



Gretel and Hansel Relaxed Performance Visual Story

Welcome to Singapore Repertory Theatre, where you will be watching the play, *Gretel and Hansel*.

This visual story is intended for visitors to KC Arts Centre – Home of SRT, to help you prepare for a new experience and to familiarise yourselves with the new surroundings.

If you would like any further information or assistance, please contact us at learning@srt.com.sg or you can give us a call at **6733 8166**.

Gretel and Hansel Synopsis

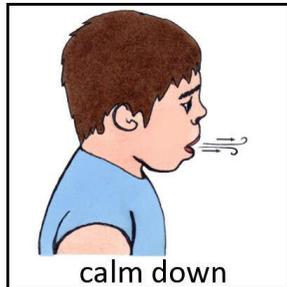
Gretel's life is turned upside down when her new brother Hansel arrives. He gets all the attention; the cuddles and the kisses and poor Gretel is told to 'grow up' and remember that she's 'a big girl now'! But Gretel doesn't want to be big! And she doesn't want the annoying little brother who's too small to play.

When Mother and Father take the children to the forest, Gretel has a chance to get rid of the little brother once and for all. But the forest is full of danger and Gretel will have to learn to get along with Hansel if they are both going to survive the adventure.

Based on the well-loved Brothers Grimm classic fairy tale, Gretel and Hansel is a heartfelt, humorous and exciting tale about sibling rivalry, family love, courage and understanding what it means to be a big sister!

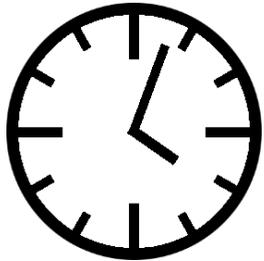
The two children become both characters and storytellers as they bring audiences on a thrilling and imaginative journey. Gretel and Hansel will help encourage children to work together, appreciate their siblings and understand the importance of family love.

Useful information for your visit to the Theatre



Chill-Out Area

If you would like to leave the auditorium at any time during the performance, there is a chill-out area that you can visit. You can go to these areas to relax if you would like to have a little break before going back in to watch the play. You can also watch the performance on the TV Screens just outside the entrance to the circle or stall seats.



Performance Duration

Gretel and Hansel is 50 minutes long with no intervals.



Show Changes

For this Relaxed Performance, the lighting and sound cues are adjusted to be less startling and to create a less stressful environment for our patrons. If you would like to take a break, you can exit and enter the auditorium at any time.

Let's meet the characters of the play.

Here are pictures of the actors and the name of the characters they play.

Some actors play more than one character and, so that they look different, they change the way they move, speak and dress.



This is **Gretel**.
She is Hansel's elder sister.



This is **Hansel**.
He is Gretel's younger brother.

Some characters in the play are presented using puppetry. Here are some of these characters:



This is **Gretel and Hansel's Mother**. She is presented in the play by a pink coat and light brown hat. The puppet is animated with the help of an actor.



This is **Gretel and Hansel's Father**. He is presented in the play by a brown coat and dark brown hat. The puppet is animated with the help of an actor.



This is **The Witch**. She is presented in the play using shadow puppetry. Different objects are used to create her shape.

What happens in *Gretel and Hansel*?

SPOILER ALERT!

These pages provide a longer explanation of the play and plot, please don't read or share these pages if you don't want to know more.



The story begins with Gretel and Hansel peeping out of the curtains and giggling amongst themselves.



Gretel and Hansel then come out and introduces themselves to the audience.



Gretel and Hansel then begin to tell the story of how everything began. Starting with the day Hansel was born!

In this scene, Gretel's mother is a puppet.



Gretel recounts how it was vegetable soup day! She was so hungry and could not wait to have her soup. But things did not go the way she planned.



Gretel was about to have her soup, when suddenly, there were cries from a baby. Her brother, Hansel, was born!



Everyone doted on Hansel. They would pay him compliments and he was the centre of attention, which made Gretel a bit sad.



Hansel loves his sister Gretel very much, but Gretel finds him very annoying. Hansel's favourite response to everything that Gretel says is "me too!".



Gretel recalls the day when Hansel eats more than his given share of bread. He ends up eating Gretel's share and does not leave any left for her.



Gretel questions Hansel about why he took more than his share. She grows in anger as Hansel tells her that the reason for eating more than his share was because he was hungry.



Gretel loses her temper as she scolds Hansel and tells him that she, too, was hungry! She loses control of herself and her feelings and uses a wooden spoon to hit him. Both children cry out and Mother comes rushing in.

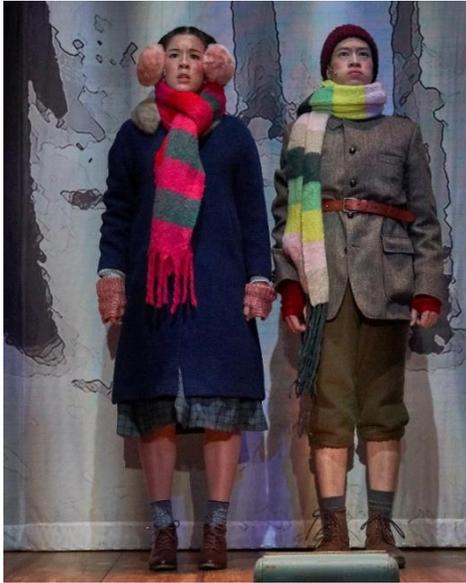


When Father came home that day, he was acting differently. Both him and Mother looked at each other and asked Gretel and Hansel to go out and play.

In this scene, both Mother and Father are puppets.



Gretel and Hansel put their ears to the front door to try and listen to what Mother and Father were discussing. But all they could hear were just a few outbursts and Mother's sobs.



Father and Mother then dressed Gretel and Hansel up in their warmest coats and scarves before heading out to the woods to collect firewood.



They found a clearing in the woods and Mother suggested that they stop to rest. Father chopped up some firewood and the children huddled around it to keep themselves warm. Using their thick coats as mattresses and pillows, they went to sleep.



When Gretel and Hansel awoke, Mother and Father were gone. Gretel knew that she had to be the bigger sibling and take care of Hansel. Together, they set off through the woods to find their way home together.

During this scene, Gretel and Hansel will walk around the auditorium and will need your help to get out of the woods!



As they were walking, Gretel and Hansel came across a house. They rejoiced thinking that it was their home until the door opened and an old woman greeted them.



The old woman spoke sweetly and asked Gretel and Hansel to come in to have a nice, warm meal.

From this scene onwards, the actor playing Gretel also changes her facial expressions, gestures, body movements and voice to take on the role as the old woman.



Inside the old woman's house, she got ready a nice bed with pillows for both Gretel and Hansel.

That night, the children slept soundly.



Gretel awoke the next morning to Hansel's shouts. To her surprise, she found Hansel locked up in a cage with a big padlock in the front. Hansel told her that the old woman, who really was a witch, had locked him up.



Time passed, snowy and cold and Hansel was still locked up in the cage, while Gretel was left to do all the chores and feed Hansel.

In this scene, the actor playing Hansel will blow white pieces of paper over Gretel's head to give the impression of snow falling in winter.



Time passed, wet and rainy. Everyday, the witch will wake the children up and cry out “let’s have a look!” which meant that she wanted to check if Hansel was plump enough to be eaten.

In this scene, the actor playing Hansel will use a small water gun to spray water over Gretel’s head to give the impression of rain.



The witch liked boys who were nice and fat. Gretel had to constantly feed Hansel to fatten him up for the witch’s liking.



One day, the demands of the witch were just too much for Gretel to bear. Suddenly, a thought popped into her mind. What if she did what the Witch asked for and threw Hansel into the oven?



Gretel thought about it for very long. Should she push the witch into the oven? Or should it be Hansel? Why not both?



But then, something stirs in Gretel's heart. She realises without Hansel, there is no story. Without Hansel, she would not be the same.

Gretel plucks up her courage and with all her might, shoves the witch into the oven!



Gretel and Hansel celebrate and made their way out of the woods and back home together. They tell Mother all about their adventure and both Gretel and Hansel celebrate with their treasure basket filled with sweets!



At the end of the play, some people might clap loudly.

Clapping is a way to thank the actors for performing the show

When the clapping has stopped, the lights will get brighter.



This means the show is over it is time to leave the theatre.

We hope you've had an enjoyable time at the theatre, and we hope to see you again soon.