



PRESS RELEASE

THE UGLY DUCKLING

A musical

Adapted from H.C. Andersen

By Ric Averill

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Bio, Artistic Director, Writer, Ric Averill:

Ric Averill has been the Artistic Director and principal playwright, composer and director for the Arts Center's Seem-To-Be Players professional children's theatre company since he and his wife, Jeanne, founded the company in 1973.

Ric writes both plays and music, with degrees from the University of Kansas in both Music Composition and Children's Theatre. Ric has received numerous Playwriting Fellowships and been selected for five professional play development symposiums including the Kennedy Center's New Visions/New Voices and the Indianapolis Bonderman Youth Theatre Playwriting Symposium.

Ric's plays, published by Dramatic Publishing, include *The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor*; *Bird Woman*, *the Story of Sacagawea*; *The Princess and the Pea* and other short plays; *Pixies, Kings and Magical Things*; *Alex and the Shrink World* and *T-Money and Wolf* (with Kevin Willmott.) Ric also wrote the *Actor's Handbook* for Fran Tanner's high school textbook, *Basic Drama Projects*.

Included among Ric's many commissions are the Kennedy Center's *Alice in Wonderland*, First Stage Milwaukee's *Little Drummer Boy*, the Coterie Theatre's *Frankenstein* and the Kansas Health Foundation's *Red Blood and High Purpose*. Ric's fusion of music and theatre has culminated in an opera for children based on the story of *The Emperor's New Clothes* which was commissioned by the Kennedy