

The Pied Piper of Hamelin **Review by Cynthia Snodgrass**

Last December we went to China but on April 9th and 10th it was off to Germany! Hamelin, Germany, that is, where children play under sunny skies, grown-ups bicker greedily over petty things, and fat black rats run rampant, grazing ankles and nibbling on feather-beds and linen. Gross!

Suddenly the streets are empty, the townspeople are fed up, and the mayor is at his wit's end. It was then that a mysterious character called the Pied Piper strolled into town. Clad in a cape and bright green trachtenhut, he offered to rid Hamelin of its furry friends for a small fee.

Desperate, the mayor agrees to pay the piper for his work, but with no intention of actually doing so. When the piper returns – he is angered by the trickery and plays an enchanting melody that lures all the towns-children away and into a cave. All the children left, except for Dirk, the lame musician boy who was far too slow to keep up.

The townspeople realized how wrong they had been and mourned the loss of their children. They apologized and each gave something they valued in repayment for their deceitful ways. With that, the Pied Piper once again played his flute and the children returned with the grown-ups learning that honesty and morality out-value the superficial pleasantries of life. But most importantly, they learned to always keep a promise; always 'pay the piper'... And so went the Main Company's production of The Pied Pipe of Hamelin.

This time around, there were quite a few bright, new faces added to the cast. As expected, everyone pulled together to provide stellar performances, one after the other - day after day. Highlights of the play included: an incredible set (complete with buildings, a coin-tossing statue and papier-mâché cave), charming costumes, and some cleverly rigged "rat-things" - all produced by the dedicated hands and hearts of CTW staff and parent volunteers.

Congratulations to the Cast A and B crew and actors, your dedication and hard-work certainly paid off. Special thanks go to the parent volunteers and families who sacrificed time and energy to help make the production a success.