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Respect your planet

Blue Planet features an awesome flying machine

CHANTAL CABRERA PLANET REVIEWER

I recently attended the premiere of *Blue Planet*, written by Andri Snaer Magnason, at the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People. Andri Snaer Magnason, from Iceland, had always loved to write and used experiences from his life in *Blue Planet* (which has been translated into 13 languages).

The plot, scenery, cast and characters, costumes, and acting was brilliant. I urge you to get out and experience it. It's about a planet that has only children living on it. On one side of this planet (or as the children called it, "Island"), they have been living there for hundreds of years. You might ask why these children never die, and never grew old; it's because the children have deep wells of youth in their hearts, which allow them to stay children forever.

The first half of the play shows the neverending fun and happiness that the children shared every day. They were happy and carefree until one day a space vacuum salesman, named Jolly Goodday, landed on their planet and told them that their fun was not fun enough.

Jolly Goodday was very conniving and tricked the children by telling them that if they wanted to have real fun it would come at a price — a teensy weensy bit of their youth! Little by little Jolly Goodday would take away a bit of their youth and give them unimaginable gifts, like the power of flying, which he made possible by collecting powder from butterflies' wings that lived on their island.

The characters actually flew above the audience, thanks to the invention of a flying machine! This wonderful flying machine was created by Sven Johansson, a very talented man from Sweden. I interviewed Sven and he showed me the flying machine. It was like a seesaw with weights on both sides, and a bicycle saddle with lots of buckles to hold the actor/actress inside it. There are only 11 of these machines in the whole world!

The real trouble begins when Jolly Goodday nails the sun over the children's side of the planet (in order for the children to continue flying). Now with the sun shining only on one side of the planet the children on the other side are slowly dying, along with the forest.

Jolly Goodday enticed the children to have a flying contest, which created wild behaviour. During the contest, two children, after being blown by the wind, become lost on the other side, meet the children who are dying, and realize what their selfishness has done to them.

Together the children tricked Jolly Goodday into releasing the nail from the sun and giving them back their youth. Even though Jolly Goodday had conned the children, they still had compassion for him and asked him to join them in their old way of life.

This play delivered the very strong message that we really must care for others and for our Earth with respect and not be overcome by greed.

Chantal D. Cabrera, 12, Grade 7, Toronto

Blue Planet Written by Andri Snaer Magnason. At Lorraine Kimsa Theatre until March 20. 416 862-2222