

A GLT Christmas

Hans packs 'em in

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Even though 'tis the season when children are bombarded by "Snoppy" specials, a Grinch who steals Christmas, toys that go beep and poodles that puddle, it's nice to know that there are still some entertainers who feel that kids appreciate a little old-fashioned romance, too.

Which probably accounts for the house-packing success of Georgetown Little Theatre's production of Allen Cullen's "Hans the Witch and the Gobbin" among the town's juniority this past weekend. During the three-day, five-performance schedule at Sacre Coeur church hall, many youngsters returned again and again.

The play's ingredients—magical forests, the handsome young lovers fighting off evil witches, a blowhard king and a courtfull of other bananas—proved to be as appetizing to the young audience as Mom's Christmas cooking.

The play revolves around the chicanery of Daisy (delightfully cackled by Vera Macdonald), hardly a fitting name for a witch who looks like she got caught in an avalanche on Ugly Mountain. Having no childhood reckoning of her own, she scoops up memories in a butterfly net, leaving her victims to wander aimlessly in the forest, stumbling from time to time into comic misadventures.

And as traditional romantic comedies go, most of the comedy, drama, denouement and loudly "lived happily ever after" reconciliation takes place in a fantastic forest replete with mysterious characters all the more removed from their urban court counterparts.

As the handsome, valiant Hans (Michael Macdonald) follows the beautiful princess Alicia into the forest to help find her lost memory, a host of court buffoonery gives chase, including a douser named Mrs. Crabtree (Pat Joyes).

Hired by the bellcose King Rufus, played appropriately and loudly by Joe Delguidice, Mrs. Crabtree erroneously picks Hans as the main suspect for casting the spell on the princess, which has left her without a thought to the past.

As the chase moves into the forest, the royal clowns, led by King Rufus, become victims of Daisy's net and their fumbling about under her spell provides the comic inertia needed to carry the lengthy play to a conclusion.

The courts' two greedy physicians, Castor (Gordon Hunt) and Senna (John Roe) supply the play's organized

crime element as they try to thwart Hans' efforts to find the princess' memory.

They, along with Daisy, are the characters who get their "just desserts" at the end of the play, with their memories lost forever, they become

domestics in the Queen of the Forest's (Michelle Roe's) realm.

Bill Marchant's "Gob", the springy "gobbin" who befriends Hans in the forest, delighted youngsters even though he appeared sparingly

throughout the play.

Kathy McGowan's portrayal of Scratch, the constantly-berated secretary to King Rufus was perfectly timed. Under attack from her boss, you can almost picture whole

Continued on page B10

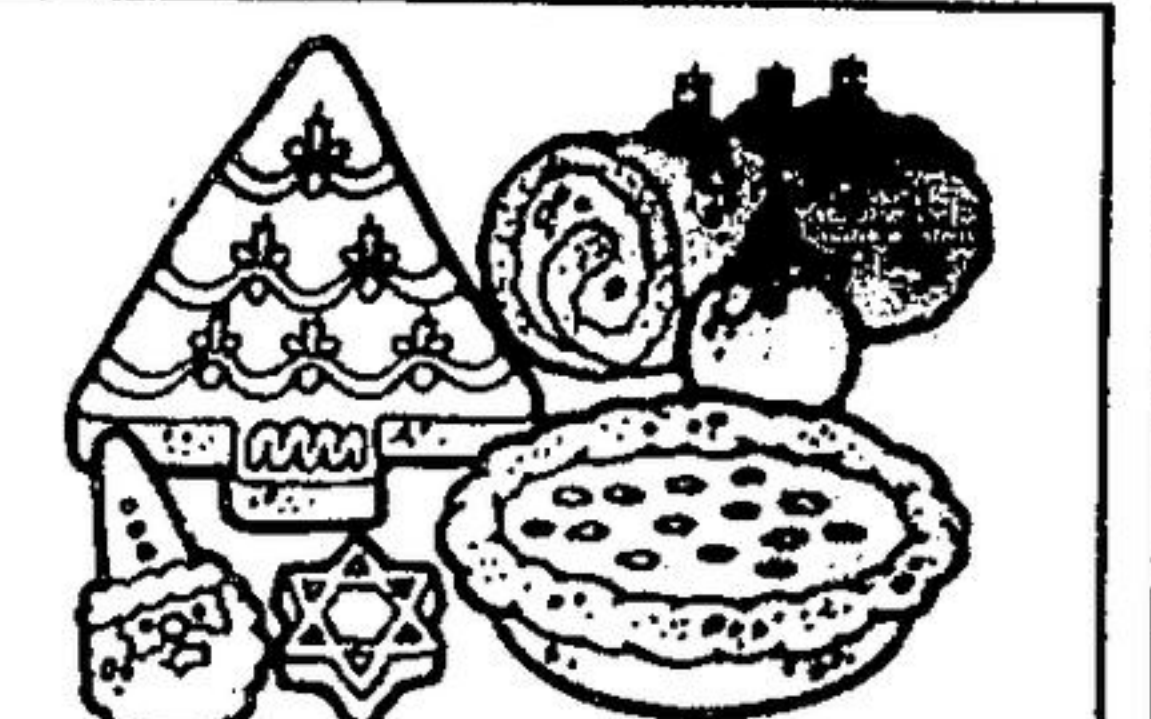


Georgetown Little Theatre's production of "Hans, the Witch and the Gobbin", ran five performances over the weekend, filled Sacre Coeur hall with wide-eyed children. Here, King Rufus (Joe Delguidice, centre) stresses a point about the mysterious loss of his daughter's memory as his personal secretary "Scratch" (Kathy McGowan) and Hans (Michael Macdonald) look on. Greedy court physician (inset) Castor (Gordon Hunt) and Senna (John Roe) eavesdrop Daisy's (Vera Macdonald's) wicked secret concerning Princess Alicia's memory loss, hoping that by solving the problem they might collect a royal reward.

the HERALD Entertainment

Cable TV listings

- | | |
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| Wed. Dec. 17 | 5:30 Bahai's present |
| 6:00 Barry Coe - Christmas Reading | |
| 6:30 Storytime with Erica | |
| 6:50 TBA | |
| 7:00 Magazine - Bear's Head Dinner | |
| 7:30 Christmas Pageant - Wrigglesworth School | |
| 8:20 Maple Nursery School | |
| 8:45 Sign-Off | |
| Thurs. Dec. 18 | 6:00 Region Council - Inaugural Meeting |
| 6:35 Region Council - Sewer Surcharge Discussion | |
| 8:30 Sign-Off | |
| Fri. Dec. 19 | 6:00 Denyes School |
| Halloween Party | |
| 6:20 "Festive Noel" - Georgetown Choral Society in Milton | |
| 7:35 Skating Competitions - Georgetown Figure Skating Club | |
| 8:20 Endangered Species | |
| 8:45 Sign-Off | |



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