



PRESS RELEASE

THE UGLY DUCKLING

A musical

Adapted from H.C. Andersen

By Ric Averill

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Press Article:

The Seem-To-Be Players are coming to town with H.C. Andersen's classic *The Ugly Duckling*. This musical version of the fairy tale was adapted and composed by the company's Artistic Director, Ric Averill. The play takes place across the course of a full year with changing seasons represented by Jeff McLaughlin's colorful set. There is a mixture of comedy and poignancy that make the production fun for the whole family.

Averill's most recent composition, an opera for children based on Andersen's *The Emperor's New Clothes* was commissioned and toured nationally by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. "I love working with Andersen Fairy Tales," said Averill. "There is a richness of imagination and a beauty to the work that lends itself to both music and script."

Averill has headed up the Seem-To-Be Players for more than 30 years and has published many of the plays developed by that company. Based in Lawrence, Kansas, the company tours the entire nation from Florida to Washington State. Actors are drawn from not only the greater Kansas City area but from across the country. Former actors from the company have appeared on television and in movies and can be found on both coasts.

The Seem-To-Be Players receive support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Heartland Arts Fund, Hallmark Cards and US Bank.