



by Greg Banks

Family Guide

About Geordie Theatre

We are an award-winning professional theatre company that has presented live English-language productions for all audiences in Quebec and abroad since 1980. Currently led by Cree artist Jimmy Blais, our Artistic Director, we are one of the first non-culturally specific theatre companies in Canada with Indigenous leadership. Our current goal is to grow our Indigenous programming and Indigenous relationships within our province and beyond. We offer a variety of cultural activities aimed at youth and the adults in their lives, including performances, theatre classes, and workshops.

Currently, we reach over 40,000 young people and their communities annually through the following activities:

2Play Tour: A tour in which we take two plays to visit hundreds of elementary and high schools across Eastern Canada.

Mainstage Series: Throughout the year we present shows in local Montreal theatres for the public and schools.

Geordie Theatre School: Theatre classes and workshops for children, teens, and corporate team members.

With all our programming, we provide relevant and important educational material for young people. For our 2play and Mainstage shows, study guides are provided to teachers, promoting discussion and activities related to the play's themes. We also provide resources for students who may be going through the real-life experiences explored in our plays. Artists and invited guest speakers provide Q&A periods after each of our performances, promoting engagement and further exploration of the play's themes.

What is a Family Guide?

Parents asked, and Geordie answered! This guide provides additional support in discussing the themes in our plays with your young ones. Even in a performance geared towards children, there is a lot of content that even parents and caregivers will connect to. As we seek to produce contemporarily relevant theatre for all audiences, the Family Guide can help facilitate and

encourage discussion about our plays on the journey home or at the dinner table.

Contents

- Play Summary
- Character Descriptions
- Ancestral Teachings
- Social-Emotional Learning
- If you liked Snow White, we recommend...
- Get Involved!

Play Summary

Snow White and Four are ready to tell their story but... no one else is here to help them!

This fast-paced, shape shifting adaptation of the classic Grimm fairytale tosses the glass coffin and damsel-in-distress tropes out the window in favor of letting Snow White tell her story as *she* remembers it. With the help of Four, one of the seven dwarfs, they take on telling the true story, inhabiting every character that appeared along the way in Snow White's tale.

Sometimes life (and witch-filled enchanted forests) are daunting and scary, for both kids *and* adults! Through bravery, a gentle heart and free spirit, Snow White shows us what it really means to be The Fairest of Them All – especially in the face of fear.

Meet the Actors



Snow White

Played by Tiernan Cornford



Four

Played by Jeremy Lewis

Other characters in the play:

Queen

Stepmother

Servant

Mirror

Huntsman

One, Two, Three, Five, Six and Seven

Prince

Discussion Topics

Pre-Show

- What do you believe you know about Snow White's story?
- What does courage mean to you? Who in your life has shown courage? When have you needed courage and how do you find it?
- What makes someone a good friend?

Post-Show

- How has what you thought you knew about Snow White and her story changed?
- How would you tell your own story? What would a play of your life look like?
- If you could rewrite one of your favorite stories, what would you change?
- How does hearing the story from Snow White's point of view change the way we understand it?
- If another character told the story – the Huntsman, the Queen, or Four – how might it sound different?
- How can jealousy affect the way people treat others?
- Can friends become family in real life? What kind of friend would you choose as family?

Social-Emotional Learning

Longing to Belong

In this adaptation, Snow White's journey is shaped by her deep longing for connection. At the beginning of the story, we learn that Snow White has had to grow up without a stable family foundation, lacking emotional support and love. Her mother passed away when she was very young; her father is largely absent, and her relationship with her stepmother is defined by fear rather than care. This leaves Snow White often feeling lonely, yearning for someone to talk or tell jokes to and wanting to see the world outside her castle walls.

Choosing Friends & Chosen Family

Ordered by the Stepmother, the Huntsman leads 11-year-old Snow White into the forest. Even through the fear and uncertainty of the dangerous forest, Snow White leads with her empathy and compassion. Moved by this, the

Huntsman helps save Snow White and in turn, saves himself from an unforgivable transgression.

Later on, upon discovering Snow White sleeping in their home, the dwarves welcome her after realizing she is only a child searching for safety and care. They offer her shelter, protection, and a sense of belonging, "treating her as one of their own." Snow White chooses to stay with the dwarves because they encourage her curiosity for the world, her desire to play and become her true friends. She feels happy and accepted among them. *"Our little house was filled with fun and like a ray of bright sunshine our Snow White was at the heart of it all."*

Snow White reiterates again and again that the true story isn't about princes or poison apples, but her newfound friendship and love for the world. *"That's the real story. The story nobody knows. The story of how we met."*

What it Means to be Fair

Despite what the Stepmother thinks, a person's value should never rely on what they look like on the outside. Snow White's beauty shines straight from her heart – her decision making always comes from a place of love and generosity. This is what ultimately makes *her* the fairest of them all – not because she's prettier than the Queen, or has shiny black hair or perfect red lips – but because she *chooses* kindness every step of the way (Which is not always easy!). The Stepmother tried to convince Snow White that the world outside was a dangerous, scary place and at first, it really seems like it might be. Our bright Snow White soon finds the real truth: *"The woods aren't full of monsters, they're full of life. The trees are beautiful. The sky is bigger than I ever knew and it changes all the time – there's kindness and colour and music and laughter."* With her heart as her shield, sword and armor, Snow White finds that life in the forest gets to be whatever she and her newfound family make of it!

If you liked Snow White, we recommend...

- Other Brothers Grimm fairytales can be found on the website [Project Gutenberg / gutenberg.org](https://www.gutenberg.org) for free.

“Project Gutenberg is an online library of more than 75,000 free eBooks. A volunteer effort to digitize and archive cultural works, as well as to encourage the creation and distribution of eBooks. The entire Project Gutenberg collection is yours to enjoy. All Project Gutenberg eBooks are completely free and always will be.”
- There are also lots of fairytale collections and adaptations available in your local libraries and bookstores.
- Other adaptations of the story include Disney’s two takes on the tale: the 2012 live action adaptation; and their original animated movie from 1937.
- [*Not Quite Snow White by Ashley Franklin*](#), is a wonderful, illustrated storybook about believing in yourself, following your dreams and facing adversity.

Get Involved!

Did your family love the show?

Here’s how to bring more Geordie Theatre into your life...

- **Geordie Theatre School** classes & workshops: Children and teens explore how to create fascinating characters, build exciting stories, and present them to an encouraging audience of family, friends, and community supporters. Each year GTS offers two sessions with classes being offered on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Registration for the Fall Session begins in August, with classes running from October to December, ending with an in-class final presentation. Registration for the Winter begins in December with classes running from February to May, ending in a final performance at Moyse Hall.
- **GTS Summer Camp** (July 6th–Aug 7th, 2026): Our Summer Camp invites kids of all experience levels to explore the limitless possibilities of theatre and enjoy the excitement of creating a show from the ground up. Campers develop performance skills while building confidence and

working together to bring an original production to life, culminating in a presentation every Friday for family and friends.

- **2Play Tour:** Our festival shows travel to elementary schools for eight months out of the school year. Details on our touring shows for each year are available on our website. If they interest you and your kids, reach out to a principal or administrator and recommend they book the 2Play Tour to present at your child's school next year!
- **Kid Reporter and Teen Ambassador:** Does your child love theatre and want to be more involved behind-the-scenes? Our kid reporters get to interview guests on camera at events and performances that go up on our social media pages, while the teen ambassador sits in on rehearsals for our high school production and contributes their perspective.