Ad for SJP 2016 production
Behind the scenes with Players, Inc. — A Johnny-Benny play — Peter Pan theatre-in-the-round

1953 *Faeula*
(first reference to the play)
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April 12, 1965
Press Release in the CSB Archives
Peter Pan Swings Into CSB Never Never Land

James Barrie's "Peter Pan," adapted by Mrs. Pat Herman, will open for a two-week run in the Forum of the Benedicta Art Center Saturday, April 24. The annual children's play is also being directed by Mrs. Herman. Elementary school children will be imported for the ten performances.

Freshman Susan Eichles, in the title role, heads the 28-member cast. Eileen Edmunds will play Wendy with Margaret Colman and Kathleen O'Laughlin as her brothers, John and Michael. They are all sophomores.

Tom Burke, a sophomore at St. Cloud State College, will play Captain Hook, the children's father. Mrs. Herman's Mrs. Darling.

The six Lost Boys of Never Never Land will be played by juniors Sheila Hogan, Gloria Zeitweger and Diane Harrison, sophomore Kay Sendorfer and Roxanne Halloran, and freshman Margaret Gubeli.

Sophomore Frances Wood will be Nana, the dog-matroness and transformer. Mary Hopkins and Jillia, the maid. Sophomore Jane McNamara will be Tiger Lily.

The pirates in Hook's employ are SJU students Leonard Daniels, John Barrett, Chris Burke, Jerry Hertel, Joe Majors, and Mark Galbach.

SJU freshman John Dole will dance the parts of Peter's shadow and Green Big Little Panther. The Indian braves are sophomores Doreen Funk and Rochelle Greenwood and freshmen Mary Ellen Peterson and Cindy Johnson.

Because of the mechanical devices used in Mrs. Herman's production, the play will not be taken on tour as in former years. Peter and the three Darling children will be "flying" by a wire and hook device from the stage flies. In order to show the airborne and below ground action of Never Land and the hold of Hook's ship, Mrs. Herman will use the forum's apron elevator stage and trap doors.

Admission to the plays are by reserved ticket. Performances will be given at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. on April 24 and May 1, and 5 p.m. April 25 and May 2.
Peter Pan Presentation Features Johnny Pirates

Seven St. John’s students are members of the cast of James Barrie’s Peter Pan, adapted by Mrs. Pat Herman, wife of resident playwright at the College of St. Benedict, George Herman, which opened for a two-week run in the Forum of the Benedict Arts Center at St. Benedict’s, April 24.

Remaining performances of the annual children’s play, also directed by Mrs. Herman, will be given at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on May 1, and at 3 p.m. on May 2.

Freshman Susan Eichten, in the title role, heads the 28-member cast. SJU students Leonard Daniels, John Barrett, Chris Burka, Joccy Herold, Joe Majors and Mark Golbach. SJU freshman John Dole dances the parts of Peter’s shadow and Great Big Little Panther.

Tom Bushue, a sophomore at St. Cloud State College, plays both Captain Hook and Mr. Darling, the children’s father. Mrs. Sylvester Theisen, French instructor at CSB, is Mrs. Darling. Wendy, John and Michael are played by three CSB sophomores, Elleen Edmonds, Margaret Colman and Kathleen O’Loughlin.

Because of the mechanical devices used in Mrs. Herman’s production, the play will not be taken on tour as in former years. Peter and the three Darling children are “flown” by a wire and hook device from the stage floor. In order to show the above and below ground action of Never Land and the hold of Hook’s ship, Mrs. Herman uses the forum’s open elevator stage and trap doors.

Admission is $1 for adults, 50 cents for high school and college students, and 25 cents for grade school children.
Youngsters Delighted...

Peter Pan Scores

By Carol Majerus

Delightful anticipation permeated the air as the Forum was filled with eager children waiting for the start of the Peter Pan play. The adventures of these children in the Never Never Land had excited young boy who never wanted to grow up and was joyfully presented by the NBC Players.

The high quality of the technical aspects of the play brought the audience to its feet. The lighting and music were a treat to the eyes and ears. The children’s reactions throughout the play were truly delightful. There were no intermissions; the audience was held captive by the story.

The scene changes were made smoothly, and the actors did a fantastic job of transporting the audience to another world. The children who played the parts of Peter Pan, Wendy, and the Lost Boys performed their roles with great enthusiasm and energy.

The costumes were elaborate, with each character having a unique look. The lighting effects were striking, creating depth and atmosphere on stage.

The audience was impressed by the overall presentation of the play, which was a wonderful example of how theater can captivate and entertain young and old alike. The play was a success, and the audience left with a smile on their faces and memories of a wonderful evening.
Program from the archivist; photos from the 1971-72 Student Directory
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Program from the archivist; photos from the 1971-72 Student Directory
S. Colman's memories from the 1972 play:

- They used piano (flat) wire for Peter's flying.
- Peter (Terry Mazzitelli) had been told the wire was strong enough to hold up a car.
- She came flying out and turned to look at the audience, and the wire snapped; she fell into the orchestra pit. [Thamert has a different version.]
- Colman, 3 flights up overseeing the lights, raced down; Terry's father, a doctor, was in the audience and also came to her rescue; she was OK.
- Terry learned how to play the part without twisting the wire.
Program from the archivist; photos from the 1971-72 Student Directory
Barb's memories from the play - 1972:

- She and her roommate (who was in music) tried out; Barb (nursing major) made the cut, her roommate didn't.
- She was afraid of S. Colman (director) and was unfamiliar with theater terms like "upstage" and "downstage"
- She played "Toodles," one of the "lost boys" and at one point in the play was the object of a tug-of-war on stage between the pirates and the lost boys/Peter Pan
- Colman had a talk with the Lost Boys, who were "fighting like girls instead of like boys"
- The rehearsals were really fun; the show nerve-wracking.
- Peter flew into a curtain once
Program from the archivist; right photo from the 1971-72 *Student Directory*, left image from the 1972-73 *Student Directory*
Mark’s memories from the play – 1972:

• Mark remembered the piano wire breaking and that Peter Pan flew into a back scenery prop and couch.
• She was singing “I’m flying” and the orchestra had to hold a chord until she got up from behind the couch, limped out and continued with the song, “I’m flying!” Lots of laughter.
• He remembers changing one of his lines to get a laugh out of the cast, and S. Colman laughed out loud too.
1973 *Sagatagan*, p.207
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/33550
Photo in the SJU (digital) Archives
Ad for SJP 2016 production
Rope photo from the 1972 Sagatagan, p. 58
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/33189