



## HOW A SIMPLE DECISION CHANGED A LIFE

There were 7 very good child performers who auditioned for the part of The Little Prince this past spring. Toby Wilson, Eventide's artistic director and Kay DeFord, Eventide Board member and director of the play were amazed. They finally settled on one. His name was Wil Moser and he was 12.

He had some experience but his part was a big one. Wil didn't know how big until he highlighted all his lines.

"It was sobering," said his father, Rich, who played all the other characters as Wil learned his lines, practicing over and over again. In fact, Wil fully learned his lines (and everyone else's) just two weeks before opening night. But all that was just preparation for what was to come.

"What happened on that stage," says Rich, "went beyond anything I ever thought theatre was or could be."

There had been drama in Wil's life, but not the kind he ever sought. A bad bullying experience forced a change in schools, not to mention a change in Wil from a carefree, creative boy to a brooding young man. The new school was a great improvement, according to his mother Delane. Still, he had his struggles, and acting, Wil says, "is fun and it helps me express myself in a lot of ways. Otherwise, I'd feel like I have a lot of emotions bottled up inside of me."

Eventide didn't do anything special for Wil, at least not intentionally. Our mission is clear:

*We provide an encouraging, supportive environment for actors, songwriters and playwrights leading to excellent, creative, and thought-provoking performances that stimulate and educate Cape audiences of all ages.*

Wil's mother Delane appreciated Director Deford's approach. "Her direction wasn't rigid and having that flexibility gave Wil the confidence to develop his character."

And what a character he developed!

We know our method works. It certainly worked for Wil and we know it works for others because they tell us all the time, as they exit the theatre, around town, or in unsolicited emails and letters.

Our friends are our lifeline. You may be wondering why a little theatre group like Eventide relies so heavily on gifts from friends. After all, we are housed in a church and don't have staff. How expensive could it be?

Our lodgings aren't free. Members of our board volunteer as staff although we pay our actors, directors and stage helpers a stipend as do many theatres, and have been doing so since we started 16

"I can't say enough positive things about Eventide Arts. It's welcoming, it's a hidden gem, and we love the mission. You don't just go away and say you were entertained. Instead, you keep thinking about it."

Rich and Delane Moser,  
parents of Wil Moser,  
lead in Eventide's  
*The Little Prince*



years ago. The fact that we don't have a brick and mortar home means that we can't put up a permanent sign so everyone passing by knows we exist (and many longtime residents don't know we exist!) nor do we have an onsite storage space for supplies, props and costumes, to name just a few of our challenges.

To enhance the enjoyment of our already high-quality productions, we work to make our services and surroundings better. A donor bought us a scrim this spring that helped immeasurably with our production of *The Little Prince*. We never expected to be able to own such a versatile piece of stage equipment. We did, however, have to rent the lights to make the scrim work which added significantly to our bottom line. We'd love to own the LED lights ourselves because now, lucky for us, we're going to need them more often!

Suffice it to say that we don't have an endowment, we lack some common means of earning revenue, some of our programs though essential to the arts community are not profitable, and many of our closest neighbors still don't know we exist.

It's a tough combination. That's why we need your help. Otherwise, we'd skip this whole exercise and make do. But, it's not nearly that easy.

Ticket sales, barring lost snow days, can, at best, bring in 60% of our necessary revenue. Friends and grantors make up the rest. Grantors, however, can have hundreds of requests so they are not a sure thing in any given year.

This is why we turn to our friends.

Can you help? If you've been to one of our plays (and we certainly hope you've been to more than one!), you'll see that we aren't casual about our performances. We strive for top quality every time.

Wil and his parents felt changed after their experience with Eventide Arts. Says Rich, "You got more out of Wil than anyone thought was possible, including us. It was the most magical thing we've ever seen him do."

Please help us keep the magic alive by giving today in any amount that works for you. We appreciate it all and you can trust us to put your gifts to good use. Come to our shows and let us prove it to you!

Thanks again,

Shannon Goheen  
President, Eventide Arts Inc.

PS Remember, gifts to us are tax-deductable and you will be helping keep excellent theatre alive right in the middle of the Cape.

PPS: If everyone on our mailing list gave \$25, we'd be able to consider a whole new direction. But everyone won't respond. Only some will. Are you going to be one of them? Will your gift help us get those new scrim lights? Or a new tabletop display? Or a new storage situation? Please be one of our cherished friends who help us keep providing great experiences for kids like Wil.

(ADD APPROPRIATE CONTACT INFO DOWN HERE AS ALWAYS)