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The Yellow Boat



The Yellow Boat

by

David Saar

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Synopsis

A Scandinavian folksong tells of three little boats: "One was blue, one was red, and one was yellow as the sun. They sailed far out to sea. The blue one returned to the harbor. The red one sailed home too. But the yellow boat sailed up to the sun." Benjamin always concluded his bedtime ritual by saying, "Mom, you can be the red boat or the blue boat, but I am the yellow boat." This remarkable voyage of Benjamin was extensively developed and widely produced in America for several years, always to ovations. Cast of 4 men and 3 women. THE YELLOW BOAT is based on the true story of David and Sonja Saar's son, Benjamin, who was born with congenital hemophilia, and died in 1987 at the age of 8 of AIDS related complications. A uniquely gifted visual artist, Benjamin's buoyant imagination transformed his physical and emotional pain into a blaze of colors and shapes in his fanciful drawings and paintings. The story of THE YELLOW BOAT is a glorious affirmation of a child's life, and the strength and courage of all children. Recommended for children of age 8 and older, parents, families and adults.

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Customer Reviews

I know this play and this story intimately well. Indeed, I knew Benjamin, his family and many of the real people who were consolidated into the characters of the play. I have seen it performed by numerous professional companies and on a college campus. It is brilliant. First of all, although the "fear topic" is that this play includes the life of a young boy particularly once he is diagnosed with HIV, IT IS A CELEBRATION OF LIFE -- both Benjamin's specifically, and the value of living life fully and richly in the moment in general. This is among the great gift of the play. There are sad

moments, but also ones of great joy, playfulness and creativity. There are times of painful isolation, but also magnificent friendship and representations of real people overcoming very real fear. Those young friends and their parents lived their lives heroically, as did Benjamin and his parents. Who would you want to be? Who would you want your children to be? DO NOT WALK AWAY FROM THIS OPPORTUNITY!! Although survival with HIV infection is dramatically different now than when Benjamin was diagnosed, this play works in several additional ways: (1) it represents the illness experience of many people, children and adults alike, with a range of serious medical conditions -- audience members in post-play discussions commented on this frequently, and it is true to my professional observed and personal experiences; (2) I believe it succeeds as a child's view of receiving healthcare in a way to which children who have been patients will relate.

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