

Lulie the Iceberg

by Her Imperial Highness
Princess Hisako Takamado
adapted for the stage by Raymond Storey

Study Guide

THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE ENGLISH THEATRE
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LULIE THE ICEBERG

Synopsis:

The story *Lulie the Iceberg* is about an iceberg coming off the Greenland Ice Sheet, following the Atlantic Ocean currents, crossing the equator and making its (his) way to the Antarctic. Based on a story written by Her Imperial Highness, Princess Hisako Takamado of Japan, and set to original music, this is a musical tale of Lulie, an Arctic iceberg that calves (breaks away) from its glacier, then drifts down the western Atlantic to ultimately arrive at Antarctica, learning lessons in life and the environment along the way so that it can ultimately become one of the "Wise Elders" of Antarctica. Told with songs, shadowplay and creative costumes, *Lulie the Iceberg* offers audiences an original story about the living earth, the environment and the importance of friendship.

Way up North, where it is cold and bright, lives a young iceberg named Lulie. The Greenland Ice Sheet and the North Wind have also been living there for many thousands of years. Lulie has many friends in the Arctic, including the Bowhead Whale and his best friend, Kiki the Arctic Tern. Lulie loves to hear about Kiki's adventures traveling to the South Pole, where the Elder icesheets live. He especially loves the stories of the playful Penguins, Dolphins, Storks and The Leatherback Turtle. Lulie wishes he could break away from the big ice sheet and travel from the North Pole to the South Pole to meet these animals and the mysterious Elders. One day Lulie gets his wish. With a sharp crackling noise and a deafening roar, Lulie is set free and breaks away. First the sea swallows him into its depths, and then he rises, until he bursts through the surface. There he is – Lulie the new iceberg, ready to begin an exciting journey to Antarctica. His friends give him a push and he is on his way. Although he encounters trouble along the way, and travels through dangerous hot water, many new friends including the South Wind help Lulie. He continues his voyage, determined to fulfill his dream. On one fateful day of his journey, Lulie rescues Marina, a young girl who has fallen overboard off a boat during a terrible storm. On the way to the South Pole, Lulie meets strange and wonderful animals, sees far-away lands, learns all about the wonders of our world, and is helped on his journey by the wisdom of his friends.

About the book:

The stage play ***Lulie the Iceberg*** is based on the children's picture book ***Lulie the Iceberg*** written by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan. ***Lulie the Iceberg***, Princess Takamado's second book for children, was inspired by two recent trips to the Arctic and several years of active involvement with a number of ocean-related environmental projects. The Princess has worked closely with the Icebridge Forum of Cambridge University, an organization of concerned educators and scientists, which promotes knowledge of the oceans and the Polar Regions. The Icebridge Forum has also been instrumental in organizing the launch of ***Lulie the Iceberg***, in cooperation with UNICEF, Kodansha, the Japan Society and other organizations and corporations .

In 1995 the Princess visited Baffin Island, Canada and Greenland. There she saw her first iceberg and found herself surrounded by an immense expanse of ice. *“My thoughts turned to the ancient knowledge contained within this ice, for the age of the ice sheet is estimated to be twenty thousand to three million years old. I wondered where an iceberg calving off such an ice sheet would want to travel once it was free to move. The image intrigued me so much that a story was born about a ‘young’ iceberg that embarks upon a long journey in order to meet the ‘Elders’ in the Antarctic Ice Sheet. In the course of researching the book, I was fortunate to meet many eminent scientists and I learnt much about our Ocean Planet.”*

About the illustrator of the book (and the poster image for the stage play):

Warabe Aska is one of those gifted artists who also writes and has found a way to combine his enormous talents through the publishing of children's books. Since 1972, Warabe has had solo exhibitions of his art in Japan, England, the U.S, and Canada. His art has also achieved global acclaim in exhibitions staged in the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Yugoslavia and Iran. His works have appeared on UNICEF greeting cards, and are part of the permanent collections of Japan's Imperial Family as well as in many prominent private collections. Warabe's latest book, ***Lulie the Iceberg***, was officially launched at New York's Carnegie Hall, October 25, 1998, generating much public awareness about the need to preserve our fragile Ocean Planet. The paintings of Warabe Aska are often dramatic and symbolic. Warabe immigrated to Canada in 1979.

- ***Lulie the Iceberg*** is published by Kodansha America Inc. Originally published in 1998 by Kodansha Ltd, Tokyo by arrangement with Icebridge. Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado donates author royalties to UNICEF. Fitzhenry and Whiteside Limited hold the exclusive distribution rights for the book in Canada.

Background about the creation of the stage play:

Lulie the Iceberg has been adapted for the stage by **Topological Theatre** of Toronto and **Kageboushi Theatre** of Japan. Topological Theatre was first approached in 1999 by Kageboushi Theatre to collaborate on the creation of *Lulie the Iceberg*, based on the acclaimed picture book for children written by her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan. Renowned Japanese-Canadian artist Warabe Aska illustrated the picture book and this was initially what inspired Kageboushi to seek another Canadian artistic partner.

Topological Theatre commissioned playwright Raymond Storey to write the stage play. The play includes songs and Raymond Storey has collaborated together with Composer John Roby in the creation of the music for the show. Topological Theatre's Artistic Director Edward Roy frequently collaborates with Production Designer Stephan Droege (set and lights) and together this team of Canadians worked with the Japanese Shadow Puppet Designer and Assistant Director Toru Koda. The acting company in the show is equally international. The original production, which was performed in Japanese and opened in June 2001 in Japan, had four Japanese actors and two Canadian actors. The show had its Grand Premiere at the Ayoma Enkei Theatre in Tokyo, Japan. It has since delighted thousands of Japanese schoolchildren and toured throughout Japan.

This is the first time that *Lulie the Iceberg* is being presented outside of Japan. It marks the North American premiere of the show as well as the first time that the show is being performed in English. *Lulie the Iceberg* remains an international collaboration, and this time three Japanese actors work together with three Canadian actors. While the Tour Manager is Canadian, the Stage Manager/Operator is Japanese.

- **Topological Theatre** is an independent professional-not-for-profit theatre company in downtown Toronto. Topological is dedicated to the creation of new and innovative Canadian work that places the cultural experience in a global context. Topological is committed to new play development in production and to bringing the voice of Canadians onto the stage. For the past 12 years Topological has delivered award-winning productions that have entertained and challenged audiences.
- **Kageboushi Theatre** was established in 1978 to create and distribute theatrical productions for children and young people. Since its creative activities do not depend on exercising preconceptions, but are based on new ideas and technical innovations, it has become a leader in the world of Japanese shadow puppetry and children's theatre, with energetic performances all over Japan. Kageboushi has made a concerted effort to make international cultural exchange an integral part of its activities, presenting work from ten different countries in the time between the company's tenth anniversary in 1988 to the present (including China, Germany, Africa, Russia and Canada).

Pre-Show Activities :

1. Talk about **ice** with the class. Normally ice is made out of frozen water, but Glacier ice is actually compressed snow. Identify three basic types of glacier ice – an ice sheet, ice cap and an iceberg.

Ice Sheet: A dome shaped mass of ice that is so thick that the shape of land cannot be seen. Could this ice be strong enough to hold a car? A house?

Ice Cap: Usually covers a mountain and shows the shape of the mountain. Can you think of a mountain peak that has an ice cap?

Iceberg: A mass of ice that has broken off from a larger mass.

- There are two ice sheets in the world – Antarctica and Greenland (locate on a world map). The Antarctic ice sheet is somewhere between 4 and 16 million years old. The two polar regions in the north and south have the coldest climates on Earth.

- **The Arctic** is in the North. It is a shallow ocean with permanent sea ice floating in the middle. There is no land underneath this ice and the North Pole is located near its centre. In the winter this ice grows to be larger than Canada.

- **The Antarctic** is in the south. It is a landmass about twice the size of Australia. Whereas the Arctic is a frozen ocean surrounded by land, the Antarctic is a landmass permanently covered by an ice sheet and surrounded by an ocean.

- Use a frozen mound of ice to demonstrate different forms of ice. Break ice off to demonstrate an iceberg.

Lulie is an iceberg that lives in the **Arctic Ice Sheet** in Greenland for many thousands of years. Lulie breaks away and travels all the way down to the **Antarctic** to meet with his much older relatives, the Elder Icebergs.

2. Tell the class that the story of **Lulie the Iceberg** is based on a book written by **Her Imperial Highness Princess Hisako Takamado of Japan**.

- What is a Princess?
- Does Canada have a Princess?
- Name some countries that have Princesses.

Pre-Show Activities (continued):

3. Lulie is an iceberg. Lulie's name comes from the Greenlandic word that means iceberg, *iluliaq*. It means the soul or spirit of ice. The Greenlandic people are Inuit who live in Greenland and northern Canada. The Inuit people think of all things, both inanimate and animate as having a soul or a spirit. It used to be said that the ice contained all the traditions of the people because it was there before them and existed throughout their history. Each person was taught to respect the ice.

- What is the history of your name?
- Does your name have a meaning? If so, do you know what it is?

4. When an iceberg breaks away from an icesheet it makes a rumbling, roaring sound like thunder. When it crashes into the ocean, it drags a lot of air down with it and the surface of the water caves in like a bowl. When the ice pops back up, the air is released and it makes a whistling sound. Together all these sounds are called "**ice music**". In the play, Lulie the Iceberg can speak. The fact that Lulie speaks is not at all strange to someone from Greenland. Everyday in Greenland you can hear the icebergs and their "ice music". If you lived there you would have no qualms about knowing that icebergs communicate. They actually have a music all their own.

- What do you think an iceberg sounds like?
- Make the sounds of an iceberg.

5. **Icebergs** are worn by wind, waves, and currents and they can be fascinating and beautiful shapes. Sometimes they look like castles, or giant bridges, sometimes they even look like animal shapes. Icebergs that have a lot of air inside them float high and are whiter. The older icebergs have compressed air and are bluer. Only the "tip of the iceberg" shows above the water, with most of the iceberg being below the surface. That's why ships have to be careful when they travel. Some icebergs are as big as small countries! Or the size of football fields!

- Draw or paint a picture of what you think an iceberg might look like.

Post-Show Activities :

1. What was your favourite part of the play? Why? Write a story or draw a picture about your favourite part of the play *Lulie the Iceberg*.

2. There were many different animals in the play today. Some of them were: the arctic tern (Kiki), the dolphins, penguins, the humpback whale, the white storks and the leatherback turtle. Draw a picture of your favourite character in the play.

Arctic Tern: Arctic Terns are amazing birds. They breed in the Northern Hemisphere and Polar Regions, then they fly south to winter on the edge of the Antarctic. They travel the same route that Lulie did in the play. They are excellent fliers. Kiki's name comes from the call of the tern, which is quite clear and high and sounds like "keer-keer".

White Stork: White Storks have lived close to people for several centuries. They use chimneys, roof towers and haystacks as their nesting sites when they return from their wintering grounds in spring.

Penguins: All penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere (except for the Galapagos Penguin). Penguins are unique among birds because they cannot fly. Penguins have bodies that are adapted to the cold. The tightly overlapping feathers are small and hard and cover every square millimeter of their bodies. The largest of the penguins is the **Emperor Penguin**. Emperor Penguins live together in large Penguin colonies of many thousands.

Humpback Whale: The Humpbacks are large baleen whales that are about 45 feet (15 metres) long and that weigh about 40 tons. Lulie's friends the Humpbacks from the north did not go with him across the equator. The whales in the north and south are the same species, but separate groups.

Dolphins: The dolphins that see Lulie off when he leaves the Arctic are Atlantic Whitesided Dolphins. They are fast swimmers and are very acrobatic. Many dolphins are very active and very vocal. They will often play in the pressure waves created by whales and will often follow ships and play in the wake.

3. Look at a map or a globe and trace Lulie's journey from the Arctic to the Antarctic.

4. Get together in a group of 3 or 4 and create a sculpture of an iceberg. Using clay or papier maché, depict a part of the play that you particularly liked.

5. Shadow Puppets were used a lot in the play. Get together with a partner. Write a short play for puppets. Make some sock puppets and create your own characters for a "playlet", using an environmental theme.

Additional Resources:

Lulie the Iceberg

Sony Classical SK61665

Recorded live in concert November 13, 1998 @ Carnegie Hall, New York
with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and Betty Baisch's Choral Associates

Conducted by Derrick Inouye

Composer Jeffrey Stock

Featuring:

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

Paul Winter, saxophone

Pamela Frank, violin

Sam Waterston, narrator

- Scored for three instrumental soloists (Yo-Yo Ma - - on cello as Lulie, Paul Winter on soprano saxophone as Kiki, an Arctic tern befriended by Lulie, and Pamela Frank on violin as both puffin and penguin), full orchestra, and chorus (to represent the Wise Elders), the music is overtly Romantic: very lush; totally tonal; absolutely nothing that would frighten children away from classical music if this were to be an "early exposure" for them.

For additional information about ***Lulie the Iceberg*** contact:

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