

# Count Basie Center Academy of the Arts

PRODUCTION OF

Madeleine L'Engle's

# A Wrinkle in Time

(50 Minute Version)

Adapted by Morgan Gould

A Wrinkle in Time is produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners.  
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# Madeleine L'Engle



Madeleine L'Engle (*A Wrinkle in Time*, *A Wind in the Door*, *The 24 Days Before Christmas*) was born on November 29th, 1918, and spent her formative years in New York City. Instead of her school work, she found that she would much rather be writing stories, poems and journals for herself, which was reflected in her grades (not the best). However, she was not discouraged.

At age 12, she moved to the French Alps with her parents and went to an English boarding school where, thankfully, her passion for writing continued to grow. She flourished during her high school years back in the United States at Ashley Hall in Charleston, South Carolina, vacationing with her mother in a rambling old beach cottage on a beautiful stretch of Florida Beach.

She went to Smith College and studied English with some wonderful teachers as she read the classics and continued her own creative writing. She graduated with honors and moved into a Greenwich Village apartment in New York. She worked in the theater, where Equity union pay and a flexible schedule afforded her the time to write! She published her first two novels during these years—*A Small Rain* and *Ilsa*—before meeting Hugh Franklin, her future husband, when she was an understudy in Anton Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*. They married during *The Joyous Season*.

She had a baby girl and kept on writing, eventually moving to Connecticut to raise the family away from the city in a small dairy farm village with more cows than people. They bought a dead general store, and brought it to life for 9 years. They moved back to the city with three children, and Hugh revitalized his professional acting career.

As the years passed and the children grew, Madeleine continued to write and Hugh to act, and they to enjoy each other and life. Madeleine began her association with the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, where she was the librarian and maintained an office for more than thirty years. After Hugh's death in 1986, it was her writing and lecturing that kept her going. She lived through the 20th century and into the 21st and wrote over 60 books. She enjoyed being with her friends, her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren.



# Who's Who In the Cast

Meg Murray.....	Kate O'Brien
Charles Wallace.....	Athena Barrett
Calvin O'Keefe.....	Addy O'Mara
Mrs. Whatsit.....	Elena Asfendis
Mrs. Who.....	Delaney Corrigan
Mrs. Which.....	Carolena Blasucci
Mother.....	Madison Sammis
Father.....	Nick Giordano
Sandy.....	Emma DePalma
Dennys/Newspaper Boy.....	Molly Kenney
Teacher.....	Hope Wilton
Postal Worker/Lobby Guard.....	Ava DePalma
Bully.....	Michayla Bland
Camazotz Mother.....	Lillian Haverty
Red-Eyed Man.....	Georgia Attardi

***A WRINKLE IN TIME*** is a piece of story-theatre, the dramatic presentation of one or more stories told by a group of actors who play multiple roles and provide narration.

*Note: Strobe lights are used in tonight's performance.*

## What is *A Wrinkle in Time* Actually About?

The most memorable books from our childhood are those that make us feel less alone, convince us that our foibles and quirks are both as individual as a fingerprint and as universal as an open hand. That's why I still have the copy of *A Wrinkle in Time* that was given to me when I was twelve years old. The girl who first owned it has grown up and changed, but the book she loved is still magical.

Its heroine is someone who feels very much alone indeed. Meg Murray has braces, glasses, and flyaway hair. She can't seem to get anything right in school, where everyone thinks she is strange and stupid. And she runs up against some real nastiness at a young age in the form of all those snide looks and comments about her father, a scientist who seems to have mysteriously vanished—or, as town gossip has it, has run off with another woman.

But Meg doesn't know real evil until she sets out on a journey to find her father and bring him home, along with her little brother, Charles Wallace, and a boy named Calvin. As they transcend time, space, and the limitations of their own minds, they get help from individuals of great goodness: Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Who. But the climax of their journey is a showdown with IT, the cold disembodied intelligence that has cast a black shadow over the universe in its quest to make everyone behave and believe the same.

If that sounds like science fiction, it's because that's one way to describe the story. Or perhaps you could call it the fiction of science. The book's action, the search for Meg and Charles Wallace's missing father, relies on something called a tesseract, which is a way to travel through time and space using a fifth dimension.

Madeline L'Engle published *Wrinkle* in 1962, after it was rejected by dozens of publishers. And her description of the tyranny of conformity clearly reflects that time. The identical houses outside with identical children bouncing balls in mindless unison evoke the fear so many Americans had of Communist regimes that enshrined the interests of state-mandated order over the rights of the individual. "Why do you think we have wars at home?" Charles Wallace asks his sister, channeling the mind of IT. "Why do you think people get confused and unhappy? Because they all live their own separate individual lives." He tells Meg what she already knows from her own everyday

battles: "Differences create problems."

But while L'Engle's story may have originally been inspired by the gray sameness of those Communist countries, it still feels utterly contemporary today. The Murray home is fractured by Mr. Murray's mysterious absence and Meg's "mother sleeping alone in the great double bed"; Calvin may look like a golden boy, but his family barely notices he's alive. Even more timeless is the sense Meg has of herself as someone who doesn't fit in, who does "everything wrong." Conformity knows no time or place; it is the struggle all of us face to be ourselves despite the overwhelming pressure to be like everyone else.

On its surface, this is a book about three children who fight an evil force threatening their planet. But it is really about a more primal battle all human beings face: to respect, defend, and love themselves. When Meg pulls the ultimate weapon from her emotional arsenal to fight, for her little brother and for good, it is a great moment, not just for her, but for everyone who has ever felt overlooked, confused, alone.

It has been more than four decades since I first read *A Wrinkle in Time*. If I could tesser, perhaps in some different time and place I would find a Meg Murray just my age, a grown woman with an astonishing brain, a good heart, and a unique perspective on how our differences are what makes life worth living. Oh, how I would like to meet her!

--**Anna Quindlen**, *Author, Journalist, & Opinion Writer*  
from "An Appreciation" included in the published 2007 edition of  
Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

**Coach Anthony, Miss Jess, Coach Benjamin  
(*Production Intern*), Joanne Penrose, Jennifer Lee,  
Phoenix Productions, Andrew Musser, Caileigh  
Nerney, Mike Jacoby, Joe Pulito, Kyle  
Santopadre, Charlie Christensen, the Count Basie  
Technical Crew, Samantha Giustiniani, the Count  
Basie Education Department, Malak Dogheim  
(*Sound Intern*), the volunteer high school interns  
from the Brick Memorial High School Mustang  
Players and the Marlboro High School Theater  
Society, and all of the parents for their endless  
support throughout this process!**

**Congratulations to Nicholas**

**and the entire cast!**

**It's so great to see you on**

**the stage again!!**

**Love,**

**Mom, Dad, Ava,**

**Uncle Joey, and Aunt Sasha**

*Congratulations to the entire cast  
of A Wrinkle in Time on a job well  
done. And an extra individual shout  
out to the one and the only  
Michayla Bland on her superb  
acting role that was simply  
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!*

*Love,*

*Pop Pop*



# Carolena,

aka Farrah & Mrs Which!



You made it through another surgery and didn't miss a beat!  
We are so proud of you to get right back on stage where you are happiest.  
Continue dazzling the world with your smile, your mind and your big heart.

Youuuuu arrrrrre aaannnn ooooooollld sooooooollld myyyyy deeeeeearrrr.  
Trrrruuuusssst innnn yooooourrrrrr gooooooodneeeeeessssss!

Congrats to the entire Wrinkle in Time Cast &  
thank you, once again, to Coach Anthony and Miss Jess. You two are non-stop!



Mom, Dad, Nicholas, Alice, Sally & Scout

*Congratulations Madison and to everyone in the  
cast and crew of A Wrinkle in Time!*



*We can't wait to see you on  
stage, as each performance you  
give, has been the lights for  
us to see by!*

*We love you and are so proud!*

*Love Always, Mom, Dad  
& Mason*

**Break a leg  
Michayla!**

**Love,  
Mema, Linzy,  
Kyle, Taylor**





To our beautiful Elena,  
You have always been a bright, shining light in our lives.  
We are always so proud of you! Believe in yourself,  
and all things are possible...  
Love,  
Mom, Dad & Autumn

Congratulations to the cast of *A Wrinkle in Time* and a big  
thank you to its amazing directors! - The Asfendis family

*Uncle Joey and Aunt  
Vanessa are so proud  
of you beautiful,  
Michayla!  
Keep Shining!*



***GOOD LUCK,  
KATE!***



LOVE MOM, DAD & GEORGIE

**Michidoodle**  
**We are so proud of**  
**you. You were**  
**born to entertain!**

**Love Mommy,**  
**Daddy, and Layla**



***So proud of you  
Michayla! It takes  
courage to get on  
the stage! Keep on,  
keeping on.***

***Love,  
Uncle Lae, Aunt  
Lindsey, and P***

*Grandma Donna and  
Pop Pop Winston  
Love you so much.*

*Have fun, Michayla!!*

**Athena, We are so proud of you!!**

**You are a hardworking and talented young lady,  
and we can't wait to see you in A Wrinkle in Time!**

**Keep up the great work, remember to smile,  
and enjoy every minute!!!**

**XOXO, Dad, Mom, Kalista, Maya, Mak & Reef**



**Shiny stars aren't  
only in the skies,  
often times they're  
your grandchildren  
right before your  
very eyes...**

**The World's Stage  
awaits you  
Michayla.**

**Love  
GK and Pop Pop**

*You've gone from Mamasita to Pee Wee  
to Milayla to Michayla to Count Basie  
and next on to Broadway. Throughout your  
journey we will be there with you  
every step of the way.*

*Love,*

*Ginny Paw, Miss, Taylor, Kyle, and Uncle*



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