

The Singing Potter

Sunday night while watching the Tony Awards, Daniel Radcliffe was on stage, presenting some trophy (can't remember which one... sorry). Filming just wrapped on the finale to the Harry Potter film series and as can be expected, there was a sense of sadness over the cast. I would imagine that young adults especially who have worked together side by side for half their lives would find it difficult to separate themselves.

The first part of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* hits theatres November 19th. The finale hits mutiplexes July 15, 2011.

Radcliffe is no stranger to the stage. Just over a year ago, he was on Broadway in a tale about a boy and his horse. As he was introduced Sunday night, it was announced that he would be appearing on stage in a revival of [*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*](#). When I heard it, I thought it was a joke and dismissed it totally. Today, I read that he has indeed been cast in a new production of a 1961 musical that was last revived in 1995 when Matthew Broderick starred as J. Pierrepont Finch. This made me question how soon is too soon to revive a show. Or perhaps, it is a red herring much like the web-slinger's much delayed debut.

I think it would be interesting to see if the wizard can sing and dance.

How does that work?

I've read that Robert Louis Stevenson wrote the novella "Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" after having a nightmare. I'm really wondering how that works. I can remember

only a handful of nightmares that I have had and not one would have made a good story.

Most of the nightmares that I remember are random things. Very short, with whatever it is that makes it a nightmare happening quickly and then waking me up. Never anything that I thought could be expanded into a story. Integrated into a story sure, but not as the basis of a story.

I guess I just have the wrong type of nightmare. They just wake me up and now give me the desire to write something in a blog to calm down.

I was thinking about writing about the nightmare itself, but I now have no desire to re-visit this dream. I hope it becomes a faded memory by the time I awake for the second time this morning.

In case you haven't seen it

A BP video making the rounds on the web. This video has a 720p version, so switch the default resolution and go full screen if your connection can handle it. □

A New Old Look

In preparation for what I hope is my next stage performance, I was informed that the role had to have a full beard... the “handsome” part? Well... the say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. More than a few summers ago, I was cast as Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Of course, the tailor had to grow facial hair as well. Nothing new, it will just be a bit warm under there once again. Of course, a Holmes play requires the cast to have English accents, or no go. It would be very odd having a cast with American accents. Maybe I could give a Liswathistani interpretation of the character. A non-Jewish *Fiddler* would be strange for that matter.

Today, my mother had had enough. I previously had an electric trimmer but after 8-10 years, it seemed to have died out. So, she took me to the beauty shop to help it along. She was worried that she would make a booboo, but I thought there is plenty of time to grow it back. I think it only took a little over a month for the beard to develop on my last attempt; it has only been about a month since I started this one. I started the day after *Miracles* wrapped. Nothing like preparing for future parts. Plus, I got a hair cut, such as it is. □ The script says nothing about a full head of hair. □

Ah... The Antoinette Perry's

Tonight, we honor the toast of Broadway. I will just touch on some of the highlights.

- In the much coveted Best Musical we have Green Day's *American Idiot*, *Fela!*, *Memphis*, and *Million Dollar Quartet*. Best Musical Revival nods go to... *Finian's Rainbow*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Ragtime*. I think both categories will come down to two. I think B. M. will come down to *Fela!* and *American Idiot*. Revival will be either *La Cage* or *Night Music*. They both have been getting a bunch of press. I would like to see Finian walk away with it but alas...
- Can you imagine *The Addams Family* with Nathan Lane as Gomez (only 2 nods and the king of Broadway is not one)? Bebe Neuwirth is Morticia.
- Scarlett Johansson just won her first statue for her role in the revival of *A View from the Bridge*. Ever since she was a little girl, she had dreamed of being on Broadway. WOW! Sounds like someone I know all too well. From Iron Man to Broadway.
- Ricky Martin is going to be in *Evita*? He was on Broadway in *Les Miserables*? Aren't we about tired of the jukebox musical? This year we have Frank Sinatra in *Come Fly with Me* (I think it is actually Ol' Blu Eyes set to dance... eh. Plus we have *the Million Dollar Quartet* who were the back up singers for everyone from Jerry Lee Lewis to Elvis to Johnny Cash.
- Oh, boy... Will and Jada Smith. Perhaps to dote on their son's breakout performance in *The Kung Fu Kid*. I've actually heard mixed comments on that one. Think I'll wait until Netflix gets it in about 3 months. So, get them over with already! AH... two of the producers for *Fela!*
- Back to *La Cage*. In Junior High, I remember that my English/Lit teacher took a trip to New York to see the show. Unaware of the show's plot, she and her husband walked out prior to intermission. I believe that it may be the big winner of the night. It is tied with [*Fela!*](#) with 11 noms. And Kelsey Grammer just lead his line of "lovelies" in *The Best of Times* (probably the only thing

I really know about the show aside from the obvious).

- *Superior Donuts*? I've never heard of it, either. And the play did not win its one nomination for Best Featured Actor in a Play.
- I must say that I am more interested in the plays of this year's season. I don't think the musicals are much to get excited over (coming from me, can you believe it?!). I have read August Wilson's [Fences](#) (up for a number of awards) and *The Piano Lesson*. Both remarkable plays and ones that I have little chance of being in unless we have a color-blind casting director. Denzel Washington is up for best actor in a play along with Jude Law (*Hamlet*), Alfred Molina (*Red*), Liev Schrieber (*A View from the Bridge*), and Christopher Walken (*A Behanding in Spokane*). Denzel must have gone from *The Book of Eli* (on DVD Tuesday) to New York. **WOO HOO! DENZEL WINS!!!** And the play itself wins Best Revival! H00ray!
- Yep... [In the Next Room or... The Vibrator Play](#) is exactly what it sounds like. The invention of... well use your imagination.
- The Grande Dame of the theatre, the first honorary chairperson of the theatre wing... Ms. Angela Lansbury. And she was beaten in the Best Featured Actress in a Musical category.
- Focus on that one thing. Don't let anyone stand in your way. Don't listen to anybody else. You will meet the right people (I have), teachers (still looking), circumstances (so far, so good... if you consider CT in NW0 good which it is, but...).
- Mark Sanchez from the New York Jets?! That is too COOL! Presenting the cast of [Memphis](#).
- I see that Valerie Harper is up for Best Actress (Play) in *Looped* based on the life of Tallulah Bankhead. Neither Rhoda nor her 70s tv competition... Linda Lavin ("Alice") were winners. But Viola Davis won for *Fences*... **YAY!**

- Does anyone else find Kristin Chenoweth to be somewhat annoying. I maybe in the minority but perhaps its that voice.
- "Send in the Clowns" Catherine Zeta-Jones. 80th birthday of Sondheim. *A Little Night Music* is up for four... already lost its first. Never understood the show. I always thought it was overrated.
- Father's Day and the Tony Awards are presented by Wal*Mart?! OMG... it really is taking over! Whatever happened to *Wal*Martopia*?
- *Annie* is being revived yet again in 2012 (is that 35 years?). Too late to audition for one of my favorite parts?
- 10 o'clock... one hour to go.
- Best Choreography... YUCK! I admire those that can and do... those who can't... sing. Those who do neither? I'll just be Sean Hayes (*Promises, Promises*) sitting at the desk, working while the dancers do their thing around me. *Fela!* wins that one.. jumps ahead of *La Cage* with two.
- In Memorium... Lynn Redgrave, Rue McClanahan, Dixie Carter, and Larry Gelbart (co writer of ...*Forum*, creator for television of *M*A*S*H*) were four of those that I knew of.
- Best Play... *Red*
- I haven't become a *Glee(k)*. But two of the stars were on singing "All I Need is the Girl" (*Gypsy*, I believe). And "Don't Rain on My Parade" (I forget the show □ No real reason but to promote the tv show.
- *American Idiot* (the show based on Green Day's album) set to perform soon. 25 to go... scheduled, anyway... we'll see how close they cut it. Is it just me or is Green Day trying to come up with the next *Rent*?
- Spider-Man coming on singing "Don't Rain on My Parade" muffled by his mask. Someday, somehow... he is set to make his Broadway debut this season. I'll believe it when I (don't) see it. The concept seems ridiculous. I

love the character. I think the post shows my extreme dislike of theatre. However passionate I am of both... they should not be allowed to combine!

- *La Cage aux Folles* wins Best Revival of a Musical.
- 14 minutes to go...
- Best Leading Actress/Actor in a Musical presented by two non-nominees (Bebe Neuwirth and Nathan Lane). **Actress:** Catherine Zeta-Jones (*A Little Night Music*). **Actor:** Douglas Hodge (*La Cage aux Folles*)
- One to go... five minutes and a final performance? Hmmm... welll... I don't think there was a big winner of the night but I'm glad that *Fences* won so many well deserved awards. I haven't seen the show but it was a good read.
- **MEMPHIS** WINS BEST MUSICAL!? What an upset! Dark horse, definitely! WOW!

Well... I hope I haven't bored any of my faithful readers and hopefully, I gain a few! Good night.. congrats to the winners! Bravo to Broadway!

Teacher, Teacher

Well, I survived. Today was my try at teaching my 3-year-old daughter's Sunday school class. Every summer, church members have the opportunity to serve in our church's Kids' Kingdom in order to give the regular teachers a much deserved summer break. Instead of requesting a specific age group where I might have been comfortable (last summer my husband and I taught 4th grade boys, and I'm used to teaching 5th and 7th grade girls from my youth group teaching experience), I decided to let the Kids' Kingdom coordinator put me where I would be needed the most – so the 3-year-old room it was. And

lucky for me (cough cough), there aren't very many 2-year-olds at our church at this time, so they were just combined with the 3-year-olds, putting me in charge of fourteen 2 and 3-year-olds for over an hour. But it was SO much fun!!!

Not something I'd like to do every week (just because of my responsibilities at home with 4 of my own kids 24/7), but definitely worth a shot, especially since I was helping out. I might even sign up for another Sunday with the 2/3-year-olds; they were so cute!! In anticipating my teaching experience today, one challenge I did not foresee were the kids who cried when their parents left. We had about 4 of those – their world was blown apart when this strange lady (me) was in their classroom in place of their regular teacher. 3 of them got over the shock right away; one little girl did an actual 180° turn in personality. She began the class by crying and clinging to the wall, only to come out of her shell later and insisting she sit by me at story time as well as wanting my constant attention. The 4th little boy held out a little longer; he was a cute little guy who clung to the wall for most of the class. He stopped crying for his parents within the first few minutes, but I couldn't get him to participate in any of the activities. I kept asking though, I didn't let him fade into the background, and I think that helped. Also helping was my teenage helper, without whom I surely would have lost track of all those kids.

Upon arriving, I was given a packet of papers detailing my lesson plan and ideas for activities related to the lesson which I will share:

Basic Truth: God Made Me

Key Question: Who can help you?

Bottom Line: God made people who help me.

Memory Verse: "Be kind and loving to each other." Ephesians 4:32, NCV

Bible Story Focus: God wants families to help each other.

Boaz cares for Ruth and Naomi • Ruth 2:1-23

As kids were arriving (and some were bawling into the doorframe), I had them sit at the table and draw their favorite foods in the pre-printed basket they were given on cardstock. I got a big kick out of one little girl who drew chocolate fudgicles, chocolate soy milk (?), and chocolate pancakes. I attempted to draw my own basket (filled with spaghetti; I didn't think I could draw Greek food nor did I feel like explaining saganaki or kafta to 2 and 3-year-olds), but there was too much to do for me to finish my artwork. Soon, we ran out of table space to color, so I moved on to this activity:

Get Up and Go

What You Need: Blue painters' tape, masking tape and different forms of transportation toys such as cars, horses, trucks, trains, buses, boats and airplanes.

What You Do: Make "roads" on the floor with the masking tape. Make "waterways" on the floor with the blue tape. Pretend you are traveling on the roads with the trucks, horses and cars and in the water with the boats. Fly the airplanes around the room. Make up places to go and let your imagination take you on a fun trip.

What You Say:

During the activity: "Who wants to go on a trip with me? These cars and trucks can take us places. These boats can take us places. Oh! And look! We have horses and an airplane too! We can use these to go all kinds of places. This white tape can be our road and this blue tape can be water. Come on! Let's get up and go!"

At the end of the activity: "Cars and trucks and boats can take us to all kinds of places. There's one more way to get somewhere that we haven't talked about...our feet! We can WALK to places too! In our Bible story today, two ladies named Ruth and Naomi have to use their feet to get to a new place."

So as you can see, the instructions were laid out pretty well for me. After the kids laid out their "roads" (and had a

BLAST doing so, I must say! Gives me a great idea for an inexpensive, non-messy fun activity to do at home this summer with my own kids!), it was time to go down the hall for story time. Here we met up with the 4-year-old group and the 5-year-old group (of which my other daughter belongs; she was happy to see me!), and the kids listened to a Bible story. During the story, my teenage helper stayed behind to set out the snack, so it was solely up to me to keep our group of 14 quiet and listening to the story – yeah right. I did the best I could, and I even got to dance with the kids.

We returned to our classroom, had snack, and then we tried the Foil Food activity:

Foil Food

What You Need: Aluminum foil.

What You Do: Give each child a piece of aluminum foil. Show them how to shape the foil into different food shapes like a hot dog, banana, apple, small grapes, chicken fingers, French fries and carrot sticks or anything a child could easily shape with foil.

What You Say: “Watch what I can do with this foil. (Shape the foil into a food item.) Look! It’s a (name of food). I have some foil for you too. You can shape it into all kinds of foods like a banana or several small grapes or even an apple. Ruth and Naomi were very happy to find food to eat when they got back to Bethlehem. God gave them Boaz to help take care of them. God gives you people to help take care of you too. Who can help you? [Bottom Line] God made people who help me.”

The kids had a ball with the foil activity too, even though some of them misunderstood – my little friend the chocolate lover, requested that I make her a butterfly out of the foil... oh, and there was one little guy who completely misunderstood and began to EAT the foil ☹

When the kids grew tired of that activity, there was still about 15 minutes left, so we did some free play with the toys

and puzzles in the room as I did not feel prepared for the other activities on the list. One little girl kept putting a cow toy on my shoe, and she and about 5 others were loving it when I would react every time – OH, there’s a COW on my shoe! Am I going to have to take this cow home with me?!? That lasted about 10 minutes; imagine if I had tried that one with my 7th graders – they’d be gossiping about me being bi-polar as they do about one of their teachers, gossip which I try to stop, of course.

My teen helper had to take about half the kids to the bathroom at some point, so I decided it was a good time to try this activity – I didn’t want to try it with all the kids there since we were only given about 6 pieces of fake food. Having 4 kids of my own, I’m well-versed in kid-fight-prevention, so I knew doing the following activity with only 6 pieces of food and 14 kids was a recipe for disaster. But with about 8 in the room, I thought it was worth a try... until the bathroom group came back in the middle of the activity...

Fast Food

What You Need: Toy food items, a large basket like a laundry basket and a stopwatch.

What You Do: Spread the toy food items all over the room. Place the laundry basket in the middle of the room. Challenge the children to see how fast they can get all of the food into the basket. Time them and be ready to tell them how fast they do it each time. Continue doing the activity as long as the children are interested.

What You Say:

At the start of the activity: “A girl named Ruth has to look for food to go in her basket in our Bible story today. Our basket needs some food in it too. Do you see some food that we can put in it? (Pause for response.) OK. When I say “go,” I want you to put the food in our basket as fast as you can. On your mark...get set...go!”

At the end of the activity: “You got faster and faster each

time you put the food in the basket. I wonder how long it took Ruth to put food in her basket? I can't wait to hear her story."

Ok, I wasn't given a stopwatch, so I just had half the kids hide food items and the other half find them... but then the bathroom group came back and we had too many kids and too little room and too few food items to hide. My little friend threw a not-so-little tantrum because she wanted to be the one to hold the basket – and she was going to have her turn as I said, but first she had to wait, which wasn't cool with her (ADHD diagnosis, anyone? It's sad, but they seem to be slapping that one on kids left and right these days). But oh, great, now I had a kid screaming just as parents are starting to arrive. Luckily she got over it quickly, and the parents came a few minutes earlier than I had expected – good thing too, since I was out of activities for which I had supplies.

Overall, a GREAT experience – I'm so proud of my own little 3-year-old who was not only one of the best behaved in the group (of course), but who was surprisingly not very clingy to mom and let me be a teacher to her peers. I think the kids had trouble remembering my name, so by the end of the hour, I was known as 'Teacher, Teacher' complete with pant-leg-tugging – hence the name of this blog post.

Next up – in August I'm scheduled to help with my 5-year-old's class, and I'm excited to see the differences in behavior between the two groups. But after today, I'm quite tempted to volunteer for another Sunday in the 3-year-old room... they are fun kids who are quite sweet. My only regret is that there were so many of them, which impeded my ability to get to have more fun with them on a one-on-one basis. Plus there were a few that were handfuls (well, just my little friend and then another little boy who started all kinds of trouble all morning!), but it was still hard to give attention to the kids who were being good, and that should never be the case. Too bad I know in my heart that I'd be spreading myself way too

thin if I volunteered to be a Sunday school teacher. I need to stick with the youth group kids I committed to, and both groups plus my own kids at home would be way too much... something to think about when my kids get older and my youth group kids graduate though!!

For those of you looking for ideas for Christian fun at home, for your small Bible study groups, or a Christian daycare, here are the rest of the activities I was given and didn't have the time / materials to do:

Looking for Food

What You Need: A clear plastic soda bottle or a large clean peanut butter jar, uncooked white rice, several pieces of Runts® candy and a hot glue gun.

Tip: Runts® candy comes in a mix of green, red, yellow, purple and orange. You can pretend these are little green apples, red cherries or red apples, yellow bananas, purple grapes and orange oranges

What You Do:

At the start of the activity: Fill the plastic container no more than 2/3 full with the rice. Put in several pieces of the Runts® candy pieces. Put the lid on tight and hot glue it.

Tip: Make one bottle for every three children to share.

During the activity: Show the bottle to the children. Point out that there are different kinds of "food" inside the bottle. Their job is to roll the bottle around in their hands until they see a piece of "food."

What You Say: "Come and sit with me. I have something to show you. Watch the white rice while I turn this bottle. Tell me if you see anything. (Wait for a child to respond.) Yes! There are little pieces of food hiding in the white rice. There are little green apples, red apples or red cherries, yellow bananas, orange oranges and purple grapes. Here. You can hold the bottle. Keep turning it and see what you can find. Two women named Ruth and Naomi have to go and look for food in today's Bible story."

Make a Match

What You Need: "Food Items" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site), scissors and white cardstock.

What You Do:

At the start of the activity: Make two copies of "Food Items" on white cardstock and cut the cards apart along the perforated lines. This will give you one set of cards to play a game of memory match. To play the memory game, place all of the cards facedown. A child will turn over two cards at a time and try to make a match. If a match is not made the next person has a turn. If a match is made the player can go again.

Tip: Make more than one set of cards so more than one group of children can play at a time. You can pair children up or put as many as four children with each set of cards.

During the activity: Show the picture cards to the children. Ask them to help you identify each food picture. Next, place all of the cards face down and play a game of memory match.

What You Say: "Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi in our Bible story because they were in his family. God wants families to help each other. God gave you a family to help you too. Who can help you? [Bottom Line] God made people to help me. That's right! In our story Ruth and Naomi had to look for food, right? Well, I have a game for us to play and we're going to have to look for food too!"

My Favorite Food

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do: Sit in a circle with the children and play a food memory game. Begin the game by saying, "My favorite food is an apple." The child next to you will say, "My favorite food is an apple and (their food choice)." The next child will repeat, "My favorite food is an apple, (name of food) and (their food choice)." Assist the children in remembering when the list gets long.

What You Say:

At the end of the activity: "Raise your hand if you like food. (Raise your hand really high.) Me too! We all like food and we

all NEED food. Ruth and Naomi needed food in our Bible story today. They also needed help to find food. God gave them Boaz to help them find food. God gives you people to help you too. Who can help you? [Bottom Line] God made people to help me."

(Ok, so this activity didn't require any materials, but I found it way too daunting to attempt for a group of 14 2-3-year-olds...)

Is it summer?

Nice day today, even if it was a little humid. Played a little Putt-Putt with my youngest. We need a little practice, neither one of us broke par today. Hmm. I didn't have my stealth putter either. That may have been the difference.

Saw the A-Team today, so I will give you the rundown.

If you liked the TV show, you should like this movie. I liked the fact that the actors did not try to play the roll the same as the TV actors, but they kept some of the signature lines. This movie was exactly what I expected. Lots of things blowing up and well designed plans. I just love it when a plan comes together. Good movie for those of us feeling nostalgic over old TV shows.

***** Minor spoiler *****

I did like the story line of this movie. I remember watching the TV show and they always said they were fugitives "for crimes they did not commit", but never said how this top notch team was framed. This story does it, and makes it believable.

One day closer!

Well, another day closer to our anniversary! Today we had Phillip's graduation party and we also headed towards Toledo again! We went to Fallen Timbers shopping center and looked at the book store and the game store. I found plenty of books, but of course, they were more than I was willing to spend the moment. Once we got to Emmy's, I got into the pool, but with as many kids as there was in the pool, I didn't stay in very long. I couldn't really swim at all! We left again to get away from the people that were filling Emmy's house and went to Best Buy to check up on Tony's application. Then we went to another book store! Has any one guessed that I love book stores?

Another Saturday... Another Storm

At least this one does not seem to pack the wallop of last week's storms. But we did have something in our little village that did not occur a week ago: the tornado siren went off just after 8PM. Dad was out most of the day (failed to come home for mass as he said he would) and got home just in time as the brief but heavy storm let loose. After the siren wailed, I went to the back porch to see what was happening... the sky did not look that bad. The radio was no help... all I found was an Indians game and a remote from a C/W station. Now if a local station was out and about you would imagine

that they would say SOMETHING. So, we found all kinds of info on the Toledo news. Warnings and Watches but no actual tornadoes reported. By this time, we had the neighbors, sister and kids, and sister-in-law and kids to keep us company.

And now, the storm has moved on to the east and is breaking up hopefully before it reaches the communities hit last weekend. Hopefully, all y'all are safe out there, too!

It is done

Today was the day I prepared for all week. Audition day. The shortest audition ever, but that was to be expected- I suppose if they do any sort of callbacks it will be for the individual show at its appointed time. You see, I auditioned for the entire season, making these auditions sort of a cattle call. I had three minutes to impress them and I hope I did. I sang from "Race you to the Top of the Morning" from The Secret Garden (see post from a couple of days ago to a link to a video of someone's performance of this song) and ended up doing a character monologue from my church drama from a couple of years ago- an absent-minded scientist named Dr. Quack. I think I did a pretty good job, but I won't know if I got a part in any show for a while I'm sure, maybe not until the time of the show. I should have asked- oh, well. I didn't make the best exit either, with a simple "take care" as I exited, though I did remember to thank them for hearing me. It is time to, as I read somewhere, set this audition aside and prepare for the next. Incidentally I did finally find a website that shows several community theatre groups unlike the one where I found out about these auditions which is 95% professional theatre. The site is [Green Room Online](#) and

covers the greater Chicago area, including eastern Indiana. Note- the information on the main page is outdated, but the links at the top bring up pages with more current information

The biggest concern I had about this audition was the cold I naturally came down with a few days ago, but God was merciful and allowed me to be able to sing and do my monologue without trouble today. I started coughing again tonight, but I don't mind. Another concern earlier this week was that I have no piano, and no ability if I did to play the accompaniment. The last time I sang this song with accompaniment was when I auditioned for Les Mis some years back. The solution was to find software that could scan the music and become the accompaniment. After a few tries, I found Finale PrintMusic 2010 which works nicely despite a couple of annoying bugs. The demo was unlimited too, though expires after 30 days so it can no longer save. No big deal for now. Maybe I will scan in some other songs while I can. Of course, you already know about the third concern- a monologue. I had also read that a monologue should be from an actual show, so that's where I started. I checked out a couple of books from the library including a book of Neil Simon monologues. Unfortunately comedic monologues to contrast with my choice of songs were few and far between. I did like one from California Suite, but it was over three minutes! I talked with a former professional actor at church last weekend and he assured me that an original monologue would actually be better to avoid comparison to other actors they have seen performing the role/monologue, so I chose one that he had written, and I performed already a couple of years before, the one described above. The plus side to that was I already had it mostly memorized since I performed it no less than a dozen or two times- it was the intro spoken every week, slightly modified.

So, as I already mentioned, it is over- all I can do is wait.
The next big event for me now? Just look at my countdown
timer- less than eight days to go as of this writing. []