

PLAYBILL

BUTTERFLIES



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Development Playbill | Foundation Edition

Created by Amy Matthew

Story, characters and preliminary 12-song map



DEVELOPMENT MATERIAL

Concepts and song titles may evolve during writing.

The Journey

Five caterpillar friends leave the only tree they have ever known and journey through an enchanted forest toward a legendary glowing cave. Each dreams about the butterfly they might become - but transformation requires them to face danger, separation and the fear that growing up could change their friendship forever.

THE HEART OF THE MUSICAL

You do not have to remain the same person to remain true to yourself - and real friendship makes room for everyone to grow.

FORMAT AND AUDIENCE

A 75-90 minute fantasy adventure with 12 songs and no intermission. Children receive animals, humor, color and suspense; adults recognize a deeper story about identity, friendship and accepting change. The danger remains exciting rather than frightening, making the show welcoming across generations.

CORE THEMES

- Transformation
- Friendship through change
- Courage and curiosity
- Identity and difference
- Growing without growing apart
- Wonder in the natural world

Principal Characters

LUMA | LUMINOUS GOLD

The brave dreamer who convinces everyone to make the journey. She appears fearless but secretly worries that her own wings may never come.

PIP | BRIGHT GREEN

Funny, hungry and irresistibly lovable. He complains through every obstacle, then repeatedly proves courageous when his friends are endangered.

MARIGOLD | VIVID PINK

Graceful, imaginative and fascinated by dance. She moves as though she already has wings and expresses wonder through ballet-inspired movement.

MOSS | ELECTRIC BLUE

Cautious, clever and prepared for every possible disaster. His elaborate plans provide comedy until the forest presents something he cannot control.

NOVA | DEEP VIOLET

Quiet, artistic and sensitive to the forest's colors and music. She fears transformation will erase the qualities that make her beautifully different.

Supporting Characters

SELENE - THE LUNA MOTH

A majestic and mysterious guide. She cannot complete the journey for the friends; she can only reveal the next light.

BRAMBLE - THE FOX

A theatrical, fast-talking fox who appears dangerous. Beneath his showmanship may be loneliness rather than true wickedness.

THE OWL

Guardian of the oldest forest paths, offering wisdom with dry humor and refusing to give simple answers.

THE FIREFLIES

A singing and dancing ensemble that creates pathways, warnings, constellations and the living pulse of the neon forest.

THE FOREST COMPANY

Deer, rabbits, birds, frogs, flowers and shadow creatures portrayed through ballet, contemporary dance, puppetry and imaginative costumes.

The Journey Begins

1. SOMEDAY WE'LL HAVE WINGS

The five friends imagine their future lives as butterflies in the joyful opening number.

2. THIS TREE IS ALL WE KNOW

Their families and forest community warn that dreams can be dangerous.

3. FIVE FRIENDS FORWARD

Luma persuades the others to begin; the central friendship theme.

4. BEYOND THE FERNS

The forest opens around them in the first large ballet and adventure sequence.

5. PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING

Moss reveals his enormous collection of emergency plans in a quick comic number.

6. FOLLOW THE GLOW

Selene and the Fireflies guide the friends deeper into the neon forest.

Danger and Transformation

7. FOX IN THE FLOWERS

Bramble leads a playful but genuinely threatening song-and-dance chase.

8. WHEN THE WIND SAYS RUN

A storm separates the friends in the most physical dance sequence.

9. DIFFERENT IN THE DARK

Nova fears that no one will recognize who she becomes.

10. FIND OUR WAY BACK

Separate melodies join in five-part harmony as the friends reunite.

11. INSIDE THE SILENCE

Inside their cocoons, each confronts transformation as silence becomes an orchestral build.

12. LOOK AT US NOW

The five emerge as magnificent butterflies in the ballet-driven finale.

The World Onstage

MUSIC

A warm theatrical score blending sweeping fantasy orchestration, accessible contemporary melodies, character comedy and luminous choral writing. Each friend receives an identifiable musical color.

MOVEMENT

Ballet-style grace shapes the forest, while contemporary movement gives each caterpillar an individual physical vocabulary. Transformation culminates in airborne and wing-like ensemble choreography.

COSTUMES

Layered, sculptural caterpillar costumes permit full dance movement. Neon colors identify the five friends and evolve into spectacular butterfly silhouettes without losing their personalities.

SCENERY AND LIGHT

A forest of painted scrims, moving vines, puppetry, glowing flowers and bioluminescent pathways leads toward the radiant cave. Blacklight and saturated neon should create wonder without overwhelming the performers.

DEVELOPMENT NOTE

This Playbill preserves the first foundation of the musical. Character details, scene order and song titles remain flexible until the book and score are drafted.