

**Curriculum Guide**

Arkansas Festival Ballet’s ***Hansel and Gretel*** isa storybook balletbased on the folktale, from Tales of the Brothers Grimm and you might recognize your favorite sweets from the Candyland board game. The show is 45-minutes long and encourages audience participation. Following the show, there will be a short Q&A.

The story is set in the outskirts of a small European village where two young children live with their father and stepmother. One day, when the children are lost deep in the forest, they come upon a house made of candy. Not only are they in for a feast of treats; they soon discover the flamboyant witch who lives in the house has a foiled plan for trapping the children. The cleverness of Hansel and Gretel helps them escape but not before a series of hilarious mishaps that leave the witch upside down in the chaos.

This ballet was first staged in 2015 celebrates courage and independence . The audience can expect to see bold personalities to reflect the characters in the story and continuous energy from the corps de ballet. This storybook ballet interpretation features a colorful staging of choreography that is energetic + hilarious.

The ballet is staged to music by Robert Schumann, Georg Philipp Telemann, Franz Joseph Haydn, Nikolai Rimski-Korsakov, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**Synopsis of the Ballet**

*Hansel and Gretel*

Once upon a time, there lived a very poor woodcutter in a tiny cottage near the forest with his children, Hansel and Gretel. His wife, the children’s stepmother, often treated the children poorly and was forever causing the woodcutter grief. Stepmother complained that there was too little food for the family and was always thing of ways to send the children away.

Stepmother suggested to her husband that he take Hansel and Gretel on his daily hunt, reminding him to go deep into the forest where the best food could be found. As they followed Father through the dense forest, Hansel and Gretel played a game with some pebbles they had gathered. The children soon realized they were lost and used the trail of pebble to retrace their path.

At the hill leading up to their cottage, Hansel and Gretel found Father fretting about what had happened to them He was delighted by their safe return. As the children rested from their adventure in the forest, Father told them tales of a cottage built of cake and sweets. The children listened with great delight and then drifted off to sleep. While they slept, Father continued his hunt so he would not return home empty handed.

Hansel and Gretel awoke to the raging sounds of Stepmother. They mad a narrow escape from her traveling deeper into the forest, leaving a trail of uneaten breadcrumbs. They could follow the crumbs back home if they did not find Father returning from his hunt. But Hansel and Gretel were unaware of the hungry birds that followed along and ate all the breadcrumbs. Unable to find the path home, the children were very scared.

As dawn broke in the forest, a beautiful white bird appeared to the children. They mysterious creature led them out of the forest, through a molasses swamp and into a land filled with treats. The children made new friends and enjoyed great fun. Hansel and Gretel hooped to find their way home, but instead they found themselves at the sugar biscuit door of a gingerbread cottage. Famished, they began to feast on icing, chocolate drops, mint chips, bits of candy and cake. To their surprise, they children noticed that their new gingersnap friends were entering the cottage. Following the gingersnaps and hoping to find more goodies, the children entered the cottage, too.

Inside the cottage, Hansel and Gretel filled themselves with wonderful pastries with cream fillings, muffins and cookies. Then a strange women entered the kitchen, busy over her baked treats as the children quickly hid. They happily watched her bake and longed to taste each of the cakes and pies. In a corner of the cottage, they children met the Duke and Duchess of Taffy-ville, who were stuck to the floor and cupboards. When the strange woman discovered the children and began to prepare a feast.

While the strange women filled her cooking pot with ingredients for a large stew, Gretel became fearful over being harmed. The frightful discovery of the women’s wickedness, for indeed, she must be a witch, prompted Gretel to free her brother and the others from the cottage. Hansel and Gretel outwitted the witch with the help of the gingersnaps and Duke and Duchess, and they all made a successful escape.

As Hansel and Gretel raced from the cottage, they came upon Candy Land and the happiest welcome. Father, who had been searching for Hansel and Gretel, arrived, too. In celebration of being reunited, Hansel and Gretel and Father enjoyed sweet treats and sugary smiles with the friends of Candy land

**Performance Venue**

Arkansas Festival Ballet Main Street Theatre (Black Box Theatre)

Located @ 518 Main Street, Downtown Little Rock

**Arrival & Departure**

Arrive 30 minutes before show time, we will be ready to greet you. There is a drop off point located on Main Street in front of the venue, where students can safely exit buses or vehicles without crossing any streets.

**Ticket Reservations**

Use the reservation form to reserve your tickets.

**Payment**

Once your reservation is confirmed, you will receive an invoice.

Payments can be made via paypal or check. Please make check payable to Arkansas Festival Ballet inc.

Have Questions or need help reserving tickets?

Contact, Rebecca Miller Stalcup, Director

[Rebecca@ArkansasFestivalBallet.org](mailto:Rebecca@ArkansasFestivalBallet.org)

501 443-7207/ 501-786-0784

**ARKANSAS FESTIVAL BALLET**

**Performing Company**

Arkansas Festival Ballet, under the direction of Artistic Director Rebecca Miller Stalcup, and Outreach Director Meredith Zachritz, contributes to the cultural community in central Arkansas through quality performances featuring local and guest artists. Through a partnership with Arkansas Academy of Dance, Arkansas Festival Ballet encourages formal classical ballet training to prepare talents for extensive training programs at major companies and schools.

Arkansas Festival Ballet’s Performance Season includes a full-length storybook ballet production, The Nutcracker, a mixed bill performance, and collaborative projects with local arts organizations.

Arkansas Festival Ballet has performed the classic ballets, *The Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella* and *Coppelia* in addition to storybook ballets *The Princess and the Frog, Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland*, *Aladdin*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *Snow White* and *Hansel & Gretel*. Additional works include grand scaled productions of *Carmina Burana, Peter Grimes, The Magic Flute, Dido & Aeneas, Dracula Unearthed* and *Romeo & Juliet.*

Arkansas Festival Ballet strives to strengthen arts education in the community through its collaborative partnerships with organizations in Central Arkansas. As featured guest artist, Arkansas Festival Ballet has appeared with the Conway Symphony Orchestra, Little Rock Wind Symphony, South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Pine Bluff Symphony Orchestra, University of Arkansas Music Department & Concert Choir, Wildwood Park for the Arts, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Opera in the Rocks, Argenta Community Theatre, Arkansas Arts Center, Praeclara Arts, and The Clinton Foundation. AFB is funded in part by the Arkansas Arts Council, private grants, Patrons & Friends of the Ballet.

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*Arkansas Festival Ballet promotes, presents, and enhances the art of Classical Ballet through quality performances and dance education.*