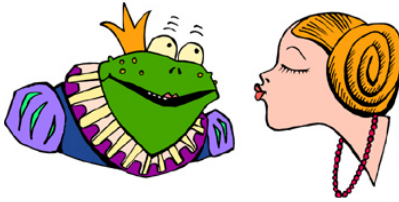


Town Hall Theatre's



FROG PRINCE

Educational Guide
Brittany Hinkle, Education Director

ABOUT THE PLAY

The Frog Prince is one of the Grimm brothers' most famous tales. A prince becomes lost in the woods and runs into an evil enchantress who quickly falls in love with him! She is angered by his refusal to promise to marry her so she turns him into a frog! Only one thing can turn him back to his princely self; a kiss from a maiden! The froggy prince would rather that the beautiful princess kiss him instead of the horrible enchantress, but he has a big problem-the princess is very spoiled and conceited (as these fairy tale princesses tend to be!) and may not be able to be convinced to kiss... A FROG!

ABOUT THE AUTHORS The Brothers Grimm-



Jacob Carl Grimm was born in January 4, 1785, in Hanau, Germany. Just over a year later, in February 24, 1786, his little brother **Wilhelm Carl Grimm** was born. Their father was a lawyer and they had six brothers and one sister.

In 1802, Jacob went to university to study law at the University of Marburg. As always, his little brother followed him, and entered law school in 1803. During their university years they began to collect folk and fairy tales. *Folklore* is stories that have been passed down from parents to children, by word of mouth, but at that time many had not been published in books. The Grimm's were especially interested in stories that included Germany and German culture.

Jacob and Wilhelm published their first book of fairy tales – “Children’s and Household Tales” - in 1812. There were 86 folktales. Readers were so happy to see the stories they had been told as children all collected together that the book was a success. In the next volume of “Grimm’s Fairy Tales”, the brothers added 70 more stories. It went on growing like this for six more editions.

Finally, the book contained over 200 stories! It is probably the best-known work of German literature. Even if you don't know the Brothers Grimm, you definitely know a Grimm fairy tale.

Grimm fairy tales include stories of kings, magic, and talking animals. Even though the stories are sometimes scary, fairy tales allow us to work through our fears. They often teach us a lesson about moral values, and right and wrong.

PRE-PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE SPECIFIC VOCABULARY

(As listed in Merriam-Webster Dictionary, <http://www.m-w>)

Jealous-To feel mean resentment toward a rival or competitor.

Gorgeous- Having an impressive beauty.

Handsome- Having a pleasing and usually impressive or dignified appearance.

Wizard- A person skilled in magic.

Reject- To refuse to admit, believe, or receive

Conceited- Having or showing too high an opinion of oneself

Promise- A statement by a person that he or she will or will not do something

Ballet- An art form that uses dancing to tell a story or express a theme

Ruffian- A brutal person, a bully

Despised- to consider as beneath one's notice or respect

THEATRE VOCABULARY LIST

(As listed in the Stage One educational tools website, www.stageone.com)

Acting: pretending to be a character.

Beginning, Middle, End: Three parts of a story.

Characters: A person portrayed in a drama, novel or artistic piece.

Conflict: The struggle between the opposing forces, ideas or interests in a play.

Courage: The spirit that enable one to face danger and fear with confidence and resolution, bravery.

Dialogue: A conversation that takes place between two or more characters that expresses thoughts, feelings and actions.

Facial Expression: The manner in which an actor uses his or her face to portray an emotion.

Improvisation: Using a character to express thoughts and feeling or to act out a scenario without prior rehearsals.

Movement: How the actor uses his or her body to create a character.

Plot/Storyline: The action of the story, the development of the story, has a beginning, middle and end.

Point of View/Perspective: Feelings, opinions, and experiences that affect the reader's outlook.

Setting: Time and place where a story occurs.

Teamwork: Working together as a team.

Three tools of an actor: Voice, body and the imagination.

Vocal Expression: The way the actor uses his or her voice to express an emotion

THEMES TO LOOK FOR:

Courage
Friendship
Family
Good Sportsmanship
Trustworthiness

Teamwork
Respect
Judgment
Fairness
Integrity



POST PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION

1. The theme of fairness is seen throughout *The Frog Prince*. Can you think of times that the Frog was treated unfairly? What about the Witch or the Princess?
2. If you were the Princess, would you have kissed that ugly frog? Why or why not?
3. Was the Princess being naughty with the Frog or not? Could she have done anything else, besides a kiss, to make the frog feel better?
4. What would you have done to help the frog if it had been you that saw him in the forest?
5. What about that poor witch!? What do you think happened to her that made her so mean?

WRITING PROMPTS

1. Think of a time that you were treated unfairly, did you feel upset or angry? What happened in the situation?
2. Have you ever treated anyone unfairly? How did you feel and why? How did you think that the other person felt?
3. How do you think that the story of *The Frog Prince* would have gone differently if the Frog had never turned back into a Prince?
4. If the Wizard came to visit you, what sorts of things would you wish for?
5. How would you defeat a witch if you saw one today? Would you throw water on her? Or would you cast your own magic spell?

