

## HANSEL & GRETEL

Hansel & Gretel will be the 32nd Pantomime performed by the Westhoughton Methodist Amateur Dramatic Society since our first pantomime in 1981.

It is exactly two hundred years since the Brothers Grimm first published their collection of folk tales in the German town of Kassel. The folk tales were not new, they had been passed on orally from one storyteller to the next for many generations. Little did the Brothers Grimm think that their story of Hansel & Gretel would one day be performed as a pantomime over five hundred miles away. The Brothers Grimm might recognise some of the version of the story they recorded but would probably be amazed by the addition of the local references, the audience participation and the extra characters.

Times are hard for Esau, a humble wood-fuel technician, and his new wife Brigitte. They have to make an important decision concerning their future and Esau's two children, Hansel and Gretel. Esau has made things even more difficult by being somewhat economical with the truth, which is never a good idea. Hansel and Gretel are not getting on too well with their new step-mother, who finds it difficult to cope with their voracious appetites, especially for pies. They may be growing but how big should they grow? Could a family outing to the forest provide a solution, or will it create even more problems?

The forest is the home of many strange and amazing people and creatures, not all of them friendly. A house made of gingerbread might seem to be a delicious option, especially when you are hungry, but appearances can be deceptive and there will be a price to pay. Bears and venomous night vipers are obvious hazards and the birds will be attracted by a trail of breadcrumbs. Naturalists Crisp Pacquet and Dora Itos are keen to watch the wildlife and the trees and in particular to look out for a strange purple creature. Witches and their bizarre cooking habits must be avoided at all costs. However, does this also apply to vampires, the beautiful Lady Eleanor and the mysterious Wizard, not to mention Peter Piper and the famous Bushman? Hansel and Gretel will need to keep all their wits about them.

Hansel and Gretel is a fast moving folk story containing scenes of mild peril involving tongue twisters, meat pies, bizarre confectionary, cackling witches, deckchairs and traditional pantomime jokes. No snakes, penguins or parrots have been harmed as part of this production which includes a special 3D scene (3D glasses provided).

Directed by Bill Greenhalgh

Script written by Bill Greenhalgh

"Hansel & Gretel" is suitable for all ages.

Performance dates are Friday 8th, Saturday 9th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th February 2013.

Tickets are £4.50 for Adults and £4 for OAPs and children (including refreshments and a programme)

Tickets can be booked by phoning 01942 811051 or by emailing: [wmads@f2s.com](mailto:wmads@f2s.com)

Curtain Up is 7.15pm prompt

All performances will be held at the Westhoughton Methodist Church Hall, Wigan Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3RQ