



Attention students!

Summer workshop

Andersen!

The True Story of Hans Christian Andersen

Singing, Dancing, Acting

July 26-30, 2010

9:00-12:00

Clay Middle School, 5150 E. 126th St. Carmel, IN 46033

Showcase Performance Sat. July 31, 2:30 p.m.

Ages: 11-teens

Led by:

June McCarty Clair, John Clair, Caroline Nauth

Price: \$60.00

Sponsored by: Carmel Repertory Theatre

Profits will benefit the Clay Middle School Drama Club

To register or for more information, contact:

www.carmelrepertorytheatre.com or call (317)-582-1007



Andersen! Synopsis

Andersen!, is a musical of the true story of Hans Christian Andersen’s rise from abject poverty in an obscure village on a tiny island of Funen in Denmark, to become the most famous person in the world during his lifetime.

As a child, Andersen’s grandmother told him tales of his noble ancestry, his peasant mother told him stories from the rich folk lore of ancient Denmark, and his educated father nurtured his love of literature and theatre. With no formal training, Andersen sang and danced for any audience, and was determined to be famous in the Arts. After his father’s death, he pursued the upper class intelligentsia of his island to nurture and promote him, and with their encouragement at age 14, set sail for the throbbing city of Copenhagen, with its narrow, winding streets and rich cultural life.

With grit and determination, and an uncanny knack for self-promotion, Andersen overcomes enormous obstacles, and finally takes flight as a writer. He takes his place with the foremost literary greats of his day, mingling with the titans of the Romantic period and proving to the world that the “Little Nightingale of Funen” was deserving of the fame and fortune he received.

At the opening of the show, Andersen is a tall, gawky youth of about seventeen, who stands out in a classroom of eleven year old students. The students are all singing their lesson (“Grammar.”) The song is interrupted when the teacher Meisling, berates Andersen for writing in his note pad instead of participating in the lessons. Meisling and the students mock Andersen in song (“Who is Andersen?”) Andersen then steps forward and explains to the audience how he got to this little school far away from Copenhagen. In a flashback, we see Andersen with his mother and grandmother spending the night with other village women in a barn in the country where they have gone to glean the grain in the fields. They tell stories to while away the time, and we see where Andersen got his first experience of storytelling with the rich Danish folklore told by his peasant mother.

Back home in their tiny house, Andersen shares with his mother his dream of becoming famous (“Big Success.”) Anne Marie is worried about her son as he is very ‘different’ from all the rest. He prefers to read and put on little plays at home rather than play outside with the other village children. She decides to take her awkward son to Mette the fortune teller to discover what will become of him. Mette ‘reads’ his coffee grounds and is shocked to ‘see’ that the grounds predict that the backward child will one day be famous. (“Mette’s Prediction.”) Anne Marie is more baffled than ever with the dreamy, gentle son she doesn’t understand.

Andersen, also realizing he is different, knows that he will not be happy in the small, rural town of Odense. He must go to Copenhagen to become famous. He finds Copenhagen to be a large city, teeming with excitement, with a rich cultural life. He immediately sets out to find the cultural center of the city, and its inhabitants. (“A Thousand Doors”) He finds it to be harder than he thought. But with incredible determination, he finally finds his place in the cultural heart of all of Europe. (“Andersen!”)



Cast of Characters:

Hans Christian Andersen – as a youth

Meisling (Andersen's teacher)

School Children

Anne Marie Andersen – Andersen's mother

Anne (Andersen's Grandmother)

Mette the Fortune Teller

Village Women

Madame Schall – famous ballerina

Siboni – Famous voice teacher

Weyse – Famous musician

Baggesen – Famous poet

Jonas Collin – Andersen's mentor

Edvard Collin – Andersen's friend (son of Jonas)

Citizens of Copenhagen