

This Old Gingerbread House

By
Teresa Jennings

A Production Of:
The Beatty Theatre Company

This Old Gingerbread House



Max Wilson - Director

Creative Team

Luann Wilson - Costumes

Erin McFadden - Assistant Director

Cesar Trusca - Assistant Director

Wendy Katz - Sets

Michelle D'Amico - Sets

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Hansel (a peasant boy)

Gretel (a peasant girl)

Hansel & Gretel's neighbors any number, many speaking*

Narrators

Bob Thomas (the star of "This Old Home Improvement")

Norm (master carpenter and chef)

Director

Cast and crew of the TV show "This Old Home Improvement," any number

SETTINGS

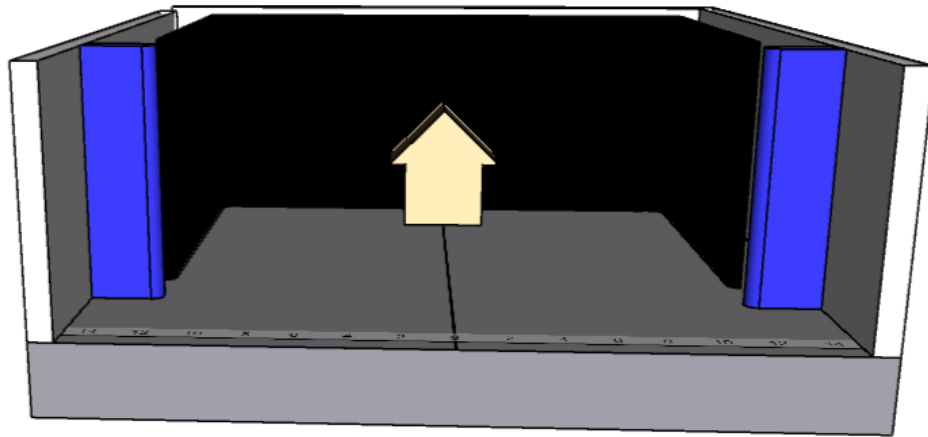
Hansel and Gretel's Gingerbread House in the forest

TIME

Once upon a time

(*Hansel and Gretel's neighbors are woodland creatures, such as rabbits, owls, foxes, bears, birds, bugs, raccoon, deer, and so on. If you prefer, the neighbors could be children who are dressed similarly to Hansel and Gretel for costuming ease. You could even combine creatures and children to have a mixture of neighbors.)

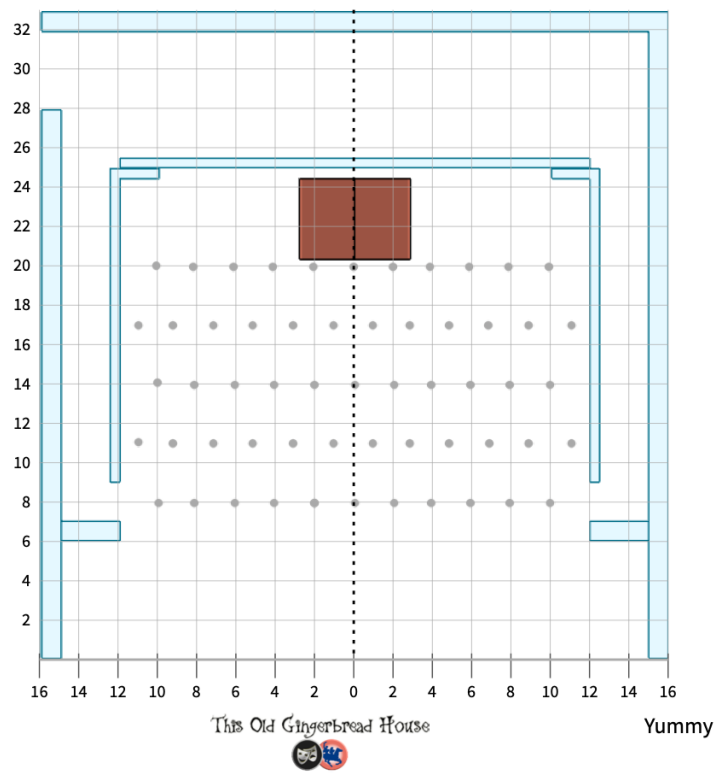
SET DESIGN



ACT 1 SCENE 1:

Many of Hansel and Gretel's neighbors are gathered around the Gingerbread House taking pieces of it to eat while joyously singing.

<THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY>



THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY

YUMMY! YUMMY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
TASTY, CHEWY, CRUNCHY, GOOEY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
YUMMY! YUMMY! YUMMY TO MY TUMMY!
SUGAR, CANDY, SWEET AND DANDY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!

TAKE A BITE! TAKE A BITE! TAKE A BITE OF EV'RYTHING IN SIGHT!
LOTS OF GUMDROPS AND LOLLIPOPS AND GINGERBREAD TO EAT!
THE PEPPERMINT, CHOC'LATE, LICORICE, JELLYBEANS MAKE IT TASTE
SO SWEET!

Yum!

YUMMY! YUMMY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
TASTY, CHEWY, CRUNCHY, GOOEY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
YUMMY! YUMMY! YUMMY TO MY TUMMY!
SUGAR, CANDY, SWEET AND DANDY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!

spoken:

(crunch crunch) Yum yum yum! (crunch crunch)
Yum yum yum!
(crunch crunch) Yum yum yum! (crunch crunch)
Mmmm!
(crunch crunch) Yum yum yum! (crunch crunch)
Yum yum yum!
(crunch crunch) Yum yum yum! (crunch crunch)
Mmmm!

YUMMY! YUMMY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
TASTY, CHEWY, CRUNCHY, GOOEY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
YUMMY! YUMMY! YUMMY TO MY TUMMY!
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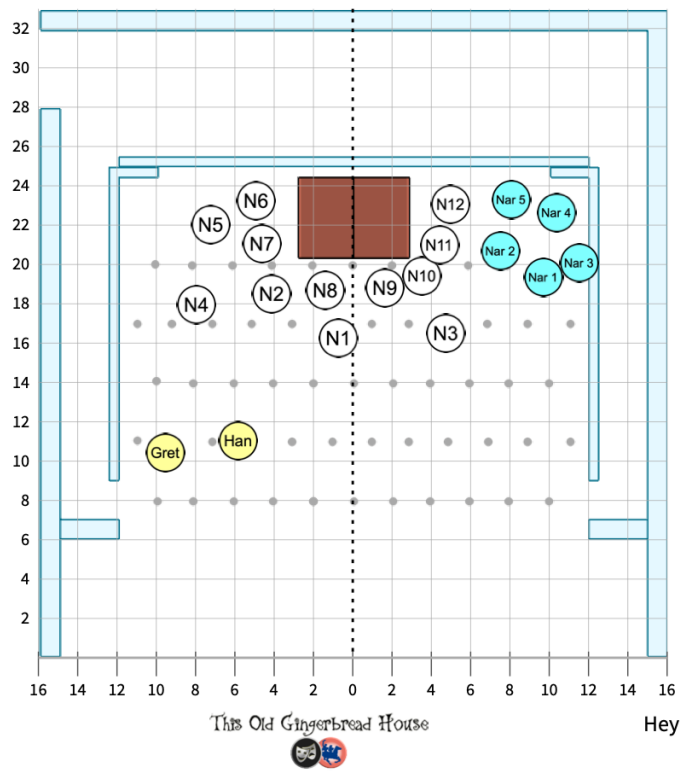
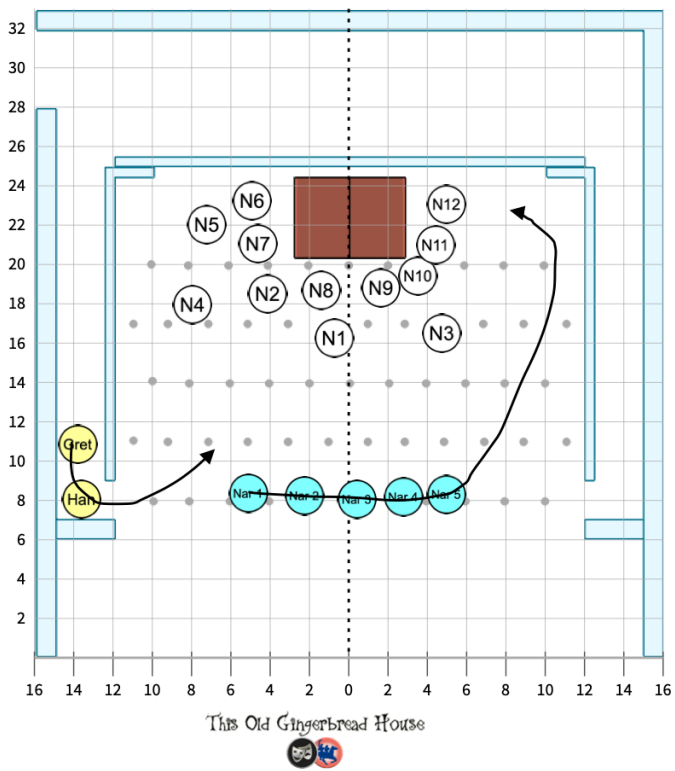
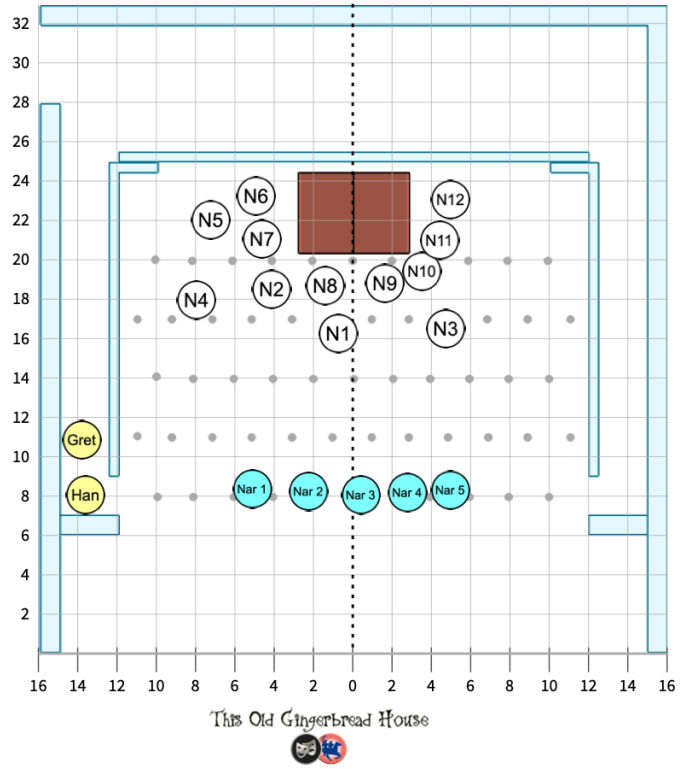
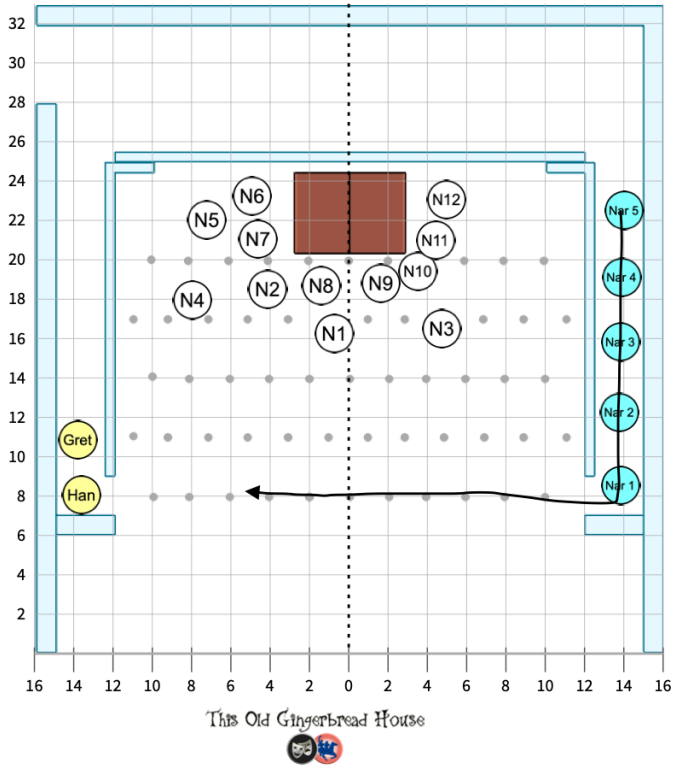
TAKE A BITE! TAKE A BITE! TAKE A BITE OF EV'RYTHING IN SIGHT!
LOTS OF GUMDROPS AND LOLLIPOPS AND GINGERBREAD TO EAT!
THE PEPPERMINT, CHOC'LATE, LICORICE, JELLYBEANS MAKE IT TASTE
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Yum!

YUMMY! YUMMY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
TASTY, CHEWY, CRUNCHY, GOOEY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
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TASTY, CHEWY, CRUNCHY, GOOEY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!
SUGAR, CANDY, SWEET AND DANDY! THIS OLD HOUSE IS YUMMY!

Yum!



After the song, the narrator come forward to speak. The neighbors are still eating the house. They are covered with candy residue, chocolate, icing, etc., and their pockets are obviously stuffed with sweets.

NARRATOR #1

Once upon a time, there was a Gingerbread House in the forest.

NARRATOR #2

A mean old witch lived in the house long ago. But that's another story.

NARRATOR #3

After the witch was gone, a brother and a sister Hansel and Gretel decided they wanted to live in the Gingerbread House.

NARRATOR #4

So they went to the bank and took over the mortgage on the house.

NARRATOR #5

They were very happy. Until one day they noticed that their house was falling apart!

(Hansel and Gretel come out of the house and discover the still munching neighbors.)

HANSEL

Hey! What are you doing!

NEIGHBOR #1

(looking suspicious, with bulging cheeks)

Nothing. Nothing at all.

NEIGHBOR #2

(wiping the chocolate icing from her mouth)

We were just admiring your house.

NEIGHBOR #3

(also covered with icing)

Why, yes! It's such a tastyI mean, lovely
... building.

GRETEL

(sternly, with hands on hips)
Have you been eating our house again?

NEIGHBOR #4

*(hiding several large pieces of
sweets behind him)*
No! Of course not!

NEIGHBOR #5

We wouldn't do that!

NEIGHBOR #6

It must have been some other neighbors.

NEIGHBOR #7

Yeah. That's it. Someone else ate your
doorknobs.

(loud burp)

<BURP>

(Pause)

GRETEL

(starting to cry)
Oh, Hansel. Our house is ruined. What will we
do?

HANSEL

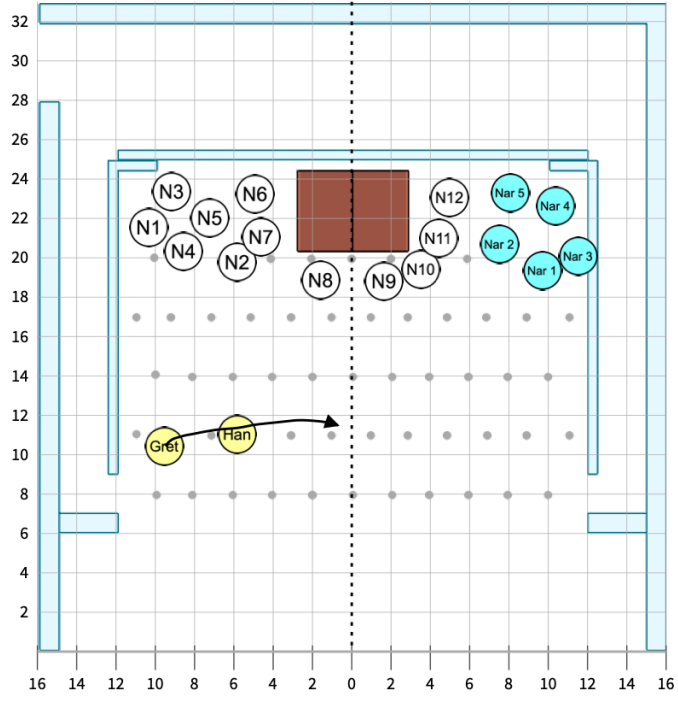
*(pulls out his pockets to reveal that they
are teary empty. He sighs.)*
Well, I guess we'll have to go somewhere else.

GRETEL

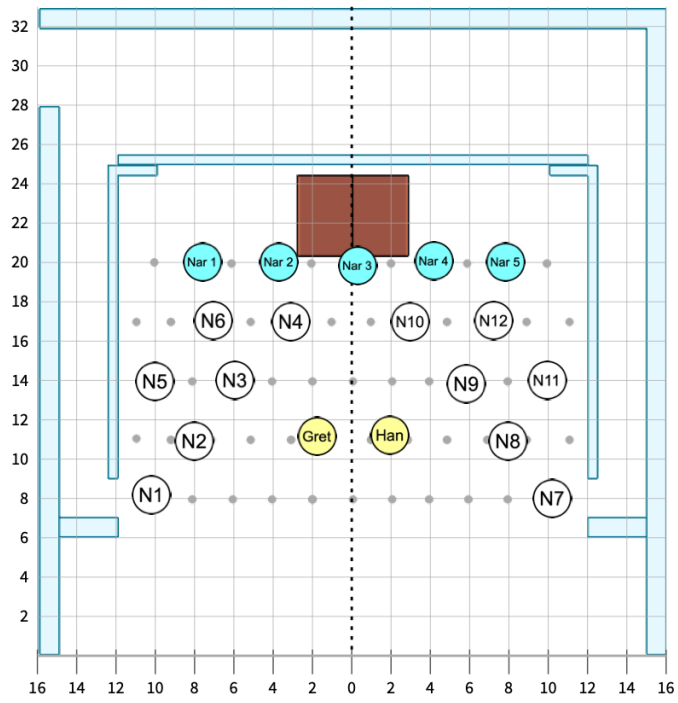
But, I'm afraid.

HANSEL

Don't worry. We'll be okay!



This Old Gingerbread House



This Old Gingerbread House

Take On!



(Gretel is sobbing and using a very lacy handkerchief. Hansel is comforting her by patting her on the shoulders and back. Action continues through the intro of the song.)

(Gretel stops crying when Hansel starts singing at measure 9)

<TAKE ONE STEP>

SCENE 2

TAKE ONE STEP

HANSEL

TAKE ONE STEP, THEN ANOTHER. FIRST ONE FOOT, THEN THE OTHER.
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

GRETEL

OKAY!
TAKE ONE STEP, THEN ANOTHER. FIRST ONE FOOT, THEN THE OTHER.
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

HANSEL

OKAY'!

ALL

THE SUN IS BRIGHT, THE SKY IS BLUE TO HELP US ON OUR WAY!
BUT EVEN IF THERE'S RAIN AND GLOOM, WE WILL BE OKAY! SPOKEN:
OKAY!

TAKE ONE STEP, THEN ANOTHER. FIRST ONE FOOT, THEN THE OTHER.
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!
HANSEL & GRETEL: OKAY!

TAKE ONE STEP, THEN ANOTHER. FIRST ONE FOOT, THEN THE OTHER.
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!
HANSEL & GRETEL: OKAY!

DANCE SECTION

ALL

TAKE ONE STEP, THEN ANOTHER. FIRST ONE FOOT, THEN THE OTHER.
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

HANSEL & GRETEL

OKAY!

ALL

TAKE ONE STEP, THEN ANOTHER. FIRST ONE FOOT, THEN THE OTHER.
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

HANSEL & GRETEL

OKAY!

ALL

THE SUN IS BRIGHT, THE SKY IS BLUE TO HELP US ON OUR WAY!
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OKAY!

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SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

HANSEL & GRETEL

OKAY!

ALL:

TAKE ONE STEP, THEN ANOTHER. FIRST ONE FOOT, THEN THE OTHER.
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

HANSEL & GRETEL:

OKAY!

ALL

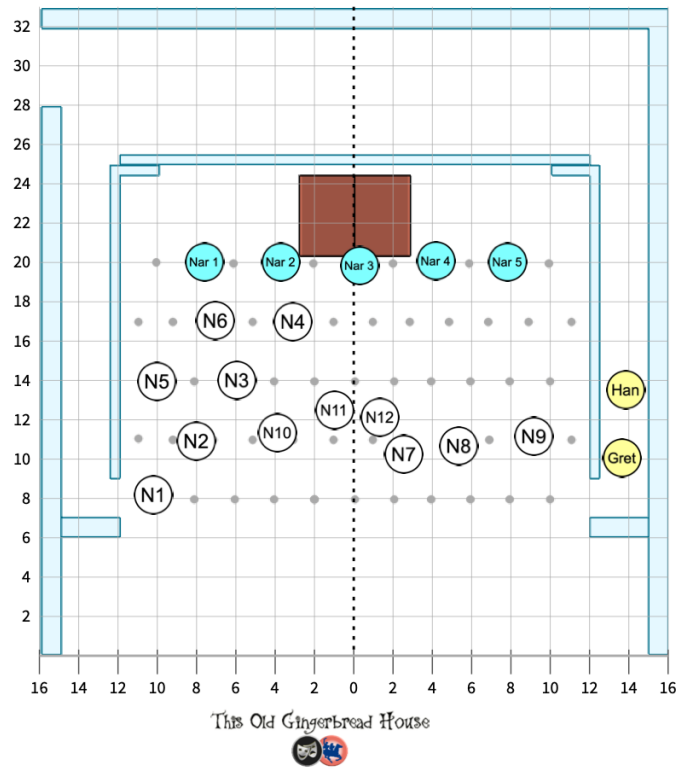
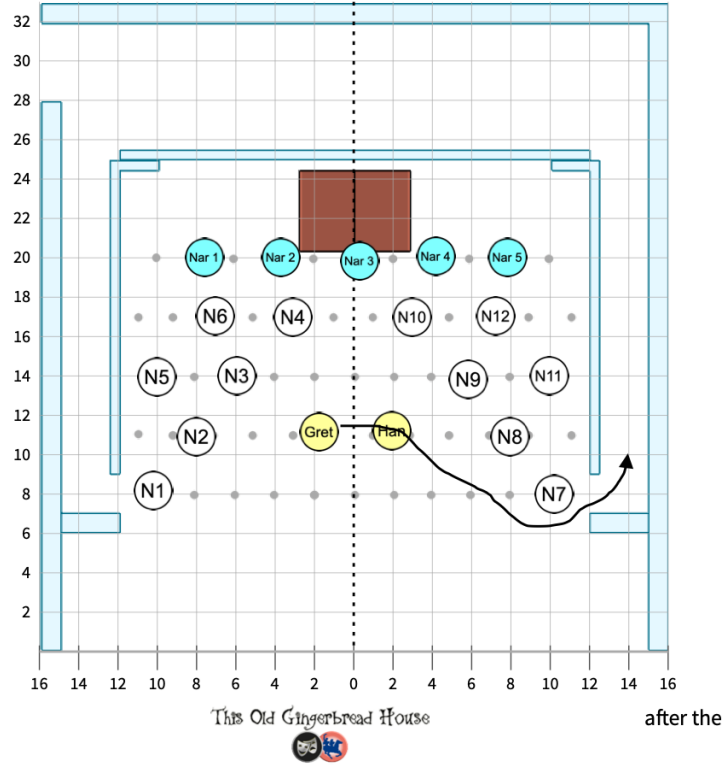
SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

HANSEL & GRETEL

OKAY! SOON WE'LL SEE EV'RYTHING WILL BE

ALL

OKAY!



After the song, Hansel and Gretel walk off stage together. The neighbors start to talk to each other.

NEIGHBOR #7

Poor Hansel and Gretel.

NEIGHBOR #8

They're all out of money and their house is falling apart.

NEIGHBOR #9

What will they do? Where will they go?

NEIGHBOR #10

I don't know.

NEIGHBOR # 11

Gee. I feel terrible about what we've done.

NEIGHBOR #12

I know what you mean. We ate their house.

NEIGHBOR #1

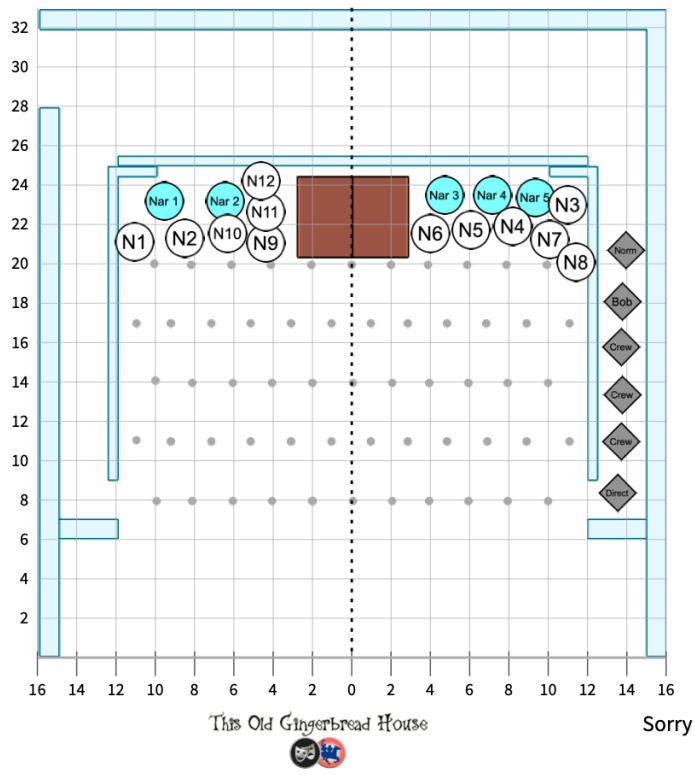
They have nowhere to live.

NEIGHBOR #2

(while crying)

And it's all our fault. Waaaaaaahhhhh!

The neighbors shake their heads remorsefully. During this whole scene, there is one hungry neighbor, a bear, who is still plucking pieces of candy off the house and eating them. Another neighbor, a rabbit, keeps smacking his arm.



SCENE 3

SORRY

WE WERE SO MEAN. WE WERE UNKIND. WE WISH THAT WE COULD JUST LEAVE IT BEHIND.

BUT.FIRST, WE HAVE TO ADMIT IT, WE DID IT. WE'RE SORRY.

(SORRY.)

SPOKEN SOLO: WE'RE SORRY.

WE WERE SO CRUEL. WE WERE NOT GOOD. WE ACTED WORSE THAN WE KNEW THAT WE SHOULD.

AND NOW, WE HAVE TO ADMIT IT, WE DID IT. WE'RE SORRY.

(SORRY.)

SPOKEN SOLO: WE'RE REALLY SORRY.

SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY. (SORRY.)

SPOKEN SOLO: WE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

WE WERE SO BAD. WE WERE NOT NICE. WE ACTED COLDER THAN BUCKETS OF ICE.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO ADMIT IT, WE DID IT. WE'RE SORRY.

(SORRY.)

SPOKEN SOLO: WE'RE SO SO SORRY.

WE WERE SO LOW. WE WERE SO SMALL. WE WERE JUST SELFISH AND THAT ISN'T ALL.

YOU SEE, WE HAVE TO ADMIT IT, WE DID IT. WE'RE SORRY.

(SORRY.)

SPOKEN SOLO: WAHHHH. .

SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!

SORRY. (SORRY.)

SPOKEN SOLO: WE MESSED UP.

SORRY! (SPOKEN SOLO: SORRY!) SORRY! (SPOKEN SOLO: SORRY!)

SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! (SPOKEN SOLO: SORRY!)

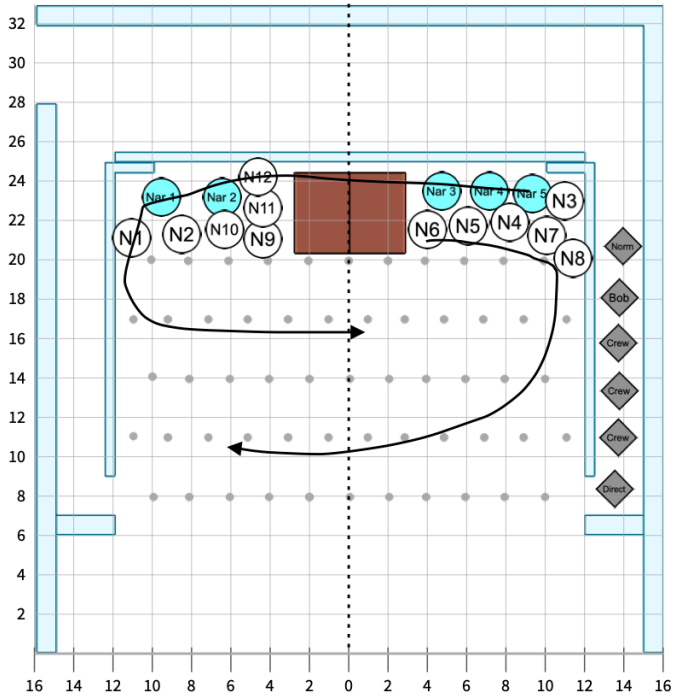
SORRY! (SPOKEN SOLO: SORRY!) SORRY! (SPOKEN SOLO: SORRY!)

SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! (SPOKEN SOLO: SORRY!)

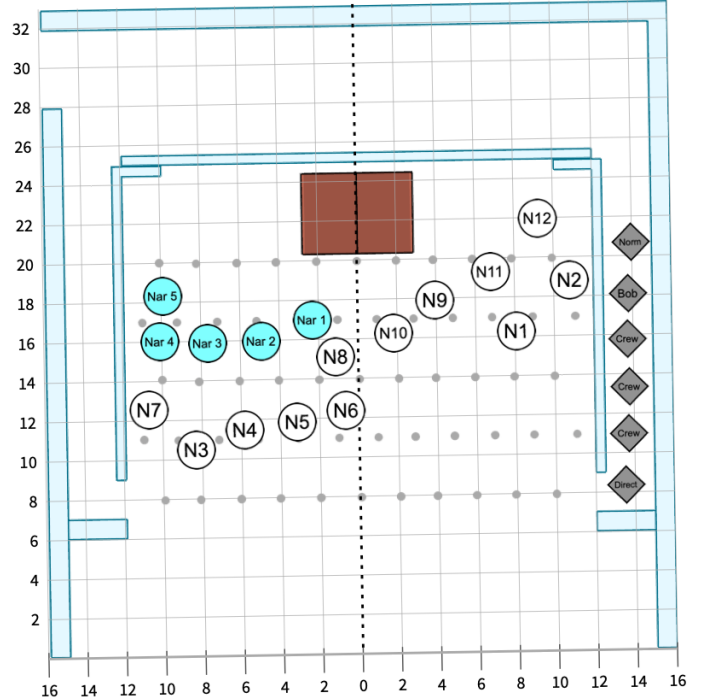
SORRY! (SORRY!)

YELL:

Sorry!



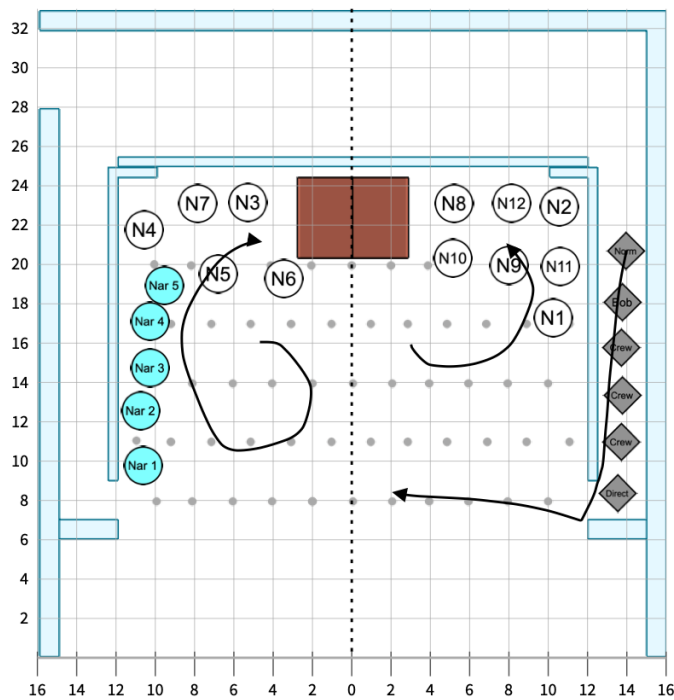
This Old Gingerbread House



This Old Gingerbread House



Hey wh
Show...



This Old Gingerbread House



After the song, the neighbors are still feeling bad for what they've done.

NEIGHBOR #3

Hey! Why don't we call that t.v. show that fixes up old houses that are falling apart!

NEIGHBOR #4

Do you mean "This Old Home Improvement"?

NEIGHBOR #5

Yeah! That's the one!

NEIGHBOR #6

I bet they can help!

NEIGHBOR #7

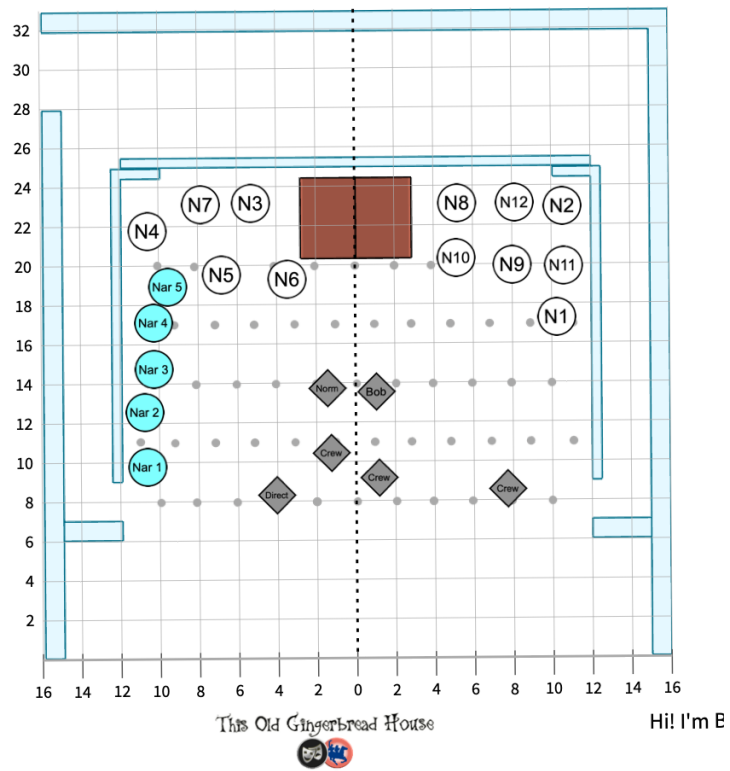
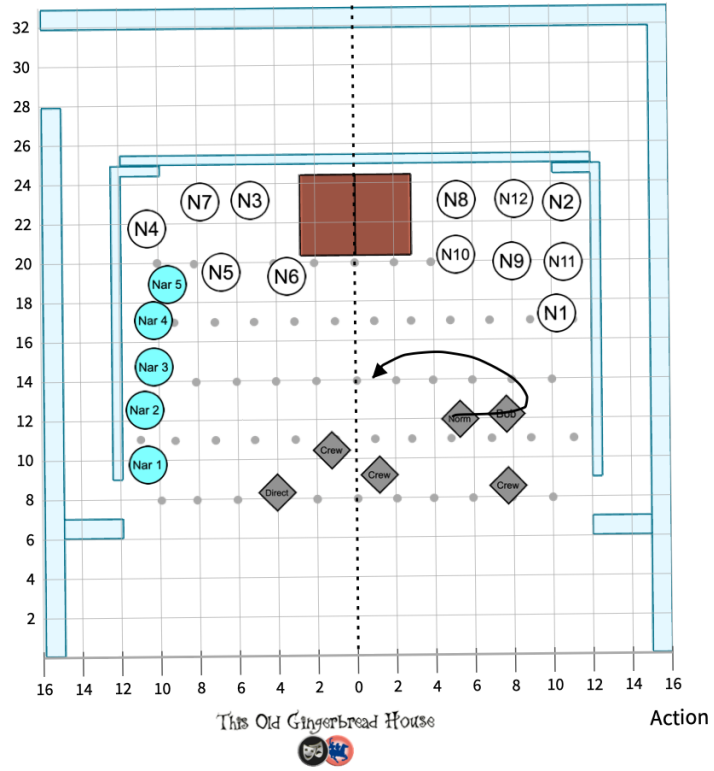
Let's call them right now!

NEIGHBOR #8

(pulls out a cell phone and dials)
Hello? This Old Home Improvement? We have an old Gingerbread house that needs to be fixed up. Can you help us? Good!
(He/she shuts off the phone.)

<ENTRANCE MUSIC>

The TV cast and crew enter to the music. They are dressed in plaid flannel shirts, blue jeans, suspenders, and baseball caps. Many of them have beards. Several of them are carrying video cameras and pointing them at everything around them in an exaggerated manner. There is a director carrying a megaphone. A crew member is carrying a folding director's chair with "director" on the back in large block letters. Two others are carrying two other chairs, one with "Bob" on it and the other with "Norm." They set them down so the audience can see the writing. Bob and Norm sit in their chairs temporarily, so the audience can identify them.



SCENE 4

DIRECTOR

(through the megaphone)

Action! A crew member slaps the clapboard.

Bob gets up and stands front and center and faces the audience. The crew's cameras point at him. Norm gets up, too, and stands beside him.

BOB

Hi! I'm Bob Thomas! Welcome to This Old Home Improvement!

He turns to Norm, who is wearing an apron over his shirt and jeans and carrying a large wooden spoon. Cameras turn to Norm.

BOB

Norm, how does it look?

NORM

Bob, I think we have a lot of work to do.

BOB

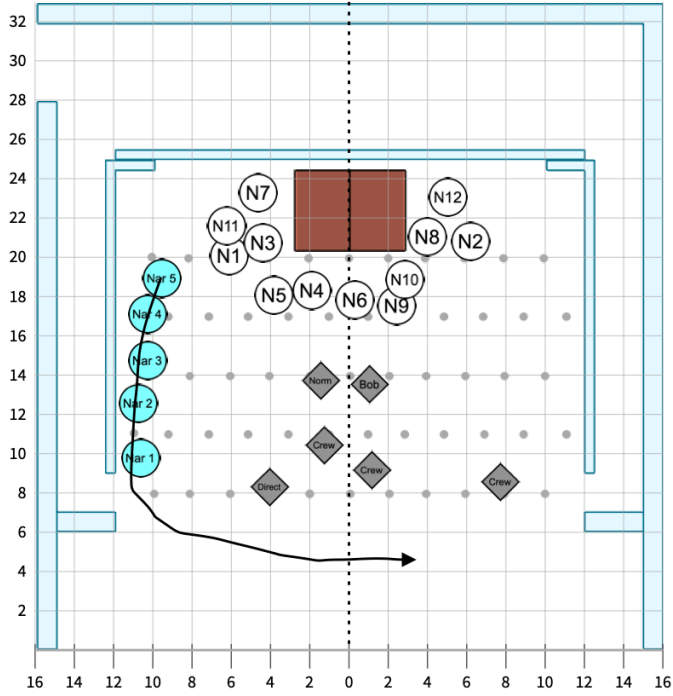
Let's go!

ACTION SEGMENT

Some of the crew members hand out cooking and baking implements (mixing bowls, spoons, cookie cutters, sifters, rolling pins, measuring cups, etc.), as well as regular carpentry tools (tape measures, hammers, screwdrivers, hand saws, etc. Everyone on stage, except the camera people, participate in the work.

<ACTION MUSIC>

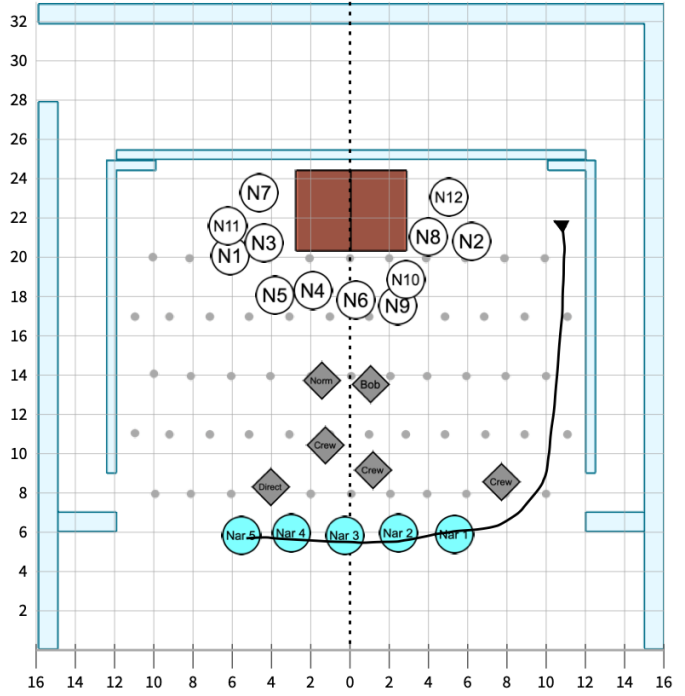
The cameras follow the action as everyone gathers around the Gingerbread House and "works". They should move ridiculously fast to match the music.



This Old Gingerbread House



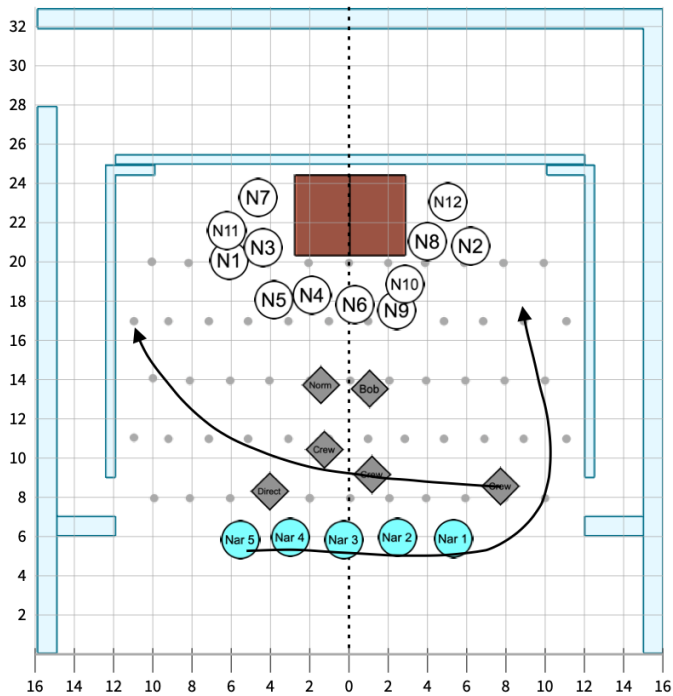
Action Seq
Needs Ch:



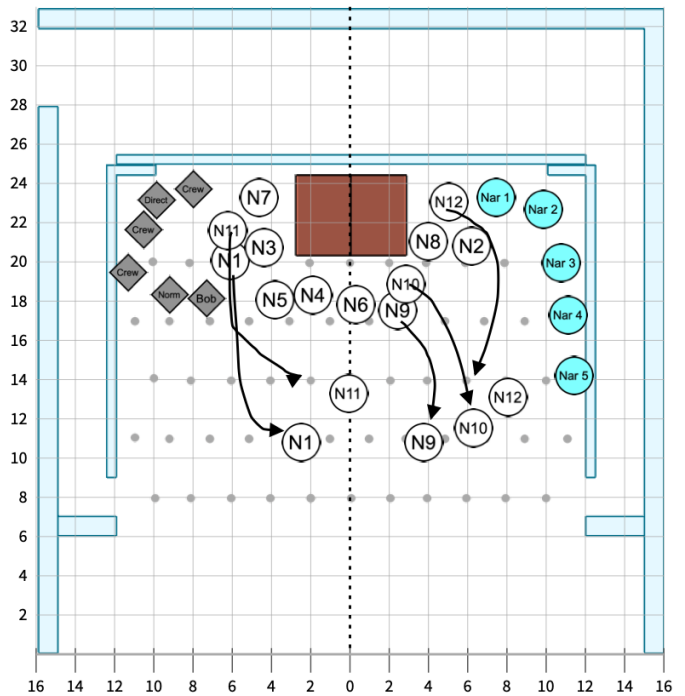
This Old Gingerbread House



The TV Cr
work....



This Old Gingerbread House



This Old Gingerbread House



They pretend to be fixing up the house with their respective implements. They attach candy, more gingerbread, icing trim, etc., to the house.

After/during) the action, the narrators speak.

NARRATOR #1

The TV crew went right to work on the old Gingerbread house!

NARRATOR #2

Even the neighbors pitched in to get the work done and keep it under budget.

NARRATOR #3

That's known as "sweat equity."

NARRATOR #4

And together, they finished the project in just three weeks!

NARRATOR #5

And the Gingerbread House looked like new. Maybe better than new.

<TA DA!>

EVERYONE applauds the finished product.

NEIGHBOR #9

This house looks great!

NEIGHBOR #10

Hansel and Gretel will be so happy!

NEIGHBOR #11

Now they will have a home again.

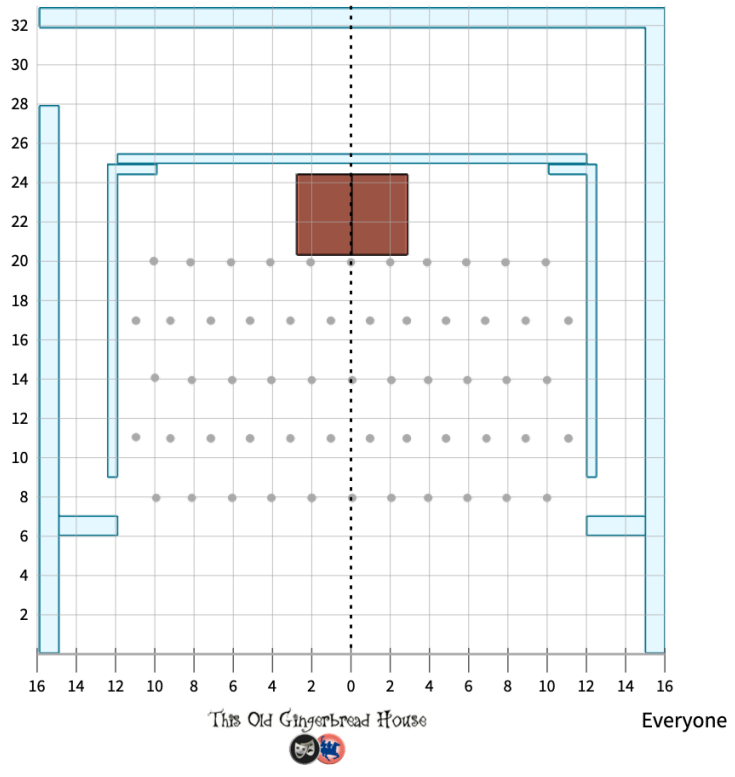
NEIGHBOR #12

We did a good thing, didn't we?

NEIGHBOR #1

Yes. Everyone deserves to have a home.

<EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME>



EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME

1st time - solo:

EV'RYONE DESERVES A HOME.

EV'RYONE DESERVES A PLACE TO BELONG

WITH WINDOWS AND DOORS AND CEILINGS AND FLOORS.

OH, EV'RYONE DESERVES A HOME, A HOME.

2nd time all

EV'RYONE DESERVES A HOME.

EV'RYONE DESERVES A PLACE TO BELONG

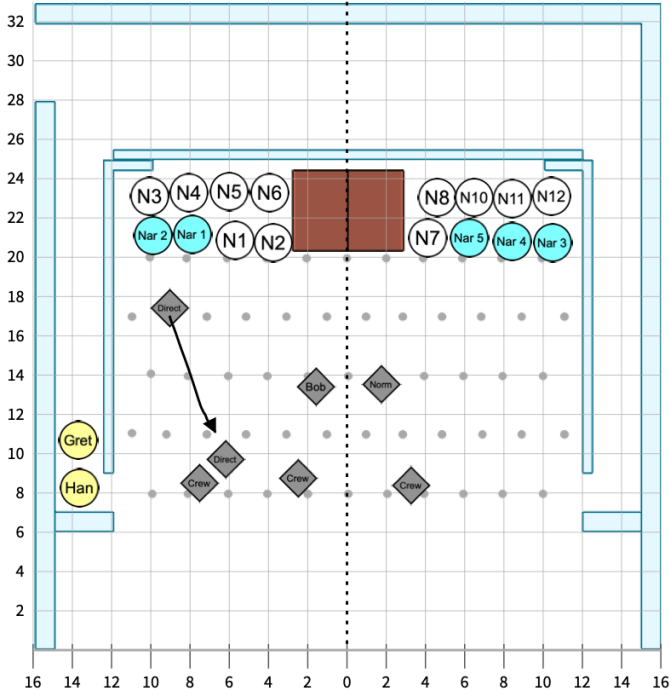
WITH WINDOWS AND DOORS AND CEILINGS AND FLOORS.

OH, EV'RYONE DESERVES A HOME, A HOME.

A HOME.

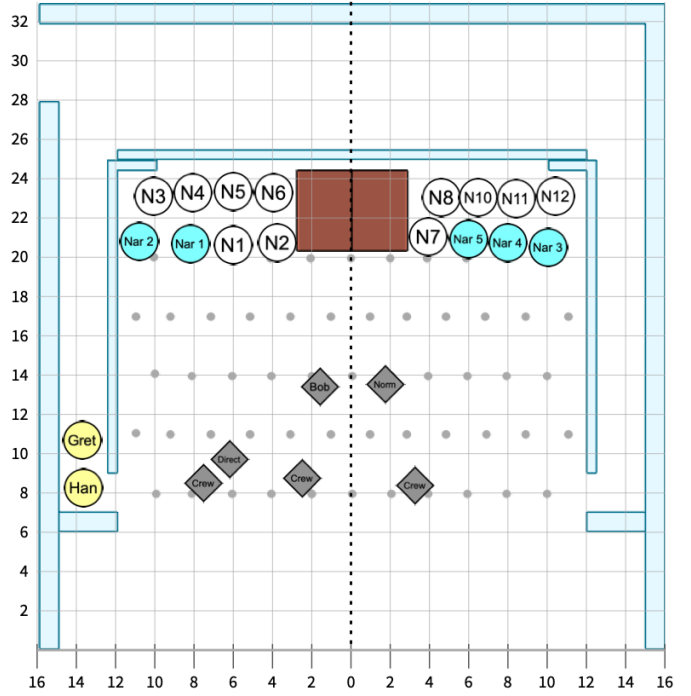
solo:

A HOME.

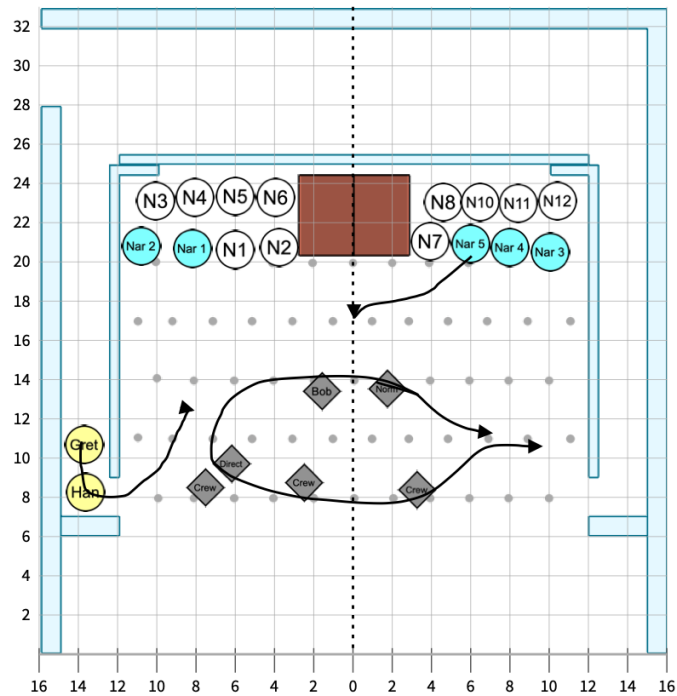


This Old Gingerbread House

Cue Bob!



This Old Gingerbread House



This Old Gingerbread House

SCENE 5

After the song, the director comes forward and speaks through his megaphone.

DIRECTOR

(points at Bob)

Cue Bob!

CREW PERSON slaps clapboard again. All the cameras point at Bob.

BOB

(to audience)

Well, that's it for this time on "This Old Home Improvement!" Join us next time we visit a very large shoe and the old woman and children who call it home.

Bob offers a big toothy smile to the audience.

NORM

(with his index finger in the air for emphasis)

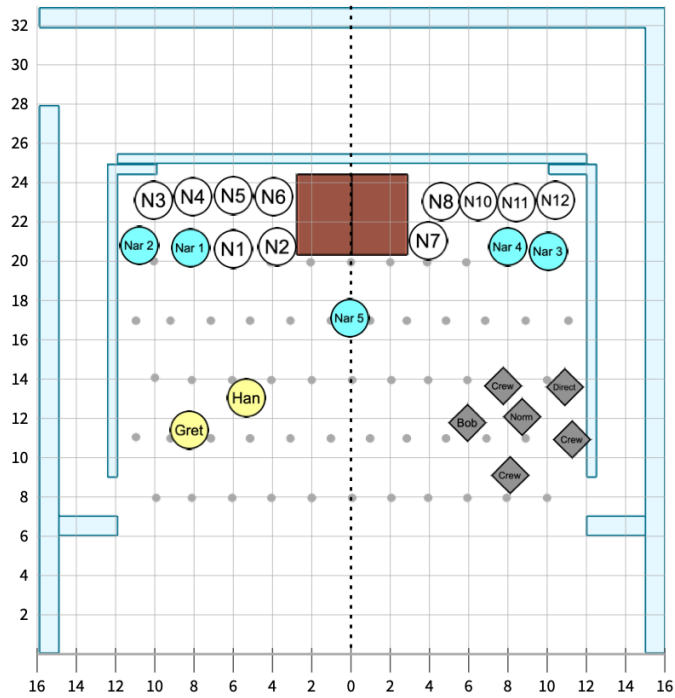
Remember! Measure twice, bake once!

DIRECTOR

(yells into megaphone)

Cut! That's a wrap.

The cameras are lowered and the crew gathers together as if to exit. Before they go anywhere, Hansel and Gretel enter the stage and stop in their tracks. Their mouths drop open as they see their house.



The Old Gingerbread House

Now, it just



NARRATOR #5

Now, it just so happens that Hansel and Gretel are passing through their old neighborhood.

HANSEL

Gretel! Look at our house!

GRETEL

It's beautiful!!

ALL NEIGHBORS, TV FOLKS

(yell)

Surprise!

HANSEL

This is the most wonderful gift we've ever received!

GRETEL

Thank you all so much!

NEIGHBOR #2

It was the least we could do.

NEIGHBOR #3

We're sooo sorry we ate your house.

NEIGHBOR #4

We'll never do it again.

As NEIGHBOR #4 says this, the HUNGRY BEAR takes a piece of the house and eats it. The neighbor standing next to him smacks him on the arm. He reacts with "Ow."

NEIGHBOR #5

We hope you can forgive us.

HANSEL

Of course, we can!

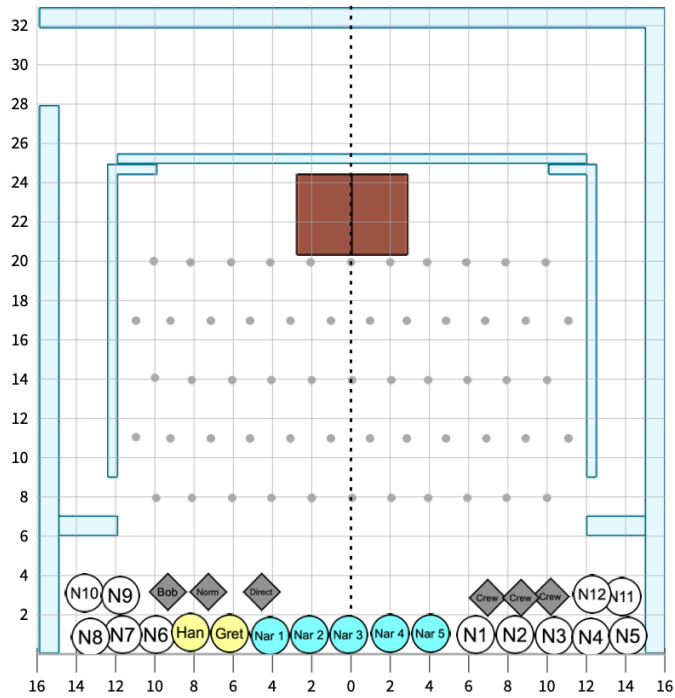
GRETEL

In fact, why don't we have a party to celebrate our new old house?

ALL

(yell enthusiastically)

Yeah!



The Old Gingerbread House



SCENE 6

NARRATOR #1

Well, that's the end of our story!

NARRATOR #2

Hansel and Gretel's neighbors learned a valuable lesson about respecting others . . .

NARRATOR #3

Hansel and Gretel were able to move back into their beloved Gingerbread home...

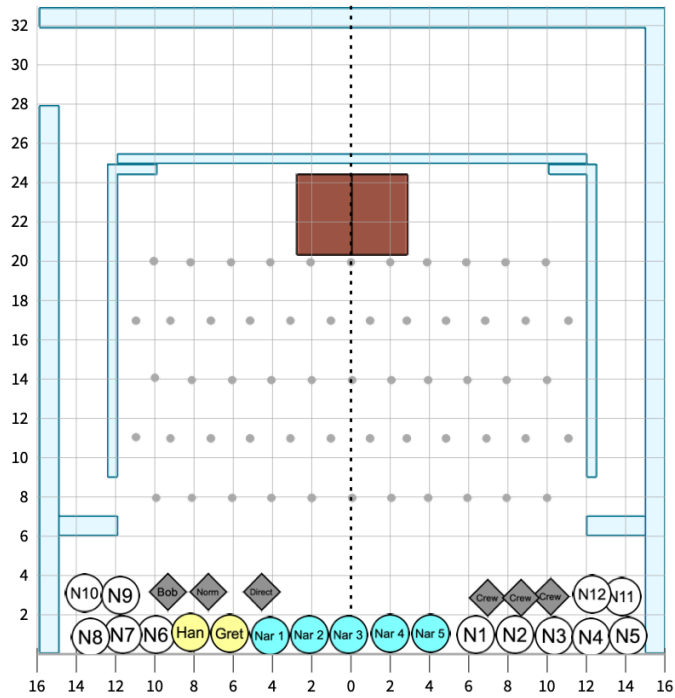
NARRATOR #4

The TV show got its best ratings ever...

NARRATOR #5

And everyone lived happily ever after! The end!

<LEND A HELPING HAND>



The Old Gingerbread House



LEND A HELPING HAND

yell:

Come on! Let's go!
Pitch in! Yeah!

LEND A HELPING HAND TO EV'RYONE YOU CAN!
COME ALONG! YOU CAN'T GO WRONG! IF I CAN, YOU CAN!

LEND A HELPING HAND! MAKE A DIFF'RENCE IN OUR PLAN!
ME AND YOU ADD UP TO TWO! AND THAT MEANS WE CAN DO!

yell:

Come on! Let's go!
Pitch in! Yeah!

REMEMBER THAT YOU MIGHT NEED SOMEONE, TOO,
TO HELP YOU GET THROUGH THE THINGS THAT YOU DO!

LEND A HELPING HAND TO EV'RYONE YOU CAN!
COME ALONG! YOU CAN'T GO WRONG! IF I CAN, YOU CAN!

LEND A HELPING HAND! MAKE A DIFF'RENCE IN OUR PLAN!
ME AND YOU ADD UP TO TWO! AND THAT MEANS WE CAN DO!

yell:

Come on!

LEND A HELPING HAND TO EV'RYONE YOU CAN!
COME ALONG! YOU CAN'T GO WRONG! IF I CAN, YOU CAN!

LEND A HELPING HAND! MAKE A DIFF'RENCE IN OUR PLAN!
ME AND YOU ADD UP TO TWO! AND THAT MEANS WE CAN DO!

yell:

Come on! Let's go!
Pitch in! Yeah!

WE CAN DO!

yell:

Yeah!

*During the finale, the HUNGRY BEAR
is still sneaking pieces of the
house to eat. The other neighbor
smacks his arm at first, then
succumbs to eating a little, too.*