

Alina's Story

A tired frightened child becomes the lead actor. It took two years and a half; but what a transformation!

When Alina came to us in September 2008, she was very wary, always watchful for danger and opportunity. A thin and nervous child, she was on the move, darting from one 'safe place' to another like a frightened bird, trusting no one and always avoiding trouble, possible danger, adults. She bears terrible and permanent burn scars on her arm, and her back inflicted by her own mother. Her foster parents worked patiently to establish and to re-establish and re-establish again the trust of this little bird. It took more than a year for her to begin to believe that Mama is safe, perhaps even loves her.

In January she played the lead role in the play of "The Snow Queen" in the Kitezh performance at the very prestigious English-American school in Moscow. Her confident and richly applauded performance held the whole play together.

Just look into those eyes; the face tells all there is to say.

