

Edwardsville High School Drama Club
Proudly Presents

CHILDREN OF EDEN



Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz**

Book by **John Caird**

Orchestrations by **Bruce Coughlin and Martin Erskine**

Based on a concept by **Charles Lisanby**

November 10 & 11, 2006 – 7:30pm

E.H.S. AUDITORIUM

Children of Eden is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY, 10019

Telephone: (212) 541-4684 Fax: (212) 397-4684

www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

SUMMARY

Children of Eden begins with God creating the heaven and the earth. He finally creates his “children” to share his dream and gives them the garden of Eden. Eve eats forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge at which point she “sees what Father sees.” Adam must choose between his Father and his wife, and he chooses the latter. Father exiles them from Eden and condemns them to be forever lost in the wilderness where they have two boys, Cain and

Abel. Cain inherits his mother’s rebelliousness, wanting to travel and find out about the world, but his father, Adam, forbids it. Cain defies his father, the same way Adam and Eve defied God and, in a fit of rage, tries to strike him. Abel intervenes and ends up being killed. Cain yells to Adam, “That should have been you!” and runs into the wilderness. Here he apparently finds a tribe of other humans but is labeled an outcast by God. Act I ends with Eve, alone after Adam’s death, singing the title song to all her children and grandchildren. As her offspring take over the final verses, Eve begins her ascent to heaven where Father, and Adam, wait to greet her.

Act II begins with descendants of Adam and Eve spreading all over the world. We meet Noah and his family, building an ark at Father’s insistence. Only the family of Noah, his wife, sons and their wives – none of whom bear the “mark of Cain” – will be allowed on the ark. However, one of Noah’s sons is in love with a woman who bears the mark of Cain. As the animals enter the ark two by two, Noah’s son hides his lover, Yonah, on the ship. After the flood, Yonah is discovered and, once again the father, Noah, must deal with his rebellious child. Noah decides to forgive his son and accepts his new wife into the family. As the ark comes to rest atop a mountain, the family of Noah separates to the ends of the earth to start a new generation.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

<i>Let There Be</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>The Naming</i>	Father, Adam, Eve, Storytellers
<i>Grateful Children</i>	Adam, Eve
<i>Father’s Day</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>The Spark of Creation</i>	Eve
<i>In Pursuit of Excellence</i>	Snake, Eve
<i>A World Without You</i>	Adam, Father, Eve
<i>The Expulsion</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>The Wasteland</i>	Storytellers
<i>Lost in the Wilderness</i>	Abel, Cain
<i>Close to Home</i>	Adam, Eve, Abel, Young Cain, Young Abel
<i>A Ring Of Stones</i>	Cain, Eve, Abel, Adam
<i>The Mark of Cain</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>Children of Eden</i>	Eve, Storytellers

There will be a 15 Minute Intermission – Punch and Cookies will be sold in the commons.

Act Two

<i>Generations</i>	Storytellers
<i>A Piece of Eight</i>	Storytellers, Noah, Yonah, Japheth, Family
<i>The Return Of The Animals</i>	Storytellers, Orchestra
<i>Stranger To The Rain</i>	Yonah
<i>In Whatever Time We Have</i>	Japheth, Yonah
<i>The Flood</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>What Is He Waiting For?</i>	Noah, Family
<i>Sailor Of The Skies</i>	Yonah
<i>The Hardest Part Of Love</i>	Noah, Father
<i>Ain’t It Good?</i>	Mama Noah, Family, Storytellers
<i>In The Beginning</i>	Company

After the performance we invite family and friends of the cast, crew and pit of *Children of Eden* to greet them in the Green Room (B116).

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Father.....	Chris Ash◇
Adam/Noah.....	Chase Hopkins◇
Eve/Mama Noah.....	Brianna Schumacher◇
Cain/Japheth.....	Brennan Stamps◇
Abel/Ham.....	Brandon Raab◇
Seth/Shem.....	Nick Henderson
Aphra.....	Chelsie Johnston◇
Aysha.....	Susan Joyce◇
Yonah.....	Alicia Laswell◇
Young Cain.....	Travis Hamilton
Young Abel.....	Luke Westbrook
The Spark of Creation Dancers.....	Ayesha Hussain, Kelsea Kaleta, Jaimie Keith◇, Alicia Laswell◇, Alex Lesicko◇, Angie Richard
Snake.....	Alex McCann◇, Chelsie Johnston◇, Jordan Parente◇, Nicole Nelson, Tim Havis◇, Brianna Sarikcioglu, Paul Herbert Puts◇

Storytellers:

- Women: Jessica Blodgett, Apollonia Rose Goeckner◇+, Rachel Hankins◇+, Grace Harvey, Ayesha Hussain+, Tiffini Hyatt+, Jacqueline Jensen+, Chelsie Johnston◇+, Susan Joyce◇+, Kelsey Kaleta+, Jaimie Keith◇, Alicia Laswell◇, Alex Lesicko◇, Ali Lovett◇, Yvette McCaskill◇+, Nicole Nelson, Angie Richard, Brianna Sarikcioglu+, Molly Anna Starratt◇
- Men: Colin Dowd+, Travis Hamilton, Tim Havis◇+, Nick Henderson+, Philip Knapp, Alex McCann◇, Evan Metcalf+, Jason Miller◇, Kyle Mullins, Jordan Parente◇+, Paul Herbert Pitts◇+, Brandon Raab◇+, Joel Rogier, Brennan Stamps◇, Luke Westbrook, Russell Yost◇
- Children: Abigail Goeckner, Luke Goeckner, Emily Rose Jackson, Oliver Knapp, Hanna Sarikcioglu, Emily Schwarz, Justin Schwarz, Katie Schwarz, Bailee Shashack, Katie Shashack, Amy Svoboda, Joey Svoboda, Kayla Thompson

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THANKS!

Our gratitude and thanks go out to the following individuals, groups and businesses for their contributions to EHS Drama Club, Thespian Troupe 1534 and our production of *Children of Eden*. Please forgive omissions due to printing deadlines or simple human error.

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And the families of the cast, crew & pit of
Children of Eden

DRAMATURGY

Children of Eden takes the first nine chapters of the Book of Genesis through a lyrical journey composed by Stephen Schwartz with book by John Caird. The play follows the world's first couple, their offspring, and the subsequent generations including Noah. Set to a musical score filled with delightful songs, the familiar story reminds us of how closely connected we all are. *Children of Eden* begs us to question matters of family and teaches us about the challenges of parenting and relationships. The show reaffirms that the struggles of today are similar to ones throughout history.

Stephen Schwartz was born in New York and raised in Long Island. He studied at the Julliard School of Music, then attended Carnegie Mellon University where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama. While attending college he participated in numerous theatrical productions as a director, musical director, and choreographer. Post-graduation, he worked as a producer for the RCA Corporation and developed a passionate interest in Broadway theatrical productions. Stephen Schwartz is most remembered for writing the music and lyrics for a score of Broadway shows – the most famous being *Godspell*, *Pippin*, and *Wicked*.

Schwartz wrote the music and lyrics for *Children of Eden* as a story loosely based on the first nine chapters of the Book of Genesis. The show premiered in London in January of 1991. The initial reviews were mixed, and unfortunately, the show closed in April of the same year. Schwartz was determined to improve the show which resulted in a high profile production in 1998 at New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse.

John Caird is a freelance director and writer who spent his career working in theatre, musical theatre, and opera. He has directed over twenty plays and has received numerous awards from around the world. John Caird has become well known for directing and adapting the original London production of *Les Misérables*. John Caird is the co-founder of the Caird Company, encouraging and promoting the work of young playwrights and theatre directors.

After numerous performances, audiences everywhere warmly receive the show. *Children of Eden* appeals to the young and old. The show is widely appreciated and respected, drawing large audiences to every production. *Children of Eden* is now recognized as one of the top twenty musicals licensed by Music Theatre International, which is rare for a show that has never been on Broadway. Critics believe this show will survive for many years to come.

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Scribe: Madeleine Laws

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Fever – December 9, 2006 @ 2 PM

Illinois High School Theatre Festival: January 4-6, 2007

Disney's Beauty and the Beast – March 24-26, 2007

Gentlemen's Night Out – 10th Year Anniversary -
- February 2, 2007 -

At the American Legion

Contact Skip Schmidt at 618-406-8414

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