

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

Based on the poem by Eugene Field

Adapted by Ashley Laverty



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Wynken, Blynken, and Nod premiered at the Omaha Theater Company at The Rose Theater in Omaha, NE. The production ran from February 10-March 4, 2018. The production was directed by Ashley Laverty.

Production Team:

Production Stage Manager: Meghan Boucher
Scenic Designer/Scenic Charge Artist: Lauren Crabtree
Assistant Scenic Designer: Saylor Novonglosky
Lighting Designer: Matthew Benes
Sound Designer: Christy Hernandez
Costume Director: Sherri Geerdes
Costume/Hair/Makeup Designer: Erin Bragg
Director of Production: Erin Solemsaas
Technical Director: Gregory Rishoi
Audio & Electrics Director: Craig Moxon
Props Master: Devon Denn-Young
Master Carpenter: Jackson Curtright
Artistic Director: Matthew Gutschick

Cast:

Wynken: Tyrone Beasley
Blynken: Jessica Burrill-Logue
Nod: Chloe Langford
Moon/Musician: Jesse Wohlman

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This piece was created intentionally to be almost completely non verbal.

In the play, Wynken, Blynken, and Nod only say their names through song. During the pre-show at The Rose Theater, they engaged with the audience as they entered the space, but kept their own language to a minimum.

Jesse Wohlman, an Omaha singer and musician, wrote a beautiful song using the words of Eugene Field's poem, "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod". Featuring guitar, harmonica, and sometimes banjo, his music helped guide the story in lovely ways. I urge future creators to include live music in their productions.

To listen or license Jesse's music, please contact New York City Children's Theater.

CHARACTERS

Wynken: An adventurer

Blynken: A troublemaker

Nod: A planner

Moon/Musician

SETTING

Nap Factory

Dreamland

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

By Eugene Field

*Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night
Sailed off in a wooden shoe,—
Sailed on a river of crystal light
Into a sea of dew.*

"Where are you going, and what do you wish?"

The old moon asked the three.

"We have come to fish for the herring-fish

That live in this beautiful sea;

Nets of silver and gold have we,"

Said Wynken,

Blynken,

And Nod.

*The old moon laughed and sang a song,
As they rocked in the wooden shoe;
And the wind that sped them all night long
Ruffled the waves of dew;
The little stars were the herring-fish
That lived in the beautiful sea.*

"Now cast your nets wherever you wish,—

Never afraid are we!"

So cried the stars to the fishermen three,

Wynken,

Blynken,

And Nod.

*All night long their nets they threw
To the stars in the twinkling foam,—
Then down from the skies came the wooden shoe,
Bringing the fishermen home:
'Twas all so pretty a sail, it seemed
As if it could not be;
And some folk thought 'twas a dream they'd dreamed
Of sailing that beautiful sea;
But I shall name you the fishermen three:
Wynken,
Blynken,
And Nod.*

Wynken and Blynken are two little eyes,

*And Nod is a little head,
And the wooden shoe that sailed the skies
Is a wee one's trundle-bed;
So shut your eyes while Mother sings
Of wonderful sights that be,
And you shall see the beautiful things
As you rock in the misty sea
Where the old shoe rocked the fishermen three:—
 Wynken,
 Blynken,
 And Nod.*

Pre-Show: Nap Factory

In a room outside the performance space, audience members are invited into a Nap Factory, an industrial-feeling space where people go to prepare themselves for sleep.

Three stations are set up: Pillow, Blankie, Teddy Bear. There is a factory attendant at each station going about their business. The attendants are not unfriendly, but they have a job to do. The attendants are preparing blankets, cushions, and furry friends to sleep with.

As audience members visit the stations, they receive a cushion, blanket, and small bear.

Voiceover announcements are played sporadically throughout the Pre-Show.

VO

Welcome to the Nap Factory.

VO

Please visit the Pillow station.

VO

Don't forget to pay a visit to Teddy Bear station.

VO

Please pick up your blanket to make your experience the most pleasurable it can be.

VO

Did you brush your teeth?

VO

Nighty night!

1. Dreamland

The Musician enters! He welcomes the audience into Dreamland with a lullaby.

The audience enters Dreamland with their materials from the Nap Factory. There are blankets and comfortable cushions to sit upon. It feels like a cloud. There is a big toy box onstage.

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod join them to tuck everyone in. Wynken and Nod tuck themselves in and the Musician plays a lullaby.

Blynken does not want to sleep.

Blynken pulls pranks and steals pillows and blankets.

Blynken makes silly noises.

Wynken and Nod settle in to go to sleep. Blynken only pretends to sleep because he has an idea!

2. Travel

Blynken tries to wake up Wynken and Nod. They are sleeping. He tries again. They are sleeping. He tries a third time and wakes them up! Wynken and Nod are a little grumpy about it, but Blynken tells him he has a fantastic idea!

Blynken opens the toy box and begins to gather their adventure gear: hats, goggles, a cape, adventure fishermen gear, fishing poles, nets. Wynken and Nod understand what's going on and decide they want in.

Nod, the planner, makes sure they understand that they are to find the herring fish. No, not shrimp, not turtles, not octopi. They are looking for the herring fish. Nod unrolls a very very long scroll with a picture of herring fish. She uses a pointer stick as if she were a teacher to drive home her point.

One of them places an adventure gear on the musician. Musician is in on the plan, too. She starts to play an adventure song.

Wynken, the adventurer, prepares Blynken and Nod for the adventure. They all prepare the space for their adventure. Sheets, fabrics, and objects come out of the toy box to aid their adventure. Wynken attaches sheets and fabrics to the bottom of the toy box create water. Blynken and Nod unfold the toy box and add objects so it looks like a large wooden shoe boat.

Wynken Blynken and Nod get into the boat and set off on their adventure!

MUSICIAN

WYNKEN BLYNKEN AND NOD ONE NIGHT SAILED OFF IN A WOODEN SHOE
SAILED IN A RIVER OF CRYSTAL LIGHT
INTO THE SEA OF DEW

They sail!

3. Fishing

Wynken Blynken and Nod see the Moon!

The Moon is a fancy cool Moon Hat that the Musician can wear.

MOON

“NOW WHERE ARE YOU GOING AND WHAT DO YOU WISH?” THE OLD MOON ASKED THE THREE.

WYNKEN, BLYNKEN, NOD

“WE’VE COME TO FISH FOR THE THE HERRING FISH THAT LIVE IN THE BEAUTIFUL SEA”

NOD

“NETS OF SILVER AND GOLD HAVE WE,”

MOON

SAID WYNKEN BLYNKEN AND NOD.

The Moon points them in the right direction and Wynken Blynken and Nod sail.

They use nets of silver and gold to fish. No fish.

They try again. Blynken pulls a prank and throws his shoe in the net.

They try again. Blynken jumps into the water and pretends to be caught in the net.

They wonder where the herring fish might be.

Other sea creatures appear.

First, a shrimp.

Next, a turtle.

Finally, Mother Octopus!

Each creature greets the audience and may have gentle one-on-one interactions with audience members.

One herring fish jumps out of the water. Blynken notices it. The herring fish is fast and he can’t capture it! Wynken joins in the chase. They corner the fish! They capture it.

As they celebrate, Nod realizes there are thousands of stars in the sky! They look like herring fish! They’ve found the herring fish!

MOON

THE LITTLE STARS WERE THE HERRING-FISH
THAT LIVED IN THE BEAUTIFUL SEA.
“NOW CAST YOUR NETS WHEREVER YOU WISH,-
NEVER AFRAID ARE WE!”
SO CRIED THE STARS TO THE FISHERMEN THREE,

WYNKEN
WYNKEN,

BLYNKEN
BLYNKEN,

NOD
AND NOD.