



Hansel & Grettel Visual Story

RUNNING TIME – 2 hours, including a 20 minute interval.

This visual story has been created for children, young people and adults with autism, communication and other learning disabilities.



Welcome to The North Wall!

You are coming to see a play called Hansel & Grettel.



When you arrive you will come into the foyer and see the bar and the Ticket Office.

There will be ushers there to check your tickets.

It may be busy and you may have to wait your turn.

The foyer is quite a big space and it is where you wait to be invited into the theatre.

There is a bar at the foyer where you can buy hot and cold drinks, ice cream, crisps, and sweets. You may have to queue at the bar, but that is okay as there is plenty of time.

There is space to stand and have a drink or snack and an exhibition you can look at.



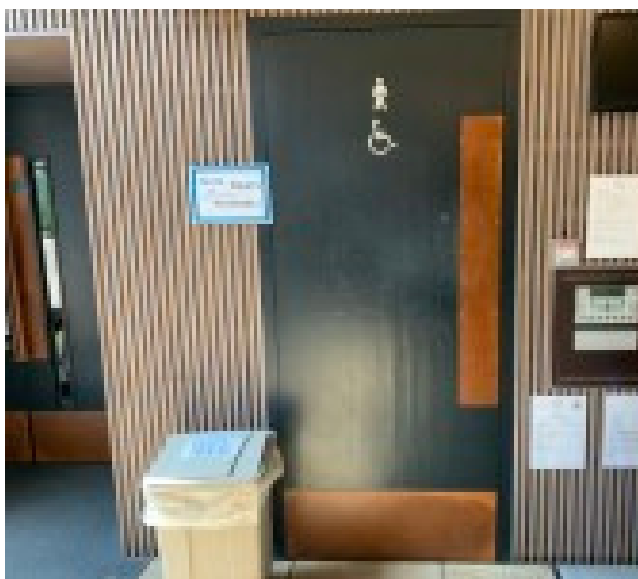


Ushers are there to help you find your seat and answer any questions you may have. They are very friendly. Make sure to say hello!

It can sometimes be noisy. We have ear defenders available to borrow if you would like to wear them.

Speak to an usher to borrow them.

The ushers will tell you when you are allowed to go into the theatre to watch the show.



The boy's toilets and a toilet which is accessible are downstairs in the foyer.

You can use them if you need to while you are visiting The North Wall.





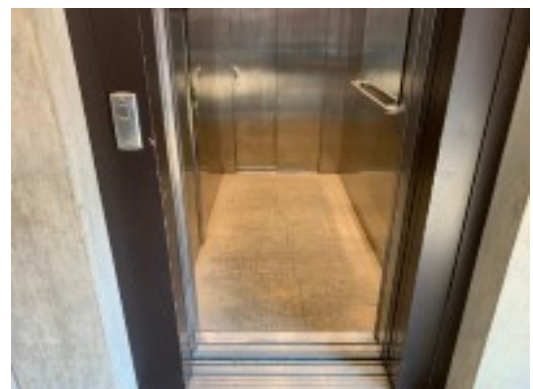
The girl's toilets are upstairs.

You can use them if you need to while you are visiting The North Wall.



There are stairs and a lift you can use if you're sat upstairs in the gallery or if you need to use the girl's toilets.

There are also some tables and chairs in the foyer upstairs if you wanted to sit down before the show.





When you go inside the theatre, there will be lots of seats and an usher will show you and your parent or carer where you are sitting.

There are numbers on the floor that will help them to find the right seats.

There won't be anyone on the stage when you enter the theatre space.

Only the actors are allowed to climb on the stage and touch the set. The audience must stay in their seats.

When the show is going to start the lights will change and there will be music playing.





There are 6 main actors in this play, and they play lots of different characters.

They will change character and costumes very quickly.

To help you hear them when they sing, they will wear microphones. Sometimes you will be able to see them on their face.

The actors are very close to the audience. Sometimes they will walk down the stairs off the stage and walk through where the audience sit. Sometimes they talk to the audience and this is ok.

The actors are sometimes on the stage or in the balcony above the stage.

During the show it is good to be quiet so you can hear everything.

There will be music and noise during the show. Sometimes it may be loud. We have ear defenders available and if you would like to wear them talk to an usher to borrow them. If you would like to go out into the foyer at any point this is fine to do so. There is a TV screen there and you can watch on this if you need to.

Sometimes the actors will sing and dance as they tell you the story.

Act One:

The show starts with The Witch and The Witches of Winter (who are the Youth Chorus) singing a song called Tempus Fugit.

Tempus Fugit is Latin and means 'time flies'.

The Witch and the Youth Chorus are in black cloaks with hoods and can look a bit scary - this is ok though - they are just acting and singing a song.



This is a picture of The Witch so you know what to expect. In real life, she is very lovely and not scary at all. In the show she wears dark glasses as she can't see very well.

Her face is painted with make up to make her look more witchy. She wears black gloves and black clothes.

Then we meet Hansel & Grettel who have been walking in the woods.

They also have make up on their faces.

They are late home and are talking about how they forgot the time and need to go and see their mum and dad. It's winter in the show and dark.

They hear some noises in the woods. When you hear these noises they are just sound effects made from our sound desk.

They make a trail of stones that lead them back home.





We then meet Gregory Peck who has been watching Hansel & Grettel. Gregory is a bird and has make up on his face. He is wearing clothes that make him look like a magpie. He collects shiny things just like magpies in real life except that he keeps them on the inside of his jacket.

Gregory is the narrator of the story and will pop up to sing a song and let you know what is happening. So it's good to listen to what he says.

Gregory and the witches sing a song at this moment of the show.



Then we meet Avis and Hertz who are the mum and dad in the show. They were worried about where Hansel & Grettel were and are pleased that they are home and safe.

They are worried about the witches that might come now it's winter and the Winter Moon is shining. When the Winter Moon comes out, it can wake up the witches. Their leader, The Witch, can only become strong if she eats children! This is only in the story and isn't real. The witches can put people into trances - a bit like if you are sleeping - so they can trick the parents into giving up their children to the witches.

When they sing the song 'A World Without Children', Avis and Hertz keep going in and out of a trance.

The next scene is on the balcony above the stage and Hansel & Grettel are in their bedroom.

Their parents have gone whilst in the trance that the witches put them in. It's a bit like a magic spell.

They talk about witches only being in fairy tales and for them it's real life.



Grettel really likes to read books and uses lots of big words in the show. She always explains what they mean afterwards. See if you can listen out for them and if you can guess what she means.

Hansel & Grettel are feeling a bit sad and alone and sing a song about staying safe together inside the house. They tuck themselves into bed. Then Hansel makes a wish - the lights go off and there is an echo of his wish around the stage. Gregory, who has been watching, says 'Did I just hear someone make a wish?' and then starts singing 'The Wish Song' which is all about making wishes come true. The Youth Chorus come back on stage to sing the song with Gregory.



Hansel & Grettel's parents come back and are confused as to where they were - they think they had a strange dream. The Witch comes up to the balcony and sings a bit more of 'A World Without Children'. Avis and Hertz go back under the spell.

Hansel & Grettel realise that they can't trust their parents whilst they are under the magic spell of the witches. Their parents encourage them to take a walk in the woods (where the witches are hiding out). Hansel takes a loaf of bread to make a trail so they will know how to get home again when it is safe.

They are alone in the woods but know that their parents were tricked and it wasn't their fault.



They had been putting bread crumbs down to make a trail but the crumbs were disappearing.

They then meet Gregory Peck who has been eating the breadcrumbs because he is a bird!

We then meet the other birds in the show - Florence Nightingale and Francis Drake. Their flock also includes the Youth Chorus who are all different birds too. The birds are all funny and they are trying to help Hansel & Grettel and keep them safe.

There is a moment when Francis Drake, who thought he was an owl, realises he is a duck and they sing a song about how it doesn't matter what you call yourself as everyone is the same underneath their skin (or feathers).



The birds help Hansel & Grettel by giving them a Magic Wand, or maybe it's just a stick! What do you think?

Then they hear the call of The Witch again somewhere in the distance.



Hansel & Gretel decide to stay overnight in the forest. They sing a song about feeling lost and alone but they will look after each other.

Gregory, as the narrator, sings a song about the witch getting closer. Hansel & Gretel then realise that they are on the edge of a lake and are very lost. They run off stage.



Lots of things happen now as Hansel & Gretel run around trying to find a way home. The Witch comes onto the balcony and there is a smell of sweets in the air - The Witch is trying to entice Hansel & Gretel to come to her house. Hansel & Gretel are very hungry so they follow the smell.

The Youth Chorus (as witches) and The Witch sing from the balcony.

The children are helped by Dr Frog (who lives by the lake). He tells them to hop on board his boat to cross the lake. The Witch does a final big cackle and then it's the end of Act One.



Interval

At this point, the lights will come up and we will have a short break called the interval for 20 minutes.

You may like to have a drink or go to the toilet during this time or you can stay in your seat.

If you go out to the foyer, an usher will tell you when the show is going to start again or they might ring a bell which means it's time to sit down again.

Act Two

The lights will go down again and you will see Hansel & Grettel on a boat with Dr Frog who sings a song about relaxing and going with the flow!

Dr Frog drops them off at the other side of the lake. The Witch's call is getting more frequent and you hear her singing more as if she is encouraging the children to her. They discover her house and it's made of sweets and chocolate (not really - we are just pretending it is in the story).



They go into the house - at this point all the lights will go off and it will be quite dark. This is ok as it's part of the show. When you see a light again, it is being carried by Garry the Goblin. Garry is The Witch's servant and he can't talk. He is very funny though - if you watch his body language, sometimes he does silly things.

Garry tricks the children and they end up being locked up in the house.



The Witch enters as well as the Youth Chorus who are dressed up like chefs! They sing a song about eating children!

The Witch releases Grettel and puts her in a trance. Grettel is the one who can open the Book of Spells. The Witch needs to perform a spell to become powerful again.

Gregory is watching everything from a safe place and The Witch doesn't know he is there.



Dr Frog enters the house to try and help and the interruption causes Grettel to come out of her trance. She pretends to still be under the spell for now though.

The Witch tries to get preparations underway for her spell and the Youth Chorus come back on to the balcony dressed as the coven of witches.

There is lots of singing and spell casting.

Gregory enters the house now to also try and help the children.



The Witch calls Hansel to her to see if he is ready to eat.....this is where you can see if the magic wand is useful!

Gregory tells the children that they need to get The Book of Spells as it needs to be destroyed.

The Book of Spells is thrown into the fire but this doesn't stop The Witch who goes in after it.

At this point Hansel makes a wish and everyone realises how to stop The Witch. They close the door to the oven and there are lots of lights and noises.

Garry is now free from being a servant and there is a power cut in the show. This is meant to happen and the lights will go back on soon.





Hansel & Grettel make their way back home and reunite with their parents.

In the final scene, it appears that Garry has taken the burnt Book of Spells from the oven and gives an evil laugh!

This is the end of the play. The actors will come back onstage for the curtain call. This is when they will bow. You can clap to show them how much you enjoyed the show. Other people will be clapping too.

The actors then will do an extra dance and song routine called The Megamix where they will sing all the songs that have been in the play. They will go off stage and clap - they may try and give you a high five if you are close enough. It's very fun and the audience can clap along too.

When the actors have left the stage, the lights will get brighter. This is the end of the show and you can leave the theatre.

We hope you enjoyed seeing Hansel & Grettel.

We would love to hear what you thought of the show. Please email admin@creationtheatre.co.uk to let us know what you enjoyed!

