

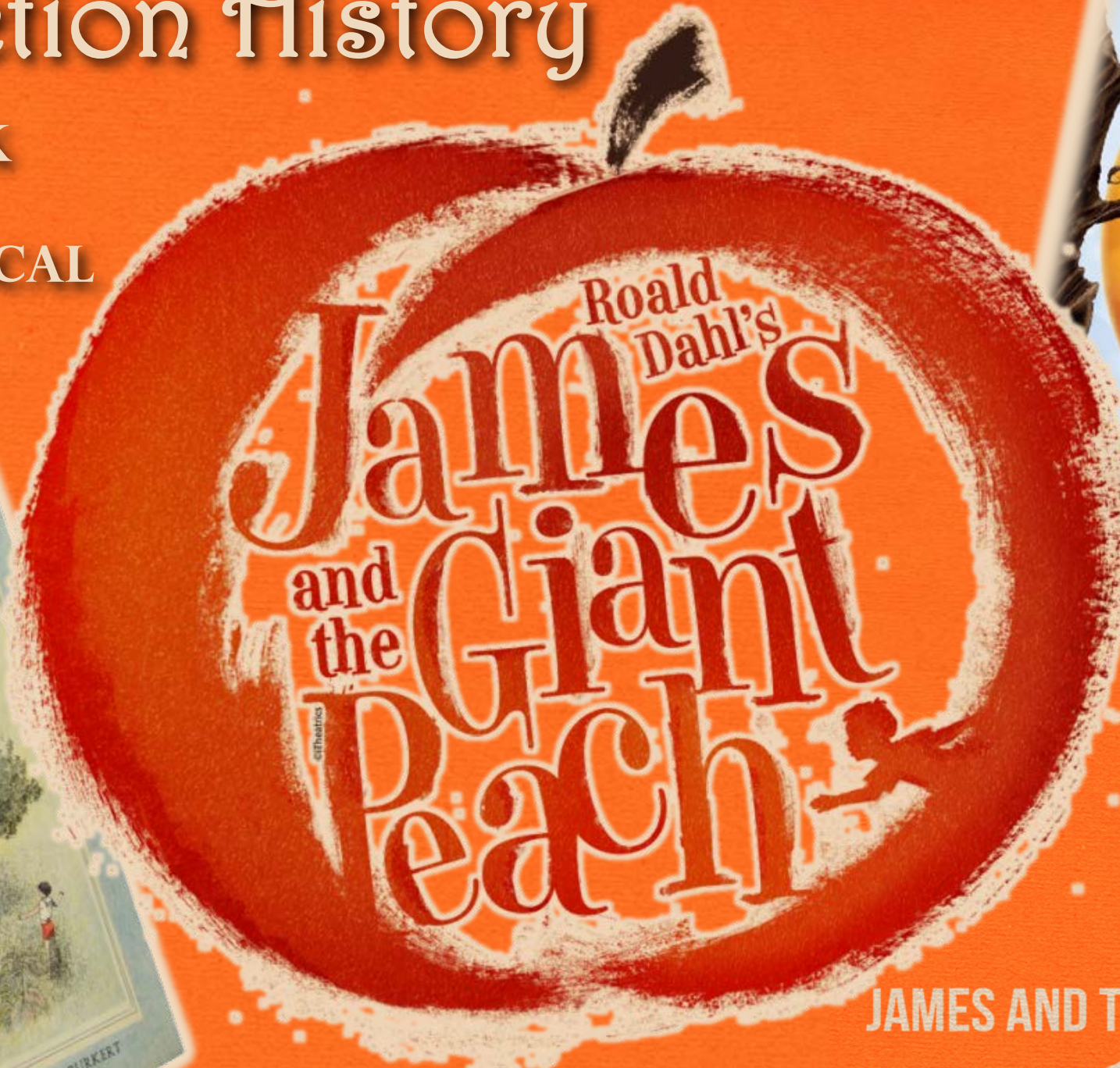
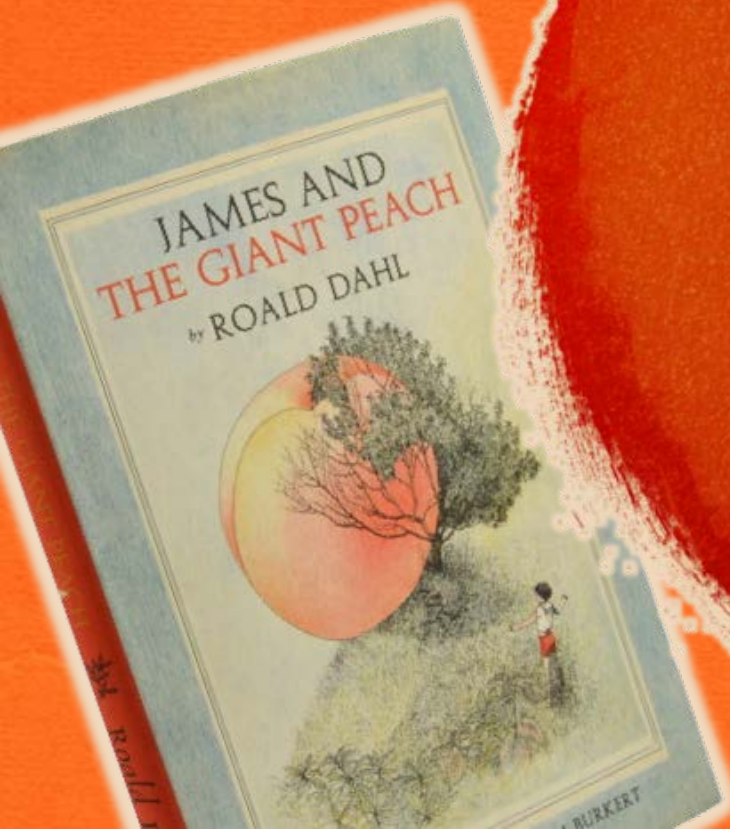
The background is a solid orange color with a repeating pattern of stylized, light-orange peaches. Each peach has a small green stem and a dark outline. They are scattered across the entire frame.

“There are a whole lot of things
in this world of ours you haven't started
wondering about yet.”

ROALD DAHL, JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

Production History

- ❖ BOOK
- ❖ FILM
- ❖ MUSICAL



JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Book

- ❖ Written in 1961 by Roald Dahl
- ❖ James and the Giant Peach was influenced by the death of his fellow fighter pilots in World War II



SEP 16, 1916-NOV 23, 1990



Book continued...

Everything that happened in Roald's life influenced his stories in one way or another. He experience a lot of death in his family which runs through his stories like James and others.

Roald was a rather rebellious child, he had a hard time with authority. Roald attended a Lutheran School and was appalled by how the headmasters handled the students. When kids did things wrong they were "caned" which means they received severe beatings with canes.

So many of his villains in his books, like Spiker and Sponge in James or the Trunchbull in Matilda, were all to reflect this internal war that he experienced with the authority figures in his life. Which is why most every children's book has a child as our underdog and hero and an evil adult figure along with one adult figure that seems to help and love the hero well.

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH





Coraline



Film (1996)

❖ DIRECTED BY
HENRY SELICK



TIM BURTON'S
THE
NIGHTMARE
BEFORE
CHRISTMAS



Film continued...

Directed by Henry Selick (stop motion director)

Produced by Karey Kirkpatrick and Tim Burton

Selick also directed The Nightmare Before Christmas, Monkeybone, Coraline and more

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Production Team



BOOK BY
TIMOTHY ALLEN
MCDONALD

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
PASEK AND PAUL



Timothy Allen McDonald

(librettist for James)

In 1996 McDonald was recruited by Freddie Gershon to develop Music Theatre International's Education Division, working side-by-side with theatrical greats including Cameron Mackintosh, Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Laurents, Stephen Flaherty, Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Schwartz and Sheldon Harnick to create age-appropriate adaptations of musicals.

In 1997 McDonald founded iTheatrics to continue and expand the work he began at MTI by developing educational musical theatre adaptations and resources for Tams-Witmark, Rodgers and Hammerstein and Samuel French. McDonald is the founder of the Junior Theater Festival, the world's largest festival exclusively dedicated to young people performing musical theater which is held annually in Atlanta, GA over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Believing that every child everywhere should have access to quality arts programs, Tim has developed several nationwide initiatives which build sustainable musical theater programs in underserved schools. These programs include NBC's Smash Make A Musical, Educational Theatre Association's JumpStart Theater, New York City's Department of Education's Shubert Foundation/MTI Broadway Junior Program and The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities' Turnaround Arts Initiative

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Pasek and Paul (music & lyrics)

Started working together as freshmen at the University of Michigan. Both got background roles in the schools MT program which inspired them to write the series of songs which turned into a show, Edges: focussing on the trials and tribulations of moving into adulthood

OTHER PRODUCTIONS:

A Christmas Story, Edges, Dear Evan Hansen, Dogfight La La Land and most recently The Greatest Showman

They will be writing new songs for Disney's upcoming live action films of Aladdin and Snow White

AWARDS

Over 20 nominations and 14 wins including the 2017 Tony for Dear Evan Hansen best original score and the Lucille Lortel Award for Dogfight outstanding musical

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Musical

- ❖ PILOBOLUS DANCE TROUPE
- ❖ SHADOW PUPPETS



Musical

continued...



Seattle Children's Theatre

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Musical continued...

2010 Broadway Tryout at Goodspeed Musical in East Haddam, Connecticut

Premiered from 21 October 2010 to 21 November 2010

Ladahlord was originally Marvo the Magician

The dance troupe Pilobolus were a part of an innovative theatrical technique of using their bodies to create most of the set specifically using shadow technique to create most of the special effects

Focus on shadow puppetry and movement

Pasek and Paul: “we decided from the beginning that we were not writing a show for children. We are taking some of Dahls darkness and expanding it even more”

2012 Kennedy Center

Work in progress version of the musical directed by Marty Johnson and Tim McDonald

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Musical continued...

2013 Seattle

Reworked version was presented at the Seattle children theatre (ACU's version)

Most notable changes was change in the story line, omitting the opening “perfectly perfect” song and the discontinuation of the use of Pilobolus dance Troupe.

Marvo the magician is gone as puppetry is introduced to depict some events. The mysterious man becomes Ladahlord and is played by actor portraying grasshopper

This version focused more on the show as a full theatrical production with larger sets and vibrant costumes to appeal to the young audience

MTI (Music Theatre International)

MTI eventually made a TYA version cutting “Middle of a Moment” and “Have You Even Begun to Wonder” and making it into a one act

The Junior version cut the same songs but adds characters and featured roles for a larger cast and ensemble. It is rated G unlike the TYA version which is rated PG

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Themes

ORPHANS

MISTREATMENT

PUNISHMENT

QUESTS

REWARDS

OBSTACLES



Themes continued...

Orphan stories are some of the most popular stories to be told. Stories like Harry Potter, Annie, Cinderella, Tarzan and more, focus on the lives of those who have often been told what they couldn't do in life and through their story, we see them embark on a journey to experience what they can do in life.

Mistreatment: most orphans in literature are treated badly. Perhaps verbal abuse and sometimes physical. Often this is a result of jealousy from those who inflict the abuse.

Quests: the performance of difficult tasks or a quest frequently exists in organ tales. The orphan must leave an unhappy home in order to find a place where he or she belongs. When James leaves Spiker and Sponge's home he finds that he belongs with the insects and makes the peach his new home

Obstacles: the orphans quests is not an easy one. He or she is faced with many obstacles and in most cases, other characters get in the way. Often it is a step mother, step sister or aunt. Lack of food, beatings, hard work. Because orphans have no parents to protect them, they must stand on their own to overcome their problems. James aunts are the obstacle but the magic will help him

Rewards: after defeating the obstacles orphans are often rewarded with something that brings happiness such as friendship, love power or money. Others are saved from the monsters or by finding a home. James is rewarded by finding a family in the insects and a home on the peach

Punishment: evil people that fight against orphans are usually punished in some way. The evildoer might go to jail or even die. The aunts are punished by getting rolled over and flattened.

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Spirituality

Ladahlord: "James! Are you willing to reach into the great unknown and see what bizarre adventures the universe may have in store for you?"

James: "I...I don't know"

Ladahlord: "Come on James! Only you have the power to change the course of your wretched little life. What's it gonna be? Victim? Or hero?"



James: "I'm sure none of you want to hear what I have to say"

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Themes continued...

Identity is a key theme

Ladahlord doesn't speak to James as a kid, he tells it like it is and causes him to think. Roald focused a great deal on not talking down to children or hiding the truth from them

Choosing joy “only you have the power to change the course of your wretched little life” what's it gonna be victim? Or hero” page 24

Jesus and the Lame man

John 5:6 “When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?”

Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



Welcome Home

