

ORLANDO REPERTORY THEATRE  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCF



# ABOUT THE PLAY



## BIG IDEAS IN *TUCK EVERLASTING*

- Family
- Fantasy
- Friendship
- Time
- Loss
- Love
- Adventure

## THE SPRING

It is 1808 and the Tuck family finds a bubbling spring in Treegap, New Hampshire. As each of them take a drink, Mae, Angus, Miles, and Jesse hope it is a good omen for their family and future.

## THE FOSTER GARDEN

Jumping forward in time, it is 1893 and the day of the fair. Winnie Foster hopes she can convince her Mother to let her go ("Live Like This"). At the same time, the Tucks reunite at their family cabin in the woods, none of them have aged. The Man in the Yellow Suit has also arrived in town ("Join the Parade"). He is employed by the fair and has traveled to Treegap in search of a secret.

Unfortunately, Winnie's mother will not let her go to the fair. It has been less than a year since her father's death and they are still in mourning. Winnie argues that her father would have taken her, but her mother explains things are different now. If she cannot be a good girl for her, she should be for her father ("Good Girl Winnie Foster"). Winnie's dress croaks and her mother sends her to return the toad to the wood. On her way, she is stopped by the Man in the Yellow Suit. Strangely, he guesses her age, which is eleven. He asks if she has seen an unusual family. Her mother interrupts them to find out what is going on. Music is heard from the wood and he asks the women about it. The Fosters own the woods and have heard the sound their whole lives. The man leaves and Winnie tries one more time to get permission to go to the fair and is denied ("Good Girl Winnie Foster - Reprise").

## THE SPRING

Winnie stumbles across Jesse Tuck drinking from the spring. She tries to drink herself, but he stops her. She tells him her family owns the woods and she can drink if she wants! After learning she has only seen a small portion of the woods, Jesse distracts her from drinking and shows her the view from the top of the trees ("Top of the World").

Down below, Mae paces back and forth opening her music box, which is her nervous habit. She cannot wait to see her boys. Miles sees her and shuts the music box afraid their family will get caught. They wait for Jesse who is always late. He jumps down from the tree and before he can explain, so does Winnie. She knows about the water. Mae and Miles feel there is no other option but to take her back to their cabin.



# ABOUT THE PLAY

## THE FOSTER GARDEN

Back at the Foster's, Winnie is missing. Hugo and Constable Joe are at the scene ("Hugo's First Case"). Her mother blames herself and considers that she may have run away to go to the fair.

## TUCK COTTAGE

Jesse, Mae, and Miles return to their cottage with Winnie. The Tucks debate about what to do with her. Angus leaves to go fishing in order to think and the rest of them decide to tell her the truth. Drinking from the stream made the Tucks immortal ("Story of the Tucks"). Winnie cannot believe it. Jesse leaves to find his rifle to prove it to her. Mae starts to wind her music box, the gift Angus gave her the night he proposed, and Winnie immediately recognizes the music she and her mother have heard their whole lives. Jesse returns at the same time as Angus and accidentally trips, shooting Angus. Miraculously, he is fine! Winnie has a million questions, but it is late so they decide to have her stay over. She leaves with Mae to find some more comfortable clothes in the attic and Miles worries about whether or not she will keep their family's secret.

## TUCK ATTIC

Mae finds Winnie some clothes to change into. She leaves her to sleep, but Winnie is too excited ("From Attic to Porch"). Jesse pops up at the window and they decide to go on an adventure to the fair!

## THE FAIR

The fairgrounds come to life ("Join the Parade Reprise"). Jesse and Winnie are in awe. Jesse explains he has been everywhere in the world except the fair. Jesse and Winnie decide to team up and explore the world together ("Partner in Crime"). The Man in the Yellow Suit appears, soliciting volunteers to play "Fool the Guesser." Winnie tries to warn Jesse, but it is too late. He plays and The Man in the Yellow Suit looks into his eyes and discovers his secret. He pulls a knife on them and Winnie gets away through the crowd. Jesse grabs the knife and sticks it in his own gut and runs away too. The Man in the Yellow Suit cannot believe he has found them.

## THE SILO

Winnie and Jesse meet back up. Jesse tells Winnie that his family will have to move again now that they have been discovered. Both feel they just found someone who finally understands who they really are. Jesse has an idea - Winnie should drink from the spring when she turns seventeen ("Seventeen"). If she does so, they can be together forever.

The Man in the Yellow Suit hears everything and knows the secret now. He is going to get rich ("Everything's Golden")!

## TUCK COTTAGE

Jesse and Winnie tell the family about the Man in the Yellow Suit. The Tucks must leave. As they prepare to go, they learn about Jesse and Winnie's plans and try to convince her that she should not drink from the well. Winnie learns about Miles' family and how they left him when he never aged. His wife thought he was a freak and he was devastated to lose her and his child.



# ABOUT THE PLAY

## FOSTER FRONT DOOR

Meanwhile, the Man in the Yellow Suit is at the Foster home blackmailing Winnie's mom. If she signs over the wood, he will return Winnie to her. Constable Joe and Hugo notice the transaction. The Man in the Yellow Suit thinks he has won ("Everything is Golden Reprise").

## PATH NEAR THE WOOD

Hugo and Constable Joe decide to track the Man ("You Can't Trust A Man").

## THE LAKE

Angus takes Winnie fishing in an attempt to talk some sense into her. He explains that even though it is hard to lose someone, becoming immortal would be even more devastating ("The Wheel"). He shares that living forever is not all it seems instead, she just needs to live. Just then, Miles appears. Jesse is missing, but Winnie knows right where to find him.

## THE SPRING

Jesse bottles some spring water and the Man in the Yellow Suit spots him ("Story of the Man in the Yellow Suit"). The Man demands Jesse give him the bottle and when he refuses, he pulls a knife on Winnie. Jesse tells him he will give him what he wants, but at the last moment, tosses the bottle to Miles. Mae hits the Man on the back of the head which kills him. Just then, Constable Joe and Hugo appear on the scene. They decide it must have been self-defense and the most important thing is to get Winnie home. If the Tucks promise never to return, then Constable Joe will let them go. Mae gives Winnie the music box as a memento. She says her goodbyes. Jesse gives her the water and tells her the choice is her own. He will come back for her when she is seventeen.

As Hugo and Winnie head home, they hear her friend, the toad, croak. She tells him about her adventures and the choice with which she is faced ("Everlasting").

## HOMECOMING

Winnie and her mother are reunited. She gives her mother the music box and she is touched. Winnie thanks her toad for her incredible adventure. She has made her decision ("Reunion - Transition"). In the end, Winnie decides not to live forever, but to live. She grows older, marries Hugo, has a baby, sees her child marry, loses her husband, and dies herself. The story ends with the Tucks visiting her grave. They say their goodbyes and Jesse wonders what she did with the water. Just then, Winnie's toad appears and jumps in his bag ("The Wheel").



# THE CREATORS

## AUTHOR | NATALIE BABBITT

Natalie Babbitt (1932–2016) is the award-winning author of the modern classic *Tuck Everlasting*, published in 1975, and many other brilliantly original books for young people. As the mother of three children, she began her career in 1966 by illustrating *The Forty-Ninth Magician*, written by her husband, Samuel Babbitt. She soon tried her own hand at writing, publishing two picture books in verse. Her first novel, *The Search for Delicious*, was published in 1969 and established her reputation for creating magical tales with profound meaning. *Kneeknock Rise* earned Babbitt a Newbery Honor in 1971, and she went on to write and illustrate many more picture books, story collections, and novels. She also illustrated the five volumes in the *Small Poems* series by Valerie Worth. In 2002, *Tuck Everlasting* was adapted into a major motion picture and in 2016, a musical version premiered on Broadway. Born and raised in Ohio, Natalie Babbitt lived her adult life in the Northeast.

<https://us.macmillan.com/author/nataliebabbitt/>

## PLAYWRIGHTS | TIM FEDERLE

Tim Federle is an award-winning screenwriter, novelist, and playwright. Tim's recent projects include co-writing the Broadway musical adaptation of *Tuck Everlasting* and the Golden Globe and Academy Award-nominated Best Animated Feature *Ferdinand*, for which he won the Humanitas Prize. His novels include the New York Times Notable Book *Better Nate Than Ever* and its Lambda-winning sequel, *Five, Six, Seven, Nate!* Tim's hit series of cocktail recipe books, including *Tequila Mockingbird*, have sold over half a million copies worldwide. A former Broadway dancer, Tim was born in San Francisco, grew up in Pittsburgh, and now divides his time between New York and the internet (@TimFederle). He proudly serves on the boards of Rosie's Theater Kids and the National Coalition Against Censorship, and is a nominator for the Tony Awards.

<https://www.samuelfrench.com/a/117588/tim-federle>

## PLAYWRIGHTS | CLAUDIA SHEAR

Claudia Shear burst onto the New York stage in 1994 with her autobiographical solo show *Blown Sideways Through Life*. The Brooklyn-born writer and actress regaled audiences with a hilarious and poignant account of her previous 64 attempts of making it in the workplace. *Blown Sideways* enjoyed an extended run Off Broadway and was turned into a movie. Shear won an Obie Award, Special Citation, and a 1994 Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Solo Performance. Shear followed up with *Dirty Blonde*, a play about and inspired by Mae West, which ran for a year on Broadway and then toured for another. She earned Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations for both Best Play and Best Actress and won the Theatre World Award. Shear's acting credits include the films *It Could Happen to You* (1994), *Living Out Loud* (1998), and a guest appearance as "fake Monica" on the NBC sitcom *Friends* in 1995. Her play *Restoration* was originally commissioned in 2007 by Christopher Ashley (who also directed *Blown Sideways*) for the La Jolla Playhouse. Shear co-wrote the book for *Tuck Everlasting*. The musical premiered at the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, (2015) and on Broadway (2016).

<https://www.slantmagazine.com/features/restoring-beauty-an-interview-with-claudia-shear/>