

Join the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre to share in the story-telling of this enchanting, lyrical, and often humorous piece of musical theatre, which is not just for kids.

Hans Christian Andersen's

The Snow Queen



Lyrics and Script by:
Tom Simonds & Rebecca Wisides
Music by: Tom Simonds

Director: Jan Koenigter
Vocal Director: Adam Ruzinto
Choreographer: Connie Velin



December 10 - 13 and 17 - 20, 1998

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

Welcome! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Civic Playhouse for another season of outstanding classic favorite plays and musicals. All eight of our regular productions have at last found their way home to our own Playhouse this year, and we couldn't be more excited!

We're in the process of sprucing up the theatre with new seats (thanks to our Chair Campaign donors!), a new look for our exterior (keep your eyes open for exciting design changes!), and a few other surprises.

For the past two seasons, AACT has presented more award-winning productions than any other theatre in the Ann Arbor area, with audience and critical raves alike. This season promises no less. We're proud to present: the classic plays *On Golden Pond* and *Romeo and Juliet*; the locally written Off-Broadway produced musical *The Snow Queen*; the sublime drama of *The Trip to Bountiful* and *The Rainmaker*; the hilarious one-liners of Neil Simon's *Rumors*; the Pulitzer-Prize winning musical *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; and the time-honored heart-tugging *The Sound of Music*. This promises to be a season of favorites long to come.

Enjoy your evening at AACT. I thank you for joining us in celebrating productions that local critics have hailed as "eye-popping and perky", "magical", "magnificent", and "can't be topped." That was last season. There's more to come! It's no wonder that the single most common phrase heard around the box office this year has been "I'm coming back to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre." Welcome home. As usual, if you enjoy the show, please tell your friends.

Ronald P. Baumanis

Ronald P. Baumanis
President, AACT Board of Directors



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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at the Civic Playhouse
Opening Night, December 10, 1998

THE SNOW QUEEN

Written by Tom Simonds and Rebecca Vlisides

Based on the Fairy Tale by Hans Christian Andersen

Vocal Director
Adam Riccinto

Choreographer
Connie Velin

Costume Design
Sally West

Book Page Design
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Directed by Jan Koengeter

Cast

Gerda.....	Kathryn Hatch
Kai.....	Jeff Harris
Grandmother.....	Jennifer Nardine
Snow Queen.....	Eileen Donis-Forster
Gardener.....	Rebecca Staffend
Flower Storyteller.....	Kate Restrick
Balladeer.....	David Andrews
Sun.....	Sharon Sheldon
Pinetree.....	Carolyn Norton
Stream.....	Jennifer Nardine
Raven.....	Erin Boeve
Raven.....	Calvin Clark
Prince.....	Jeff Harris
Servant.....	Arielle Lipshaw
Servant.....	Rochelle Corwin
Chamberlain.....	Bob Miller
Messenger.....	Michael Mahoney
Reindeer.....	Dana Buck
Robber Chief.....	Terry Seltz
Robber Girl.....	Marit Rogne
Ensemble.....	Marcie Grambeau, Rachel Hirshorn, Marion Patrick, Matt Grimes Cliff Miller, Marie Miller, Lois Miller Bobby Rahem, Bill Teppo, Alicia Smith

ACT ONE

Scene 1 – Gerda’s Grandmother’s attic room in Copenhagen, Denmark

Scene 2 – A Magic Garden

Scene 3 – A Forest

Scene 4 – The Palace of the Northern Prince

ACT TWO

Scene 1 – The Palace of the Northern Prince

Scene 2 – The Tundra, the Robbers’ Domain

Scene 3 – The Castle of the Snow Queen

Scene 4 – Home Again

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

The taking of photographs or recording of this production in any form is strictly prohibited.

Additional Crew

Title Design by Meredith Kennedy

Additional Set Crew: Joe Medrano, Emily Corwin, Tim McGraw, Jim Barnes

Set Painters: Debbie Golden, Barb Wells, Leo Babcock

Additional Costume Crew: Kathi Gennik, Marjorie Cripps

Program Designed and typeset by: Ronald P. Baumanis

Acknowledgements

Bill and Alice Siemers, of STRING PUPPET THEATRE,
who provided the Sun Puppet and many of the flower puppets.

Director's Note

Before Tom Simonds' tragically early death in 1987, he wrote several musicals for both Ann Arbor's GOODTIME PLAYERS and JUNIOR THEATRE, and others that he produced and directed independently. THE SNOW QUEEN, which Tom wrote with his fellow Goodtime Player Rebecca Vlisides, was first performed by the Goodtime Players in December of 1983. The 10 adult members of that repertory company performed all the roles in the show along with two young girls. One of those girls was Rebecca's daughter, Erin Boeve, who is the only original cast member performing in our 1998 production — but this time in a major role — as one of the Ravens. Rebecca played Gerda in 1983, and Tom was the director. I played the Grandmother, the Pine Tree, and the Robber Chief. All of us in the 1983 production enjoyed ourselves so much, and the show was such a big hit that we repeated the show the following winter with the exact same cast, in January 1985. We sold out every performance because a lot of the audience members came back, too, and brought friends. After Tom's death, three of the 1983-85 Goodtime Players (Ed Smit, Rebecca Smouse, and Tim McGraw) were living in New York City and were working with a small off-Broadway production company, and suggested that they produce THE SNOW QUEEN. They imported Jon Krueger, the Goodtime Player who had been the 1983 and '85 accompanist, to NYC to teach the vocals and play piano again. Meredith Kennedy (one of the original Ravens, who also designed the title drawing for THE SNOW QUEEN as well as the original giant storybook) and I flew to NYC to see the new production. Another audience member happened to work for the Rodgers and Hammerstein publishing company. He was so impressed with the show that he encouraged his company to publish it. Until last year, they handled the rights to the show which has been performed all over the US. Currently, Tom's mother Ruth and Rebecca Vlisides have complete ownership of the show. Knowing that I've been directing shows for AACT, Rebecca asked me if I'd like to direct another production here in Ann Arbor. So THE SNOW QUEEN has returned home! I'd like to close this little history of the show with the last line that Tom wrote for the 1983 and '85 program notes... "I hope that our version of THE SNOW QUEEN helps you feel the joy of friendship that is so important in this holiday season."

—Jan Koengeter

Who's Who in the cast and Crew

David Andrews (Balladeer) just starred in the leading role of J. Pierrepont Finch in AACT's smash hit revival of HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING.

Erin Boeve (Raven) is thrilled to be cast in THE SNOW QUEEN as it returns to A2, after being in the original production in 1983. She has appeared in CABARET at EMU and in CAROUSEL and GUYS AND DOLLS at other venues. She is currently a member of the Ann Arbor Civic Chorus.

Dana Buck (Reindeer) appeared in his first AACT show about 20 years ago and has worked on numerous AACT productions both on and behind the stage. This show, however, is the first time he has been called upon to portray singing livestock...in addition to acting and directing, he also performs a capella doowop as a member of The GelCaps, and designs sets. He is happy to be working with Jan again!

Calvin J. Clark (Raven) has been singing ever since it was a required class in 1st grade. He sings with Measure for Measure, a men's choral society and is a former member of the AYU Quartet. Acting has always been his passion, but he also enjoys football, music, and food.

Rocelle Marie Corwin (Servant/ensemble) is a senior at Pioneer High School and plans on going to a performing arts school for college. She writes her own songs and lyrics, makes her own clothes, and enjoys doing arts and crafts with children.

Eileen Donis-Forster (The Snow Queen) has been performing in the area for over a year now. At AACT she has appeared in THE FARNDALE...CHRISTMAS CAROL, MERCHANT OF VENICE (Salena), DANCING AT LUGHNASA (Agnes) and last year's benefit Cabaret. Her most challenging role this past year was Martha in WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLFE, a touring production with Clark Lake Players of Jackson, MI.

MARCIE GRAMBEAU (Ensemble) is in 7th grade at Forsythe and is appearing in her second AACT show. She loves theatre and singing and also plays field hockey and soccer.

MATT GRIMES (Ensemble) is appearing in his third AACT show. He was Arty in last seasons' LOST IN YONKERS and MEDEA's eldest son. He enjoys Japanese animation, especially Sailor Moon, Rayearth, Ranma 1/2, and Pokemon.

JEFF HARRIS (Kai) has been in numerous productions, including AACT's SOUTH PACIFIC. Life imitated art when he wed his Chelsea Area Players co-star from FATHER OF THE BRIDE six months ago. He works for Borders Group, and sings with Measure for Measure, a men's choral society.

Kathryn Hatch (Gerda) recently played Filza Doolittle in Burns park Players production of MY FAIR LADY. Currently she is cast as Cinderella for the Goodtime Players and is busy applying to graduate schools for vocal performance.

Rachel Anne Hirschhorn (Ensemble) is a senior at Huron High School and plans a future in theatre and film. She lives with her father, Seth, and her best friend in the world, her Springer Spaniel, Trixy.

Arielle Lipshaw (Servant/Ensemble) is a 14-year old freshman at Huron High School. This is her first AACT appearance. Her favorite past role is the wicked witch in THE WIZARD OF OZ. She would like to thank her parents for their support.

Micahel Jennings Mahoney (Messenger) is an AACT veteran both on and off stage. He is a freshman at Community High School.

Clifton Charles Miller (Ensemble) is a 3rd grader who loves to draw. He is well-suited for his winter scene as he likes to ice skate and sled.

Lois Whiteside Miller (Ensemble) sings with Roots and Wings, is a local professional musician, and is happy happy her whole family is in this show (her second for AACT!)

Marie Lorraine Miller (Ensemble) is a 4th grader who is especially fond of horses...but likes Reindeer also!

Robert Miller (Chamberlain) is enjoying this chance to sing and dance with his wife and children, in addition to a great cast. He encourages his friends to remember him as not just another flower.

Jennifer Nardine (Grandmother, Stream, Ensemble) has been studying music since she was 5. She relocated to A2 after completing a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance at DePaul University. Her current day job is as a Technical Support Analyst at HDI, a local software developer.

Carolyn Norton (Pinetree) has been in several AACT productions. She is one fifth of the company The Third Peasant From the Right, who are now working on their pre-millennium tour starting Spring 1999.

Marz Patrick (Ensemble) is a 15-year old sophomore at Pioneer High School. While this is her first production at AACT, she is an active member of the Pioneer Theatre Guild. She likes all aspects of theatre, but most of all loves to sing.

Bobby Rahem (Ensemble) is a ninth grader at Saline and has appeared in many productions with AACT and Saline Area players. He would like to thank his family for their devotion.

Kathleen Restrick (Flower Storyteller) has appeared in several AACT productions over the past 10 years. She is another one fifth of the company The Third Peasant From the Right, a local group performing original theatre to benefit local charities.

Marit Rogne (Robber Girl) is appearing in her 13th play. She enjoys acting, singing, dancing, and playing the violin. She has enjoyed this musical and thanks the cast and the crew!

Terry Lee Seltz (Robber Chief) started playing the blues locally in the 70's and expanded to jazz in the 80's. He performed in the Fabulous 40's Show at the Michigan Union Ballroom.

Alicia M. Smith (Ensemble) is appearing in her 3rd AACT show, including BIG RIVER and BYE BYE BIRDIE. She always enjoys painting and anime!

Bill Teppo (Ensemble) was once 75 years of age and lying in an iron lung (CITY OF ANGELS) but has magically turned back to his own age of 34 and is enjoying THE SNOW QUEEN very much.



Jan Koenigter (Director) has directed several award-winning shows for AACT, including BURN THIS, MAME!, THE MUSIC MAN, and DAMN YANKIES. She also directed THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940 and last December's spoof of A CHRISTMAS CAROL, and will direct THE HEIDI CHRONICLES for AACT's 1999-2000 season. Jan won AACT's Best Actress award as Betty in THE FOREIGNER. Jan dedicates this production to Tom Simonds, a wonderful friend and an amazingly talented man whose many friends continue to miss him.

Adam Riccinto (Vocal Director) is making his AACT debut with THE SNOW QUEEN. He is a versatile conductor and performing musician. Mr. Riccinto has been the Orchestral Director for the Chelsea Area Players and currently serves as Music Director of the Tecumseh Pops Orchestra and Choir Director at First United Methodist Church in Howell, MI. He is a member of the UMS Choral Union and can be heard throughout southeastern Michigan as a professional cocktail pianist and accompanist.

Connie Velin (Choreographer) returns to choreographing for community theatre after a four-year hiatus, and is so happy for it!

Gene Gaunt (Accompanist) has played pit piano for over 60 stage musicals, most recently in the national touring company of JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT with David Osmond (Donny's nephew) and Jodi Benson; and Jewish Ensemble Theatre's FAISSETOS. He lives in Huron Towers with his Yamaha model C2 Grand Piano. The big one.

Karen M. Foran (Props manager) has enjoyed the opportunity to work behind the scenes for once; she was last seen on the AACT stage as Chelsea in ON GOLDEN POND. She has also run props and tech in Equity houses in Chicago, such as The Apple Tree Theatre and Pegasus Players. As always, much love and thanks to her parents, and Tom.

☀️ Happy Holidays from our entire Ann Arbor Civic Theatre family! ☀️

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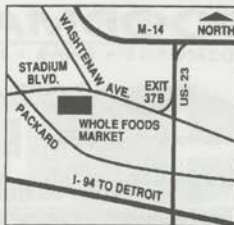
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