

ARTS & VARIETY

Bremen Town Blues

BY HD DOWNS

BREMEN TOWN BLUES is a musical written and directed by Mark Rosenwinkel, a prominent professor of Concordia University's Theater and Dance department, with music by Raymond Berg. The musical is an adaptation based on of the well known Grimm's tale, "Bremen Town Musicians."

Rosenwinkel's version includes the same main characters and sentiment of the original story, but with his own twist. *Bremen Town Blues* is set during the Great Depression and tells the tale of three animals that each have one common musical passion: to become a troupe of traveling musicians. This motley array of cast-away animals includes a feisty rooster, a head-strong mule, and a bashful cat who, in the end, is not so shy. The three set off to break out the routines of boring, everyday life and become musicians in Bremen Town, a place well-known for its musical and performance scene.

Bremen Town Blues is truly a show for all ages, captivating the minds of those both young and old, and completely selling out its first two showings. The musical ran for a total of five shows over the course of four days: November 29th-December 2nd.

Upon walking into the show, staged in the Westlund Black Box Theater at CSP, the audience was immediately transferred into a new world. There was burlap bag seating on the floor, chairs that looked like they belonged in a barn, and the fence on set was made out of birch tree branches.

A few minutes before the show, all the characters came out and mingled with the audience individually. They came up to one child and asked if he was ready to enjoy the show, and he started to tell them that he was the rooster in the show at his school. Throughout the show, the characters regularly broke the third wall and encouraged the audience to participate. At one point, a character even ate an imaginary bug off an audience member's head.

Overall, *Bremen Town Blues* was a fun musical that kept the audience thoroughly entertained throughout its entire duration. Did you miss your chance to see *Bremen Town Blues* at Concordia? Rosenwinkel is seeking a location to do a free version of the show off-campus. For updates on locations and shows, check the Concordia University Theater and Dance Facebook page regularly. †



Photography provided by Molly Weibel
Pictured above is
Ruth Elkerton
Erika
Ryan Skille

Photography
Molly Weibel
Pictured to the
Tom Rivard
Ryan Skille
Alexandria G
Lindsey Bah

Photography provided by Molly Weibel
Pictured below is
Alexandria Gosen
Lindsey Bahr
Ruth Elkerton
Ryan Skille

