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# Hänsel und Gretel

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK

OPERA 2013

HDTV

Fairy tale opera in three scenes  
Music by Engelbert Humperdinck  
Libretto by Adelheid Wette  
after the Grimm brothers' fairy tale

**FILMED AT** Opéra national de Paris  
**IN** April 2013  
**TV DIRECTOR** Andy Sommer  
**RUNNING TIME** 1 x 90'

# Hänsel und Gretel

## ARTISTIC INFORMATION

### DESCRIPTION

In 1881, the twenty-seven-year-old Engelbert Humperdinck became Richard Wagner's assistant in Bayreuth. Wagner had two more years to live. These two years of intense artistic collaboration on *Parsifal* indelibly marked the young composer's life and style. In 1883, the Master died, leaving his disciple "incomplete". He became a wanderer, traveling throughout Europe, eventually becoming a renowned teacher. Ten years later, in Weimar, Humperdinck completed his masterpiece, *Hänsel and Gretel*. His sister wrote the libretto, inspired by the *Grimm brothers'* fairy tale. The opera premiered at Christmas under the enthusiastic baton of Richard Strauss. Humperdinck had retained a Wagnerian taste for continuous melody and leitmotiv. However, his fairy-tale opera (Märchenoper) also drew on children's songs and the sort of popular melodies whose origins tend to become lost in the mists of time. The result is music that astounds, as deep as the lakes of Germanic legends but at the same time strangely familiar. It conjures up memories of our forgotten childhoods as though once, long ago we ourselves were that very brother and sister lost in the forest, trapped in the grasp of the witch with her gingerbread house.

### PERFORMERS

Jochen Schmeckenbecher ..... Peter  
Irmgard Vilsmaier ..... Gertrud  
Daniela Sindram ..... Hänsel  
Anne-Catherine Gillet ..... Gretel  
Anja Silja ..... Die Knusperhexe  
Paris Opera Orchestra,  
Maîtrise des Hauts-de-Seine / Paris Opera Children's Chorus

### ARTISTIC STAFF

**Musical conductor** Claus Peter Flor |  
**Stage director** Mariame Clément |  
**Set and costumes** Julia Hansen |  
**Lighting** Philippe Berthomé |  
**Choreography** Mathieu Guilhaumon |

**LANGUAGE VO** German | **LANGUAGES / ST** English, French |

## PRODUCTION

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES** Opéra de Paris Production, Bel Air Media,  
in association with France Télévisions and the support of the CNC |

## DISTRIBUTION

**DISTRIBUTION COMPANY** Telmondis Distribution | 7, Rue du Dôme |  
F – 92100 Boulogne Billancourt | Tel/Fax: + 33 1 40 74 76 20 / 09 |

**VIDEO FORMAT** HDCAM, Digibeta 16/9 |

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