



5531 International Pkwy · Springfield · P.O. Box 203 · Chatham Illinois · 62629 · 494-8059

Contact: Taryn Grant
217-494-8059

For Immediate Release
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SYPG Spring Showcase features classic ballet, original works

Springfield, IL -- The Springfield Youth Performance Group (SYPG), an organization spotlighting young talent from the Springfield area, is presenting its Spring Showcase production featuring *Hansel and Gretel* at Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield on Saturday, March 25, 2006, at 2 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m.

The SYPG will present the ballet *Hansel and Gretel*, the classic fairy tale set to music by Brahms, Hayden and Engelbert Humperdink, with choreography by Ronda Brinkman. In addition to *Hansel and Gretel*, the production will include original pieces highlighting different disciplines of dance. The Spring Showcase features a cast of more than 80 area children ages seven and up.

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 13 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the door or are available in advance by calling 217-494-8059.

Hansel and Gretel tells the story of two young children that disobey their parents and become lost in a forest overnight. During the night they are protected by guardian angels as they sleep. The next day, they encounter an evil witch who tricks them into entering her house and traps them. The children are able to break free of the witch and are reunited with their parents, learning the importance of obedience through the series of events. The production is appropriate for all age levels and is entertaining and engaging for children.

The Springfield Youth Performance Group was founded in the summer of 2005 as a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children through the performing arts. SYPG's mission is to encourage and cultivate the artistically talented youth in our community by giving them the opportunity to perform thereby enhancing community awareness and appreciation for the performing arts. The artistic director is Ronda Brinkman and president is Taryn Grant. For more information call 217-494-8059.

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Sypg@insightbb.com · www.sypg.org