

Hansel & Gretel

book by Sarah Jane Hardy, music by Rodolfo Ortega

NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL

NW Neighborhood
Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street
Suite 216
Portland, OR 97209-2189

phone: 503-222-4480
fax: 503-222-4130
www.nwcts.org

*Our mission—to educate,
entertain and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

Managing Director
Judy Kafoury

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Education Director
Carolyn Newsom

Volunteer Director
Diane Carlson

Left to fend for themselves in the woods by an overbearing stepmother and against the wishes of their harried father, a famished Hansel and Gretel stumble upon a gingerbread house and a kindly old woman. She invites them in, feeds them, and seems curiously interested in their... appetites. The children can hardly believe their luck as they stuff their hungry mouths with cream cakes and candy, and lay down for a sweet slumber. But Hansel and Gretel are about to learn that things are not at all what they seem...

Tummies will growl and audiences will howl when the old woman is revealed as a witch who wants to fatten them up and bake them into gingerbread! Hansel and Gretel's epicurean escapade turns into a grand getaway as they devise a plan to foil the witch, flee the cottage and find their way back home.

With a thoughtful nod to the classically ominous tones of the original tale by the Brothers Grimm, Ortega's compositions like "Follow the Trail", and "Nibble-Nibble Here" blend seamlessly with Hardy's engaging characters and dialogue. With inspired choreography and dazzling dream sequences, the result is a musical for children about facing fears, conquering challenges and finding inner strength.

This sticky-sweet confection of fright and delight stars Melody Bridges (*Sleeping Beauty, The Witches*) as the Stepmother and the Witch, John Ellingson (*Go, Dog. Go!*) as her erring sidekick Gumdrop, Hansel by Lea Zawada (*Go, Dog. Go!*) and Gretel by Roxanne Stathos (*The Secret Garden, Swiss Family Robinson*).

A stellar ensemble cast (including perennial NWCT favorite Erik James) brings to life a forbidding forest, serves up a bountiful banquet, and makes delicacies dance!

Hansel and Gretel plays Oct. 10-Nov. 2, 2008 and is most enjoyed by ages 6 and up. Show times are Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 & 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: 503-222-4480 or NWCTS.ORG.

NWCT Special Events! *Family Date Night*: Fri., Oct. 17; dinner before the show from Elephant's Catering. *Grandparents' Day*: Sat., Oct. 11; \$2 off for grandparents. For more information call 503-222-4480.

Hansel and Gretel is sponsored by The Standard, The Collins Foundation, Regional Arts and Culture Council/Work for Art, Oregon Arts Commission and K103. Over 5,000 area school children will join Hansel and Gretel on their culinary adventure through twelve student matinees.

Feature Story Ideas:

1. *Hansel and Gretel* is an original world premiere, written and composed by two award-winning Portland theater artists. In a city renowned for developing new works for the stage, and on the heels of Portland Center Stage's JAW/West festival, readers can engage in the process of creating a brand-new musical for kids through interviews with the writing team, design team and acting ensemble.
2. NWCT mainstage casts often include students from NWCT's own professional training programs. Readers can learn about kids in the world of theater, and how the culture of training at NWCT creates the next generation of committed theater artists.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date
August 26, 2008
Kill Date
November 3, 2008

Media Contact
To set up interviews
or discuss other
possibilities for feature
stories, please contact:

Marri-Beth Serritella
Sucha Production, Inc.
503-528-1370
mb@suchaproduction.com

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PHOTO CAPTIONS

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high resolution photos online at: <http://nwcts.org/html/press.html>

18, 35, 49, 63, 81, 88,

Left to right: Lea Zawada (Hansel) and Roxanne Stathos (Gretel) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's world premiere adaptation of *Hansel & Gretel*.

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Left to right: John Ellingson (Gumdrop), Lea Zawada (Hansel), Roxanne Stathos (Gretel) and Melody Bridges (the Stepmother and the Witch) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's world premiere adaptation of *Hansel & Gretel*.

145, 151, 159, 177

Back row, left to right: John Ellingson (Gumdrop) and Melody Bridges (the Stepmother and the Witch); front row, left to right: Lea Zawada (Hansel) and Roxanne Stathos (Gretel) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's world premiere adaptation of *Hansel & Gretel*.

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Left to right: Roxanne Stathos (Gretel), Melody Bridges (the Stepmother and the Witch), John Ellingson (Gumdrop), and Lea Zawada (Hansel) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's world premiere adaptation of *Hansel & Gretel*.

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Left to right: Roxanne Stathos (Gretel), Melody Bridges (the Stepmother and the Witch), Lea Zawada (Hansel) and John Ellingson (Gumdrop) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's world premiere adaptation of *Hansel & Gretel*.

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