

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Imagination and creativity in children's theatre, especially when producing such a fanciful and ancient story as that of Vasilisa-The-Hardworker and Baba Yaga, requires a kind of sustained and patient teamwork which is difficult to imagine. The challenges in "The Two Maples" began with the research on the fairy tale itself and the Russian background, and discussions between the designer and the director. For our version of the story we longed to include some **We decided to experiment with actors as puppethandlers and larger-than-actor costuming.** Thus, the interpretations of Baba Yaga and the bear, Mishka, were born.

But the real credit and glory go to the students: the actors who were also the costume builders, the mask builders, the prop makers, the backstage crews; and to the Stage Manager, the Production Assistant, the Warm-up and Dance Captains - they made a formidable team. They all endured long hours of work-outs and rehearsals - every minute not rehearsing was spent in the scene shop, the costume room, the box office - to put this lovely Fairy Tale on the stage. They often contributed to the decision-making and their contributions brought energy and inspiration to the entire team.

So for me directing this play was experiencing educational theatre in the best sense: a dedicated team presenting a play with an honorable theme so that children may enjoy a theatrical experience which includes good fun, imagination, and pleasure.



BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE CHILDREN'S THEATRE

presents



