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**Photos available at:** <http://www.bairdphoto.net/bairdphoto/deliver/jco/hg/>

**J\*COMPANY YOUTH THEATRE TO PRODUCE**  
**THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL**

SAN DIEGO – The award-winning J\*Company Youth Theatre, a program of the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS, is pleased to announce its production of *THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL*, the musical version of the classic fairytale with music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur and book by Vera Morris. *THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL* runs **May 11 through 20, 2007**, at the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla.

*THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL* is a sweet and charming musical adaptation of the original Brothers Grimm story. Sent into the woods, Hansel and Gretel met a number of peculiar characters: a fiery troll, an articulate owl, a forest sprite and two hobgoblins in the service of an evil (but extremely funny) witch. She locks poor Hansel in a cage and feeds him nothing but cake! Everyone will cheer Gretel as she outwits the crone and sets free all the children who have been turned into cookies.

Directing *THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL* is **Joey Landwehr**, J\*Company's Artistic Director. Landwehr has worked extensively as an actor and director in New York City, both on and off Broadway, as well as in national tours and regional theatre. He has studied under such instructors as Betty Buckley, Marcel Marceau, Francis Sternhagen, F. Murray Abraham, Twyla Tharpe, and has had the privilege of working with great performers such as Phyllis Diller, Sam Harris, Joel Grey, Kaye Ballard, Michael Feinstein and Howard Keel. Landwehr is a member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) and

Actors' Equity Association (AEA). Landwehr was honored last year by *San Diego Metropolitan Magazine* as one of the 40 San Diego residents under the age of 40 who are making significant contributions to the community. Landwehr directed *Oliver!*, *Yours*, *Anne*, and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* for J\*Company this season.

“*THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL* cast is made up of our younger kids, ages 7 through 13,” said Landwehr. “I’ve been impressed not only with their excitement and willingness to work, but with their professionalism and stamina. They’re truly the next generation of great young performers.”

As with every show he directs, Landwehr has given the cast an activity to enhance the performance experience. “For every J\*Company show there should be some sort of learning component,” said Landwehr. “I’ve asked the young performers in *THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL* to bake gingerbread cookie invitations which will be offered to 30 special-needs children at the Riley School, a special education center connected with Rady Children’s Hospital.”

Musical Director is **Susan Lavoie**, who recently relocated to San Diego from the East Coast, where she taught music. She graduated in 2001 from Stetson University in Florida with a degree in Music Education focusing on Vocal Performance. She has been seen in various Los Angeles cabaret shows and performed with Definitely Dickens Carolers located in Long Beach during the holiday season. Lavoie has performed professionally in various venues including Atlantic City, Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, and Disney’s MGM Studios in Orlando, Florida. Some of her regional theatre credits include *Evita*, *Funny Girl*, and *Honk!*

Seventy children will be featured in the show. The role of Hansel will be played by **Nathan Wetter**, Gretel by **Sarah Frank**, and Ginny The Gingerbread Witch by **Becca Myers**. **Madison Simpson** is Siren The Storyteller, **Danielle Levin** takes the role of Mother, **Sam Jacobs** is Father, **Josh Stein** and **Ari Krasner** are Frick and Frack, the Hobgoblins.

**Production dates and times:**

Friday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. (school show)  
Saturday, May 12, 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 13, 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. (school show)  
Saturday, May 19, 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 20, 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Tickets for *THE STORY OF HANSEL AND GRETEL* are \$12.50 for children and \$16.50 for adults and are available online at [www.lfjcc.org](http://www.lfjcc.org) or by phone at **858-362-1348**. A complete listing of production dates and show times are online at [www.lfjcc.org/jcompany](http://www.lfjcc.org/jcompany).

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#### **About the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture**

The San Diego Center for Jewish Culture is the largest Jewish institution in San Diego dedicated solely to presenting high quality, nationally recognized programs which are unique to San Diego County. The mission of the SDCJC is to expand and enrich cultural life in San Diego by presenting the finest in Jewish artistic expression, encouraging the preservation of Jewish culture and heritage, and nurturing new creativity in the arts. A core belief of the SDCJC is to promote respect for diverse cultures and build community tolerance.

The SDCJC offers a wide variety of multi-disciplinary artistic programs that explore cultural identities and perspectives, promote cross cultural understanding, and highlight human themes of family, tolerance, compassion, and hope. These programs, including the San Diego Jewish Film Festival, the San Diego Jewish Book Fair, New Jewish Plays Project, the Celebrating Jewish Music Concert Series, a Holocaust Education Program, and the J\*Company Youth Theatre, foster ideas of cultural appreciation and respect. Its facilities feature a 500-seat theatre, a Judaica library, an art gallery, and a community Holocaust Memorial Garden. Approximately 40,000 tickets are sold or provided annually to residents, visitors, and students for San Diego Center for Jewish Culture events.

#### **About the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS**

The mission of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is to provide social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs to individuals and families of all ages, religions, races, and financial, physical and mental abilities. Likewise, the JCC provides equal opportunity employment to individuals of all religions and backgrounds. The JCC welcomes San Diego's diverse Jewish community and the community at large. The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is located at 4126 Executive Drive in La Jolla.



SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE  
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