

# Education



Trista Yeung

**T**HOSE ENCHANTED BY CS Lewis' renowned fantasy novel *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* will be excited to know that the popular story has been adapted and will be presented as a musical this month, with the major characters to be played by a young cast aged from seven to 14.

Organized by the Yew Chung Arts and Language Centre, the musical is part of the YCAL Broadway Kids Spring Camp, which aims to engage young people in a theater performance.

Following one of the seven novels in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the musical tells the story of four young evacuees from war-torn London who arrive in a rambling old country house.

Lucy, the youngest in the group, discovers a large wardrobe in the house and accidentally enters the realm of Narnia, which is eternally covered by

snow because of the spell cast by the wicked White Witch. Lucy takes her two brothers and sister to the strange land and starts an adventure with Aslan the lion, the Lord of the Wood.

Allan Nazareno, Yew Chung International School's musical director and drama teacher, said the story is an all-time classic, with battles between good and evil and is perfect for kids to help develop their creative abilities.

"The program challenged students to act, sing and dance simultaneously on stage. They had to work as a team and show their best performance in front of a large crowd. We welcomed students even without any stage experience to join us so they could discover their potential and possibilities

# A modern fairy tale



International School, said he loves the imagination of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which he described as suitable for reading by people of different ages. Li plays the role of Aslan.

"The solid historical background of the story brought us through World War II. Playing the role of Aslan is like reliving his life. In the musical, I am a courageous lion who is willing to sacrifice himself to save others," Li said.

Year six student Hannah Lee, who plays the evil White Witch, was delighted with the addition of contemporary elements to Irita Kutchmy's original production.

"We have jazz, hip hop and tap dance in the choreography. The teachers even took our advice to add some K-pop elements in the dancing, making the production more modern and original. I can't wait to put on the costume of the White Witch, made according to the impression of pop star Lady Gaga," Lee said.

*The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe The Musical* will be staged at Y Theatre at Youth Square at 2.30pm on February 26. Tickets, priced from HK\$100, are now available at all URB TIX outlets.

Applications are also open for youngsters, aged seven to 16, to join the Broadway Junior Showchoir Tour 2017. Participants will be taken on an 11-day choir tour to Los Angeles between July 17 and 27.

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by communicating with others," Nazareno said. "We also treasured the opinions of the kids when they helped design certain scenes and choreography in the musical. It gave them a sense of belonging and made them part of the creative team."

He said the art camp aimed to create a professional stage environment for the students as they learned from a group of musical theater veterans, including co-director and choreographer Arvin Robles, musical director Shafina Lok and executive producer Crystal Yip.

"Last October, 40 students underwent formal auditions. They then went through rehearsals and training workshops to prepare them to go on stage," he added.

"Emotion Game, one of the training exercises, required the kids to step into the shoes of different characters and express a specific emotion assigned to them. The game helped train their creativity and ability to respond immediately."

Travis Li, a year eight student at Yew Chung