



Public Energy and the Hungry Collective present

# HUNGRY

— A Musical Hansel and Gretel —

October 9 to 11, 2008

Preview: October 5, 2008  
Presented by Artsweek

Market Hall  
Peterborough Ontario

# HUNGRY: A Musical Hansel and Gretel

Book Kate Story  
Music Susan Newman  
Lyrics Rob Fortin

Director Susan Spicer \*  
Production Designer Akiva Romer-Segal  
Stage Manager Patricia Thorne  
Music Director Susan Newman  
Lighting Designer Don White  
Choreographer Jeff Schissler  
Piano Arrangements Justin Hiscox

Producer Bill Kimball  
Production Manager Don White  
Lighting Operator Andrew Fox  
Set Construction Don White, Jim Gleason,  
Rob Fortin, Fred Chamberlain  
Costume Construction Melanie McCall, Krista Boyd  
Study Guide Laurel Paluck  
Graphic Design Kerry Day

Hansel Jacob Abrahamse  
Gretel Caylie Staples  
Father Jeff Schissler  
Owl Whitney Ross-Barris \*  
Owlet Girl Haley McGee  
Owlet Boy Jeremy Lapalme  
Witch Whitney Ross-Barris  
Fraidy Cat Jeff Schissler  
Gingerbread Man Jeremy Lapalme  
Sugar Princess Haley McGee  
Musicians Rob Fortin, Justin Hiscox

\* appear with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

## Special Thanks

Trent Photographics, Rhema Elementary Christian School, Dave Butcher, Jordan Lyall, Vince and Adrienne Abrahamse, Kerri Neimi and the Sapphire Room, Neil and Cosmic Charlie's, 4th Line Theatre, Rochelle and Food Not Bombs, and Beau Dixon

## Welcome

In 2002, Arbor Theatre's artistic director Ray Henderson asked me if I'd be interested in writing a play for his annual children's Christmas production. Immediately I knew what I wanted to do: adapt the original Grimm Brothers fairy-tale *Hansel and Gretel*. The target audience was children aged 5-9; I endeavoured to mitigate some of the more frightening aspects of the tale without creating pabulum. The script (after a script-writing workshop sponsored by the 4th Line Theatre, with Sally Han and playwrights Leanna Brodie and Dave Carley) went on to be staged and performed for over 2000 children. The director inserted many musical cues, and it became obvious that the work was actually functioning as a piece of musical theatre. Teaming up with wonderful songwriting duo Rob Fortin and Susan Newman, and director Susan Spicer, we reapproached the work as *Hungry*: a work of musical theatre for young audiences. I believe it is important to create children's theatre which does not condescend, which speaks to issues of the present with the strength of archetypal storytelling, and presents child heroes who discover their own way out of their predicaments. Parental neglect is a very real problem for many children, and it was this that drew me to the tale to begin with.

-Kate Story

## Special Thanks

Many thanks to the director and cast members of the 2002 Arbor Theatre production of *Hansel and Gretel*, many of whom gave wonderful feedback and suggestions:

Ray Henderson, Allie Hearn, Em Glasspool, Phil Oakley, Nauri Parkinson, Peter Ens, Emily Doyle, Jared Wilkes, Scarlett Ackhurst, Mick Ackhurst.

And a very special thanks to Martha Cockshutt, Peter Ens, and Nauri Parkinson, key participants in the development process, as well as Justin Hiscox, Whitney Ross-Barris and Caylie Staples, who took part in, and made valuable contributions to, the 2003 workshop of *Hungry*.

The Hungry Collective would like to acknowledge the lead funding role taken by the Ontario Arts Council's Theatre Section in support of this production. It would not have been possible without it, as well as support from the City of Peterborough through its community funding program.

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