



Script and Instructions

# HANSEL & GRETEL

Written by Clive Hicks-Jenkins  
After the brothers Grimm

## Curtain up

### Scene 1: Outside the Woodcutter's House (Backcloth 1)

*Enter the Woodcutter and his Wife.*

**Wife:** Husband, our children went out to fetch berries an hour ago. Where can they be?

**Woodcutter:** The naughty scamps have probably just lost track of time. Don't worry my dear. They'll come home as soon as they get hungry.

**Wife:** But it's getting dark. How will they find their way?

*Exit the Woodcutter and his Wife.*

### Scene 2: The Forest (Backcloth 2 and Cut-Cloth 1)

*Enter Hansel and Gretel.*

**Gretel:** Hansel, we've been walking for ages and there's still no sign of home. I think we're lost.

**Hansel:** We should try to rest under these trees until it's light.

**Gretel:** But poor Mamma and Papa will be so worried about us.

**Hansel:** They know we're together and that we'll look after each other. Tomorrow, in the daylight, we'll find our way home and all will be well.

**Gretel:** I suppose so, though I don't like the idea of spending a night here. The forest is supposed to be haunted. I'm sure I've heard something following us. I think we should keep moving.

*Hansel and Gretel exit.*

*Enter two Tree Monsters from the opposite side of the stage.*

**Tree 1:** Our mistress will be pleased that we've found these children lost in the forest. We must make certain they don't escape her clutches.

**Tree 2:** No fear of that. Her house is not far away now and they're sure to want to nibble on it. I heard them talking about how hungry they are. They won't be able to resist. Ha ha ha!

**Tree 1:** True. Their fingers will soon be sticky with sugar. Little children are so greedy. Hurry, let's be sure to see the fun.

*The Tree Monsters exit, laughing.*

### Scene 3: 'Hansel & Gretel' Curtain

*Enter the Woodcutter and his Wife.*

**Woodcutter:** *(Calling)* Hansel, Gretel. Where are you?

**Wife:** Oh my poor, poor babies. Whatever has become of them? *(Sobbing)*

**Woodcutter:** We should go home. They'll most likely be there waiting for us and wondering where their supper is. Come along, take my arm and I'll lead you back.

*They exit.*

### Scene 4: The Witch's House in the Forest (Backcloth 3)

*Enter Hansel and Gretel.*

**Hansel:** Oh Gretel, look at that pretty house covered in icing-sugar. I'm quite sure I can smell gingerbread!

**Gretel:** And there are sugar canes too. Do you think that whoever lives here would mind very much if we ate just a few of them?

**Hansel:** I'm so hungry I'm quite sure I could eat the whole house!

*Enter the Cat.*

**Cat:** Miaow, miaow, miaow.

**Gretel:** What a dear little puss. She's very friendly. Look, Hansel, she wants us to follow her. She's scampering off. *(Calling.)* Wait for us puss!

*Hansel & Gretel exit together. Moments later the two Tree Monsters cross the stage, following the children.*

## Scene 5: Open Window of Gingerbread House (Cut-cloth 3 and Cut-Cloth 2)

*Enter Hansel and Gretel.*

**Gretel:** Puss jumped through the open window. She must live here.

**Hansel:** I've never seen so many cakes, biscuits and sweets. I want to live in a house like this when I grow up. I'll just eat a little corner of this one, where no-one will notice.

**Witch:** *(Appearing in the window)* Nibble, nibble mousekin, who's nibbling at my housekin? Why hello my pretties. You look tired and hungry. Come in and have some jelly and custard.

**Hansel:** Might we just have a biscuit or two and some sugar-cane to take with us on the journey home? Our parents will be worried if we don't get back soon.

**Witch:** *(Entering from the side of the stage)* I'm afraid that going home is quite out of the question. There will be no going home for you any more, because I am going to set your sister to work as my servant, while you, my plump little piggy-wig, are going to be cooked in a nice stew! *(Calling off-stage)* Come my henchmen, take these two into the house and cage the boy. I'll fatten him up a little more before I eat him.

*The Tree Monsters lumber on. Together with the Witch they advance on the children, herding them off-stage.*

## Scene 6: Inside the Witch's House (Backcloth 5)

*Hansel is in a cage. Two Gingerbread Men stand guard. The Witch enters.*

**Witch:** No chance for escape my little man, not with my gingerbread friends here keeping an eye on you. I've set your sister the task of getting the stove nice and hot. It won't be long now before I'll be sitting down to a lovely plate of Stew a la Hansel! Ha ha ha!

**Hansel:** You wicked creature. I hope you choke on me!

**Witch:** Now don't be a bad loser. I'm a wicked witch and I have to be true to my nature. You like to eat cake, but I like to eat meat, and you're my next meal. Now where is that girl? She needs to get the casserole dish greased and hot.

*Enter Gretel.*

**Gretel:** If you please, Miss Witch, I can't tell whether the oven is hot enough. Could you come and check it for me?

**Witch:** Foolish child! How difficult can it be to check the temperature of an oven? You open the door and look inside. Has your mother taught you nothing?

**Gretel:** I'm sorry. But if you just showed me once, I'd be sure to know better next time.

**Witch:** Oh, very well then. And while I sort this out, you Gingerbread Men can go and pick some potatoes from the garden to go with the stew.

*Exit Gingerbread Men and Witch.*

**Gretel:** *(Whispering to Hansel)* Hansel, here's the key. Let yourself out and be quick about it!

**Witch:** *(Shouting from off-stage)* Girl, get yourself here, quicksticks!

**Gretel:** *(As she exits)* Coming Miss Witch.

## Scene 8: The Forest (Backcloth 2)

*Hansel and Gretel are centre stage on the back of a duck. It jiggles slightly, to indicate swimming.*

**Hansel:** How kind of this friendly duck to give us a ride on its back. We'll be home in no time.

**Gretel:** I can't wait to see Mamma and Papa. They must have been so worried about us.

**Hansel:** How surprised they'll be when we tell them about the Witch.

**Gretel:** She was quite the most horrid person I've ever met.

**Hansel:** And they'll be so pleased to know that we found her treasure, and brought it with us.

*The duck moves forward to reveal the treasure chest, jiggling a little as it floats behind.*

**Hansel:** And can we tell Mamma and Papa what you did to the Witch?

**Gretel:** (*Pausing for thought*) I think it would be better if we didn't.

**Hansel:** We wouldn't want them to worry.

**Gretel:** My thoughts exactly.

**Hansel:** So, home in time for supper.

**Gretel:** I don't know about you, but I'm starving.

**Hansel:** Me too. Though I hope it's not stew!

*They both laugh.*

## **The End**

### **End Curtain (Gingerbread Men Dancing)**

*Music plays while the cast members take a curtain call. The stars always come on last so the characters should enter in this order:*

***Tree Monsters***

***Gingerbread Men***

***The Woodcutter and his Wife***

***The Witch and her Cat***

***Hansel and Gretel on the Duck***

# Assembly Instructions for the Hansel & Gretel Model Theatre

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## Tools and Materials:

It really pays to have the right tools for the job, so it's better to gather what's required before starting. You will need:

1. A craft scalpel or a pair of small, sharp scissors. (I find the nail type of scissors best for getting around small shapes.)
2. A steel ruler and a bradawl for scoring straight lines.
3. PVA or wood glue and a small foil tray to squeeze it into.
4. A small spatula for applying the glue. (Those wooden or plastic spatulas that come with individual ice-cream tubs are perfect.)
5. If using a scalpel rather than scissors, you will need a cutting mat.
6. A black fibre-tip pen.
7. A pencil.
8. An A4 sheet of white or black craft-card to make the strips to work the characters on the stage.

## Cutting:

Some of the sheets have multiple elements - characters, scenery and parts of the theatre. It's best to first separate the characters from the sheets and set them aside for careful cutting individually. This way you won't accidentally damage them when cutting out the stage and scenic elements.

## Scoring and Folding:

Use the steel rule and the bradawl for scoring before folding. There's no need to press too hard. Light pressure will do the trick. All the scoring for this model follows the lines shown on the printed side of the cards, and the folds will be made away from you.

## Gluing:

Always fold and check how the elements fit together before applying glue. Squeeze some glue into a foil tray and then use the spatula to apply exactly where you need it.

## Finishing:

Use the fibre-tip pen to darken the cut edges of your stage, scenery and characters. This is a bit fiddly but it will give a really professional finish to your model. You may find it easier to use the side of the fibre-tip than the point. A good tip is to hold any cut piece with the print side away from you as you work, as this way you will be less likely to get ink where you don't want it.

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**Follow the alphanumeric order of the pieces (A1, A2, B6, B7 etc).**

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## Sheet A

This is the Proscenium Arch of the theatre.  
Cut it out carefully and ink the cut edges.



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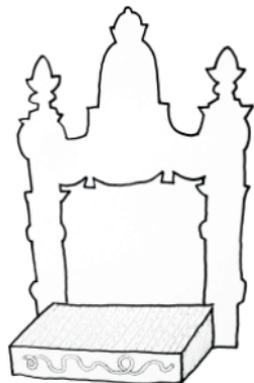
## Sheet B

This is the Stage. Cut out the shape and place it flat, printed-side up. Using the steel ruler and the bradawl, score along the four sides of the planked stage and along the fold-lines of the white tabs at each corner. Fold it away from you to make a platform shape. Apply glue to one of the corner tabs and secure it in position behind its adjoining Stage panel, pinching together until the glue sets. Repeat with each of the tabs until you have a Stage platform.



## Sheet B continued

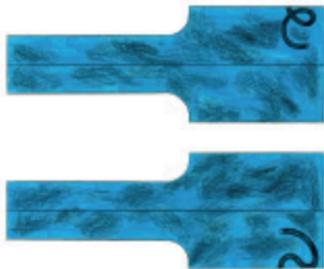
Take the Stage and position the Proscenium Arch in front of it. The Stage is slightly wider than the Proscenium's aperture and you should position it centrally with the blank side behind the bottom strip of the Proscenium. Use a pencil to mark where the edges of the stage platform sit behind the Arch. Apply glue to the front panel of the Stage and secure it using the pencil marks to guide you. Hold it in place until the glue sets.



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## Sheet C

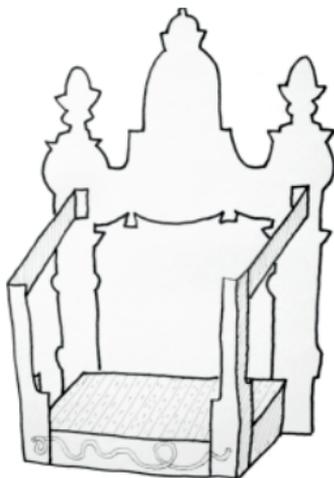
These are the Stage Supports and Side Strips. Cut out the four parts and use the fibre-tip to ink the cut edges. Place the cut pieces flat, printed-side up, ready to score the folds. The larger pieces have a central fold-line marked. Using the steel ruler score these and fold them away from you. Also score the white tabs at either end of the two small strips and fold away from you.



The large Supports locate on the back corners of the Stage platform. A partial design on each of them wraps over, to match the design printed on the back panel of the platform. Glue and attach and repeat with the second Support.



The two Side-Strips with folds at either end stabilise the structure, and they run horizontally from the tops of the Stage Supports to the back of the Proscenium Arch. Take one strip and check how it fits before folding and gluing the tab at one end to the top of its Stage Support. After the glue has dried, repeat with the second strip on the opposite side of the stage. Once both strips are secure at one end, attach the folded tabs at the other ends to the back of the Proscenium Arch. Mark with a pencil where they fit before gluing.



Your model Hansel & Gretel Theatre is now complete and ready for its scenery and characters.

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## Sheets D, E and F

These are printed with Backcloths and Cut-Cloths. Remove the characters from the sheets before cutting out the scenery. The sheets are printed on both sides so that the Cloths are reversible. Ink around the cut edges. The scenery hangs from the Side-Strips of the stage.





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## Characters:

Cut out all the characters. This task requires care, so don't hurry it. Afterwards, ink the edges of them. Each character has a white tab running along the bottom. That must be scored and folded back. Cut thin strips of craft card to use as sliders. Glue each Character tab to a slider so that you will be able to move the characters from the wings when they are on stage.



THE  
THEATRE ROYAL  
JURY LANE

OF  
PANTOMIME

HANSEL  
& GRETEL

