

Lion in the Streets was first produced as the inaugural Public Workshop Project at Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, in May 1990, with the following cast and creative team:

Isobel: Tracy Wright

Nellie, Laura, Elaine, Christine, and Sherry: Jane Spidell

Rachel, Lily, Rhonda, Ellen, and Scarlett: Ann Holloway

Scalato, Timmy, George, David, Rodney, and Ben: Stephen Ouimette

Martin, Isobel's Father, Ron, Father Hayes, and Michael: Andrew Gillies

Sue, Jill, Joanne, Becca, and Joan: Maggie Huculak

Stage manager: Nancy Dryden

Workshop assistants: Urjo Kareda, Ric Knowles, and Andy McKim

Set and costume design: Sue LePage

Music: Bill Thompson

Lion in the Streets received its world premiere at the du Maurier Theatre Centre as part of the du Maurier World Stage Theatre Festival in Toronto in June 1990, with the same cast and the following creative team:

Director: Judith Thompson

Set and costume design: Sue LePage

Sound effects: Evan Turner

Lighting design: Steven Hawkins

Stage manager: Nancy Dryden

Production assistants: Urjo Kareda, Ric Knowles, and Andy McKim

Production manager: Martin Zwicker
Set construction: George Vasiliou
Wardrobe: Cheryl Mills
Properties: Mary Spyraakis
Apprentice assistant stage manager: Henry Bertrand

Note

Although Isobel is Portuguese in the published script, her ethnic background can be changed for each production—which would mean changing names and some of the language—but most importantly, she must remain “other.”

Act I

The ghost of ISOBEL, a ragged-looking nine-year-old Portuguese girl, runs around and around in a large circle to music, terrified of a remembered pursuer. She is, in fact, running from the man who killed her in this playground seventeen years before the start of the play. There are autumn leaves all over the playground, and the kids who approach her have large handfuls of them, which they throw at her. At this point ISOBEL does not know she is a ghost, but she knows that something is terribly wrong. She is terrified. She speaks to the audience.

ISOBEL Doan be scare. Doan be scare. (*turns to audience*)
Doan be scare of this pickshur! This pickshur is
niiiiice, nice! I looove this pickshur; this pickshur
is mine! (*gesturing behind her*) Is my house, is
my street, is my park, is my people! You know
me; you know me very hard! I live next house to
you, with my brother and sisters, Maria, Luig,
Carla, and Romeo—we play; we play with your
girl, your boy—you know me; you know me very
hard. But. . . when did tha be? Tha not be now!

Tha not be today! I think tha be very long years ago. I think I be old. I think I be very old. Is my house but is not my house; is my street but is not my street; my people is gone; I am lost. I am lost. I AM LOOOOOOOOOST!!

Four children—two girls and two boys—laugh and approach ISOBEL.

NELLIE Take a bird, why doncha?

RACHEL Go back with the nutties to the nuttyhouse!

SCALATO She looks like a crazy dog!

MARTIN *(barks)* Hey!

They all bark.

ISOBEL Peoples! Peoples, little boy, little girl peoples! Hey!

ISOBEL walks towards them.

MARTIN What's she doin'?

NELLIE She's coming over here!

RACHEL She's gonna get us!

ISOBEL You, girl, you help to me. I am lost, you see! You help!

NELLIE She smells.

RACHEL You should dial 911 so the police could help you.

SCALATO Where do you live?

MARTIN With all the other pork and cheese west of Christie Street?

RACHEL Martin, that's not nice.

ISOBEL (*overlapping*) Portuguese, Portuguese, yes. . . I catch a bus! Is there a bus, bus maybe? To take me to my home? You know a bus?

SCALATO No buses here.

ISOBEL Yeah, bus right here, bus right here, number ten, eleven. I take with my mother to cleaning job; where this bus?

SCALATO I said there's no buses here, you ugly little SNOT.

ISOBEL (*points*) You! YOU bad boy; you bad boy say Isobel, BAD.

SCALATO Why don't you get your ugly little face outta here, snot?

MARTIN Snotface!