

Thank you for joining us at Entropy Theatre's premiere production of *a grimm thing*. Over these past several weeks, the ensemble before you has been hard at work investigating and actualizing what it means to present a queer re-imagining of popular and lesser known stories from the *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. Indeed, one can imagine that a colonizing, heteronormative text inspired by 19th century German nation-building does not easily lend itself towards the making of a queer theatre piece. Nor does a conventional-theatre making process. So, what does the *Grimms' Fairy Tales* offer us? For one, although the *Grimms' Fairy Tales* were very influential in bolstering German nationalism, it is worthwhile to recognize that the *Grimms' Fairy Tales* were published six years after Napoleon had conquered what is now called Germany (in those days, a forced confederation of client states within the French Empire), and thus could be interpreted as stories that resist an occupying force.

With resistance in mind, we decided to unmarry ourselves from presenting these stories in a manner "faithful to the text." Instead, we chose to imagine the stories as acts of queer resistance - a *Grimms' Fairy Tales* for the modern age. As a result, childlike energy abounds, encounters with transformative bodies are frequent, interruptions are embraced, and queerness flourishes.

Furthermore, we chose to create the piece in a highly-collaborative, failure-friendly manner so as not to let an insistence on conventional rehearsal hierarchies detract from the mission of the piece. The directorial efforts for this piece were less focused on sole decision-making, but rather about how to create an environment where meaningful artistic exchanges could be had, and meaningful work could emerge. This is the result.