

Educator's Guide

Created by Aubree Bowen



The University of Kansas
Theatre for Young People presents
Rumpelstiltskin
Created and Directed by Moses Goldberg

School performances:

February 4 - 8 1:00 p.m.
February 13 - 14 9:45 a.m.

Tickets for school matinees are \$2.50

Complimentary tickets are available for teachers and students on
free/reduced lunch programs

Contents

Show times & dates	1
Preview time & date	1
Drama workshops	1
Interview with the Director	2
Plot summary	3
Themes & topics	3
Drawings	4

Public performances:

Saturday, February 9 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, February 10 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for all students, \$10 for adults,
and \$9 for senior citizens

Preview Information

Preview for Teachers and Parents 2:00 p.m. February 2 - 3

Parents and teachers are invited to attend the final dress rehearsals of *Rumpelstiltskin* in the Inge Theatre in Murphy Hall. The purpose of these previews is to acquaint you with the play and see its final rehearsals before the opening performance. The rehearsal is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. and will run non-stop until approximately 3:00 p.m. We encourage you to ask questions and to discuss the play and its performance techniques with us so you may prepare children in advance of their attendance the following week.

**Lawrence teachers may earn In-Service Points through
Ann Bruemmer, Arts and Humanities Coordinator.**

Drama Workshops

KU-TYP Director Jeanne Klein is on sabbatical for the 2007-08 school year so drama workshops are not being held this season.



For the last two decades Moses Goldberg has directed numerous critically acclaimed productions, written countless scripts for young audiences, and has been considered the “father” of participation theatre in the United States. He has also taught at the university level and his textbook, [Children’s Theatre: A Philosophy and a Method](#), is a core text in degree programs in children’s theatre.

“A child won over to the magic of theatre has the potential to be a theatre-goer for many, many years to come.”

An Interview with Moses Goldberg

How would you describe participation theatre?

MG: All live theatre is participatory, but this particular approach is geared toward children in a narrow age range from approximately 4 to 7, and helps them to learn about the differences between live theatre and the recorded media, and also helps them to learn the distinction between active, physical participation and a more mature response, which is aesthetic participation.

How did you get started with children’s theatre? What’s your favorite aspect of it?

MG: I have worked with and for children since I was a Boy Scout working with a Cub Scout troop. I love it because it is a chance to affect future audiences for the American theatre. A child won over to the magic of theatre has the potential to be a theatre-goer for many, many years to come.

What inspired you to write this version of Rumpelstiltskin?

MG: Most of my Participation Plays are adapted from classic fairy tales. I am always trying to find the archetypal truths behind the stories—the underlying psychology that has made these tales so much a part of our cultural literacy—and then make them relevant to today’s world.

If there’s one thing that the kids could get out of this production, what would you hope it would be?

MG: That live theatre is more fun than even television!

What has your experience been like directing at KU?

MG: KU has a long and rich heritage as one of the pioneers in developing Theatre for Young Audiences in America, going back to the days of Jed Davis, one of the recognized early leaders in the field. It is an honor to be contributing to that tradition.

Anything else you would like to add?

MG: Nope!

Plot Summary for *Rumpelstiltskin*

Staged by the KU Theatre for Young People for younger children in grades one through three, this is a work of humor and honesty by one of the American masters of participation theatre. Moses Goldberg will visit KU for six weeks to restage this inspired, wonderfully entertaining adaptation of the beloved fairy tale. The show opens with a group of strolling players preparing to perform a play. After the prologue, which introduces young audiences to the conventions of the stage, they enact the story of the bragging baker Cosmo, his daughter Patience, and her attempt to spin straw into gold for the greedy queen so she may marry the shy prince. If Patience cannot perform the task, then her father's life as well as hers are in serious danger. Rumpelstiltskin, an evil dwarf, appears in the tower and announces that he will provide the gold, but at a terrible price: the first-born child of the royal pair. Patience agrees so that her life might be spared. Time passes and Prince Percy and Patience are blessed with their first baby. But when the dwarf returns to demand his payment, he prepares to take the baby unless the young queen can guess the dwarf's name. Aided by a witty mime with some help from the audience, the comic Rumpelstiltskin is thwarted and a lesson is learned by all.



While the general storyline of Rumpelstiltskin may be familiar to many ages, Goldberg's version includes the audience in the action, which sometimes causes the actors to have to switch gears mid-play!

Themes and Discussion Topics

Much of Cosmo and Patience's trouble comes from lying about spinning the straw into gold. Have you ever lied to get something you want? Are there good and bad lies?

Even though Cosmo is the one who lies to the Queen, it is ultimately Patience and Percy who are punished for his actions. Have you ever gotten in trouble for something you didn't do? Have you ever told on anyone?

At the beginning of the play, the actors come out to introduce themselves and the play. How did this help you? How are actors different from characters?

Honesty is an important theme in this play. When the characters are **dishonest**, what happens?

Why would Rumpelstiltskin want to take Patience and Percy's first-born child?

We love to see children's visual expressions of this play. Send drawings to Theatre for Young People, University of Kansas, 1530 Naismith Drive, Lawrence, KS 66045.

Draw a picture of your favorite part of the play.