

As the theater began to fill up, the chatter of excited children began to grow. Many of the kids had been to the Palace Theater before to see plays. Catharine, of Chase Collegiate School had seen the Nutcracker there and loved it. She and her friend Nathan, also from Chase Collegiate, were very excited to be seeing The Brand New Kid, by Katie Couric. "We read it in school yesterday," they said, and they were very happy to be seeing it on the Palace stage.

The Brand New Kid is the story of a second grade class that has a new student who has come from Hungary. The kids bully and tease him, all except for one. By the end of the play the kids have all learned that bullying is wrong because "we're all weird."

The set design and the way the actors portrayed the characters was perfect for captivating the audience full of small children. The set was an oversized, brightly colored playground that the actors ran around and played on just as second graders would. Many set pieces and props were very bright, sunny and playful, as well as sometimes funny. A talking poodle puppet named Doodle was a favorite among the children, as they laughed at everything it did. The actors were energetic, funny, and true to the characters they were playing. They walked and ran around the stage with all the mannerisms of the second graders they were playing. As they stood in one place, they would fidget and pull at their clothes as a young child might, as well as fuss around in their seats in the classroom as the teacher taught class, saying "Blah, blah blah."

Overall the show was very entertaining, and very successful. The audience was excited even before the show began, and loved the performance during and afterwards. The fact that it was directed towards young children could have posed a problem in keeping the audience's attention, however in this case there was no problem at all. The sound of all the kids in the audience laughing proves the success.

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