



LIONEL LEHOULLIER

WORLD THEATRE DAY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES 2022

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO WRITE TO YOU, I WANTED TO TELL YOU A STORY OF HOPE
I WROTE A LETTER FULL OF LIGHT AND LOVE
A FEEL GOOD LETTER

AND THEN... ALL OF THE THEATRES CLOSED... AGAIN

AND MY HEART ALONG WITH THEM

AND I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT HOPE ANYMORE

YOU SEE, WHEN WE CLOSE A THEATRE, THERE'S AN OLD RITUAL THAT WE STILL OBSERVE
ON THE STAGE, WE LEAVE ONE SINGLE LIGHT ON
LIKE A LANTERN
IT'S FOR THE GHOSTS OF THE THEATRE
THAT'S WHERE MY HEART IS
ON A STAGE THAT'S LOCKED, BARELY SURVIVING, WITH THE HELP OF A TINY SPARK
BUT YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES THAT'S ALL YOU NEED...

SO, I'M GONNA TELL YOU ANOTHER STORY
A SECRET THAT THE GHOSTS TOLD ME.

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WERE CHILDREN, LIKE YOU, WHO WENT TO SCHOOL, LIKE YOU
CHILDREN NOT THAT DIFFERENT
CHILDREN THAT, WHEN THEY GREW UP, DUG UP THE LAND, LOOKING FOR TRUTH

AND IT'S THE END OF THE STORY ALREADY
BECAUSE IN FACT, IT'S REALITY

I'LL TELL YOU ANOTHER STORY



THÉÂTRES UNIS
ENFANCE JEUNESSE



Professional
Association of
Canadian Theatres

Canadian Childrens
Festival Association

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO NEEDED TO LOVE IN SECRET
WHO LIVED IN THE DARK, LIKE MONSTERS IN CLOSETS
UNDER A PILE OF CLOTHES THAT THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR
PEOPLE FEARED BY THE REST OF THE WORLD
AN INVISIBLE AND ILLOGICAL FEAR
BUT USED TO SCARE CHILDREN

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T SPEAK WELL
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE TOLD BY THE IMMORTELLS
WHOSE TONGUE WERE DRY SINCE THEY SHOUTED SO MUCH
BECAUSE WE CEASE TO EXIST IF WE DON'T DO AS SUCH

THERE ONCE UPON A TIME WAS A TIME, AN ERA
AN ERA WHERE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FEEL SAFE
WHERE THEY CAN'T BREATHE
AND WE DON'T SAY THEIR NAMES
OF LIVES THAT DON'T MATTER
WHERE PHONES ARE THE STORYTELLERS BECAUSE WHEN VICTIMS TALK, IT'S NOT ENOUGH
A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS AND MANY WORDS WERE CAUGHT

ONCE UPON A TIME, AND A TIME, AND ANOTHER TIME, AND A TIME AGAIN, AND TOO MANY ONCE
UPON A TIMES...

THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH CANDLES IF WE WERE TO TELL ALL THE STORIES
ONCE UPON A TIME SHOULDN'T BE TODAY'S HISTORY

I'M GONNA NEED YOUR HELP, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THEATRE IN A
WORLD THAT IS SO INADEQUATE

AND I MISS YOU SO, SO MUCH
YOU'RE MY FAVORITE TYPE OF THEATRE

SO, IF YOU'RE WILLING, LET'S DREAM TOGETHER FOR A SECOND
ONCE UPON A TIME...
A THEATRE FOR EVERYONE AND BY EVERYONE
FULL OF ACCENTS AND COLORS
WHERE ARTISTS OF THE PAST LOVE THE PRESENT
WHERE WE DON'T CAPITALIZE ON THE « HERE »
A THEATRE FULL OF LOVE, AND CULTURE, AND RITUALS, AND FRIENDSHIPS
A THEATRE FULL OF MADE UP WORDS
WITH A LANTERNED AND CATHEDRALESQUE STAGE
A THEATRE THAT RHYMES HUMANITY

BECAUSE LIKE HISTORY, HUMANITY CAN ALSO BE SPELLED WITH A CAPITAL H
SO THIS TIME, AND THIS TIME ONLY, I'M GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO GO GET THE MATCHES
BECAUSE WHEN ONCE UPON A TIME STARTS OVER, I'M GONNA NEED YOUR SPARK
AND WE'RE GONNA NEED A LOT OF LIGHT.



THÉÂTRES UNIS
ENFANCE JEUNESSE

tuej



Professional
Association of
Canadian Theatres

Canadian Childrens
Festival Association