

Seattle, WA

## The Snow Queen: **GERDA'S JOURNEY**

*A spectacular theatrical adventure traveling through parks in King County in August and September 2008, based on Hans Christian Andersen's THE SNOW QUEEN*

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"LISTEN - This is the beginning.

And when we get to the end, we will know more than we do now."

So begins Hans Christian Andersen's tale *THE SNOW QUEEN*, a story of Gerda and her journey to find her lost friend, Kai. And, in **GERDA'S JOURNEY**, a site-specific production by theater simple, the audience will literally go on Gerda's adventure with her, following her and other characters as the play moves through one of King County's beautiful urban parks.

An immersive experience exploiting the unique topography of each park to frame the story (and the park itself) in new ways for the audience, there are encounters with devious devils, self-absorbed flowers, talking crows, a ferocious robber band, and more.

**theater simple** theatrics act as a springboard for a fresh(-air) take on a familiar tale to make this one of the MUST GO! events of the Pacific Northwest summer.

**Fairy tales: Not just for kids anymore. (But then, they never were...]**

### where and when

- ❖ Thurs **Aug 21, 2008 at 7:30pm**, Lake Meridian Park, 14800 SE 272nd Street, in Kent (South King County)
- ❖ Sat **Aug 23** & Sun **Aug 24 5pm** at The Carl S. English, Jr. Botanical Garden next to the Hiram Chittenden Locks, In the auspiciously Scandinavian neighborhood of Ballard in Seattle
- ❖ Sat **Aug 30** and Mon **Sept 1** at Bumbershoot, on the Theatre Puget Sound stage. (check [tpsonline.org](http://tpsonline.org) or [Bumbershoot.org](http://Bumbershoot.org) for exact times)
- ❖ Sat, **Sept 13, 6:30PM** in McCormick Park, 26200 NE Stephens Street, Duvall

**How long?** 60 minutes or so (depending on distance to travel)

**Target audience:** all ages. Grown-ups will get the puns, kids will get the rest. Parks are wheelchair accessible.

**Cost:** free, but donations are welcome to defray actual costs of performance.

### project background

theater simple's original adaptation of *THE SNOW QUEEN* in 1999 won raves, accolades and awards - *GERDA'S JOURNEY* is a stepping stone toward a re-envisioning of that production. The sparkling new version of *THE SNOW QUEEN* will play at the Bathhouse at Seattle's Greenlake November 19-23, 2008.

*Nice things said about theater simple's production of THE SNOW QUEEN -*

- ❖ **ONE OF THE TOP TEN PLAYS** of 1999 "...bushels of theatrical invention.....perhaps the most magical show on offer this season." *The Seattle Weekly*
- ❖ "... enchantment few will resist. Theatrical magic." *The Seattle Times*

**[FUTURE FILE NOTE:** *The full-length production of THE SNOW QUEEN returns this year, Nov 19-23, '08 at the Bathhouse Theatre, 7312 W. Green Lake Dr. N., Seattle, WA 98103.]*

**The creative team** of *GERDA'S JOURNEY* includes many of the original *The Snow Queen* team: director, Rachel Katz Carey, composer Jeff Kunins, costumer and sculptor Doris Landolt Black, and theater simpletons Llysa Holland, Christine Longe', Andrew Litzky, and Monique Kleinhans. .

**theater simple** is known locally and internationally for their work with literary adaptations as well as their site-specific escapades. **GERDA'S JOURNEY** combines both. Past work on adaptations include Bulgakov's *The Master & Margarita*, Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground*, Conrad's *Heart Of Darkness*, Kipling's *The Elephant's Child*, Dickens' *HARD TIMES* and Andersen's *The Snow Queen*. Previous 4Culture-sponsored site-specific events include *TRAILER TALES: Weekend Safari*, and *PARK BENCH*. (Podcasts from *Park Bench* are available here: [http://www.gcast.com/user/theater\\_simple/podcast/main](http://www.gcast.com/user/theater_simple/podcast/main))

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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**theater simple**

"We make theater. Simple."

*The Snow Queen: GERDA'S JOURNEY* is supported by grants from 4Culture, The Seattle Mayor's Office for Arts and Culture, and Centrum. **theater simple** is proud to be a member of Theater Puget Sound, the Network of Ensemble Theaters, and a partner artist of the SHUNPIKE. [www.theshunpike.org](http://www.theshunpike.org)  
## end ##

photo: The Snow Queen reaches out  
(photo taken at Centrum, Pt Townsend, WA)

photo credit: Monique Kleinhans



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is supported by 4Culture, The Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs,  
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