

# British Theatre Guide

News, reviews, features and podcast on theatre across the UK

## The Little Prince

Rick Cummins and John Scoullar, based on the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupery  
Northern Stage, Newcastle  
(2005)

*The Little Prince* is Northern Stage's Christmas show this year - a rather profound, yet heart-warming tale, just perfect for the festivities. And the cosy, intimate confines of the revamped stage one area - just twenty rows of seating, curving backwards in a lovely arc shape - makes the perfect setting for this wonderful adaptation.

Many people will have fond childhood memories of this tale by Antoine de Saint Exupery about a little boy from a far-off planet who stirs the imagination of a pilot who has crashed in the middle of the Sahara. The Prince meets a variety of characters on his travels from the coquettish and demanding rose to a conceited man, scary snake and jumpy fox. And the pilot, too, embarks on his own journey of discovery and uncovers the person he would much rather be.

It's actually a very thought-provoking little tale, and quite a brave choice for a Christmas show.

I had three young reviewers accompanying me, aged seven and eight years, and I did wonder what their reactions would be. I need have had no worries, though, as they were utterly enthralled.

Interestingly, they thought *The Little Prince* character was "cool" and that the pilot was "a bit freaky". And not the other way around. A lovely indicator of a child's open mind, but proof, also, that this charming show is reaching out to children as it intends.

And it's seemingly not just for children either. There were a fair few adults and students in the packed audience, too, who seemed to enjoy the magic of the story.

Sophie Trott is delightful as the Prince - she's tiny and graceful and plays the part with a believable child-like innocence.

The pilot played by Markus Von Lingen comes across as very grown-up and solidly adult-like, just as he should do.

Peter Peverley, playing a Geordie fox, is fun and witty, darting around the stage.

There's audience participation on a grand scale, too, when *The Little Prince* journeys to Earth, and a variety of enormous objects from a tin of baked beans to a replica Tyne Bridge, and an eight-foot long fork, are carried around the audience. The Little Prince even joins in the fun, weaving through the rows and shaking children's hands.

It's all here - interesting, colourful characters and a story that sparks the imagination. Director Neil Murray should take a bow!

*Running until 12th January.*

**Reviewer:** [Katharine Capocci](#)