



imaginary theatre company

2011–2012 SEASON

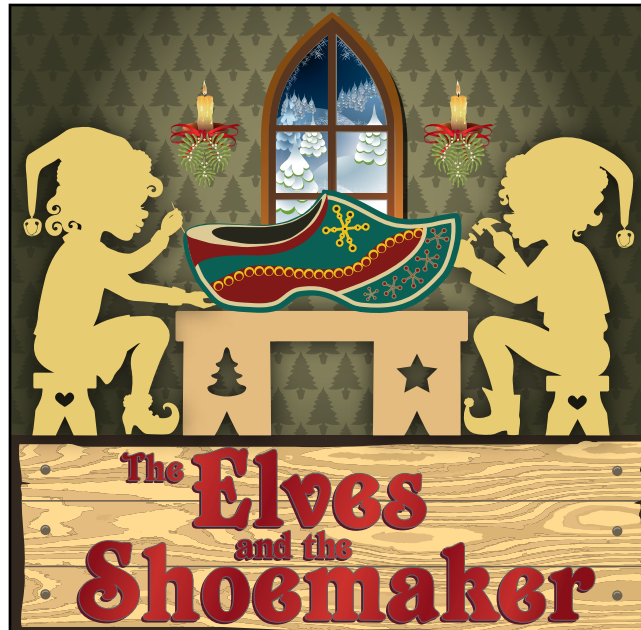
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BROWN
SHOE COMPANY



MONSANTO FUND



by Sarah Brandt

Music and Lyrics by Neal Richardson

Directed by Bruce Longworth

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Imaginary theatre company



by Sarah Brandt

Music and Lyrics by Neal Richardson

Directed by Bruce Longworth

Musical Director

Neal Richardson

Choreographer

Ellen Isom

Scenic Designer

Scott Loeb

Costume Designer

Dorothy Marshall Englis

Stage Manager

Danny Maly

Director of Education

Marsha Coplon

The Company

Townsperson, Betty / **Lakeetha Blakeney**

Townsperson, Elf, Cook, Dancer / **Alan Knoll**

Shoemaker / **Jerome Lowe**

Townsperson, Beggar Woman, Elf, Dancer, Queen / **Laurie McConnell**



Missouri Arts Council
The State of the Arts



Financial assistance for this theatre has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis; and the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission.

setting the scene



Though it's Christmas, times are tough for the Shoemaker and his wife. His oddball shoe designs just aren't selling, and the couple has no money for food or to pay their bills.

While trying to sell his only pair of shoes at the marketplace, the Shoemaker runs into a poor old beggar woman. Without thinking anything about it, he happily gives her his final pair of shoes so that she has something to warm her feet. The old woman promises that "good things" will come to the Shoemaker and his wife.

"Good things" do start coming to the couple, along with some strange things. Shoes are magically appearing overnight, wonderful, well-made shoes that everyone wants to buy. The Shoemaker even suspects that elves are somehow sneaking into the house when no one is looking... But why? And where are the shoes coming from? Will the Shoemaker and his wife be able to turn things around in time for Christmas?

who's who?



THE SHOEMAKER, Bill, is a good-hearted man with a wild imagination. Sometimes he's just a little too creative when making shoes, which means he can never sell them!

Shivering in the marketplace for hours without help, the **BEGGAR WOMAN** is thankful when the Shoemaker stops to help her. Even though Bill is down on his luck, the Beggar Woman promises "Someday good things will come to you."

BETTY loves her husband, Bill, but she can't help but worry about putting food on the table and paying the bills. Since he's not worrying about it, someone has to!

PIP and **KIP** (also known as **THE ELVES**) are a wily pair that love to make shoes in the night, but what's their angle? Why are they helping the Shoemaker and his wife?

Always making mad dashes to push orders out of the kitchen, the **COOK** needs a good pair of well-built, comfortable shoes so she can keep making the amazing food that everyone wants!

Perhaps no one needs to be more careful in selecting footwear than a pair of **DANCERS**—their feet are a vital part of their livelihood!

The **QUEEN** looks very majestic and stately, but is there more to her than meets the eye?



The holiday season is one of happiness, friends and jingle bells...unless you're the Shoemaker (Bill) and his wife, Betty. As they struggle to make ends meet, the only jingle bells to be found are on the Shoemaker's uniquely designed (super weirdo) shoes! The Shoemaker must sell his only pair of shoes at the marketplace. He and his wife desperately need the money to put dinner on the table, but his uniquely designed (super weirdo) shoes just aren't catching anyone's eye.

Though he seems doomed, he can't help but notice someone a little worse off—a poor old beggar woman everyone else is ignoring. He offers to help the woman and even gives her his last pair of shoes for her cold feet. Grateful for the kind gift, the old woman mysteriously promises that “good things” will come to the Shoemaker.

When the Shoemaker returns home, however, good things do not await. Betty is upset that he has returned home empty handed. He immediately sets to work, hoping to cobble together a winning pair of shoes. It's been a long day though, and the tired Shoemaker quickly falls asleep. While he's out cold, two magical elves sneak in and turn the scraps into a dynamite pair of shoes.

The next morning, the shoes the elves made sell before the store even opens. A cook needs them for a busy day ahead at the restaurant, and is thrilled with the comfort and durability of the shoes. Betty is quite impressed while Bill is quite confused—he knows he didn't make the shoes...did he?

Regardless, Betty sends him off with the money they just made to buy supplies to make more shoes. Unfortunately, he spends all the cash on odd materials for more

uniquely designed (super weirdo) shoes. Once again, they have no money for a meal and little hope to sell any shoes!

Luckily, the cook stops by that evening to bring by some leftovers as thanks for the wonderful shoes. Inspired and eager to make up for his missteps, the Shoemaker sets to another late-night work session, but is quickly distracted by some tasty cake.

Cue the magical elves, who swoop in and make the odd materials into marvelous shoes. This time, however, the Shoemaker happens to spy them at work. He quickly runs to get Betty, but by the time they return, all that remains are the finished shoes. Again Betty's impressed, and the shoes sell first thing in the morning to a pair of dancers. But is Bill crazy to keep insisting he isn't the one making the shoes?

Having learned a lesson from last time, Bill and Betty split the money and they each go shopping—he for more supplies and she for food. When Betty returns, however, she walks in on the elves. She believes her husband now, and the pair plots to stay up late the next night and thank the elves in person with cookies.

The next morning, they awaken (Oops, they fell asleep!) to find no new shoes and no sign of the elves. There is a pair Bill made though; he's been able to learn a thing or two from the elves' shoes, and his pair looks pretty good.

Without warning, the Queen comes to the door. It's Christmas Day, and she's interested in a pair of shoes...the pair that the Shoemaker made himself, to be exact. But are his shoes good enough for a Queen? And where are the magic elves?

Please feel free to adapt these materials to suit your classroom needs and reproduce them for future use.

The activities in this guide address the following Missouri Show Me Standards and Illinois Learning Standards.

MO: CA1, 3, 4, 5; FA2, 3, 5; SC3

IL: 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 25, 27

words to the wise



The Shoemaker seems **daft** when he is acting silly or foolish.

A very **genuine** person, the Shoemaker is authentic and not fake or false

The Elves certainly are **unique** because they are special and unlike anything else

The Beggar Woman feels **inclined** to help the Shoemaker, meaning she feels willing or agreeable to helping him.

Betty is the **practical** one in the family because she is sensible and realistic in the way she approaches situations or problems.

In Germany, where the play takes place, you might find **schnitzel**, a thin slice of veal or other light meat, coated in breadcrumbs and fried.

Maybe someone will find the Shoemaker's shoes **bewitching** or delightful.

Magic from the Elves might be an **enchantment**, but an enchantment might also be a feeling of great pleasure or delight.

read more about it



Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. *Grimm's Fairy Stories*. CreateSpace, 2011. Can't get enough of the Brothers Grimm? Check out all of their tales!

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. *The Elves and the Shoemaker: A Fairy Tale by the Brothers Grimm*. Abbeville Press, 2001.

You've seen the play, now check out the story it's based on!

www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/
Can't wait for the book to arrive from Amazon? Check out *National Geographic's* interactive Brothers Grimm site.

***Shrek*, Dreamworks Animated, 2001, DVD, 90 minutes.** Enjoying the fairy tale characters of the Brothers Grimm? Well they all live in the same world in this funny movie with characters voiced by Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers and John Lithgow.

***Shelley Duvall's Faerie Tale Theatre*. KOCH Vision, 2008, DVD.** Check out this complete set of 26 classic tales brought to life by the likes of Billy Crystal, Matthew Broderick, Susan Sarandon, Mick Jagger, Robin Williams and more!

If the Shoe Fits

Today's shoes can be sophisticated marvels of athletic engineering (featuring shocks and electronic pedometers), stunning examples of high fashion (with glamorous contours and high heels), or even ruggedly tough, tank-like armory (think steel-toed boots). But where do all of these awesome innovations in footwear come from?

Quite simply—foot bags and sandals. All modern shoes stem from these two very basic ways to cover your feet and protect each foot's 26 bones, 33 joints, 107 ligaments, and 19 muscles and tendons (all well worth protecting!).

The oldest known piece of footwear ever found is a pair of sandals that dates back to between 8,000 and 7,000 BC, while the oldest leather shoe found to date is made from a single piece of cowhide laced with leather cord and stuffed with straw for cushion, which dates back to 3,300 BC. Since footwear doesn't always preserve terribly well (between the materials it's constructed out of and the wear it gets doing its job), we have to rely on other archeological evidence to tell us how long shoes have been in use. Between cultural references (cave paintings, for example) and anatomical studies of our ancestors' feet, it would seem that some form or other of footwear has been in use for tens of thousands of years.

In the early history of shoes, there was little concern for high fashion. People needed something to protect their feet from the cold and harsh terrain. Colder climates saw the development of foot bags from single pieces

of animal skin (bearskin, deerskin or cowhide woven with plant fibers) while those in warmer climates opted for the more simple but effective sandal. These early pieces of footwear were all about keeping out rocks, debris, heat and cold. Shoe development really didn't start heating up until the Middle Ages, when fashion and function began to push shoes beyond mere foot bags. If only our ancestors could see us now—think they would have liked light-up shoes?

Despite early shoes consisting of all function and little flash, looking at shoes through the ages (even today) can tell you a lot about the feet inside of them. For example, someone who wears the latest and greatest basketball shoe probably either plays or is a fan of the game. In the past (ancient times through the 20th century) it wasn't uncommon for the poor to not have shoes at all. Meanwhile, for those who did wear shoes, more ornate footwear might indicate royalty or riches. Shoe size, shape, color and length of heel are just a few of the ways throughout history in which a shoe could tell you a little bit about its owner.

Today, shoes are made from all kinds of materials including tanned leather, microfibers, stretch fabrics and various synthetic (man-made) materials. Rapidly evolving styles change what's popular seemingly by the minute, so if the Shoemaker held out long enough, perhaps even his oddest designs could become bestsellers!

Did you know?

We wear a lot of different kinds of shoes today and they all have a different purpose. How many kinds of shoes can you think of?

- tennis shoes
- high heels
- flip flops
- cowboy boots
- swim flippers
- snow boots
- ballet shoes
- rain boots
- hiking shoes
- running shoes
- tap shoes

Plus many, many more!



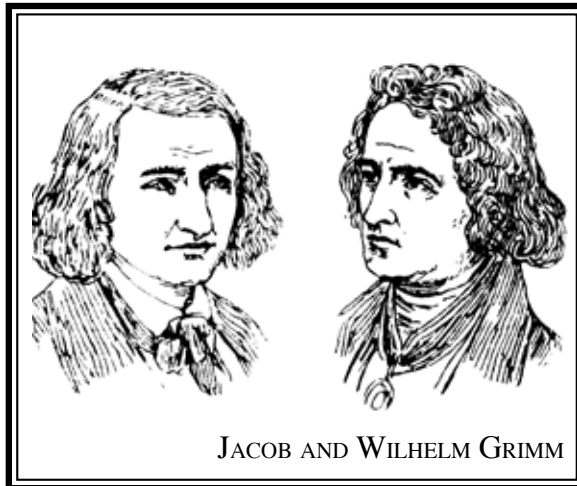
Face to Face: Brothers Grimm

Does *The Elves and the Shoemaker* sound like a familiar story to you? It should—it's actually a retelling of a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm. And as they might say, the best stories are the ones worth telling (and hearing) over and over again!

The play is an adaptation (or a retelling of a story to suit it for a new form like the theatre, film, a fresh new time period or an audience that may not know or appreciate the story) of an original tale first featured in *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, written in 1812...but is that when it really first appeared?

Timeless tales like *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, *Hansel and Gretel* and even *The Elves and the Shoemaker* didn't first come into existence in 1812. These and other fairy tales have been around for ages—many are based on legends and oral tradition passed down for generations. The Brothers Grimm (Jacob and Wilhelm) started collecting stories around 1806, taking tales told by peasants, aristocrats, and earlier famous storytellers. Many of the tales come from German legends and folklore, though the collection also includes tales of French origin (like those that come from Charles Perrault's collection and other French sources).

The brothers published several editions of their story collections (like *Grimm's Fairy Tales* and *Children's and Household Tales*), containing hundreds of stories. The Grimms didn't stop there though, they also composed a German dictionary (called *German Dictionary*), a volume on mythology (entitled *German Mythology*) and a couple volumes on German grammar (you guessed it—named *German Grammar*).



Today, the Grimms' stories are told everywhere. Many of Disney's top animated feature films are adaptations of Grimms' fairy tales, including *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Tangled* and *The Princess and the Frog*. Also, the 2005 film *The Brothers Grimm* (starring Heath Ledger and Matt Damon in the title roles) recounts the brothers and their tales in a dark film adaptation.

The brothers are no strangers to the small screen either. From made-for-TV musicals (*Once Upon a Brothers Grimm*) to a popular Nickelodeon cartoon series (*Grimms' Fairy Tale Classics*), their fairy tales continue to entertain, amaze and inspire children and adults of all ages. Be on the lookout—the brothers will also be coming to a TV near you soon with the new NBC series *Grimm*, which will put a detective twist on the fairy tales.

The best stories deserve to be told (and heard) again and again, so don't be shy—tell all your friends about *The Elves and the Shoemaker*!

Did you know?

The Brothers Grimm are responsible for all these tales:

- *Hansel and Gretel*
- *Rapunzel*
- *The Fisherman and His Wife*
- *Cinderella*
- *Little Red Riding Hood*
- *The Bremen Town Musicians*
- *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*

Plus many, many more!

Touring Germany

The Elves and the Shoemaker gives us a brief look at Germany and some elements of its culture. If we took a walk in the shoes of our characters, what more might we find out about Germany?

Did you know?

- Germany and 10 other countries use a common European currency: the Euro.
- Germany was involved in both World Wars in the beginning of the 20th century.
- Germany's official language is, of course, German, but most people speak English, which is taught beginning in grade school.
- Germany operates on Central European Time, which is seven hours ahead of us here in Missouri.
- Germany's capital city is Berlin. Have you heard of the Berlin Wall? It was a giant wall that divided the whole country in two for 28 years!

Germany—A Quick Tour

Located in western and central Europe, Germany covers over 137 thousand square miles. It's the seventh largest country in Europe (by area) and the 62nd largest in the world. Woodlands and forest abound, making up almost a third of the country. The Alps (a famous European mountain range) run straight through Germany.

Culinary Delights—By the Cook

If there's one thing that the Germans enjoy for dinner, it's a well-made sausage. Germans consume pork more than any other meat, though they enjoy a wide variety of domesticated (pork, beef and poultry) and game meats (boar, rabbit and venison).

Germans also enjoy over 600 different kinds of bread, which is usually served with breakfast or as part of evening sandwiches. Bakeries are quite popular in Germany, with no shortage of

desserts. Cakes and tarts are extremely popular, including Black Forest cake or a slice of cheesecake made with quark (a type of fresh cheese).

Culture and the Arts—Dancing with the Stars

Dancers aren't the only artists who need shoes... all artists do! Germany has a rich and diverse artistic heritage with a particularly strong presence in music. Famous classical music composers like Beethoven, Bach, Brahms and Wagner are all German (those dancers have to dance to something, don't they?).

Germany is also known for its contributions to the field of literature, including those of the Brothers Grimm (known for their fairy tales, of course!), Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (famous for his poetry and novels), Thomas Mann (noted novelist and short story writer) and Bertolt Brecht (experimental theatre artist).



German Adventure

The Brothers Grimm gave us many famous tales set in Germany. Today, you can visit some of these settings on the famous German Fairy Tale Road. A 305 mile stretch, the Fairy Tale Road connects the towns and landscapes that inspired such tales as *Rapunzel*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Sleeping Beauty* and many more. Beginning in the town of Hanau where brothers Jacob and Wilhelm were born, the road also brings travelers through Steinau, where they grew up, and several other cities where they studied and worked.

With the help of an atlas or some internet research, plot out the Fairy Tale Road on the map below. Be sure to include all the towns listed here, and feel free to include decoration such as cobblestone streets, stately castles or mystical woods like the Grimms might have seen when creating their stories.

1. Steinau

This town was the birth place of the Brothers Grimm and now has a monument to them.

2. Schwalm River

The region along the Schwalm River is the setting for Little Red Riding Hood's adventure.

3. Trendelburg

The medieval castle of Trendelburg is said to be the setting of the tale of Rapunzel.

4. Kassel

A main point of the Fairy Tale Road, this town is the origin of the Grimms' famous collection of *Children's & Household Tales* and is home to the Brothers Grimm museum.

5. Sababurg

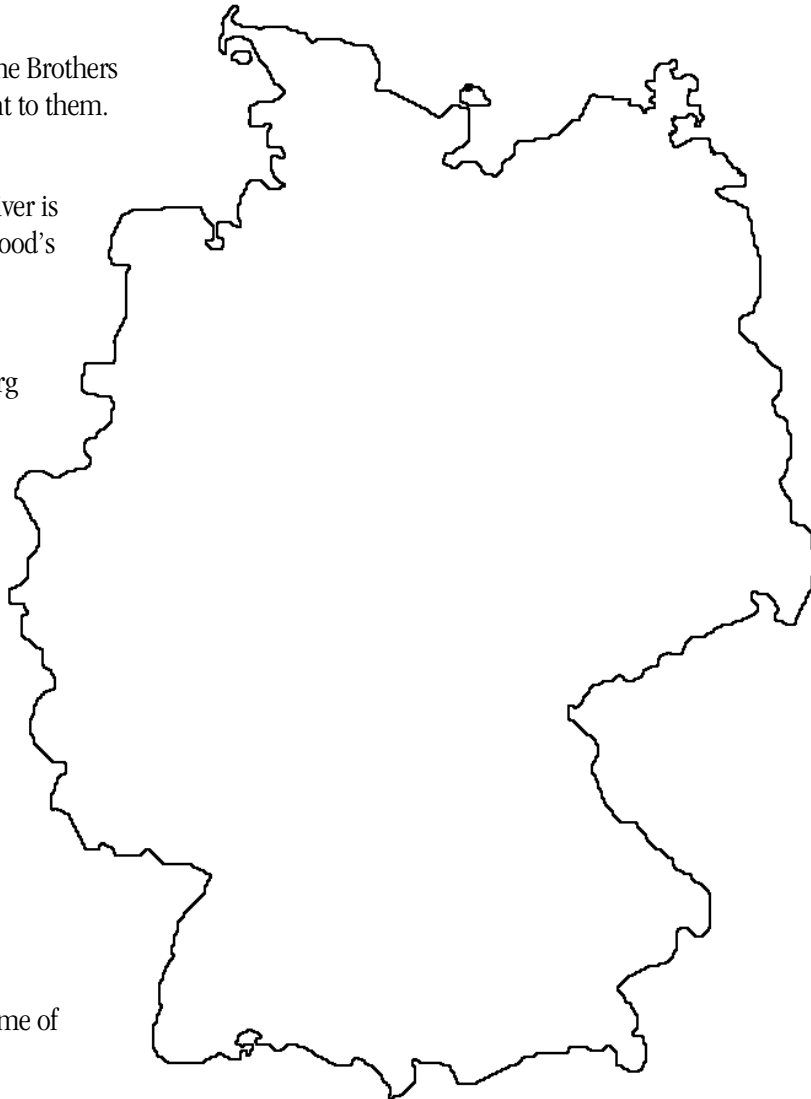
Just outside this city is a castle and park said to be the home of Sleeping Beauty.

6. Hamelin

This picturesque town was the home of the Pied Piper.

7. Bremen

The last stop on the Fairy Tale Road is the home of the Bremen Town Musicians.



Add It Up

The Shoemaker has been having great luck selling shoes and he wants to treat Betty to a great meal. They like lots of different kinds of food, so he is buying a lot of different things. Using the takeout menu shown here, calculate how much each purchase will be, then calculate how much the whole meal will cost him if he buys the various foods described below.



Ye Olde Schnitzel Shoppe

Old-fashioned food—fast!

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Whole Roasted Turkeys..... | \$3.00/lb |
| Roasted Potato Wedges..... | Order of 6/\$3.50 |
| Potato Salad | \$2.00/lb |
| Green Beans | \$2.50/lb |
| Hot rolls..... | \$3.25/doz. or \$.50/ea |
| Schnitzel..... | \$1.25/lb |
| Glazed Baby Carrots..... | \$1.00/lb |
| Pumpkin & Pecan Pies | \$8.50/ea |
| Fruit Pies | \$7.50/ea |
| Cream Pies | \$7.00/ea |

1. The Shoemaker has been craving turkey, so he buys the biggest one in the shop! If the prize turkey weighs 30 pounds, how much will it cost?

2. What if the Shoemaker decides to invite the Elves for dinner? Then there will be a total of four people eating this meal. If each of them will eat two potato wedges, how much will they cost?

3. The Shoemaker doesn't usually like rolls, but when he gets to the store, they smell so good he can't resist. He guesses that each person will eat two rolls, but he isn't sure if it would be cheaper to buy a dozen or not. Figure how many rolls he needs for each person to have two, and then decide if he should buy them individually or by the dozen. What is lowest price for the rolls?

4. If the Shoemaker buys enough potato salad for each person to have a 1/4 pound serving for dinner and another 1/4 serving for lunch the next day, how much potato salad will he buy? What will be the cost?

5. The Shoemaker knows the Elves have a soft spot for sweets so he chooses one pumpkin pie, one pecan, one cherry and one banana cream. How much will all the pies cost?

Bonus!

Now total the Shoemaker's bill for the meal by adding your answers from each of the questions above. How much does it all cost?

You're the Storyteller

You know the Brothers Grimm wrote lots and lots of stories, all inspired by their lives, surroundings and tales they heard others tell. Have you ever thought about writing a story yourself? You can do it! Think about your life, your surroundings and other tales you've heard, and develop your own unique story by combining all these elements.

What's something interesting in your life (a person, situation or event) that you can write about?

What is unique about your surroundings (your home, school or city) that you find inspiring?

What's an element (a character, place or event) from another story that you might want to use?

Now take your ideas and write your story on a separate piece of paper. Maybe you'd even like to turn your story into a play like *The Elves and the Shoemaker*!



Design a Shoe!

The Shoemaker and the Elves had very different ways of designing shoes. If you were designing a shoe, what would it look like? Would it have bells, fur and glitter, or would it be more practical? Design the shoes below any way you like!

