

2017-2018 Blinn College Theatre Season
*Lights Out:
A Season of Dark Tales*

Division of Visual/Performing Arts and Kinesiology
Brenham Campus



Hansel and Gretel

By Michele L. Vacca

Based on the Fairy Tale by the Brothers Grimm

Resource Guide

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying Michele L. Vacca's *Hansel and Gretel*. With this in mind, please note that the interpretations of this theatrical work may differ from the original source content.

Public Performances

November 16-18.....7:00 PM

November 19.....2:00 PM

Elementary Preview Performances

November 16 & 17.....10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.blinn.edu/BoxOffice,
by calling 979-830-4024,
or by emailing BoxOffice@blinn.edu



Directed by Brad Nies

Technical Theatre Direction by Kevin Patrick

Costume, Makeup, and Hair Design by
Jennifer Patrick

Produced by Special Arrangement with
Classics on Stage!

The Synopsis

In an attempt to have enough to eat during a great famine, a woodcutter and his abusive second wife decide to abandon their two children in the woods. After being left to die, little Hansel and Gretel discover a large cottage built of gingerbread, cakes, and delicious candies. The tired and hungry children begin to eat the candy house, but they are unaware that it is owned by a bloodthirsty and horrible witch!

Characters

The Narrator

Hansel

Gretel

Father

Stepmother

Miss Hagatha Grundilly Sweetbriar

Rasputin

Dizzy

Shibboleth, Hagatha's Broom

Boo-Boo, Dizzy's Broom



Modern Adaptations of Hansel and Gretel



Books

A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz

The Magic Circle by Donna Jo Napoli

Gingerbread House by Laura Biggs and Sarah Steinbrenner

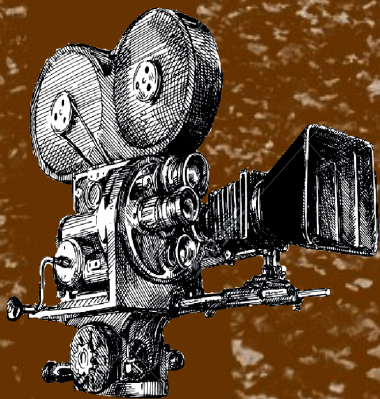
The True Story of Hansel and Gretel by Louise Murphy

Newspaper Articles

"On the Trail of Hansel and Gretel in Germany" by David G. Allan

"Hansel and Gretel Thieves Lead Police to Their Home with a Trial of Rice"

By Rory Mulholland



Movies

Hansel and Gretel (1954)

Whoever Stew Auntie Roo (1972)

Hansel and Gretel (2002)

Hansel and Gretel (2007)

Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (2013)

Hansel and Gretel in 3D (2013)

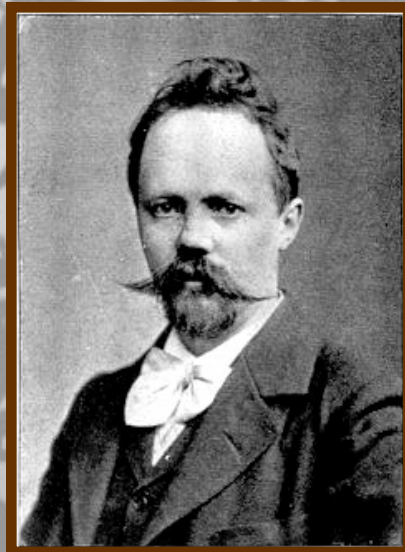
Michele L. Vacca



Born on July 29, 1947, Michele Louise Vacca moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1970 to begin work as an actress in live theatre. After marrying her husband, Robert Boburka, she produced live theatre for young children in the Chicago area. In doing so, Vacca worked alongside her husband as an actress, playwright, director, and producer. A graduate from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Science in Theatre and a Master of Arts in Playwriting, Vacca was a double winner of the Shubert Playwriting Fellowship Award. Her 24 original plays include adaptations of *Robin Hood*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. Michele L. Vacca died on December 8, 2012.

Hansel and Gretel

By Engelbert Humperdinck



Hansel and Gretel was adapted into an opera by composer Engelbert Humperdinck. He wrote the work in Frankfurt, Germany between 1891 and 1892 before it premiered in Weimar in 1893. The libretto was written by Adelheid Wette, Humperdinck's sister, who approached him about writing the opera and presented songs that she had written for her children regarding the fairy tale. The work has been associated with Christmas, as it was originally performed in December, and it is still often performed at Christmas-time today. It is well known for its folk music inspired themes, as well as its *Evening Benediction* in Act II.

The Brothers Grimm



Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published a collection of fairy tales in 1812 which they had recorded by inviting German storytellers into their home and transcribing their stories. They published a second volume of stories in 1814, and eventually lived to see 211 of their collected tales in print. While their stories were not originally for children, they altered their tales to present strong moral messages after seeing how children took to their fairy tales. Today, these stories are shared and enjoyed by all ages in more than 160 languages.

Themes in Hansel and Gretel



Take Care of One Another—One of the things that stand out in this story is the bond between brother and sister. When Gretel is distraught, Hansel is very comforting and reassures his sister that everything will be okay.

Sometimes Parents Make Mistakes—The truth is parents do occasionally make mistakes. Hansel and Gretel's father did not want to leave them alone in the woods, and he was very remorseful and miserable over what he had done.

Occasionally the Best Plans Will Go Awry—The second time going out to the woods, Hansel used what he had to mark the trail back home. Unfortunately it was bread and the birds ate it all.

If It's Too Good to be True, It's Probably Not Good—Finding a gingerbread house in the middle of the woods is such a treat; especially when you're near starving! But, of course, it was just a trap.

Don't Trust Strangers, Even When They Are Nice—Strangers who prey upon children are not going to come across as mean or evil at first. Hansel and Gretel were, of course, taken in by the witch who first appeared as a nice person.

Never Give Up Hope—Even when faced with one difficult or near impossible situation after another, Hansel and Gretel stayed focused on the goal of getting back home.

Hey, Teachers!

This theatre is a proud member of the Theatre Collective of the Brazos Valley. This organization has been kind enough to develop the following rules of theatre etiquette. Please review these rules with your students to assure that all audience members enjoy the show!

1. Be on time by being in your seat 10 minutes before the performance is scheduled to begin. Live theatre begins at the published performance time with a darkened theatre and actors frequently in the aisles ready for entrances. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the theatre and in locations chosen by the theatre.
2. Remain seated until intermission and until curtain calls are completed to allow performers free access to the exits. If an emergency requires leaving your seat, please remain outside the theatre until allowed to return by the theatre's volunteer staff.
3. Finish and/or discard all food and drinks before entering the theatre. Community theatres in the Brazos Valley use volunteers to clean debris from the theatre and restrooms. Please be respectful of these volunteers by disposing of your own trash.
4. Silence or turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones, beepers, and watch alarms. You are encouraged to share your theatre experience via social media, but you must refrain from sharing or texting during the performance. The glow from all media is easily discernable in the dark theatre and is distracting to your neighbors and the actors.
5. Video and flash photography of live performances is not allowed. Community theatres in the Brazos Valley do not purchase the rights to tape live performances. Actors will generally be available for photographs after the show.
6. Tickets and programs will be provided for all students who need to receive credit for attending theatre performances. The Theatre Collective of the Brazos Valley provides a stamp for proof of attendance after every performance.
7. To allow all patrons easy access to theatre seating, saving more than one seat for a latecomer or volunteer is not allowed.
8. Please refrain from talking during the performance.
9. Your courtesy is much appreciated as it allows for the ultimate experience of theatre productions for all our patrons.

Hansel and Gretel

Word Search

h	e	v	n	w	w	p	x	g	q	v	y
k	a	e	v	i	o	c	e	r	y	x	l
k	v	n	t	p	u	k	r	e	d	n	c
o	q	c	s	y	d	f	o	t	n	l	d
d	h	d	a	e	r	b	f	e	a	r	e
b	p	b	j	r	l	r	o	l	c	g	h

hansel

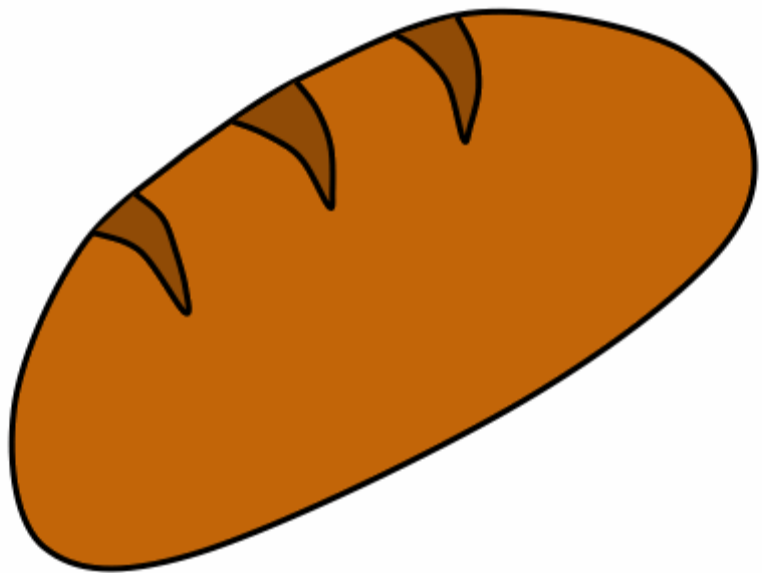
gretel

witch

bread

candy

oven



Hansel and Gretel Word Search

h	c	t	i	w	y	d	h	s	n	r	o	d	f	y
a	c	f	z	z	k	l	a	g	l	h	d	o	y	d
d	q	r	f	m	e	h	n	e	e	v	r	e	z	n
t	h	o	u	s	e	i	f	g	r	e	t	e	l	a
a	r	s	n	m	c	n	a	g	s	b	j	k	r	c
j	t	a	d	i	b	e	t	t	z	v	b	w	s	i
l	h	y	i	v	g	s	h	f	k	r	o	e	d	o
t	s	s	t	l	r	c	e	o	k	d	l	h	c	v
o	u	r	c	n	l	m	r	p	r	l	n	s	y	e
a	x	r	y	k	n	i	o	d	x	t	v	c	d	n

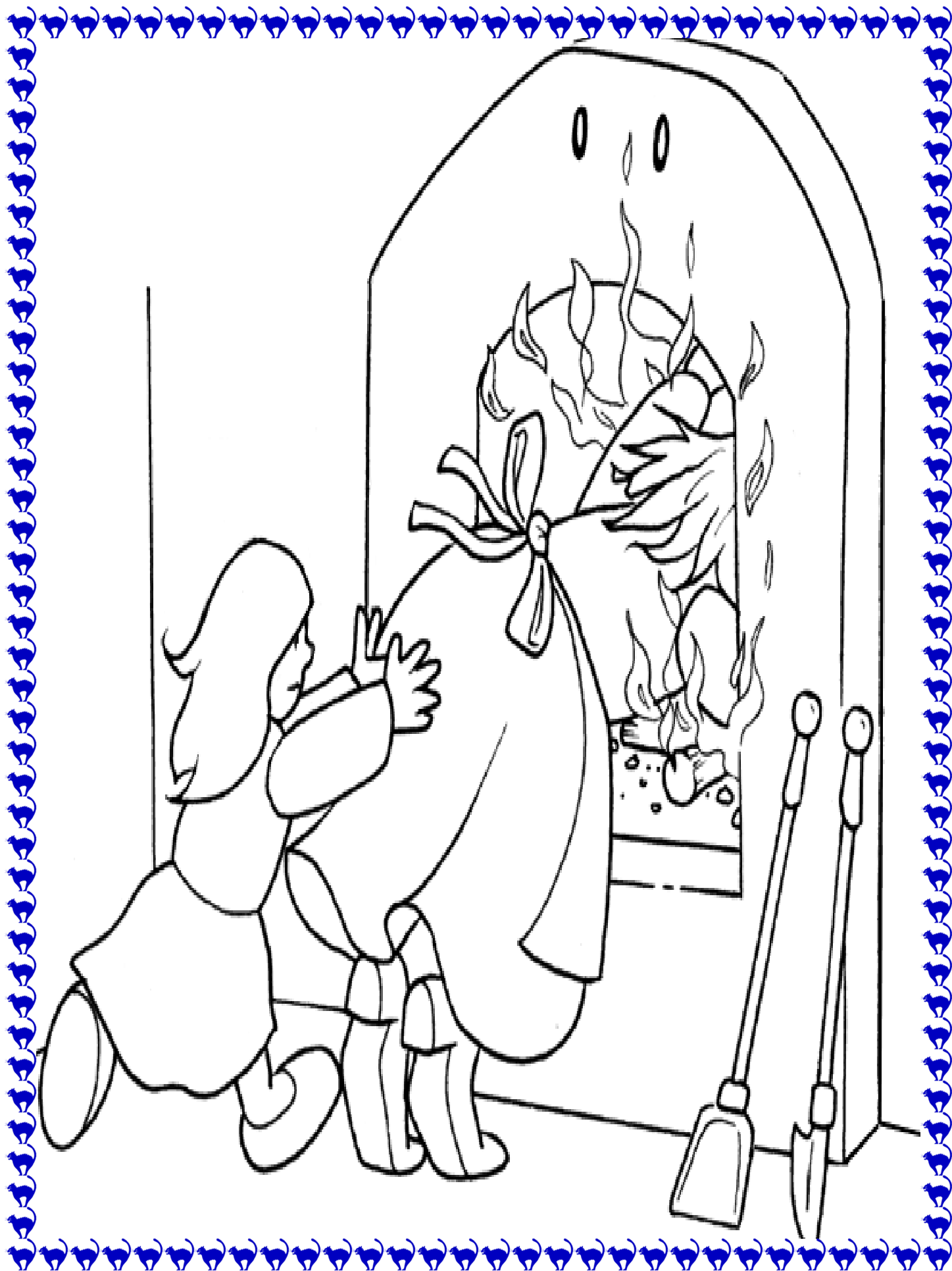
hansel
witch
crumbs
candy
house
forest

gretel
bread
father
icing
oven
trail











Start



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Finish

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Sources

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