterranean.

**JIM PETOSA** (Artistic Director) joined New Repertory Theatre as an award-winning theatre artist, educator, and leader in 2012. He has served as Director of the School of Theatre, College of Fine Arts, at Boston University since 2002, and Artistic Director of Maryland's Olney Theatre Center for the Arts and its National Players educational touring company (1994-2012). While at BU, he established the Boston Center for American Performance (BCAP), the professional production extension of the BU School of Theatre, in 2008. Throughout the Northeast, Petosa has directed for numerous institutions, including *On the Verge*, *The Elephant Man* (IRNE Nomination), *Amadeus*, *Three Viewings*, *The Last Five Years*, and *Opus* at New Rep. In Boston, his work was nominated for two IRNE awards for *A Question of Mercy* (BCAP). He has served as one of three artistic leaders for the Potomac Theatre Project (PTP/NYC) since 1987. In Maryland, his work earned over 25 Helen Hayes Award nominations as well as the award for outstanding direction of a musical for *Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well...* His production of *Look! We Have Come Through!* was nominated for the Charles MacArthur

Award for outstanding new play, and he earned the Montgomery County Executive's Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Award for Outstanding Artist/Scholar. A member of Actors' Equity Association, Mr. Petosa has served on the executive board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for StageSource. Originally from New Jersey, he was educated at The Catholic University of America and resides in Quincy.

**HARRIET SHEETS** (Managing Director) joined New Repertory Theatre in 2000, bringing with her experience in human resources, union contracts and negotiations, budgeting and cash-flow management, as well as marketing, development, and special events. During her tenure, Ms. Sheets has successfully managed the theatre's increasing operational budget, and moved the company from Newton Highlands to Watertown's Arsenal Center for the Arts. Prior to working at New Rep, she was the General Manager at Merrimack Repertory Theatre, where she worked for nine years. Ms. Sheets began her career as an Actors' Equity Association Stage Manager, working at North Shore Music Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Opera Company of Boston and others. Originally from Arizona, she holds a BFA from Arizona State University and resides in Methuen.

L-R: WIL MOSER AS THE LITTLE PRINCE AND NICK SULFARO AS THE AVIATOR. PHOTO BY ROB LORINO.



## Pre-Show Questions

- 1) The story is set in the middle of the desert, as well as in space. How do technical aspects of the production create another landscape? Why is the story set in a far-off place?
- 2) The Little Prince says that the Aviator at first “talks just like the grown-ups.” What are the differences between grown-ups and children? Why might the Aviator miss being a boy?

## Post-Show Questions

- 3) Why is the Aviator’s fourth drawing of a sheep—the one in a box—better than his previous attempts? Why does the Little Prince urge him to be an artist?
- 4) The Fox wants the Little Prince to “tame” him. What does this mean? Is anyone else within the show “tamed?”
- 5) The Rose means a lot to the Little Prince. What does he learn about love from his relationship with her? Might she mean something to the Aviator as well?
- 6) What do you think happens to the Little Prince at the end of the play? Why does he choose to leave his new friend?
- 7) What does the Snake represent?
- 8) The Fox shares with the Prince a secret—the main theme of the show—that “what is essential is invisible to the eye.” What are the invisible, essential things that the Prince finds? That the Aviator finds? Are they the same?

## Bibliography

- “Antoine de Saint-Exupéry”. *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*. Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2014. Web. 29 May 2014. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/517096/Antoine-de-Saint-Exupery>
- Chamberlain, John. “Books of the Times.” *The New York Times*: 06 Apr 1943. 19. ProQuest. Web. 29 May 2014. <http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/hnpnewyorktimesindex/docview/106657513/abstract/4C047C7C01D04050PQ/123?accountid=14434>
- Crim, Kathryn. “On Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.” *The Threepenny Review* 117 (SPRING 2009): 8-9. Web. 10 June 2014. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25651017>
- “Display Ad 115 -- no Title.” *The New York Times*. 25 Apr 1943. 1. ProQuest. Web. 10 June 2014 . <http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/hnpnewyorktimesindex/docview/106677793/4C047C7C01D04050PQ/118?accountid=14434>
- Hawkins, Loret. “A Fairy Tale Not Wholly for Children.” *Daily Boston Globe*. Apr 15 1943. 19. ProQuest. Web. 10 June 2014. <http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/docview/817140133/D316589F80224266PQ/1?accountid=14434>
- Rothstein, Edward. “70 Years on, Magic Concocted in Exile.” *The New York Times*: 23 Jan 2014. Web. 5 June 2014. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/24/arts/design/the-morgan-explores-the-origins-of-the-little-prince.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/24/arts/design/the-morgan-explores-the-origins-of-the-little-prince.html?_r=0)
- de Saint-Exupéry, Antoine. *Wind, Sand, and Stars*. New York: Harcourt, 1939.
- Schiff, Stacy. “Par Avion” *The New York Times Book Review*; 25 Jun 2000; 31. ProQuest Web. 10 June 2014.
- Sherman, Beatrice. “A Prince of Lonely Space.” *The New York Times*. 11 Apr 1943. 1. Web. ProQuest. 29 May 2014. <http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/hnpnewyorktimesindex/docview/106707908/abstract/4C047C7C01D04050PQ/120?accountid=14434>
- “The Little Prince.” *IMDB*. Web. 12 August 2014. <http://www.imdb.com/find?q=the+little+prince&s=all>
- “The Phenomenon.” *The Little Prince*. Web. 12 August 2014. <http://www.thelittleprince.com/work/the-phenomenon>