

CHILDRENOPOLIS

A goodwill ambassador is sent from a city of children to help some people fulfill dreams they've given up on.



Synopsis

Deep down in a hollow of the earth is a world known as Childrenopolis, where many children live together eternally in love, peace, and harmony, with no pollution, hate or war. Even though it's underground, they have a sun, snow-capped mountains, and a rainbow. The kids come from all nations, and can speak and understand all languages. It's a place where dreams come true. Their life is utopian, but they know that life on the outer shell of the earth is often filled with shattered dreams and broken hearts, so periodically they send a goodwill ambassador to the outer shell, to help some people fulfill dreams they've given up on.

Gathered on a snowy eve in front of an elegant old hotel in French Lick, Indiana, hundreds of people fill the brisk air with cheerful yuletide holiday singing. It's a festive scene, but the truth is, the hotel is in trouble-it's on the verge of bankruptcy, and in dire need of renovation. Among the crowd is Emily Fletcher, a lawyer in charge of raising funds to bring the hotel to its former glory. Both Emily and her 11 year old son Ogden are still recovering from a tragic loss. 3 years ago, her husband and Ogden's father, Paul Fletcher, was killed in a motorcycle accident. However, Emily is now engaged to be married to ultra-wealthy Richard Adelson, who says he plans to write a check to restore the hotel. Emily endured many years of starving artist life with Paul, who was a genius painter. Now she's enthralled at a life of financial security with Richard. Ogden, however, has never warmed up to Richard.

The holiday festivities move inside the hotel's ornate but run-down lobby, and we see hotel workers serve the crowd as they enjoy refreshments, a Santa Claus, Karaoke, and more. Each one of these workers perform their jobs well, but they all have secret dreams that are unfulfilled. Emily introduces Richard to the board members of the non-profit "Save Our Hotel", who are all thrilled to meet him.

Back in Childrenopolis, everyone can see what's going on in French Lick by peering into a big bubble created by the Bubbleator, which is a huge multi-tiered fountain that blows bubbles. Everyone is moved by the hotel workers' unfulfilled dreams. The only grown-up in Childrenopolis is a man named Livingston, who wears a butler's attire. No one knows his age.

Livingston and the children decide to send a boy named Winston to French Lick to help those people fulfill their dreams. Winston is the only child in Childrenopolis who can leave without losing his eternal life. He rides off in a bubble up a river, past the rainbow, on his way to the outer shell!

Winston arrives in French Lick. He rides in a bubble on a stream by the hotel. The bubble pops, and he transforms into an elderly eccentric thespian named Boris Von Winkle, or "Wink", for short. He invites the hotel workers and Ogden to audition for his world premier musical. They all show up at the audition, including Ben Goodman and his dog, Persephone. Ben's the new pharmacist at the hotel, and a frustrated classical pianist. He agrees to be the music director. Ogden agrees to paint the sets.

As the rehearsals ensue, Wink helps everyone write their own script to a musical play, which prompts them to reveal their buried dreams: there's Hoss the maintenance man, who always wanted to be a ballet dancer; Sharlene the waitress, who always wanted to explore her family's heritage, but never did because she thought she would be made fun of; Buffalo Child who works at the front desk, who's always wanted to be a hoop dancer; Hari the bellhop, who longs to be a Bollywood star; Elva, who runs the Karaoke machine, who's amazing at imitating Elvis an octave higher, but has never been able to write her own songs, and others. Ben's dog Persephone makes a surprising positive impact on the rehearsals! As the play develops, Ogden and Ben hit it off, which Emily notices, and then Ben and Emily develop an attraction to each other, which irks Richard.

Richard has a dirty secret connected to the hotel that compels him to try to stop the play from happening, so on the day the play is to premier he pulls some strings to have Wink committed to an asylum, and has Ben and Ogden kidnapped, behind Emily's back. With a sold-out theater, the cast has to reluctantly start the musical without them. Paul Fletcher, living in Childrenopolis as an eternal child, sees the developing crisis. Even though it means he will lose his eternal status, he decides to travel to French Lick, and is able to help Wink escape. Meanwhile, Persephone is able to help Ben and Ogden escape. Richard gets wind of the escapes and sends the police to the theater to arrest Wink and shut down the play.

How will all of this play out? What is Richard's dirty secret? Will Emily end up with Richard or Ben? What happens when Emily and Ogden see Paul again? Will Wink be arrested and the play shut down, or will the show go on and the cast's dreams be fulfilled?