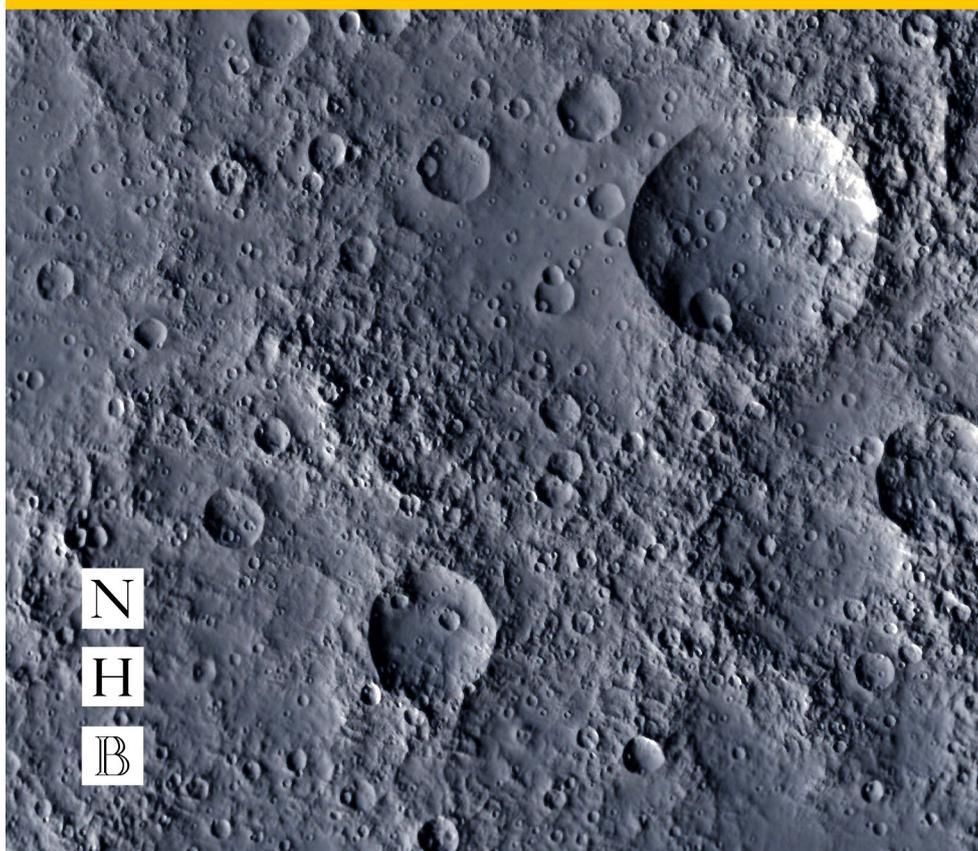




multiplay
drama

Space Girl

Helen Stanley



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Characters

MARY MOON, *nine-and-a-half-year-old girl, in Year 5, her nickname is 'Space Girl'*
JONATHAN JOSEPH, *Mary's brother, likes to be called 'JJ'. He is eleven-and-a-half and in Year 6*
MRS JASMINE MOON, *Mary's mum and Mary's Year 5 teacher*
MR MARCUS MOON, *Mary's dad, an astronaut and planet hunter*
CASTOR, *Mary's friend*
LUNA, *Mary's friend*
AURORA, *Mary's friend*
NAT(ASHA), *in Mary's class*
LEO, *in Mary's class*
ORION, *in Mary's class*
ARMSTRONG, *in Mary's class*
MIKE MARS, *a new boy at school, aged ten, a Martian boy*
MR MARS, *Mike's dad, a Martian space man*
DEBBIE, *a space dragon*
DOUGIE, *a space dragon*
SPACE COMMANDER
SPACE LIEUTENANT
SIGH, *a sorrow monster*
MONA, *a sorrow monster*
WISP, *a sorrow monster*

Note

Marys are in almost every scene as narrators and are lead character in the following scenes:

MARY 1 – Scene 1, 2, 3, 8, 11 (narrator in all other scenes).

MARY 2 – Scene 1, 4, 5, 10 (narrator in all other scenes).

MARY 3 – Scene 1, 6, 7, 9 (narrator in all other scenes).

Natasha can be Nat – girl or boy. In fact, all the school children can be boy or girl.

Where it says Lewisham, please replace with your preferred location.

Doubling

The play was written for a cast of twelve Junior Youth Theatre members (aged nine to twelve) and three Senior Youth Theatre members (aged eighteen to twenty-five). The older actors played Mrs Moon, Mr Moon and Mr Mars. The following doubling helped with organising rehearsals:

Castor/Sigh

Luna/Mona

Aurora/Wisp

Nat(asha)/Debbie

Leo/Dougie

Orion/Space Commander

Armstrong/Space Lieutenant

Design

We used video projections to create the different places with a minimal set. Suggestions of projection are included in the script.

Music

Suggestions of music to play during various scenes feature in the script. There are four specially composed pieces of music, which are available from Nick Hern Books as backing tracks (made by Callum Webb) and are included in your licence fee:

1. 'Space Girl Song' is performed at the beginning and end of the play – encourage the audience to join in with the reprise. Sheet music and a recording with a vocal performance will help you teach the song to your cast.
2. 'Sea of Tranquillity' – optional music to underscore this scene.
3. 'The Sea of Sorrows Rap' – performed by the sorrow monsters, this slow and sad rap can be taught using the recording with a vocal performance.
4. 'Meteor Alert!' – optional music to underscore this scene.

Scene One

Video of the Moon landing, including Neil Armstrong's line, 'One small step for man... one giant leap for mankind.'

Music: 'Space Girl Song'.

Three MARYS enter and sing the 'Space Girl Song'.

MARYS.

*Have you ever looked way up high into the sky
There's a moon up there floating oh so high
Have you ever wondered why there's a moon up in the sky?
If you want to go to Germany with your family
You can do it, yes you can,
Drive the whole way in a van
You can even go to Paris, France, you could take a chance
On a boat or a plane, you can even take the train.
But you'll never make it to the Moon
Not sometime soon
Only twelve men ever been,
That's all the Moon has seen.*

All of the MARYS now introduce the story. They speak to the audience. All MARYS are in pink so we know they are different versions of the same character – all wear a pink hat or helmet. Sometimes they finish each other's sentences so it sounds like one person is talking

MARY 1. Hi

MARY 2. Hello

MARY 3. Alright.

MARY 1. I'm Mary. I'm quite brave but I do get scared... sometimes.

MARY 2. I'm Mary. I'm outgoing and I like football but I like to be on my own too.

MARY 3. I'm Mary. I'm cute

MARY 1. No! I'm cute Mary.

MARY 2. I think you'll find *I'm* cute Mary

MARY 3. We can all be cute Mary. And... I'll be kind, generous, clever Mary, the Mary who has all the friends.

MARY 1. I'd say you're the really annoying Mary!

The other MARYS laugh and agree.

MARY 3. Shh! This is my story

MARY 2. And my story

MARY 1. And my story.

MARY 2. And it's a story about the Moon.

MARY 3. A story about aliens and astronauts and about me...

MARY 2....Mary Moon. That's my name.

MARY 3....And I love the Moon

MARY 1. Ever since I was little I have looked up into the sky and wondered...

Why is it there?

MARY 2. What's it for?

MARY 3. What does it do?

MARY 1. I dream of going into space, of going to the Moon.

MARY 2. You see my dad's a space man.

MARY 3. But he's never actually been to the Moon... not yet

MARY 1. My dad is a planet hunter.

MARY 2. He searches in space for new planets.

MARY 4. But that's not all he's looking for. One day he will find new life.

ALL MARYS. *We are not alone.*

MARY 1. That's what Dad always says. I'd love to go into space.

MARY 2. I would.

MARY 4. I would.

MARY 1. I would be the first... girl in space.

Scene Two – The Classroom

MARY 1 *is in this scene.* MARY 2 and 3 *move to the side and watch and when they speak they are speaking to the audience.* We are now in the classroom. The children come on, Mary's friends CASTOR, LUNA and AURORA, and the others in the class NAT, ORION, ARMSTRONG and LEO. MARY *enters.* Her friends greet her.

CASTOR. Space Girl! Where have you been?

The friends gather round and chat.

MARY 2. That's what my friends call me. That's me – (*Pointing to MARY 1.*)

MARY 3. I don't mind the nickname. I like it. Makes me feel special.

NAT. Cool hat.

AURORA. It's not a hat, Nat, it's a helmet. Mary's dad got it for her birthday.

CASTOR. Come on, Space Girl. (*Referring to NAT.*) Don't talk to that monster!

(*Referring to LEO.*) Or that one.

LEO. I'm no monster – I'm a space dragon argggh!

He acts like a space dragon... which annoys/scares the friends. ORION and NAT join in.

ORION. With laser eyes burning a trail of fire... roar... you cannot escape us, Earthlings!!!

The others join in, pretending to be scary monsters and space men. The friends react: CASTOR is cross, LUNA laughs, MARY 1 is calm and smiles.

LUNA. Stop it, Leo. Space dragons! You can't get fire in space, there's no air! Silly!

ARMSTRONG (*as if he is speaking into a mic*). Ground control to Mary Moon, over!

MARY 1. Hi, Armstrong.

ARMSTRONG. Is your dad really a space man, Mary?

MARY 1. Yes he is, well, sort of...

NAT. Cool dad.

CASTOR. You know he is, Armstrong. How many times have you asked Mary that?

Honestly! Mary, do you want to come to my house after school?

NAT. Has he actually been in a rocket?

ORION. Have you ever been in a rocket, Mary?

LUNA. You don't get rockets in Lewisham, Orion! Silly!

The children are playing at space – being aliens and monsters and space men/women. The teacher enters, she is MRS MOON, MARY's mum. The children continue to play, making a lot of noise.

MARY 2. I'm really proud of my dad.

MRS MOON. What on Earth! Settle down! Settle down... Five-M! Settle down!!!

Everyone stops now as MRS MOON has shouted. Everyone except MARY 1 who speaks quite loudly. Everyone looks and listens to her.

MARY 1. Actually, my dad's a planet hunter. He searches in space for new planets and one day...

MRS MOON. Alright, Mary. That's enough, thank you! Sounds like you are showing off.

Everyone laughs.

MARY 1. I'm not, Mum...

Everyone laughs.

I mean, miss.

ORION. You called her Mum!

CASTOR. She is her mum, Orion! She's called Mrs Moon remember.

NAT. Yes but still.

MRS MOON. Now. It's almost the summer holidays –

They cheer.

and next year you will be in Year 6. And, as is a tradition in our school, each year you get to name your next class after a theme and next year your theme is space.

They ooh.

Yes, I thought you might like that. So, Year 2 is Jupiter, Year 3 is Saturn, Year 4 is Neptune, Year 5 is The Milky Way. What would you like Year 6 to be called?

The children whisper they all want it to be called the Moon Class. AURORA has volunteered to speak on behalf of the class.

AURORA. Please miss... we want to be called The Moon Class.

MRS MOON. Okay, I hope Mary hasn't influenced you all too much.

There is a knock at the door – MIKE MARS and his dad, MR MARS, are there, dressed in green.

Oh hello. Come in come in. Everyone, this is Mike and this is Mike's dad. Mike is joining your class next year. He's not been in Lewisham long so I expect you all to help him settle in.

MR MARS. Thank you for the welcome, Mrs Moon. Mike is looking forward to joining you all next term.

They leave and MR MARS speaks to MIKE in a language other than English.

ARMSTRONG. Wow, out of this world. What language was that?

AURORA and LUNA shrug because they don't know either. The bell rings for end of school.

MRS MOON. Goodbye, everyone, have a good weekend.

Everyone leaves except MARY 1 and MRS MOON.

Alright, love? You know, I wish you wouldn't go on about your dad so much, it's not like he's actually been to the Moon.

MARY 1. But, Mum, he might go there one day.

A boy, JJ MOON, appears on stage looking annoyed and MRS MOON and MARY 1 turn and look at him.

MRS MOON. Oh, Mary, I forgot; your brother is picking you up tonight.

MARY 1. But I thought Dad was picking me up tonight.

MRS MOON. No he can't he's... working...

MARY 1. Working where?

MRS MOON. Far away.

MRS MOON is obviously making this up. MRS MOON is clearly keeping something secret from MARY.

MARY 1. How far away? Mum?

MRS MOON. I don't know! Mary, I have to go to a meeting.

JJ. Oh come on, will you.

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