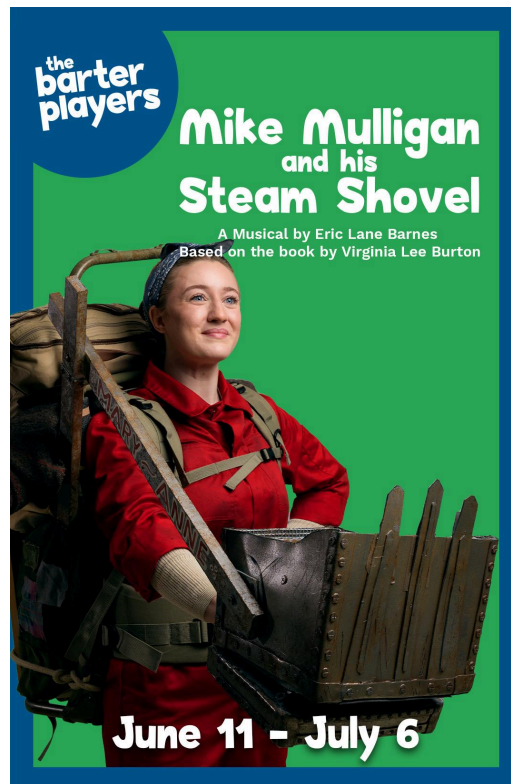


the barter players



Social Narrative for:

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel

By Virginia Lee Burton
Adapted by Eric Lane Barnes

Barter's Smith Theatre
Summer 2024



I'm going to see a play called *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* at Barter's Smith Theatre! This play is about Mike Mulligan and a steam shovel, Mary Anne, trying to find work.



Seeing a play is like seeing a movie. The play will be performed by people right in front of me on stage. They are called actors, and the people they are playing are called characters.



Once arriving at the theatre, I will go into the lobby where I will get my tickets. If I am early, I can wait in the lobby or lounge. Other people will also be waiting for the show to begin.



Next, I'll enter the theatre and choose a seat for the show. I'll sit in a seat and wait for the show to start. Other people will be doing the same thing. We will all wait together for the performance to begin.



Just before the performance begins, some of the actors will come out to talk about things we use in the play that help us tell the story, like props, costumes, lights, and sound.



If at any point during the show I have a question or want to leave, I will ask for help quietly. There will be ushers who can help me, too. An usher is someone in a white shirt who works at the theatre.



If anything ever gets too loud I can put on my ear protection or cover my ears with my hands.



I'll know the performance is about to begin when the lights dim around me and someone on stage makes an announcement. After the announcement, the lights will change again and I'll know the play is about to start.



Henry B. Swap is the boss of a construction site in a town named Popperville, and is responsible for hiring a shovel to dig the foundation of the town hall. He can sometimes be mean to his employees, Rufus and Clem.



Mike Mulligan travels to Popperville with his steam shovel, Mary Anne. They need a job, and hope to dig the foundation for the town hall of Popperville



Mike Mulligan introduces himself and Mary Anne to Henry B. Swap, telling him that they want to dig the foundation for the town hall of Popperville. Henry B. Swap tells him that the town hall job is taken, and that Mary Anne is a piece of junk.



Mike still wants to apply for the job, because he believes that Mary Anne is the best steam shovel in the world, and they need the money.



Mary Anne meets her fellow competitors for the job. First, she meets the diesel shovel. The diesel shovel speaks in a Russian accent and is intimidating.



Then, the Electric Shovel introduces themselves. The electric shovel likes to rhyme their words like poetry, and dance.



Finally, a shovel called the Nuclear Automated Diggatron 5000 appears. They are a brand new shovel with many fancy accessories. Henry B. Swap really loves the Nuclear Automated Diggatron 5000.



The other shovels all want the same job, and try to intimidate Mary Anne and one another. They brag about their unique accessories and abilities during a song called *What Have You Got?*



Mary Anne is intimidated because the other shovels have newer equipment and can do things that she can not. However, Mary Anne tells the other shovels that she has something none of them have, which is a name that Mike gave her, so she means something to somebody.



Henry B. Swap listens to all the shovel's bids for the job. He overlooks Mary Anne and chooses the Nuclear Shovel.



Henry B. Swap suggests that Mary Anne be taken to his scrap yard, and after he leaves, Mary Anne admits to the other shovels that her dream is to retire and settle down in a peaceful town.



Mike finally comes back with polish, and makes a bid of completing the job in one day for one thousand dollars. Because this offer is much better than any of the other ones, Henry agrees to it, but only under the condition that if Mary Anne doesn't complete the job in time, she is given to him for scrap.



Mike is unhappy with this agreement, but before he can decline, Mary Anne steps between them and agrees to the deal. Henry tells her and Mike where the digging site is.



Mary Anne is nervous and feels insecure about being able to complete the job, so Mike tries to motivate her. In the song, *Mary Anne Can*, Mike reminds her of all the wonderful jobs she has accomplished, and encourages her that she can do it!



Mike and Mary Anne walk to the digging site to spend the night there. On the walk, Mary Anne tries to tell Mike that there is a spring on her trip line that is about to break. He falls asleep and doesn't hear this information.



While Mike is asleep, Mary Anne dreams about a simple life of never working again, living in a perfect house, and inviting friends over to play cards. The shovels and Mary Anne sing the song, "*Dream of A Steam Shovel.*"



The next morning, Mike and Mary Anne begin digging the foundation. As they dig, three kids, Virginia, Lee, and Burton arrive at the digging site to support Mary Anne, and bring their friends and family for support as well.



All of a sudden, the spring on Mary Anne's trip line breaks, and she is unable to dig.



Virginia gives Mary Anne a spring from her pogo stick, and Mary Anne finishes the job in time!



Mike tries to reach the check they earned for completing the job from Henry B. Swap, but the hole is too deep. Mary Anne and Mike accidentally trapped themselves in the hole. Henry announces that because Mary Anne can't get out, he is going to sell her as an antique and make a lot of money.



Lee comes up with the idea that Mary Anne can stay in the basement of the town hall and be a furnace instead of being sold. Mary Anne loves this idea because she would get to settle down. Mike agrees to be the custodian in the town hall so they can be together.



Henry B. Swap is unhappy, and they find out that he doesn't have any friends. Mary Anne and Mike invite him to play cards with them in their new home, and he happily agrees.



Mary Anne and Mike now live in the basement of the town hall in Popperville, and have plenty of friends to keep them company. Their dream came true!



The play is about 1 hour long. If at any point during the show I think something is funny I can laugh. If I ever think the actors did a good job I can clap. I'll know the play is over because people around me will start clapping their hands, and I can clap too if I want. Then the lights will come all the way back up, and I can leave the theatre.

CHARACTERS IN *MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL*

Here are the names and photos of the characters you'll see in *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*!

MIKE MULLIGAN



MARY ANNE



HENRY B SWAP



RUFUS



CLEM



DIESEL SHOVEL



ELECTRIC SHOVEL



NUCLEAR SHOVEL



VIRGINIA



LEE



BURTON

