



Amanda Miller

Amanda Miller has been a part of Wolf PAC since our 2012-2013 season. She has performed in many shows here, such as "James and the Giant Peach", "Seussical", "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", "Peter and the Starcatcher", "The Phantom Tollbooth" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Amanda was also a huge reason the TAP Backstage Program was created, as she devoted so much of her time to the 3rd-5th grade performance programming, working with them during rehearsals and backstage. During the summer, she has been coming back to our summer camp, working her way up from Assistant CUBS director to directing her own CUBS show week after week!

Now, as a Junior at Emerson College in Boston studying Theatre Education, Amanda is acting, directing, and accomplishing amazing things as a theatre-maker and educator.

Read below as Amanda shares a once-in-a-lifetime experience with us!



Writers Note:

Cities and Citizenry, a three week study abroad opportunity, took place in Athens, Greece, providing ten Emerson College students with the experience of a lifetime. The curriculum was specially formed for the selected attendees to travel to the birthplace of democracy and learn about the standard foundations of a city- how cities are built and the role of their citizens. The group traveled across Greece, hearing stories, debating philosophies, and interacting with Athenian history and culture.

Throughout the journey, Professor Maria Koundoura guided the class through important philosophical and political discussions: discussions that broadened our perceptions of community, discussions that challenged us to see the world's darkest realities, and discussions that inspired us to figure out systems to right wrongs.

Once I realized the urgency of the knowledge being provided as a tool for social change, I questioned the absence of information offered to children about this world they are growing up in. I asked, *How could children be prepared for hardship and injustice if no one will have the difficult conversations with them?* I thought, *How would children know it is possible to make change if they are never informed what change needs to be made?* I wondered, How can we make these conversations accessible to children in the first place?

I had my epiphany when each student was tasked with writing a final paper, either an academic, critical essay or a personal essay. I chose to stray from the path, using this project as an opportunity

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to write a children's book with the intention of bridging the gap in information shared with the global youth. My pitch was accepted, and this book was the first draft of *A Tail Of Socks The Street Cat*.

While the basic story was created in June of 2022, it had no intention of becoming a play until late November of that same year. Kidding Around selected *A Tail Of Socks The Street Cat* to be a part of their Spring 2023 season, calling for a writing team to be put together to update the format of this story. The team consisted of four theatre educators with a two month window to reconceptualize this project, moving from a rhyming children's book into an hour-long TYA (Theatre for Young Audiences) script.

Today it may seem that we simply have a story about talking cats, but it is more than just that. This story is about self discovery, facing fears, friendship, beauty in imperfection, sharing compassion, culture, and making a change as a community of global citizens. Most importantly, this story is about education. Socks believes that the sharing of knowledge is what will make us all better...cats.

A big thank you to my incredible co-writers Lilly Whellan, Sean Myers, and Ryan Kipnis for your dedication and beautiful voices, as well as our gifted editor Sisel Gelman Montero without whom this play would not be where it is today.

Play Description:

A Tail Of Socks The Street Cat is a story about a cat who discovers himself after embarking on an adventure. With the help of three muses- Thalia, Melpomene, and Clio- Socks learns about cities and their cultural communities, benefitting from the lens of Greek mythology and the knowledge of his new mythological friends he meets along the way.

Socks the Cat utilizes history, philosophy, and Greek legend to build a better world that aligns with these progressive times, making cities smarter and more loving.

The audience gets to follow along with Socks to explore the topics of history, culture, mythology, community, compassion, knowledge, morals, and (of course) the secret lives of the everyday street cat.

Tour:

2 performances on Friday (March 3rd) at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School in Somerville, Massachusetts. The first show will be performed for grades K-1. And the second performance will be for grades 2-3.

-Amanda Miller