

The Yellow Boat

By David Starr

Fontbonne University- Spring Play Production

St. Louis, MO 2020

Dramaturgical Packet
Curated by Melissa Tropa (As of January 2020)

First Rehearsal: January 16th, 2020

Performances: March 19th-22nd, 2020



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Rehearsal Schedule (Subject to change)

For the production of *The Yellow Boat* rehearsals and tech week will be as follows. The schedule is subject to change at a need-be basis under the direction of director and senior Jacob Schmidt, however this schedule should be used as a resource and guide for everyday rehearsals and scheduling. The final play will be presented on March 19-22nd.



January:

Th/16th: Read Through

T/21st: Pages 1-6

Th/23rd: Pages 7-12, REVIEW

M/27th: Pages 12-20

T/28th: Pages 20-27

Th/30th: REVIEW

February:

M/3rd: Pages 27-34

T/4th: Pages 34-40

Th/6th: REVIEW

M/10th: Pages 40-47

T/11th: Pages 48-55

Th/13th: REVIEW

M/17th: Pages 56-60

T/18th: Pages 61-67

Th/20th: REVIEW

M/24th: Pages 67-73

T/25th: Pages 73-76, REVIEW

Th/27th: REVIEW

March:

M/2nd: REVIEW/CLEAN

T/3rd: REVIEW/CLEAN

Th/5th: REVIEW/CLEAN

M/9th: REVIEW/CLEAN

T/10th: REVIEW/CLEAN

Th/12th: REVIEW/CLEAN

M/9th: REVIEW/CLEAN

T/10th: REVIEW/CLEAN

Th/12th: REVIEW/CLEAN

Sa/14th: TECH

Su/15th: TECH

M/16th: DRESS

T/17th: DRESS

W/18th: FINAL DRESS

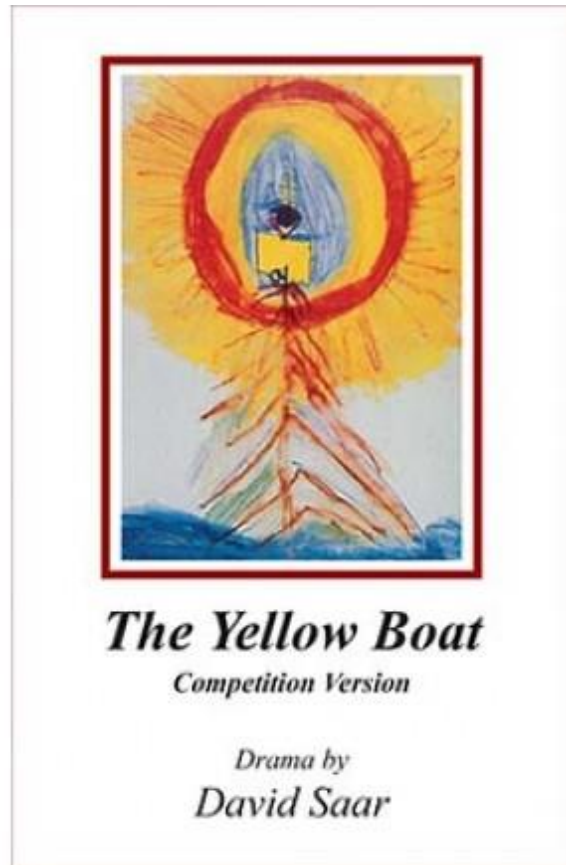
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Production Background/Biography:

The Yellow Boat is a play written by David Starr about his son, Benjamin Starr and his life until its end. First produced in 1993, *Yellow Boat* continues to make its run around the country through his tragic yet moving content about an artistic child who uses his imagination to survive in the depths of his fatal illness. *The Yellow Boat* was first presented by Childsplay Inc. at the Tempe Performing Arts Center in Arizona in 1993, although the story is set in 1987 when Sonja and David's son is just 8 years old. Since its debut, *Yellow Boat* has made its run for decades all over schools and theatres in the United States. This occurred once a touring version of the play was public, which was done in 1994 by the Metro Theatre Company from St. Louis Missouri.



¹The synopsis is as follows according to *Dramatic Publishing*. The story of *The Yellow Boat* is a glorious affirmation of a child's life and the strength and courage of all children. This dramatization is based on the true story of David and Sonja Saar's son, Benjamin, who was born with congenital hemophilia and died in 1987 at the age of 8 of AIDS-related complications. A uniquely gifted visual artist, Benjamin's buoyant imagination transformed his physical and emotional pain into a blaze of colors and shapes in his fanciful drawings and paintings. A Scandinavian folksong tells of three little boats: "One was blue, one was red, and one was yellow as the sun. They sailed far out to sea. The blue one returned to the harbor. The red one sailed home, too. But the yellow boat sailed up to the sun." Benjamin always concluded his bedtime ritual by saying, "Mom, you can be the red boat or the blue boat, but I am the yellow boat." Benjamin's remarkable voyage continues to touch audiences around the world.

¹ <https://www.dramaticpublishing.com/the-yellow-boat>

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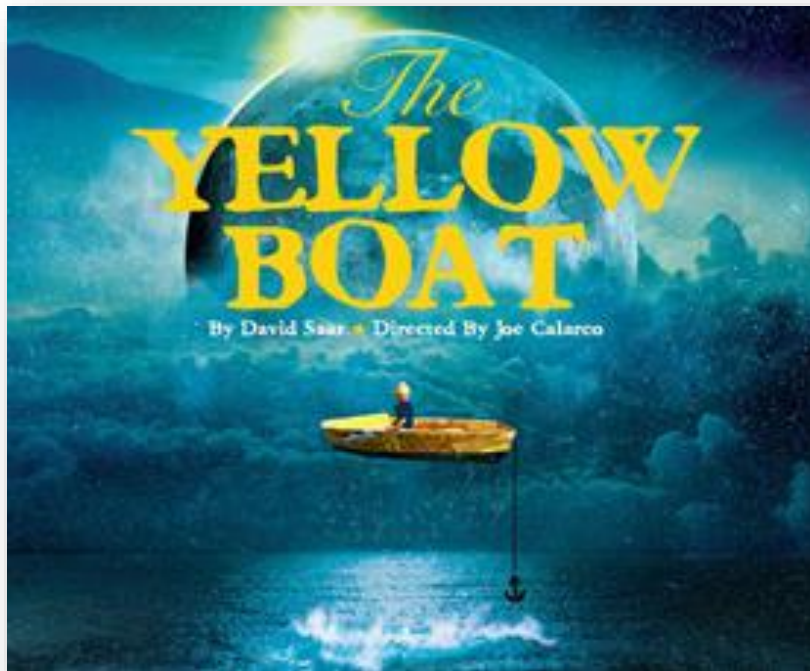
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Type of Production

The Yellow Boat is a tragedy play but postmodern in its typical production and design scheme with both creative but minimalistic approaches to the set. It is a drama unlike many with many biographical components that make it more nonfiction than what is typical of play productions. The double casting provides a unique take on the meaning of characters and plot, as Benjamin struggles to survive his illness and those around him rally for his recovery. Double casting, minimalistic sets, and unique design are becoming more popular in modern theatre productions although this is nothing new. It is fitting for the production of the *Yellow Boat*, due to the need for imagination from the audience as they connect to the character of Benjamin, as well as for accessibility. To produce the play nationwide, doing so on a budget is the best option, and it is easiest through double casting and minimalistic sets.



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The *Yellow Boat* Playwright and Dramatic Intentions:

²David Starr

The original playwright, of *The Yellow Boat*, is unique in the fact that the playwright was in fact



the father of the boy in the play, David Starr. David Saar is the founder and artistic director of Childsplay in Tempe, Ariz. He has directed and taught for Childsplay since the company was formed in 1977. Among the many productions he has directed for Childsplay, favorites include *Still Life with Iris*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Pero or the Mystery of the Night*, *Afternoon of the Elves*, *Cyrano* and, always, the show he is currently working on. Saar also directed *The Origins of Happiness* in Latin for Arizona Theatre Company, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Yellow Boat* and *Tomas and the Library Lady* for Seattle Children's Theatre, and *The BFG* for the Chicago Theatre for Young Audiences. In 1989 he received the Governor's Arts Award for his contributions to the arts in Arizona, in 1991 he was the recipient of the national Winifred Ward Dare to

Dream Fellowship, and in 1993 he received the Phoenix Futures Forum's Dream Weavers Vision Award. In 2002, he received the first Notable Achievement Award from the Herberger College of Fine Arts at Arizona State University. In March 2007, he was awarded the prestigious Thomas DeGaetani Award from the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT). In 2009, he was recognized for outstanding contributions to theatre in Arizona by the National Society of Arts and Letters, and in August 2010, he received the prestigious Medallion Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation to honor artistic excellence and Childsplay's national influence during its 33-year history.

² <https://www.dramaticpublishing.com/authors/profile/view/url/david-saar>

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Dramatic Intentions



The *Yellow Boat* begins with the fragments of a little boy growing up with his parents and falling in love with drawing. His mother tells Benjamin of a Scandinavian folksong her family had passed down to her that she sings to Benjamin every night about three boats. A blue boat, a red boat, and a yellow boat. This begins the tradition of going on imaginative adventures in playtime with his parents on his Yellow Boat, which always goes into the sun. As Benjamin grows up, the family discovers Benjamin has a blood disease when he hurts himself playing, and he begins having long term blood transfusions to care for his condition. However, one of the transfusions makes him very sick and weak, and the family learns he has contracted AIDS from his transfusions.

It is in his time being treated at the hospital until his death, does he learn to use his drawings to describe the indescribable, explaining the feelings Benjamin has within, both medically and emotionally. As a drama and tragedy the play's intentions of using

Benjamin's art aren't necessarily to bring hope that he will live, although this is always the hope of parents when they're child is sick, but to discover how art can be a mechanism for coping through life, just as the production of the play acts as this mechanism for the playwright and father, David Starr, for instance. Creation can bring power to the powerless, imagination can bring freedom to the imprisoned, and all of this is evoked in the play of *Yellow Boat*. The play not only brings awareness to the various illnesses Benjamin has including Hemophilia and AIDS but of the power of art in all its forms. It is about family, strength, life, and death, and how we cope in between.

Reviews of Yellow Boat:

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³The Arizona Central, review by Kerry Lengel, of a recent 2017 production calls *The Yellow Boat*, the heart of Childsplay, Tempe’s professional theater for young audiences, the broken heart, and the healing heart. First performed in 1993, the award-winning play was written by company founder David Saar about the death of his 8-year-old son, Benjamin, a hemophiliac who contracted HIV during the height of the AIDS scare. In a revival at the Tempe Center for the Arts, “The Yellow Boat” may no longer be topical, but it is timeless and universal, with deceptively simple storytelling that allows young theatergoers to face the ultimate mystery of life: its inevitable end. Saar, who retired last year after leading the company for nearly four decades, has described writing the play as a form of therapy, but that is not how it feels on the stage. It is easy to sympathize with the parents, identified only as Mother and Father, played with reassuring warmth by company regulars Katie McFadzen and Kyle Sorrell. But this isn’t really their story, which is told through the innocent eyes of the character of Benjamin.

Adult actor Rudy Ramirez tackles the role with exuberance and sensitivity, and also does a sort of double duty,



portraying an 8-year-old boy through his highs and lows while assisting in the playful staging of the backstory, manipulating a sort of gingerbread-man bean bag standing in for baby Benjamin. Director Dwayne Hartford — Saar’s successor — makes inventive use of props to make the medical subject matter accessible to children, as when the ensemble uses elastic ribbons to simulate a transfusion whooshing through a syringe. The title of the play refers to an old Norwegian folk tale, and “The Yellow Boat” is very much about the power of storytelling as the artistically minded Benjamin uses his imagination to make sense of his world. These moments

³ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/arts/2017/03/09/yellow-boat-childsplay-review/98981848/>

For other reviews see here: <https://www.stageandcinema.com/2014/04/21/the-yellow-boat-coeurage/>
www.theaterjones.com/ntx/reviews/20140413111227/2014-04-14/Artes-de-la-Rosa/The-Yellow-Boat

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serve as an emotional bulwark against a rough ride that depicts the family's isolation as fear of AIDS leads to a sort of public shunning.

It is devastating to watch Benjamin withdraw into depression during an extended hospital sequence accompanied by the incessant beep of a heart monitor. Yet even here there is hope, embodied by a persistent hospital staffer (Debra K. Stevens, in one of several roles). And the writing shows a tender understanding of children in a poignant reunion between Benjamin and a friend from school (Michael Thompson), who dares to ask a question that no adult would — because an adult already knows that there really isn't an answer. Tissues may be a necessity. But the power of "The Yellow Boat" is that it is emotional without being sentimental. It's a play that fulfills the ancient calling of tragedy: to offer catharsis and, ultimately, solace.

80's Epidemic: medical content of the play

While it is mentioned that AIDS had its misinformation in the play, the AIDS epidemic of the 80's as it carries today is widely misunderstood but vastly important to the lives of those

suffering with the disease and all those who have passed along from it. Linked to this source is some resources about the AIDS epidemic, what AIDS is, and how it is being cured



today. The way Benjamin caught it in our production was due to a lack of thorough blood donor clearings to illuminate any carriers as donors, before giving blood for blood transfusion participants as patients in hospitals around the country. But there are other ways to have the disease, most commonly by passing of bodily fluid usually during sexual encounters.

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So where did it all begin, what is AIDS and HIV and how has things changed? Let's take a look at the history of it all and learn more at the resources below.⁴

In the 1980s and early 1990s, the outbreak of HIV and AIDS swept across the United States and rest of the world, though the disease originated decades earlier. Today, more than 70 million people have been infected with HIV and about 35 million have died from AIDS since the start of the pandemic, according to the World Health Organization.

What is HIV?

The human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, is a virus that attacks the immune system, specifically CD4 cells (or T cells). The virus is transmitted through bodily fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal fluids, anal fluids, and breast milk. Historically, HIV has most often been spread through unprotected sex, the sharing of needles for drug use, and through birth.

Where Did AIDS Come From?

Scientists have traced the origin of HIV back to chimpanzees and simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), an HIV-like virus that attacks the immune system of monkeys and apes.

In 1999, researchers identified a strain of chimpanzee SIV called SIVcpz, which was nearly identical to HIV. Chimps, the scientist later discovered, hunt and eat two smaller species of monkeys—red-capped mangabeys and greater spot-nosed monkeys—that carry and infect the chimps with two strains of SIV. These two strains likely combined to form SIVcpz, which can spread between and humans.

Learn more at <https://www.history.com/topics/1980s/history-of-aids>

The following is from a resource which tracks the last 30 years of the HIV and AIDS crisis in the U.S., up until Ben would have contracted the disease, more of the timeline is provided in the links seen on this page.

⁵Pre-1980's

⁴ <https://www.history.com/topics/1980s/history-of-aids>

⁵ <https://www.avert.org/professionals/history-hiv-aids/overview>

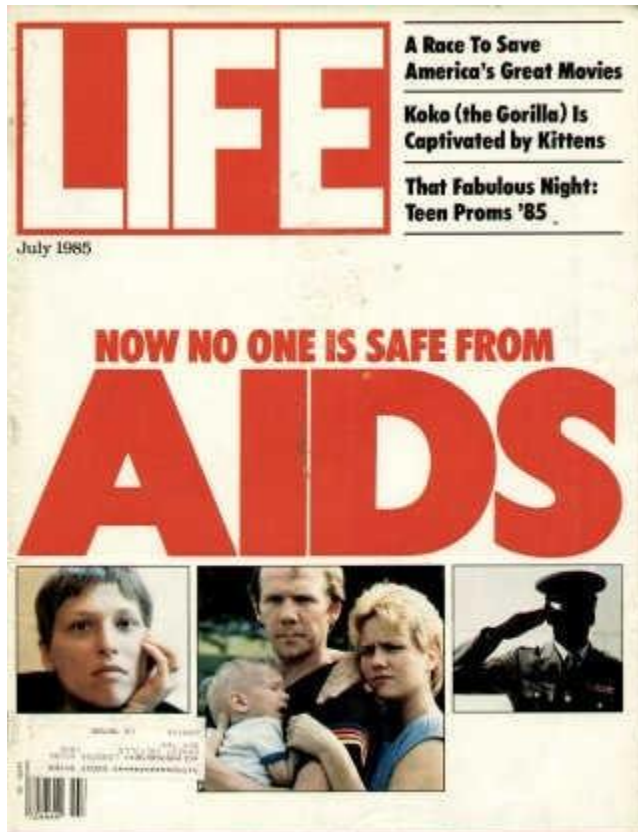
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It is widely believed that HIV originated in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo around 1920 when HIV crossed species from chimpanzees to humans. Up until the 1980s, we do not know how many people were infected with HIV or developed AIDS. HIV was unknown and transmission was not accompanied by noticeable signs or symptoms.



While sporadic cases of AIDS were documented prior to 1970, available data suggests that the current epidemic started in the mid- to late 1970s. By 1980, HIV may have already spread to five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Australia). In this period, between 100,000 and 300,000 people could have already been infected.

1981

In 1981, cases of a rare lung infection called *Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP)* were found in five young, previously healthy gay men in Los Angeles.² At the same time, there were reports of a group of men in New York and California with an unusually aggressive cancer named *Kaposi's Sarcoma*.³

In December 1981, the first cases of PCP were reported in people who inject drugs. By the end of the year, there were 270 reported cases of severe immune deficiency among gay men - 121 of them had died.⁵

1982

In June 1982, a group of cases among gay men in Southern California suggested that the cause of the immune deficiency was sexual, and the syndrome was initially called gay-related immune deficiency (or GRID).

Later that month, the disease was reported in hemophiliacs and Haitians leading many to believe it had originated in Haiti.

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In September, the CDC used the term 'AIDS' (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) for the first time, describing it as-

a disease at least moderately predictive of a defect in cell mediated immunity, occurring in a person with no known case for diminished resistance to that disease.

AIDS cases were also being reported in a number of European countries. In Uganda, doctors reported cases of a new, fatal wasting disease locally known as 'slim'.

By this point, a number of AIDS-specific organizations had been set up including the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) in the USA and the Terrence Higgins Trust in the UK.

1983

In January 1983, AIDS was reported among the female partners of men who had the disease suggesting it could be passed on via heterosexual sex.

In May, doctors at the Pasteur Institute in France reported the discovery of a new retrovirus called Lymphadenopathy-Associated Virus (or LAV) that could be the cause of AIDS.

In June, the first reports of AIDS in children hinted that it could be passed via casual contact, but this was later ruled out and it was concluded that they had probably directly acquired AIDS from their mothers before, during or shortly after birth.

By September, the CDC identified all major routes of transmission and ruled out transmission by casual contact, food, water, air or surfaces.

The CDC also published their first set of recommended precautions for healthcare workers and allied health professionals to prevent "AIDS transmission".

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In November, the World Health Organization (WHO) held its first meeting to assess the global AIDS situation and began international surveillance.

By the end of the year the number of AIDS cases in the USA had risen to 3,064 - of this number, 1,292 had died.

1984

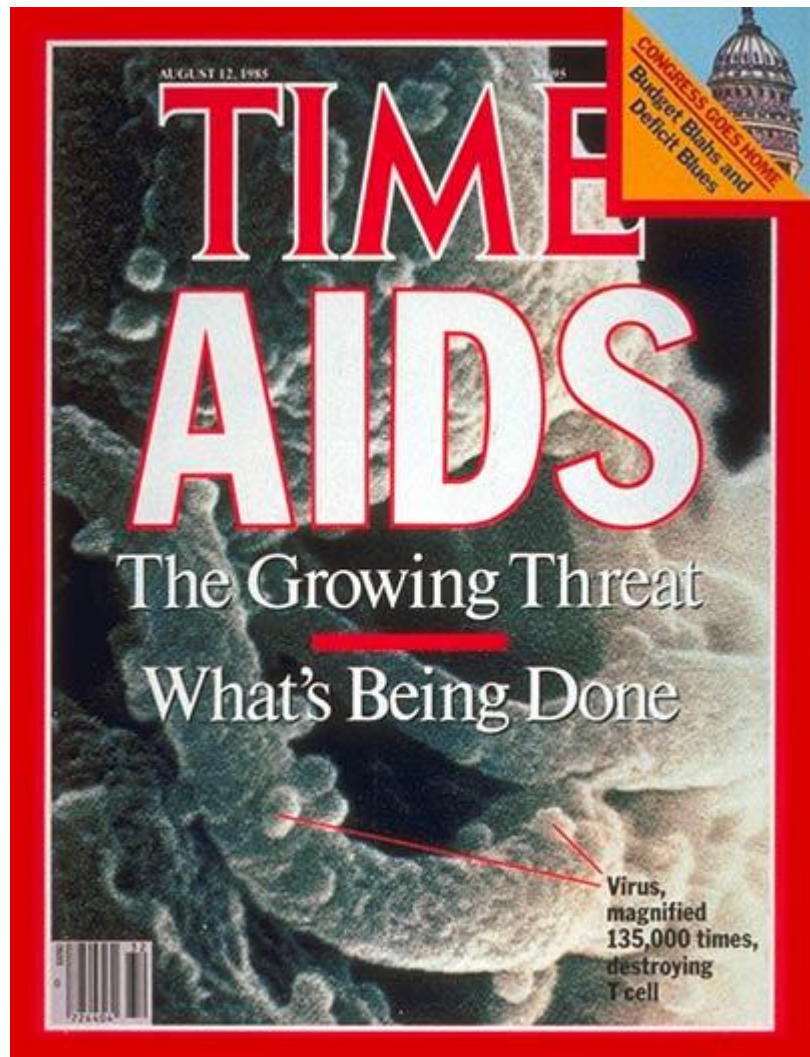
In April 1984, the National Cancer Institute announced they had found the cause of AIDS, the retrovirus HTLV-III. In a joint conference with the Pasteur Institute they announced that LAV and HTLV-III are identical and the likely cause of AIDS. A blood test was created to screen for the virus with the hope that a vaccine would be developed in two years.

In July, the CDC state that avoiding injecting drug use and sharing needles "should also be effective in preventing transmission of the virus."

In October, bath houses and private sex clubs in San Francisco were closed due to high-risk sexual activity. New York and Los Angeles followed suit within a year.

By the end of 1984, there had been 7,699 AIDS cases and 3,665 AIDS deaths in the USA with 762 cases reported in Europe.

In Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the first needle and syringe programme was set up with growing concerns about HTLV-III/LAV.



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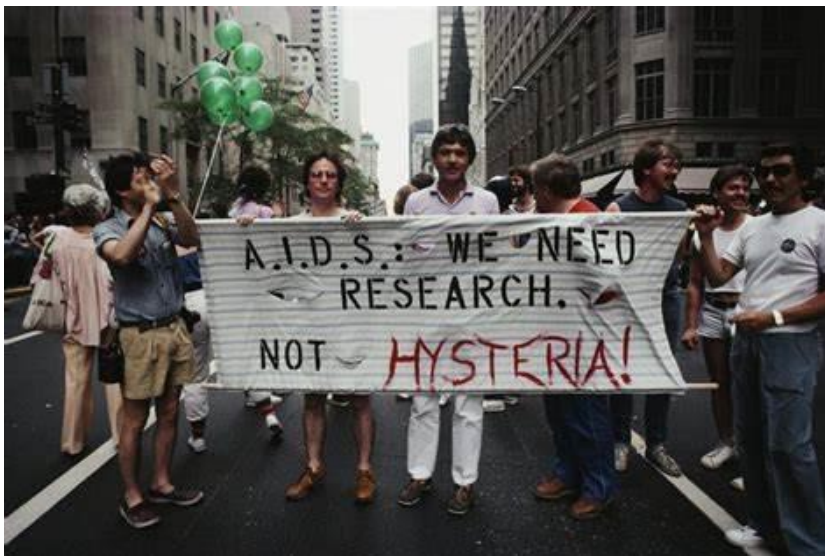
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1985

In March 1985, the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed the first commercial blood test, ELISA, to detect antibodies to the virus. Blood banks began to screen the USA blood supply.

In April, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted the first International AIDS Conference in Atlanta Georgia.



Ryan White, a teenager from Indiana, USA who acquired AIDS through contaminated blood products used to treat his hemophilia was banned from school.

On 2 October, the actor Rock Hudson dies from AIDS - the first high profile fatality. He left \$250,000 to set up the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR).

In December, the U.S. Public Health Service issued the first recommendations for preventing mother to child transmission of the virus.

By the end of 1985, every region in the world had reported at least one case of AIDS, with 20,303 cases in total.

1986

In May 1986, the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses said that the virus that causes AIDS will officially be called HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) instead of HTLV-III/LAV.

By the end of the year, 85 countries had reported 38,401 cases of AIDS to the World Health Organization. By region these were; Africa 2,323, Americas 31,741, Asia 84, Europe 3,858, and Oceania 395.

1987

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In February 1987, the WHO launched The Global Program on AIDS to raise awareness; generate evidence-based policies; provide technical and financial support to countries; conduct research; promote participation by NGOs; and promote the rights of people living with HIV.

In March, the FDA approved the first antiretroviral drug, zidovudine (AZT), as treatment for HIV.

In April, the FDA approved the western blot blood test kit, a more specific HIV antibody test.

In July, the WHO confirmed that HIV could be passed from mother to child during breastfeeding.

In October, AIDS became the first illness debated in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

By December, 71,751 cases of AIDS had been reported to the WHO, with 47,022 of these in the USA. The WHO estimated that 5-10 million people were living with HIV worldwide.

See more on the links provided.

The Narrative Arch of the Play:

The Yellow Boat begins with the life of a young boy, seemingly normal, on adventures to



the sun on his yellow boat using his imagination. The rising action is the discovery of his hemophilia disease and later his AIDS, while the climax of the play seemingly is when Benjamin realizes there will be no curing his disease, only delaying his death. The moment he draws out his pain in his stomach to his doctors during his decline is also a climactic moment, because Benjamin is able to finally express what has been so hard in the past to do. Once he speaks to his parents about the size of the moon and

how he wants to die, does the falling action begin to occur. The resolution is not only Benjamin's death, but also the emotional climax as we as an audience inevitably say goodbye to our beloved child to an unfair disease.

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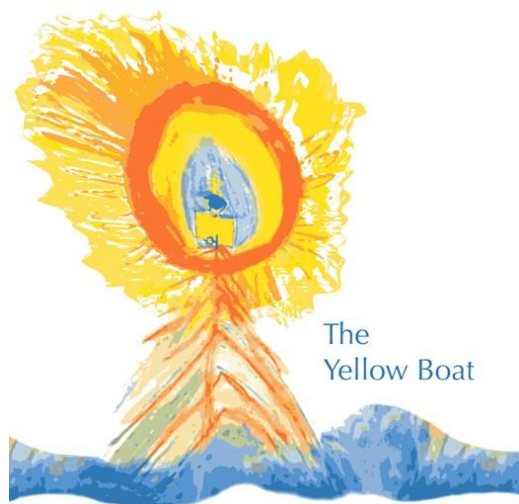
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The ways in which this piece is dramatically complex but telling include the heavy reliance on color in the piece, as well as Benjamin's relationship with his child life specialist, Joy. The story he is sung by his parents all use primary colors, since it is his primary family and closest relationship unit in the play. The other colors like green and blue describe his emotional state, while the harsher warmer tones explain his pain as he draws his pain for his medical team. The fact that Benjamin insists on being the Yellow Boat, the one that goes to the sun, when the blue and red boats come home, is both foreshadowing and dramatically intentional. As the son of Sonja and David, of course Benjamin would travel to the sun. The sun also represents a spiritual component to the play, as he doesn't come home or stay on earth, but leaves his body after he dies, the sun assumingly being heaven, a bright positive color to look up to. The symbolism follows the rest of the play to provide context and depth to the production which makes it still so captivating today.

Imagery and Symbols of The Yellow Boat

Dramaturgical analysis and interpretations:

Within the production, reoccurring motifs and symbols exist to help heighten the experience of the show. This includes not only the colors, red, yellow, blue, purple, and green as I have briefly mentioned, but also the symbols the illnesses play as well as the sun, moon, and stars to the overall effectiveness of the play. These are some of my interpretations of the symbols of the play.



Sun

As the Scandinavian folksong goes, the Yellow boat is the only one which sails to the sun. The sun therefore is an important symbol in the play because not only does it juxtapose the moon where Ben discusses with his parents his final end, but it also is a reference to the spirituality that the play lingers on. The sun may also be interpreted as the gateway to a heaven or someplace in an afterlife. Ben is also a son to his parents Sonja and David, so it is fitting he would be choosing the boat that goes to the sun. The sun is a beacon of light for hope and fate in this interpretation.

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Moon

As mentioned, the moon plays a particularly important role in the play, as Ben declines to his end by his devastating illness. In the last scene with his parents before his death, the moon appears particularly large and is mesmerizing to Benjamin. Almost as if the sky is calling him to set sail. The moon is a juxtaposition of the sun's beacon of light



and represents the reality of death that Ben and his parents are faced with in the play, yet it also is a reminder of the light that still shines in Benjamin even in their darkness.

Stars

The family in this play's last name means star, which is fitting since Benjamin is constantly seeing stars with his imagination and leaving his mind in the clouds when he can't escape his true body. When Joy, his child life specialist, leaves stars in his room they help to represent an illumination of light and hope into Benjamin's life, similarly to that of the sun or the moon in their symbolism, but unlike the sun or the moon, the stars seem infinite and unending, a chance to escape reality's truths in the play.

Sailing, Boating, Liquid motifs and Religious overlaps

Whether it be Benjamin's diagnosis of Hemophilia or his AIDS or the use of his blood transfusions or the colors yellow orange and red when describing his pain level during his illness, the presence of liquids are everywhere in this play.

For obvious reasons a boy with an illness is going to be using blood a lot in a script. But from a symbolic standpoint the blood he is constantly facing is also a way to represent the sailing through life Benjamin literally faces as he swims day in and day out of his own body. As a bit of a stretch it can also be interpreted from a biblical standpoint, like Christ, where his body and blood are seen as religious symbols, Benjamin's blood seems to provide a link from his pain to his freedom when he escapes on his adventures, and he appears that much closer to God in his adventures because of his illness. This is apparent when he goes to the Flower Island and it is

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mentioned that the “big guy” is “enemy” as if to say God is his enemy for shortening his life. Flower Island therefore can also be interpreted as a sense of paradise, in this line of thinking. In addition, liquid is again mentioned with IV bags, the red tears when he is in pain, and any time blood is drawn for tests as Benjamin receives treatment. The sailing to the sun as the Yellow Boat is also constant motif throughout, as he tries to remain a child in the midst of his illness.

Colors

On page 4 and repeated, again and again in the play is the way which Benjamin interprets colors to describe his feelings as a child with an illness and a gift for art. “I see red, I hear blue, I feel purple, I taste green, I choose yellow” etc. He uses colors to interpret his emotions and they are almost always fluid throughout the play. Yellow is always his chosen color, because his fate is to sail to the sun or die in the end of the play, however red is both pain and sight, blue is sadness and green is often disgust, but it varies slightly depending on how is feeling throughout the play. The cool colors usually correspond to cool or calm or low emotions, whereas the hot or warm colors refer to the pain or intense emotions that Benjamin is feeling throughout the play.



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Definition of terms⁶ and key words for Reference:

Character Names⁷

1. **Benjamin Starr-**

⁸Son of the right hand, according to the bible, with Hebrew origins.

2. **Sonja Starr-**

⁹Meaning wisdom, of norwegian and scandinavian origin.

3. **David Starr-**

¹⁰From the Hebrew name (*David*), which was derived from Hebrew (*dod*) meaning "beloved" or "uncle". David was the second and greatest of the kings of Israel, ruling in the 10th century BC. Several stories about him are told in the Old Testament, including his defeat of Goliath, a giant Philistine. According to the New Testament, Jesus was descended from him.

The last name “Starr”: is an ancient english surname, Anglo-Saxon, from England, meaning “Star”, their motto is “Live in Hope”. It derives from the Olde English pre 7th century word "steorra" and means a star. The word was often used as a nickname in the transferred sense of a patch of white hair on the forehead of a horse, and hence was given to a man with a streak of white hair. In some instances, the surname may also originate from a house or inn, distinguished by the sign of a star in the days before numbers. Finally, the surname may have developed from "Sterre", again meaning star, but used as a personal name, and recorded in the famous Domesday Book of 1086.



⁶ All definitions in the Glossary section can be found at the OED website or other dictionary sources, see websites [here](#) or [here](#) for more details.

⁷ All character names originally off of ancestry site, see more [here](#).

⁸ <https://www.behindthename.com/name/benjamin>

⁹ <https://thenameofthename.com/sonja/>

¹⁰ <https://www.behindthename.com/name/david>

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Other Terms: *Note pages referenced are pages from the script*

1. **Byssan Lull: p. 7 (By Evert Taube and Alan Ruch, English Lyric David Starr)**
2. **Ja p.7** – Norwegian word for “yes”
3. **Min p.7-** Norwegian word for “mine”
4. **CAT scan p.15-** an X-ray image made using a form of tomography in which a computer controls the motion of the X-ray source and detectors, processes the data, and produces the image. Also called CT scan
5. **Colic p. 15-** severe, often fluctuating pain in the abdomen caused by intestinal gas or obstruction in the intestines and suffered especially by babies.
6. **Hematocrit p.15-** the ratio of the volume of red blood cells to the total volume of blood, an instrument for measuring this, typically by centrifugation.
7. **Hemophilia Type A p.17-** a hereditary, sex-linked blood defect occurring almost exclusively in males that is marked by delayed clotting of the blood with prolonged or excessive internal or external bleeding after injury or surgery and in severe cases spontaneous bleeding into joints and muscles and that is caused by a deficiency of Clotting factors.



NOTE: Hemophilia is inherited as an X-linked recessive trait in which the mother must pass on a copy of the defective gene to a male child, and more rarely, both parents must pass on copies of the defective gene to a female child.

Type A: the common form of hemophilia that is caused by a deficiency of factor VIII

8. **Factor 8 Infusion Method p. 17-**an infusion process which helps to bring up factor VIII (8) levels so that natural blood clotting can occur
9. **Hollandaise Sauce p.20-** a creamy sauce of melted butter, egg yolks, and lemon juice or vinegar, served especially with fish.
10. **Svengalese p.33-** a made up place that is foreign in Benjamin’s imagination
11. **HIV virus p.36-** HIV is a **virus spread through certain body fluids that attacks the body’s immune system**, specifically the CD4 cells, often called T cells.
12. **Immune deficiency p.37-** failure of the immune system to protect the body adequately from infection, due to the absence or insufficiency of some component process or substance.

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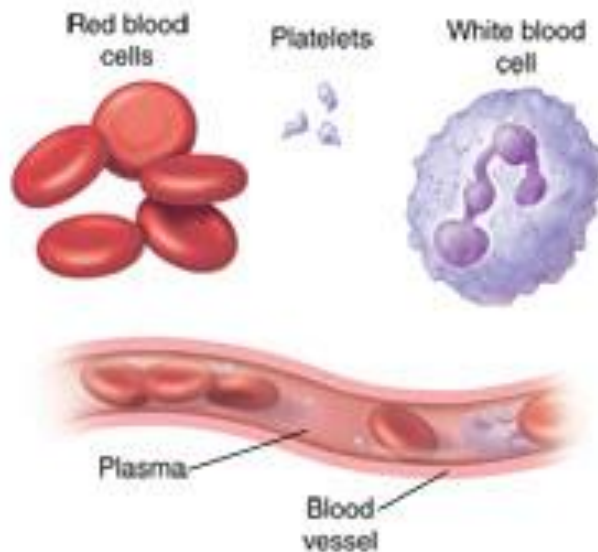
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13. **AIDS p.37-** a disease in which there is a severe loss of the body's cellular immunity, greatly lowering the resistance to infection and malignancy.
14. **Anemic p. 37-** a condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or of hemoglobin in the blood, resulting in pallor and weariness.
15. ¹¹**ELISA p. 38-** enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, an immunological assay technique making use of an enzyme bonded to a particular antibody or antigen. The ELISA test uses enzymes or antibodies attached to a solid surface to create the test surface. A sample is then added to the test surface. Antibodies or enzymes reacting or attaching to proteins indicates a positive result.
16. **The Western Blot Test p.38-** The Western blot test is performed after the gel-electrophoresis. The separated proteins are transferred (or blotted) onto nitrocellulose or nylon membranes and identified by specific antibodies that are tagged by a secondary protein.
17. **AZT p.40- Retrovir** (zidovudine, ZDV, formerly called AZT) is a medication (oral and injectable) prescribed for the treatment of infections with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). Side effects include: Drug interactions, dosage, and pregnancy and breastfeeding safety information, and dosing should be reviewed before taking any medication.
18. ¹²**White blood count p.47-**

Your blood is made up of red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma. Your white blood cells account for only about 1% of your blood, but their impact is big. White blood cells are also called leukocytes. They protect you against illness and disease. Think of white blood cells as your immunity cells. In a sense, they are always at war. They flow through your bloodstream to fight viruses, bacteria, and other foreign invaders that threaten your health. When your body is in distress and a particular area is under attack, white blood cells rush in to help destroy the harmful



¹¹ More on blood tests here: <https://sciencing.com/western-blot-test-6046826.html>

¹² <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=160&ContentID=35> for more on white blood cells.

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substance and prevent illness. White blood cells are made in the bone marrow. They are stored in your blood and lymph tissues. Because some white blood cells have a short life of 1 to 3 days, your bone marrow is always making them. White blood count (WBC) count for a healthy child and a healthy adult is usually the same. Normal range of WBCs for children is **4,300 to 10,800 per micro-liter (mcL)** of blood (same as adults).

19. **Vital signs p.49-** clinical measurements, specifically pulse rate, temperature, respiration rate, and blood pressure, that indicate the state of a patient's essential body functions.
20. **“Q-2 times 4,” p.49-**this is a doctor abbreviation for a medication taken 2 times every 4 hours
21. **“NPO, 48 hours” p. 49-**nothing by mouth for 48 hours
22. **Child Life Specialist p.52-** are pediatric health care professionals who work with



children and families in hospitals and other settings to help them cope with the challenges of hospitalization, illness, and disability. They provide **children** with age-appropriate preparation for medical procedures, pain management and coping strategies, and play and self-expression activities.

23. **Endoscopy p.55-** a procedure in which an instrument is

introduced into the body to give a view of its internal parts, An **endoscopy** procedure involves inserting a long, flexible tube (endoscope) down your throat and into your esophagus. A tiny camera on the end of the endoscope lets your doctor examine your esophagus, **stomach** and the beginning of your small intestine (duodenum).

24. **Barium p.61-** the chemical element of atomic number 56, a soft white reactive metal of the alkaline earth group, a mixture of barium sulfate and water, opaque to X-rays, which is swallowed to permit radiological examination of the stomach or intestines.
25. **Antibiotic p.64-** a medicine (such as penicillin or its derivatives) that inhibits the growth of or destroys microorganisms.
26. **Bazooka p.65-** a kazoo shaped like a trumpet. Or a short-range tubular rocket launcher used against tanks
27. **Respiratory therapy p.65-** The **treatment or management of acute and chronic breathing disorders**, as through the use of respirators or medication
28. **Hypodermic p.65-** relating to the region immediately beneath the skin

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- 29. Antiseptic p.65-** relating to or denoting substances that prevent the growth of disease-causing microorganisms
- 30. Tagamet p.66-** an antihistamine drug which is used to treat stomach acidity and peptic ulcers. It is a sulfur-containing derivative of imidazole.
- 31. Bactrim p. 67-** Bactrim is the brand name of the generic antibiotic **sulfamethoxazole trimethoprim** (sometimes called co-trimoxazole). The drug is a combination of two antibiotics: It's one-part trimethoprim (a synthetic drug), and five parts sulfamethoxazole (a sulfonamide drug).
- 32. IV bags p.68-** An IV bag is a **glass bottle or plastic bag that is filled with essential liquids and medications**. It is used to administer these fluids directly into the body. ... The IV bag has a long tubing connected to it, with a hollow needle at the end of the tube. This hollow needle is placed into a vein, typically at the crease of the arm or in the hand.
- 33. Colostomy p.68-** a surgical operation in which a piece of the colon is diverted to an artificial opening in the abdominal wall so as to bypass a damaged part of the colon.
- 34. Packed red cells p.71-** Packed red blood cells, also known as packed cells, are **red blood cells that have been separated for blood transfusion**. They are typically used in anemia that is either causing symptoms or when the hemoglobin is less than usually 70–80 g/L (7–8 g/dL). In adults, one unit brings up hemoglobin levels by about 10 g/L (1 g/dL).
- 35. Tuberculosis p.74-** an infectious bacterial disease characterized by the growth of nodules (tubercles) in the tissues, especially the lungs
- 36. Heart fibrillation p.74-** s a heart rhythm problem that occurs when the heart beats with rapid, erratic electrical impulses. This causes pumping chambers in your heart (the ventricles) to quiver uselessly, instead of pumping blood.
- 37. EKG p.74-**electrocardiogram, the recorded produced by electrocardiography; a tracing representing the heart's electrical action derived by amplification of the minutely small electrical impulses normally generated by the heart.
- 38. Liver Function p.74-** tests are blood tests used to help diagnose and monitor **liver** disease or damage. The tests measure the levels of certain enzymes and proteins in your



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blood. Some of these tests measure how well the **liver** is performing its normal **functions** of producing protein and clearing bilirubin, a blood waste product.

39. Oxygen Level p.74- refers to the level of oxygen **carried by red blood cells through the arteries and delivered to internal organs**. As red blood cells travel through the lungs, they are saturated with oxygen.

Additional Points of Interest: Read, Watch, Listen:

- See what other productions have done:
- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=The+Yellow+Boat+David+Saar&&view=detail&mid=37761FD42BF1775220AB37761FD42BF1775220AB&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DThe%2BYellow%2BBoat%2BDavid%2BSaar%26FORM%3DVDMHRS>
- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=The+Yellow+Boat+David+Saar&&view=detail&mid=8C58B>

Words from the Dramaturg

What excites me most about this material is the way in which it engages imagination, illness, family dynamics, and of course, art. This piece resonates from a personal place for me as an individual. I too, have been in a fatal situation with illness as a child and also have Norwegian family, and am also an artist. Although the AIDS epidemic of the 80's doesn't directly apply to me, the premise of this show is clear and very valuable even today. Art is beyond a powerful tool to express oneself but one which can even help you survive your darkest moments. Yellow Boat surpasses just my personal relatability in this sense and goes beyond into the universal in only the way a great play does. It makes meaning of life and what a life well lived means.

I am thrilled to be a part of this particular production, because St. Louis has a thriving theatre community and extensive dramatic history that deserves continual support and exposure on the stage that a production such as this is able to provide. Since Yellow Boat grew through a St. Louis tour group, it is only fitting that our University produce it for our audiences.

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A great deal of the conflicts which face Benjamin are universal. Maybe not all of us can relate to the direct pain of facing AIDS but we all know what it was like to be a child, some of us know what parenthood is like, but all of us know imagination, and love.

I truly believe theatre is a transformative experience not only for the entire cast and crew, but every audience member and that is what makes this piece so impactful. It is a unique form of storytelling, and this show's story needs to be told once again. We are all human, and we don't know how long we get to live on this earth, but productions like this remind us why it matters that we don't take it for granted, and just how powerful art can be.

Through the work of the production of *The Yellow Boat*, my focus will be on an examination of the play in its final script, and to facilitate our team's absorption of the text in order to reflect what the playwrights had to say. The goal with this packet is to educate, inspire, and challenge our team to learn the play on both intimate and universal contexts and to incorporate all timelines, locations, and backgrounds to the meaning of the script. It is also my intent to help establish the unity of all characters as they interact with one another for the benefit of the story's arch. As well as to assist the director in whatever aspects of the production that he deems necessary for the success of this show.

This show and packet act as a way to investigate how we view others and ourselves, and how we take our identities and oppressions which imprison us and find a way to be free in order to activate and ignite something within all of us. There is an interrelated bond in all of us, all living beings, which not only unite us in this production but with one another beyond time and history. This packet is meant help determine *The Yellow Boat's* history, as well as its current popularity and resurrection, and why this is, so that we as a production, can sail to our own sun and shed light onto this incredible play meant to be seen.

-Melissa Trepá