The Blinn College-Brenham Theatre Arts Program, in cooperation with Delta Psi Omega and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology, presents

A Musical Play
Based on the Children's Story *The Bremen Town Musicians* by the Brothers Grimm
Book by Sheila Wainwright
Music by Alison Hedger

**Resource Guide**

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying the musical play *The Musicians of Bremen*. With this in mind, the stories and interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.
Directed by Bradley A. Nies
Technical Theatre Direction by Kevin Patrick
Costume, Make-Up and Hair Design by Jennifer Patrick (Guest Artist)

Produced by Special Arrangement with Golden Apple Productions.
Produced as Part of Blinn College’s Service Learning Project for the Brenham Campus

Public Performances
November 14, 15, 16 7 PM
November 17 2 PM

Elementary Preview Performances
November 13, 14, 15 10:00 AM & 1 PM

Dr. W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center Auditorium
Brenham, Texas

For reservations, please email the O’Donnell Performing Arts Center Box Office at BoxOffice@blinn.edu
or call 979-830-4024
Set during the early nineteenth century, our play tells the story of an old donkey who, fearing that he is about to be replaced, flees his home. On his travels, he encounters a dog who is too old to tend to his flock, a cat who can no longer hunt mice, and a rooster who oversleeps and forgets to wake up his master. Each of these animals is convinced by the donkey to go to the nearby town of Bremen and start a new life as musicians.

Through a long day of traveling, the animals become tired. Looking for a place to sleep, they discover a shack that is housed by robbers. Working together, the animals scare away the robbers, and they settle into the house for the night. Later, the robbers return. The animals frighten them away again; this time scaring them into believing that the house is haunted. The robbers are never seen again, and the animals live there for the rest of their lives.

**The Characters**

**The Donkey** - Leader of the four friends

**The Dog** - Kind and friendly

**The Cat** - Tired and worn-out

**The Rooster** - Grouchy and fretful

**The Robbers** - Scared of spooks
By 1812, the Brothers Grimm published a collection of fairy tales which they had recorded by inviting German storytellers into their home and transcribing their stories. They published a second volume of stories in 1814, and eventually lived to see 211 of their collected tales in print.

Their stories were not originally for children. However, once the brothers saw how the tales captivated young readers, the Grimms altered their tales to present strong moral messages, though mature elements were still present. Today, these stories are shared and enjoyed by all ages in more than 160 languages.

**Themes and Morals Present in The Bremen Town Musicians**

Like any of Grimm's fairytales, The Bremen Town Musicians has a moral. The main theme present is not the conflict between the animals and the robbers, instead it is the trials and tribulations of **growing old**. Each of the animals have grown too old to carry out their daily responsibilities. However, the animals band together to form a street band making the most of their weaknesses. A lesson present here is that with age comes wisdom and versatility.

Another major theme is that of **change**. As the animals outlive their usefulness, they are forced to adapt and change in order to survive. They are no longer serving their initial purposes, but instead they find salvation in the fact that all of them have unique musical abilities.

The moral of the story can be relayed in simplest terms as respecting your elders. Age may take certain abilities from you, however, with age comes wisdom.
WORD SEARCH - THE STORY

ENCOUNTER  HAUNTED

SPOOKS  TRAVEL

MUSICIAN  SCARING
WORD SEARCH - THE BROTHERS GRIMM

GERMAN

STORY

BROTHERS

ALTER

INVITE
WORD SEARCH - THE CHARACTERS

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KIND
DOG
CAT
FOUR
Look It Up!

We encourage you to explore these topics further by visiting the following web sites:


* http://www.hellokids.com/search?q=the+bremen+town+musicians&search_go=OK


* http://www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/index2.html

* http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Brothers_Grimm

* http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm027.html