

MEMBERS OF THE MUSICAL THEATER CLASS

Father Kevin Davis
Adam Will Buxton
Eve Naomi Namboodiripad*♦
Snake Alexi Horne♦
Snake Puppeteers Kelly Banfield*♦, Miranda Dobkin♦
Young Cain Zahra Lohoue
Young Abel Maura Whalen
Cain Penzi Hill*♦
Abel Sean Whalen♦

Father's Storytellers Act I

Katie Kendrick*♦, Portia Murphy♦, Lauren Scott*♦, Lorelei von Stackelberg Jones*
 Zoel Boubllil♦, Alexi Horne♦, Jake Maglio, Daniel Ortiz

Storytellers Act I

Ayzia Alexander♦, Kira Barich♦, Ellie Gibson, Margaret Guo, Masud Harrison♦, Leo Hu
 Leyna Kirsh, Sarah Mayer♦, Liz Merkulova, Maddy Prazak, Vee Rachakaraki*
 Susan Robinson-Cloete*♦, Eric Ruziskey*, Quinlan Trask, Krishell Williams
 Hana Sparks-Woodford*♦, Rose Xu, Haojing Zhan*♦

Noah Jake Maglio
Mrs. Noah Krishell Williams
Japheth Vee Rachakaraki*
Ham Leo Hu
Shem Eric Ruziskey*
Aphra Maddy Prazak
Aysha Kira Barich♦
Yonah Hana Sparks-Woodford*♦

Father's Storytellers Act II

Katie Kendrick*♦, Portia Murphy♦, Lauren Scott*♦, Lorelei von Stackelberg Jones*
 Zoel Boubllil♦, Alexi Horne♦, Daniel Ortiz, Sean Whalen♦

Storytellers/Animals Act II

Ayzia Alexander♦, Will Buxton, Ellie Gibson, Margaret Guo, Masud Harrison♦
 Penzi Hill*♦, Zahra Lohoue, Leyna Kirsh, Sarah Mayer♦, Liz Merkulova
 Naomi Namboodiripad*♦, Maddy Prazak, Susan Robinson-Cloete*♦
 Quinlan Trask, Maura Whalen, Rose Xu, Haojing Zhan*♦

Production Team

Production Stage Manager Sidney Gibson*
Assistant to the Director Julia Carrigan*♦
Assistant to the Music Director Kelly Banfield*♦
Sound Design Jiayi Luo*
Student Directors Miranda Dobkin♦, David Xi♦, Rex Zhang*♦
Assistant Stage Manager Peyton Sherman
Movement Captain Susan Robinson-Cloete*♦
Fight Captain David Xi♦

Orchestra Pit

Cello / Concert Master Haru Kato*♦
Clarinet Rebecca Kim
Flute Winnie Ding, Sarah Yanchunas
Guitar Sam Coscia*♦, Cindy Li
Horn Finn Pollard♦
Keyboard Angelina Wong
Marimba/Percussion Jady Huang
Percussion Sam Gorby
Timpani Megha Phalcomepely
Trombone Mitchell Beatch

(*denotes member of the class of 2020, ♦denotes IB Performing Arts student)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Maureen A. West
Music Director David Nolan
Scenic & Lighting Designer William S. Crandall
Choreographer Gracie Coscia-Collins
Costume Designer Linda Bee Stockton
Animal Designs Amedeo Salamoni & Scott Crandall
Production Assistance David J. Abers
Poster Design Lesley Driver
Piano Accompanist Sebastian Grand
Light Board Operators Christian Fusco*♦, Alonso Santos, Zaeem Syed*
Follow Spot Operators Ann Scherer, Devin Vandenberg
Sound Board Operators Justin Liu, Jiayi Luo*
Backstage Audio (A2) Charlie Gorby, Griffin Shankin
Backstage Technicians Baylee Klose, Chris Petrosky, Owen Yerkes
Technical Assistance Dash Atwood, Wilson Chen, Alex Dwornikowski*
 Christian Fusco*♦, Sidney Gibson*, Charlie Gorby
 Olivia Heidgen, Baylee Klose, Justin Liu, Jiayi Luo*, Ryan Mitchell
 Ashryn Ortogero, Chris Petrosky, Alonso Santos, Ann Scherer
 Griffin Shankin, Peyton Sherman, Zaeem Syed*, Devin Vandenberg
 Lyn Vilceanu, Zuri Williams, Owen Yerkes, Simon Zelesko, Raven Zhan*♦

Special Thanks Heather Henson, Adelka Polak, Alex Griffin, Cheryl Blaylock
Snake Puppet Provided courtesy of IBEX Puppetry, Built by the Jim Henson Workshop™

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“The book of Genesis has fascinated and inspired dramatists for centuries, from the medieval mystery plays to such modern American theatre writers as Arthur Miller and Richard Rodgers. Still, when John Caird and I began work on *Children of Eden*, it was with a certain amount of trepidation. How would audiences react to a vision of Noah, Eve, Cain, and especially God Himself that did not exactly jibe with what they had heard in Sunday school? It was while in the throes of these concerns that I learned the Book of Genesis was not a spontaneous account that first appeared complete and original in the Old Testament. It was, rather, a highly edited version of ancient Hebrew tribal beliefs and stories which had been handed down orally from generation to generation. Many elements were changed, omitted, or embroidered upon over time. Indeed, in the early chapters of the Old Testament itself, often two contrary versions are presented: Were Adam and Eve created simultaneously, as in Genesis I:27, or Adam first, as in II:22? Did the Flood last forty days, as in VII:12, or 150, as in VII:24? I came across other sources, in a book of Hebrew myths compiled by Robert Graves, and even whole unfamiliar Books of the Bible, edited out of the Old Testament but collected as The Forgotten Books of Eden, translated from ancient Egyptian and published by World Bible Publishers. Finally, I read a book called Memories & Visions of Paradise by Richard Heinberg, which examines the stories of the Lost Eden and the Flood in many cultures and convincingly advances the argument, in highly scientific and rational language, that these events actually happened historically, though not precisely as described in Genesis. After all these readings and more, many of which inspired and influenced our own interpretation, John and I feel more comfortable about playing slightly loose with these Bible tales. We hope our audiences come to our view of these wonderful stories with the same spirit of adventure, awe, and delight as we present them to you.” (Stephen Schwartz quote found in the archive of the Stephen Schwartz.com Forum.)

These words have guided my vision for this production. I have repeatedly told the performers and the production team that we are not telling an unknown story. So why should we produce this show? In 1991 I attended a performance of the premiere production of *Children of Eden* in London's West End. The experience was magical. It wasn't just because Ken Page was in the role of Father or the fact that the dance and costume interpretations of the animals were so creative, or that the music is a marvelous combination of genres and historical styles; what compelled me was the genuine energy and enthusiasm behind the storytelling. As Schwartz and Caird intended, the emotions I experienced gave me a new perspective on the stories I had learned as a child, which had felt distant and irrelevant. The second idea I wished to explore in this production was the connection between Father and his children. Drawing the human parallel between parent and child, the story has become a reflection of the emotions experienced in this relationship. The child is welcomed into the warmth and protection of the proud parent at birth. As the child moves toward independence, tension is introduced and feelings of pride, disappointment, anger, loss, and regret are experienced on both sides. Hopefully, by the end of our human journey, we reach understanding and forgiveness as the child becomes the parent. And thus, this cycle has continued for generations. With this in mind, my artistic goal for this production has been to paint the story with colors that reflect a spectrum of many emotions. In place of objective realism, we have attempted to evoke subjective and sensory impressions. There are very few elements of realism in the artistic choices that have been made, in the hope that the imaginations and emotions of the audience members can be given greater authority.

In addition to all of my colleagues on the Design and Production team, I want to thank Heather Henson and Adelka Polak for their wonderful movement workshop, and Marlin Stroh for his assistance in providing our ability to house the band downstairs. Finally, I want to thank Kevin Davis from the bottom of my heart for agreeing to play Father. It has long been my hope to have the students work with an artist in residence, allowing them to experience more fully a professional model of the creative process. Kevin has provided them and me this opportunity, sharing his acting excellence and his delightful, skilled spirit. I hope you enjoy this retelling of these classic Biblical stories as much as I have enjoyed producing this show with all of these remarkable student and seasoned artists.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

<i>Let There Be</i>	Father and All Storytellers
<i>Perfect, Part I</i>	Father and Father's Storytellers
<i>The Tree of Knowledge</i>	Father and Adam
<i>The Naming</i>	Father, Adam, Eve, and All Storytellers
<i>Grateful Children</i>	Adam and Eve
<i>Father's Day</i>	Father and Father's Storytellers
<i>Perfect, Part II</i>	Father, Adam, Eve, and Father's Storytellers
<i>The Spark Of Creation</i>	Eve
<i>In Pursuit Of Excellence</i>	Snake, Eve, Backups (Hana, Jake, Lauren, Lorelei, Portia, Susan)
<i>The End Of A Perfect Day</i>	All Storytellers
<i>Childhood's End</i>	Father's Storytellers, Eve, Father
<i>A World Without You</i>	Father, Adam, Eve
<i>The Expulsion</i>	Father and All Storytellers
<i>The Wasteland</i>	All Storytellers and Soloists (Kira, Ellie, Eric, Vee)
<i>The Wilderness Family</i>	Adam, Young Cain, Young Abel
<i>The Spark Of Creation (Reprise)</i>	Eve
<i>Lost In The Wilderness</i>	Cain and Abel
<i>Close To Home</i>	Adam, Eve, Young Cain, Young Abel, Abel
<i>A Ring Of Stones</i>	Cain, Adam, Eve, Abel, and All Storytellers
<i>Clash Of The Generations</i>	Adam, Cain, Eve, Abel
<i>Death Of Abel</i>	Eve and A Storyteller (Lauren)
<i>The Mark Of Cain</i>	Father and Father's Storytellers
<i>Children Of Eden</i>	Eve and Company

INTERMISSION – 15 minutes

Act II

<i>Generations</i>	Soloist (Penzi) and All Storytellers
<i>The Gathering Storm</i>	Father and Noah
<i>A Piece Of Eight</i>	Noah, Noah's Family and Soloist (Portia)
<i>The Naming (Reprise) / Noah's Lullaby</i>	Noah and Father's Storytellers
<i>Stranger To The Rain</i>	Yonah
<i>In Whatever Time We Have</i>	Japheth and Yonah
<i>The Flood</i>	Father and All Storytellers
<i>What Is He Waiting For</i>	Noah and Noah's Family
<i>Sailor Of The Skies</i>	Yonah
<i>The Spark Of Creation (Second Reprise)</i>	Mama Noah and Noah
<i>The Hardest Part Of Love</i>	Noah and Father
<i>Words Of Doom</i>	All Storytellers
<i>The Hour Of Darkness</i>	Noah and Noah's Family
<i>Ain't It Good</i>	Mama Noah and Company
<i>Precious Children</i>	Father
<i>In The Beginning</i>	Company

UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Film Festival	February 28	7:30 pm
Dance Eclectic	April 17 & 18	7:30 pm
Instrumental Concert	May 3	7:30 pm
Spring's Awakening	May 15 & 16	7:30 pm
Community Chorus Concert	May 17	7:30 pm
Film Festival	May 29	7:30 pm

For more information visit us on the web at www.georgeschool.org

Performing Arts at George School Presents

CHILDREN OF EDEN

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Book by John Caird
Based on a concept by Charles Lisnby

February 21 & 22, 2020 at 7:30 pm
Preview Performance: February 20, 2020 at 7:30 pm

This production made possible in part by contributions made to the George School Annual Fund



George School