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KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
A dragon (Jordan Kuipers) has some strong words for his friend Jon (Jaden Pearson) while talking in a cave during a scene from the Yankton Children's Theatre Company's production of "The Reluctant Dragon," now playing at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre.

# 'Dragon' At The Summit

A 'Reluctant Dragon' Offers A Lesson Or Two In A New YCTC Production

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A mythical creature is teaching a very real lesson this weekend at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theater.

The Yankton Children's Theatre Company (YCTC) and the City of Yankton Parks and Recreation Department are presenting "The Reluctant Dragon," a play by George C. Fosgate. Performances are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The story centers around the Reluctant Dragon (Jordan Kuipers), a peaceful being that likes tea, poetry and naps.

"He's a dragon who doesn't want to fight," said director Allison Spak. "He just wants to live in peace and write his sonnets."

A young boy, Jon (Jaden Pearson), discovers the dragon, and the two become friends.

However, when the creature is discovered by the townsfolk, they send for dragon-slayer St. George (Shaun Morkve) to rid them of it, unaware of the dragon's gentle nature. It is then up to Jon to devise a plan to rescue his new friend.

"The kid is basically trying to save the dragon from all these people that want to kill him because they're afraid of the beast," Spak said. "In the end, they learn what the dragon is truly like."

The director said the play teaches a valuable lesson, for children and adults alike, about how it is important to learn about people before forming opinions about them.

"First impressions aren't always everything," Spak said. "You need to be open and get to know a person."

"It's a great message about how you shouldn't judge a book by its cover," Kuipers added.

The play is being presented as part of the creative drama program sponsored by the City of Yankton. Unlike other productions, the summer program offers children a spot in the play just by signing up, although auditions are needed for roles.

The goal of the creative drama program is to offer children another choice for an activity during the summer, as well as to inspire their creativity, Spak said.

"I want to thank the city for this opportunity," she said. "These kids need the arts and that expression to do something different. They have really been creative and

## YCTC Auditions For Next Show Slated Aug. 3-4

Yankton Children's Theatre Company is holding auditions for "Hydrangea Albright: Comedy or Tragedy" on Aug. 3-4 at the Summit Activities Center theatre. Audition times are 4-5:30 p.m. Aug. 3 and 4-7 p.m. Aug. 4.

A theatre accidentally hires two different playwrights to write a play about Hydrangea Albright, a young girl whose family is cursed with bad luck. One playwright sees her story as a tragedy filled with disappointment and sadness, while the other playwright sees Hydrangea's story as a whimsical comedy in which failure leads to new opportunity. While the playwrights argue, duel with their pens and even rewrite each other's scenes, we meet an array of eccentric characters in this play-within-a-play. The episodic tale starts with a curse created by her great-great-grandfather and works its way through several generations of Albrights. From lightning striking a tuba to a case of uncontrollable hiccups to a tree house destroyed by a piece of the International Space Station, we learn that there's more than one way to react to an unfortunate series of events. With the opportunity for minimalist staging (thanks to the play-within-a-play plot), a structure that allows the characters with the most lines — the narrating playwrights — to keep their lines in front of them and a remarkable female heroine who teaches us a wonderful moral about staying positive and not acting like a victim, you'll quickly become a huge fan of this award-winning playwright.

The play is directed by Rich Wright. The cast calls for children ages 5-18.

For more information, contact Allison Spak at 660-6414 or Wright at 661-6735.

have had a good time."

Spak said that with several of the children being new to theater, rehearsals have been "interesting," especially considering the actors have only had a little more than two



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
ABOVE: The dragon (Jordan Kuipers) and St. George (Shaun Morkve) engage in a highly-anticipated "fight" in a scene from "The Reluctant Dragon," now playing at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The play, directed by Allison Spak, runs through Sunday, with 7 p.m. shows tonight (Friday) and Saturday, and a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday. LEFT: The villagers — from left: Ulrick (Macklin McNatt), Grindl (Amelia Morkve), Anne (Tess Zoss), Heinrich (Blake Wieseler), Jennifer (Emily Wieseler) and Meg (Jennica Young) — gathering for the town meeting and announce the impending fight with the dragon in "The Reluctant Dragon." To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

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# Welcome

Dr. Micah M. Likness  
to the Yankton area and our hospital!



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Otolaryngologist



Dr. Catherine A. Wright  
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Dr. Kynan Trail  
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Orthopedics



Micah M. Likness, MD is an Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgeon specializing in surgical and non-surgical treatment of the full spectrum of pediatric and adult disorders of the Ear, Nose, and Throat - Head and Neck. He graduated from Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota and completed a five year residency in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Dr. Likness will begin seeing patients August 1st at Ear, Nose & Throat Associates PC, located in the Lewis & Clark Medical Plaza, 2525 Fox Run Parkway, Suite #101. Call 605-665-0062 for an appointment.

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