




**USF**  
UNIVERSITY of  
SAN FRANCISCO

**MBA for Executives at USF**  
An MBA program for experienced managers and executives

TALK WITH US →

1,000 Top-Rated Local  
Companies are Profiled

Wednesday, April 14, 2010  SANTA CRUZ, CA | Now: 58°F | High: 66°F | Low: 42°F | 5-Day Forecast

Login | Register | E-Edition  
Subscriber Services | Mobile Edition

Site Web Search powered by **YAHOO! SEARCH**

home news business sports entertainment opinion obituaries blogs community contact us jobs cars homes classifieds print ads

We're on Facebook

    Font Resize

Share 0 tweet



## 'Hamelin' reworks the legend of the Pied Piper

By KATIE HUGHES McKEE  
Posted: 04/08/2010 01:30:26 AM PDT

Imagine Edward Scissorhands meets Pinocchio meets the Pied Piper. That's what awaited the audience on opening night of "What Happened in Hamelin," a production of Red Egg Theater on Easter weekend.

Local author/director Gina Marie Hayes took her inspiration for this play from a podcast of "Stuff You Missed in History Class," in which the legend of the Pied Piper was explored -- his motley or "pied" appearance, usually attributed to his clothing but which, to some modern researchers, suggests a mottled complexion or a large birthmark. Also discussed were the dark, disturbing undertones of the myth, particularly surrounding the fate of the children at the end. In one version, the children are found safely living in Transylvania and don't want to come home; in another, their parents enter the cave and find nothing but bones in the dust. In still another ending the parents find nothing at all.

Hayes, in her director's notes, asks, "But what of the Piper? Is he mentally deranged, or simply misunderstood? After being cheated by the town's elders out of his payment for exterminating rats, he leads away the children of Hamelin, but is never mentioned again in the story. The creation of this play was an exploration of the magical underpinnings of the legend, and the fate of the Piper."

Upon entering the Actor's Theatre, I was immediately drawn into an alternative universe. At the center of this universe was a boy with a large birthmark on his face, dressed in

tattered clothing, cradling a puppet/doll/child. A rat perched on his shoulder. On the black wall to his left were hundreds of screaming chalk faces. To his right were several tiny Alpine houses set on a vast green hillside. Eerie music filled the room. I wrote: "disturbing." Even more disturbing was the woman above me and to my right who nattered at the top of her voice about some perceived slight until the lights mercifully went down and she shut up.

What followed was a delightful melange of drama, humor, and puppetry, with a surprise for the audience in the first several rows thrown in. The acting from an ensemble cast consisting of Noah Averbach-Katz, Flynn Crosby, Ian Fullmer, Erin Johnson, Kirsten Macaulay and Boris Volkov was superb, as was the evocative sound design by Mathew Schreiber and the lighting by Amelia Rain

Advertisement



Olson. The haunting set was designed by Sunshine Buckets and Chris Frost, using repurposed materials. The imaginative costumes and props in this production were also made from recycled items, making it a "green" show. Even the makeup deserved a bow.

Back to "disturbing:" publicity for the show states that it is "not appropriate for children under the age of 12." I would amend that age to 6. The young kids who sat in the front row loved it. It's also surprisingly short -- only 45 minutes, so it works for those of any age who have television-generated attention spans: it's the length of a TV show on DVD, without the commercials. Do come see this production. It runs only one more weekend and you will kick yourself if you miss it.

Most Viewed



Most E-Mailed

(From the last 12 hours)

1. Police recover bodies of Watsonville man, woman who moved into Santa...
2. Santa Cruz City Council approves installation of meters to help...
3. Capitola woman found dead in locked trailer
4. Horse joins morning commute in Santa Cruz Mountains
5. Cops and Courts: April 14, 2010: Jack gives out; car falls on man
6. Sheriff's Office: Death of man found at Boulder Creek Elementary was...
7. Restaurant review - Hole in the Wall: This Seacliff cafe proves good...
8. Stranger who moved into Ben Lomond couple's home pleads guilty
9. Obituaries: April 14, 2010: Gonzales, DeMoro, Hopson
10. Sheriff's Office: Death of man found at Boulder Creek Elementary was...

Related Content

- Search warrant nets guns, meth, arrests in Watsonville
- Editor's Blog: Tina Fey feigns Sarah Palin
- Man found dead along Salsipuedes Creek in Watsonville
- Horse joins morning commute in Santa Cruz Mountains
- Capitola woman found dead in locked trailer
- As We See It: Don't delay desal water
- Police recover bodies of Watsonville man, woman who moved into Santa Cruz care home
- New study provides fuel for both sides of artificial turf fight
- County moves forward with shopping bag ban
- Stranger who moved into Ben Lomond couple's home

pleads guilty  
 Sheriff's Office: Death of man found at Boulder Creek Elementary was accidental  
 Search under way for new Santa Cruz deputy police chief  
 Older, wiser kindergarten classes considered by state lawmakers  
 Amycel develops method to spike Vitamin D levels in mushrooms  
 Judge blocks Salyer's bid for bail  
 Watsonville City Council put more teeth in vicious dog ordinance  
 CHP: Fatigue may have contributed to deadly tour bus crash  
 Coast Lines: April 14, 2010  
 Cops and Courts: April 14, 2010: Jack gives out; car falls on man  
 Obituaries: April 14, 2010: Gonzales, DeMoro, Hopson  
 Perfect Pizza: A hot oven, fresh ingredients and some creativity are the key to great pie  
 Restaurant review - Hole in the Wall: This Seacliff cafe proves good things come in small packages  
 Donna Maurillo: Fish heads and egg shells ... giving your veggies what they need  
 Mountain wineries open their doors for Passport event  
 Back Burner: April 14, 2010

**IF YOU GO**

'What Happened in Hamelin'  
 presented by: Red Egg Theater and the Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre  
 WHEN: 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday  
 WHERE: Actors' Theatre, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz  
 COST: \$10 general, \$5 students and seniors  
 DETAILS: [redeggtheater@gmail.com](mailto:redeggtheater@gmail.com)

BOOK-MARK Font Resize Return to Top

COMMENTS: Please use your real name to increase your comment's credibility. Please help us monitor this conversation by flagging hate speech, off-topic comments, vulgarity and comments that in any way advocate violence. [Terms of service](#)

[Read 1 comment »](#)

Type in your comments to post to the forum

**Name (appears on your post)**

**Comments**

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:



Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator. [Send us your feedback](#).

<p><b><a href="#">The Quiet Santa Cruz Bed and Breakfast</a></b>          Oasis in the City.  <a href="http://www.AdobeOnGreen.com">www.AdobeOnGreen.com</a></p>	<p><b><a href="#">Obama Urges Homeowners to Refinance</a></b>          Rates Hit 3.62% APR!  <a href="http://www.SeeRefinanceRates.com">www.SeeRefinanceRates.com</a></p>	<p><b><a href="#">Zinc Products</a></b>          Wide range of zinc products. Get huge discounts on bulk  <a href="http://www.iHealthTree.com">www.iHealthTree.com</a></p>
--	---	--

Ads by Yahoo!

Contact Us | Subscriber Services | Site Map | RSS

Copyright © 2010 - Santa Cruz Sentinel

MediaNews Group - Northern California Network

[Privacy Policy](#) | [MNG Corporate Site Map](#) | [Copyright](#)

A MediaNews Group WEBSITE