



# ENCHANTMENT THEATRE COMPANY

Adapted by Leslie Reidel, Jennifer Blatchley Smith & Landis Smith

**Director/Choreographer** Leslie Reidel

**Narrator** Susan Sweeney

**Composer** Andy Teirstein

**Lighting Design** Thomas C. Hase

**Scenic Design** James F. Pyne

**Mask & Puppet Design** Jonathan K. Becker

**Puppet Design** Ken Berman

**Special Effects** David Hearn

**Costume Design** Marla J. Jurglanis

**Technical Director** Rebecca Brissette

## THE ENSEMBLE

**Joseph Ahmed** Puppeteer, Goblin, Grandmother, Crow's Sweetheart, Robber, Reindeer

**Madison Bree Auch** Puppeteer, Goblin, Flower Witch, Princess, Robber Girl

**Leah Rose Holleran** Gerda, Puppeteer, Young Lady

**Scott McPheeters** Kai, Puppeteer, Young Man, Prince, Robber, Snowflake Guard

**Peter A. Smith** Puppeteer, Goblin, Crow, Robber, Old Woman/Shaman Woman, Snowflake Guard

## PROGRAM

*There will not be an intermission.*

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**Saturday, December 8 @ 10 AM**

**Saturday, December 8 @ 2 PM**

**Sunday, December 9 @ 1 PM**

Harold Prince Theatre



This production has been supported in part by the Wyncote Foundation, Independence Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

## PROGRAM NOTES

*The Snow Queen* is an original fairytale written in 1844 by the great Danish storyteller, Hans Christian Andersen. It tells the story of Gerda and Kai, who are devoted best friends and neighbors. One day, while Gerda and Kai are playing together, the wicked Snow Queen appears on her magic sleigh. Kai is at first frightened and then fascinated and she is able to spirit him away to her icy castle in the frozen north.

When Kai vanishes, Gerda begins a fantastic journey to find him and bring him home. At each new turn of the tale, she is tempted to stay where she is and not continue, because the quest is truly hard. But her love for Kai and her bravery always drives her on. Gerda meets a marvelous succession of characters on her journey that help her along the way. She is able to transcend each boundary, maturing and gaining more and more strength. The great power of the story lies in Gerda's willingness to save Kai, in spite of the perils she encounters. And save him she does, as her love melts the ice that has grown in his heart.

### **A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR LESLIE REIDEL**

#### **Beyond the Laughter and Tears**

The work of the Enchantment Theatre Company is transformational. We are committed to creating theatre pieces that shift the very nature and substance of both audience and performers. Like a good Frank Capra film or Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, our plays affirm that no life is inconsequential. This is obviously a worthy endeavor for a theatre company aiming at young audiences and that is certainly a major aspect of Enchantment Theatre Company's mission, but our goal is much larger than this. We are a family theatre and the family that we aim at is humankind. The fables that form the core of our repertoire are not simplistic tales leading to plastic happy endings. They are mini-epics, journeys of the body and spirit that lead to true growth and awareness. Our plays are neither tragedies nor comedies, but rather are akin to Shakespearean romances. Like *A Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*, *The Snow Queen* presents hasty acts that have great consequences. Like those plays, it is a story of trial and tribulation, self-denial and self-discovery, ultimately celebrating the power of love and forgiveness. Beyond the tears of tragedy and the laughter of comedy is the clear open space in which lives can be redeemed, rediscovered and reborn. Our romantic fables are committed to generating such a space with you, our gracious audience.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **THE ENSEMBLE**

#### **Joseph Ahmed** (Ensemble)

Joseph Ahmed is an interdisciplinary performance artist and teaching artist based in Philadelphia. He has taught for Enchantment's Arts in Education Program, the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theater, Theatre Horizon, Philadelphia School of Circus Arts and Shakespeare & Company. He is a member of the second cohort of Columbia University's Teacher's College Teaching Artist Certification Program (TCTAC). Ahmed is co-founder of interactive performance and game company Obvious Agency with collaborators Daniel Park and Arianna Gass. Their work has been self-produced, commissioned by Temple University, and fostered during a residency with the Barn Arts Collective.

#### **Madison Bree Auch** (Ensemble)

Madison Bree Auch graduated from The University of the Arts with a B.F.A. in musical theatre, and has since been working around Philadelphia as an actor, musician and teaching

artist. She has worked with the Arden Theatre Company (*A Year with Frog and Toad*, *The Secret Garden*, *Metamorphoses*), Theatre Exile (*Buzzer*), Philadelphia Theatre Company, Theatre Horizon (*A New Brain*) and the Walnut Street Theatre (*Jerry's Girls*). For Enchantment, she has played the title role in the symphony production of *Scheherazade*. Auch is so thankful to have played such a strong and intelligent heroine.

**Leah Rose Holleran** (Gerda)

Leah Rose Holleran is an actress, singer and dancer based out of Philadelphia who frequently works with Enchantment Theatre Company, most recently in the symphony production of *Scheherazade*. Her work includes film and theatre, as well as writing, teaching and training in the aerial circus arts. She has performed in Off-Broadway staged readings, at Philadelphia theatres including the Walnut Street Theatre and the Prince Theatre, and she spent three years on national tours with Enchantment. Holleran is a graduate of Muhlenberg College.

**Scott McPheeters** (Kai)

Scott McPheeters is a Philadelphia and Oakland-based performer, choreographer and educator. He co-directs dance and video installation company subcircle (subcircle.org), was the resident choreographer for Enchantment Theatre Company from 2012-2017, and performs regularly with Nichole Canuso Dance Company and his duet partner Gina Hoch-Stall. Currently, he lives in Oakland and is pursuing an M.F.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts from Sierra Nevada College in Tahoe. In 2016, McPheeters was the recipient of a Barrymore Award (Best Lead Actor in a Musical) for his portrayal of Candy Darling in the Opera Philadelphia and the Bearded Ladies Cabaret collaboration, *ANDY: A Popera*.

**Peter A. Smith** (Ensemble)

Peter A. Smith started working for Enchantment Theatre Company in 2010, traveling the country with four national tours including *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *The Velveteen Rabbit* and *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales*. With Enchantment, Smith has also performed local Philadelphia runs of *The Snow Queen* and *The Beast in the Bayou*. In Philadelphia, he works as a theatre technician, circus instructor and physical performer. Smith sends his love to his family and friends for endless opportunities and support.

**STAFF AND COLLABORATORS**

**Leslie Reidel** (Artistic Director-Resident Director)

Leslie Reidel has dedicated the last 30 years of his professional life to both the preservation of classical theatre and the development of young audiences, and has directed all of Enchantment Theatre Company's productions. He holds a bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College and an M.F.A. from Temple University. He served as a member of the M.F.A. faculty at Temple University and was a founding member of the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Delaware. His most recent creations with Enchantment Theatre Company include *Peter Rabbit Tales*, *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales* and *Ravel's Mother Goose*. Reidel is professor of theatre at the University of Delaware and a director at the professional REP Company. He is also a frequent guest lecturer on "Acting Shakespeare" at theatre training programs across the country, and is a member of The International Shakespeare Conference located in Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Jennifer Blatchley Smith** (Artistic Director-Literary & Education)

Jennifer Blatchley Smith studied writing and theatre at Bennington College. For the last 36 years, she has co-created and performed in 20 original productions that have been presented across the United States and abroad. As a founding member of Enchantment Theatre Company, Blatchley Smith has created roles as diverse as the Broom in *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* to Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast*. She has performed in Enchantment

productions at Lincoln Center and the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York; the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; and the Annenberg Center, the Kimmel Center and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, and she has traveled to Asia six times with Enchantment. Her most recent roles have been in Enchantment's symphonic productions of *The Firebird*, *Scheherazade* and *Mother Goose*. Her recent Enchantment creations are *The Adventures of Harold* and *the Purple Crayon*, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales*, *Peter Rabbit Tales* and *My Father's Dragon*.

**Landis Smith** (Artistic Director-Production)

Landis Smith studied theatre at Carnegie Mellon University and Webster University Conservatory in St. Louis. His love of theatre, music and the art of illusion led to the founding of Enchantment Theatre Company in 1979. As a founder and performer with Enchantment, Smith has created, produced and performed in productions across America. In 1985, Enchantment collaborated with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra to premiere *The Symphony and the Sorcerer*, the first of a series of programs introducing young people to the magic of symphonic music. Since then, Smith has appeared with major orchestras across North America, including the premiere of Enchantment's theatrical adaptation of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* with The Cleveland Orchestra in 2008 and the premiere of *Mother Goose* with the Atlanta Symphony in 2013. He has also performed in Enchantment symphonic productions of *The Firebird*, *Cinderella* and *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. He has toured in Asia six times with Enchantment, performing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

**Jonathan K. Becker** (Mask and Puppet Designer)

Jonathan K. Becker began sculpting masks 20 years ago while living and studying in Paris, France. His masks have been seen in six of Enchantment's productions as well as in productions throughout the United States. As a performer, Becker has toured Europe, Asia and the U.S. He toured with Enchantment Theatre Company from 1996-1999.

**Ken Berman** (Puppet Designer)

Ken Berman is the founder of his own puppetry troupe, Dramaton Theater. Since 1998, Dramaton Theater has been performing Berman's original avant-garde puppet shows geared towards adult audiences in theatres, festivals and cabarets all over the northeast. He studied at University of Connecticut's Puppetry Arts Program, and he is a freelance designer and builder for puppetry and theatrical props.

**Thomas C. Hase** (Lighting Designer)

Thomas C. Hase's work in the United States includes: Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera, BAM, Seattle Opera, The Minnesota Opera, The Goodspeed Opera, The Skylight Opera Theater, The Portland Opera, New Orleans Opera, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Center Stage Theatre, Alliance Theatre, The Dallas Theatre Center, The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Maine State Music Theater. He designed John Doyle's *Company* on Broadway to national critical acclaim. Internationally his work includes: The Canadian Opera Company, The Dutch National Opera, The Finnish National Opera, Opera de Marseille, The Columbian National Opera, Staatstheater Kassel, Theater Erfurt, The Bavarian State Opera, The Irish National Theatre, The Vancouver Opera, Opera North, UK and over 100 designs for theatre, opera and ballet at Germany's Stadttheater Giessen. He premiered Philip Glass' new opera *Waiting for the Barbarians* at Theater Erfurt in Germany and Amsterdam as well as the blockbuster European revival of *The Wiz* for Stage Holdings in Holland. As Ping Chong's lighting designer, his design for *Deshima* earned an American Theater Wing Design Award nomination and his recent design for Meredith Monk's science fiction chamber opera *Magic Frequencies* recently toured internationally. Concurrent with his many freelance projects, Hase is the resident lighting designer and director for the Cincinnati Opera and a principal designer for The People's Light and Theatre Company, Cincinnati Ballet and Stadttheater Giessen.

**David Hearn** (Special Effects Design and Construction)

David Hearn has always enjoyed making gadgets and building beautiful objects. He has worked as a teacher of technical theatre, and in professional theatre as a mechanic, builder, craftsman and problem solver. As an expert in the Peter Foy organization, he has made Peter Pan, angels, and various other creatures take flight in theatres all over the globe. Hearn has worked miracles for Enchantment Theatre Company. He has collaborated with the company for over 25 years to create and build many original illusions and theatrical effects. Without him, none of the magic would be possible.

**Marla J. Jurglanis** (Costume Designer)

Marla J. Jurglanis is Resident Costume Designer at People's Light. In the past 20 years, Jurglanis has designed costumes for over 70 productions, including *He Held Me Grand*, *The Dreaming of Aloysius*, *Playhouse Creatures*, The 2001 Outside the Box Festival, *Book of Days*, *The Memory of Water*, *Hearts: The Forward Observer*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *The Road to Mecca*, *Sally's Gone*, *She Left Her Name*, *As You Like It*, *More Grimm Tales*, *Fishes*, *A Perfect Ganesh*, *Grimm Tales*, *The Life of Galileo*, *Misalliance*, *Peter Pan*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *The Short Stuff Festivals*, *Oedipus* and *The Persians*. Jurglanis' designs have also been seen at The Arden, Philadelphia Theatre Company, AMTF, The Fulton Opera House, Alliance Theatre Company, George Street Playhouse and Swarthmore College. She is also the Resident Costume Designer at Delaware Theatre Company.

**Rebecca Brissette** (Technical Director)

Rebecca Brissette is originally from Rhode Island. She is a 2015 graduate of Temple University, where she worked as a Production Assistant at the Temple Performing Arts Center, working on calls for *Berenstain Bears Live*, *TEDx Philadelphia* and *MTV's Girl Code/Guy Code: Battle of the Sexes Live*. Brissette created lighting design for Faith City Church's 2015 Easter services broadcasted on Trinity Broadcast Network. She has worked for Quintessence Theatre Group (Assistant Master Electrician), Fail Better Productions (Lighting Designer/ Master Electrician) and Group Motion Multimedia Dance Theater (Lighting Designer) and the ETC Performance Series (Lighting Designer) in Philadelphia. She has had the pleasure of joining Enchantment Theatre Company on their North American tours of *Peter Rabbit Tales* (Substitute Technical Director), *My Father's Dragon* (Technical Director) and *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Technical Director/Stage Manager). Most recently, she worked as the Assistant Master Electrician for the Opera Center of the Aspen Music Festival and School in Aspen, CO.

**James F. Pyne, Jr.** (Scenic Designer)

James F. Pyne, Jr. is Director of Design at People's Light. In his 31 years with People's Light, Pyne has created sets and/or lights for over 200 productions including *He Held Me Grand*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Playhouse Creatures*, *Book of Days*, *Hearts: The Forward Observer*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *A Village Fable*, *The Road to Mecca*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Sally's Gone*, *She Left Her Name*, *As You Like It*, *More Grimm Tales*, *Fishes*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, *Abundance*, *Arabian Nights*, *Hush: An Interview With America*, *The Life of Galileo*, *Peter Pan*, *Sister Carrie* and *The Persians*. Pyne has received 10 Barrymore nominations for Outstanding Scenic and Lighting Design, and is twice a Barrymore winner for Outstanding Scenic Design for *The Life of Galileo* in 1996 and *The Merchant of Venice* in 2002. He has also designed scenery for the Arden's productions of *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Sweeney Todd*, *A Little Night Music*, *Henry V*, *Hedda Gabler* and *Private Lives*, and recently designed *Uncle Vanya* for Villanova University and *Grimm Tales* for The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis.

**Susan Sweeney** (Narrator)

Susan Sweeney has performed the narrations for all of Enchantment's major productions over the past 10 years. She has been a professional voice/speech/text/dialect coach for 25 years, working for such theatre companies as Baltimore Center Stage, Virginia Stage Company, Jujamcyn Theatres/Dodger Productions, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Skylight

Opera, Walnut Street Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, Guthrie Theater, and the Illinois, Colorado, Utah and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals. She teaches voice and speech for the University of Wisconsin at Madison and is the resident Voice and Text Coach for American Players Theatre in Spring Green, WI.

### **Andy Teirstein** (Composer)

Andy Teirstein studied music composition with Leonard Bernstein, Henry Brant and Stephen Sondheim. This is his fourth collaboration with Enchantment Theatre Company, after *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella* and *Pinocchio*. Honors include three awards from the NEA, several Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust Awards, a Meet the Composer Commission, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, a MacDowell Fellowship, a Richard Rogers Development Award, and numerous ASCAP awards. Teirstein has written scores for several PBS and BBC films. He was an original cast member of the Broadway musical hit, *Barnum*. His CD *Mannahatta* was featured on WNYC's New Sounds program, and his viola concerto *Maramures*, recorded by the Prague Radio Symphony, was released on Masterworks Recordings. He has composed music for Donald Byrd's *The Beast*, Stephen Petronio's *Drawn That Way* and Chris Elam's *Throw People*, and has scored, arranged and/or directed a number of musical theatre pieces, including *Papushko*, *Winter Man* and *The Wild*. Commissions include the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival and the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. Teirstein was also commissioned by the Composer's Forum to write an original composition for symphony orchestra and choir for Washington State Millennium Concert. He is currently on the faculty of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

### **ENCHANTMENT THEATRE COMPANY'S MISSION**

Enchantment Theatre Company's mission is to inspire children to dream, explore, think and connect through imaginative storytelling onstage and in the classroom.

They bring stories to life in a way that encourages children to dream about who they are and may become, to explore a story from different perspectives, to think using inductive reasoning and to connect to other people and ideas. Their programs encourage children to question and explore how to live in a complex world so that they grow up healthier, smarter and kinder.

### **ABOUT ENCHANTMENT THEATRE COMPANY**

Enchantment Theatre Company has produced original theatre for school groups and families since 2000, when it was established as a non-profit arts organization in Philadelphia. The company presents only original work based on classic stories from children's literature, using its signature blend of masked actors, pantomime, magic, large-scale puppets and original music. Building on the more than 30 years of theatrical experience of its artistic directors, Enchantment has quickly become known for high quality imaginative productions, not only in its home city but throughout the United States, Canada and Asia.

Enchantment has toured its original productions all over the world, appearing each year in more than 30-40 states. It has performed in such sophisticated urban arts venues as Lincoln Center in New York and the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, as well as in small town high school auditoriums and even performance tents. In Philadelphia, Enchantment has appeared at the Kimmel Center and the Annenberg Center. The company has toured in Asia six times, performing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Enchantment has also shared the stage with more than 65 orchestras nationwide in its special symphonic works that pair great stories with great music for the benefit of school and family audiences. Learn more at [enchantmenttheatre.org](http://enchantmenttheatre.org).