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Dramatic Publishing

HANS BRINKER OR THE SILVER SKATES

Book

by

GAYLE HUDSON

Music and Lyrics

by

BOBBE BRAMSON

Adapted from the book

Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates

by

MARY MAPES DODGE

Originally published in 1865



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(HANS BRINKER OR THE SILVER SKATES)

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**“Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois”**

HANS BRINKER OR THE SILVER SKATES

A Musical Play
For 2 Men, 5 Boys, 1 Woman and 5 Girls

CHARACTERS

GRETLE BRINKER..... almost 12, optimistic, caring
HANS BRINKER..... .15, big-hearted, charming, clever
RYCHIE KORBES..... teen, a snob, capable of cruelty
CARL SCHUMMEL .. teen, competitive, with a sharp edge
KATRINKA FLACK teen, spirited, an excellent skater
HILDA VAN GLECK ... almost 14, wealthy, kind-hearted
PETER VAN HOLP..... teen, well-rounded, sensitive
ANNIE BOUMAN..... teen, provincial, clever, spunky,
independent
HENDRICKJE SCHIMMELPENNINCK..... young girl,
a know-it-all
VOOSTENWALBERT SCHIMMELPENNINCK
Hendrickje's twin brother, excitable
DAME MEITJE BRINKER..... a good woman
RAFF BRINKER a good man
DR. BOEKMAN..... stern, bitter, hurt, caring
TOWNSPEOPLE optional; for Scenes 1, 4, 7 and 10

HANS BRINKER OR THE SILVER SKATES was first produced by Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, Mt. Kisco, NY, on February 5, 1994:

CAST (in order of appearance)

Annie Bouman	Morgan Brennan
Dame Meitje Brinker	Caroline Cazes
Dr. Boekman	Scott Conroy
Hans Brinker	David Eldridge
Voostenwalbert Schimmelpenninck	Elizabeth Grilli
Carl Schummel	Michael Koloski
Katrinka Flack	Rebekah Kopeinig
Raff Brinker	Eric Launder
Peter Van Holp	Jonah Oskow
Hilda Van Gleck	Elyssa Rosenberg
Rychie Korbes	Amanda Sharkey
Hendrickje Schimmelpenninck	Lindsey Shilleh
Gretl Brinker	Jessica Van Dorn

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Gayle Hudson
Musical Director	Bobbe Bramson
Choreographer	Nina Stein White
Set Design	Danny Kirsch, Marcel Mitscherlich
Costume Design	William Pesce
Lighting Design	Alan Schwartz
Stage Manager	Doreen DeMilio
Assistant Stage Manager	Karla Mosley
Production Manager	Gayle Kenerson

SCENES and MUSICAL NUMBERS

SCENE ONE: Outskirts of the village of Broek, Holland;
1853.

#1 HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME – Ensemble

SCENE TWO: Outskirts of the village of Broek; a winter day.

#2 THE RACE – Rychie, Carl, Katrinka, Hilda, Peter,
Annie, Hendrickje, Voostenwalbert

SCENE THREE: Inside the Brinker cottage; four days later.

#3 GRETL'S LULLABY 1 – Dame Brinker (a capella)

#4 WHEN FATHER USED TO SING - Hans

#5 ONE THOUSAND GULDERS - Gretl, Hans,
Dame Brinker

SCENE FOUR: Outskirts of the village; three days later.

#6 ON THE CANAL (Instrumental)

OPTIONAL SCENE FOUR-A: Hilda Van Gleck's home;

St. Nicholas Eve.

#6B SINTER KLAAS – Voostenwalbert, Hendrickje, Carl,
Hilda, Katrinka, Peter

NOTE: Use additional dialogue for end of SCENE THREE if
using SCENE FOUR-A. See page 72 of script.

SCENE FIVE: Outskirts of the village; two days later.

#7 GOOSE GIRL – Rychie, Carl, Katrinka, Hendrickje,
Voostenwalbert

SCENE SIX: Inside and outside the Brinker cottage; noon,
the same day.

#8 GRETL'S LULLABY 2 – Gretl (a capella)

SCENE SEVEN: Outside the cottage; later the same day.

#9 GOEDE GUNST! – Hilda, Annie, Peter, Katrinka,
Carl, Rychie, Hendrickje, Voostenwalbert, Dr. Boekman,
Hans

SCENE EIGHT: Inside and outside the cottage; ten days
later.

#10 GRETL'S LULLABY 3 – Gretl (a capella)

#11 GRETL'S LULLABY 4 – Raff

SCENE NINE: Outside and inside the cottage; the next day.

#12 THE MAGIC BEAD – Annie, Gretl, Hans

#13 A SON LIKE YOU - Dr. Boekman

SCENE TEN: Outskirts of the village; the next day.

#14 HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME (Reprise)

Ensemble

HANS BRINKER OR THE SILVER SKATES

SCENE ONE

SCENE: *Holland, 1853, on the outskirts of the village of Broek. The banks of a canal and the canal itself set the scene. After the Dance for Wooden Shoes, winter arrives and everyone "skates" on the frozen canal.*

AT RISE: *Lights come up as the music begins and the audience is welcomed to the world of Holland.*

(MUSIC #1: "HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME")

FEMALE SOLO.

PICTURE A CARPET OF RED AND GOLD TULIPS
AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE
WEES WELKOM! WELKOM IN HOLLAND
HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME

MALES.

PICTURE A COUNTRY WITH LESS LAND THAN
WATER
AND DIKES HOLDING BACK THE SEA
WEES WELKOM! WELKOM IN HOLLAND
HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME

FEMALES.

WHERE WINDMILLS TOUCH A DELFT BLUE SKY
SPINNING AND SPINNING THEIR ARMS HELD
HIGH
WHERE ALL GOOD CHILDREN LOVE TO ROMP

FEMALE SOLO.

IN STOUT WOODEN SHOES THAT GO KLIMP
AND KLOMP

(Dance for Wooden Shoes.)

ALL.

NOW WINTER WINDS BEGIN TO BLOW
OFF OF THE OCEAN THEY BRING THE SNOW
AND PEOPLE SKATE TO WORK EACH DAY
ON FROZEN CANALS THAT DON'T MELT UNTIL
MAY

MALES.

PICTURE YOUNG MEN DOING SMART FIGURE
EIGHTS
SHOWING OFF SO THE GIRLS MIGHT SEE

ALL.

WEES WELKOM! WELKOM IN HOLLAND
HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME

(Dance for Skaters.)

TWINs.

PICTURE YOURSELF IN THE VILLAGE OF BROEK

**IN THE YEAR EIGHTEEN FIFTY-THREE
WEES WELKOM! WELKOM IN HOLLAND
HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME**

ALL.

**WEES WELKOM! WELKOM IN HOLLAND
HOLLAND IS HOME TO ME**

SCENE TWO

SCENE: *Outskirts of the village; a winter day.*

AT RISE: *HANS and GRETL are putting on their wooden skates on the banks of the frozen canal.*

HANS. Hurry up, Gretl. You're taking forever.

GRETL. I'm trying, Hans. My foot hurts terribly, right here where I tied the strings too tight on market day.

HANS. Tie the strings looser then. Or up higher.

GRETL. That's impossible. They're not long enough.

HANS. Why don't you wear your new shoes? You won't get any string around those old clodhoppers.

GRETL. You forget. Father threw my new shoes into the fire. Oh, I wish I had a good piece of string.

HANS. Let's see what's in my pocket. A knife for carving, two cents, an old crust of bread, a list for market, and...aha! A string. It might be long enough. *(He ties the string onto GRETL's foot too tightly.)*

GRETL. Ouch! Oh, Hans!

HANS. Don't worry, Gretl. I'll fix it. (*He carefully ties the string.*) But there isn't much time left for skating. Mother will need us back at the cottage soon. Now, are you ready to be pulled? (*GRETTL smiles. HANS pulls her up. They play chase.*) Bet you can't catch me! Darn these old wooden skates. They're starting to stick.

GRETTL. Watch out, Hans. (*She laughs as he falls, then becomes concerned as he lies very still.*) Have you hurt yourself? Hans, what is it? Speak to me, please. (*She sees him laughing.*) Oh, you're such a foolish boy. I can see you laughing. Get up, Hans Brinker. Now try and catch me. (*As HANS gets closer, GRETTL turns and skates into his arms.*)

HANS. Ha, I've caught you now!

GRETTL. No, I've caught you! (*They fall down laughing.*)

(*RYCHIE enters in a hurry, looking for KATRINKA.*)

RYCHIE. Excuse me, have you seen... (*Realizes that she's speaking to GRETTL and HANS.*) Oh, it's you. Never mind.

(*CARL enters.*)

RYCHIE (*to CARL*). Have you told her? Did you find her?

CARL. If I'd found her, I'd have told her. (*Introduction to "THE RACE" begins.*)

(*KATRINKA enters. HILDA, PETER, ANNIE, HENDRICKJE and VOOST enter together from a different direction. GRETTL and HANS watch from a distance.*)

CARL. Here she comes!

(MUSIC #2: "THE RACE")

RYCHIE.

THERE'S A RACE! THERE'S A RACE!
OH, KATRINKA, THERE'S A RACE!
YOU HAVE A CHANCE AT A WONDERFUL PRIZE

ALL (*except KATRINKA*).

IN THE RACE IN THE RACE
YOU'RE THE ONE TO SET THE PACE
BECAUSE THERE'S NO GIRL AS QUICK ON
THE ICE

KATRINKA.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN
TELL ME ONCE AGAIN
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU SAY

ALL (*except KATRINKA*).

THERE'S A RACE, KATRINKA
SILVER SKATES, KATRINKA
THAT WILL TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY

YOU ARE THE ONE TO BEAT
BETTER THAN ALL THE REST
NO ONE ELSE CAN COMPETE
YOU ARE THE VERY BEST

ALL.

IN THE RACE IN THE RACE
WHERE A PAIR OF SILVER SKATES IS THE PRIZE

THERE'S A RACE! THERE'S A RACE!

CARL.

SCHIMMELPENNINCKS HAVE TO FACE
THEY HAVE NO CHANCE AT THE WONDERFUL
PRIZE

TWINS (*to CARL*).

IN THE RACE IN THE RACE
PETER'S SURE TO SET THE PACE
BECAUSE HE'S FASTER THAN YOU ON THE ICE

CARL.

TAKE THAT BACK
YOU LITTLE TOADS
I CAN SKATE AS WELL AS PETER CAN

ANNIE.

WAIT AND SEE, CARL SCHUMMEL
WHAT WILL BE, CARL SCHUMMEL
LET THE RACE DECIDE THE MAN

CARL.

I AM THE ONE TO BEAT

ALL (*to PETER, except CARL and PETER*).

YOU'LL LEAVE HIM FAR BEHIND

CARL.

NO ONE ELSE CAN COMPETE

ALL (*to PETER, except CARL and PETER*).

FIRST AT THE FINISH LINE
IN THE RACE IN THE RACE
WHERE A PAIR OF SILVER SKATES IS THE PRIZE

GIRLS.

DID YOU KNOW THE SKATES
WILL HAVE BELLS UPON THEM?
SILVER BELLS THAT WILL RING-A-LING
WHEN THE WIND COMES ON THEM

TWINS.

WE DO NOT THINK
NOT FOR A MINUTE
THAT THE SKATES ARE AS GRAND AS YOU SAY
"SILVER BELLS"?
YOU MUST BE KIDDING
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ANYWAY?!

ALL (*except TWINS*).

MAGNIFICENT STRAPS
THAT HOLD US IN SO TIGHTLY
BUCKLES OF GOLD THAT WILL WINK AND
GLEAM
IN THE SUN SO BRIGHTLY

TWINS.

WE DO NOT THINK
NOT FOR A MINUTE
THAT THE BUCKLES WILL BE MADE OF GOLD

DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS EVER TELL YOU
NOT TO BELIEVE ALL YOU'RE TOLD?
BUCKLES OF BRASS, NOW THAT'S MORE
LIKELY

ALL (*except TWINS*).

THE BUCKLES WILL BE MADE OF GOLD!

TWINS.

NO THEY WON'T

ALL (*except TWINS*).

YES THEY WILL

TWINS.

NO THEY WON'T

ALL (*except TWINS*).

YES THEY WILL

TWINS.

WON'T!

ALL (*except TWINS*).

WILL!

TWINS.

WON'T!

ALL (*except TWINS*).

WILL!

ALL.

THERE'S A RACE! THERE'S A RACE!
EVERYONE SHOULD JOIN THE RACE
AND TAKE A CHANCE AT THE WONDERFUL
PRIZE
IN THE RACE IN THE RACE
WE'LL GET CAUGHT UP IN THE CHASE
AS WE GO ZOOMING LIKE ARROWS DOWN
THE ICE

THREE MORE WEEKS
'TIL WE TAKE OUR MARKS
THEN WE'RE OFF! AS FAST AS WE KNOW HOW
HEADING FOR THE FINISH
EVERYTHING THAT'S IN US
URGES US TO WIN SOMEHOW

WE'RE RUNNING NECK AND NECK
OUR LUNGS ABOUT TO BURST
HOLD ON FOR ONE MORE SECOND
WHO WILL COME IN FIRST?
IN THE RACE IN THE RACE
WHERE A PAIR OF SILVER SKATES IS THE PRIZE
IN THE RACE IN THE RACE
WHERE A PAIR OF SILVER SKATES IS THE PRIZE
IS THE PRIZE
IS THE PRIZE

*(Exit ANNIE, RYCHIE, HENDRICKJE and VOOST.
GRETL and HANS resume their skating.)*

CARL (*noticing GRETL and HANS*). And who do we have here? Ah, the little pair of ragpickers. Wearing the finest skates money can buy!

HILDA. They're only poor peasants, Carl. Imagine trying to skate on those old wooden things.

PETER. I bet he carved those skates himself.

HILDA. I know what we can do! We can ask them to be in the race. Anyone may join. (*HANS falls.*)

CARL. They'd be sure to win the race on those skates. Tell them to keep practicing! (*He exits, laughing.*)

HILDA. Little girl, what might your name be?

GRETLE. My name is Gretl, juffrouw. And this is Hans, my brother.

HILDA. I'm Hilda and this is my friend, Peter.

PETER. Hello, Hans. We know each other from school. Although you don't show up very often, mijnheer.

HANS. No. Our mother needs us around the cottage. I study at home, so I won't get too far behind.

PETER. I could bring you the lessons, if you like.

HANS. That's good of you. Thanks.

HILDA. Little Gretl, you should be wearing a warmer coat.

GRETLE. I'm not really little, juffrouw. I am more than eleven years old.

HILDA. Oh, forgive me. I'm almost fourteen and very tall for my age. Other girls look small to me. You may grow up to be much taller than I am, but only if you learn to dress in warmer clothing. Why, just look at you—you're actually shivering.

HANS. Gretl never complains about the cold.

GRETLE. It's nothing, really. I am warm sometimes. When I skate I'm almost too warm.

HILDA. Why don't you join the race? Did you hear? Anyone can win the pairs of silver skates.

GRETLE. You see, Juffrouw Hilda, we can't skate very far. Our skates are made of wood and they stick to the ice

sometimes. But thank you anyway. May we come and watch the race?

HILDA. Of course you may.

HANS. We try hard to make ends meet in our house. Our father is not well. He lost his senses when he fell from a ladder at the dikes many years ago.

PETER. Have you brought in a good doctor to see him? I hear Dr. Boekman is the finest—though they say he's very stern and rather unpleasant.

HANS. And very expensive. We haven't the money to pay for his services, I'm afraid.

HILDA. Which of you is the better skater?

HANS. Gretl.

GRETL (*simultaneously with above line*). Hans.

HILDA. I wish I could buy you each a pair of skates, but I only have enough for one of you. Whichever of you has the best chance of winning the race should buy the skates. (*HILDA gives HANS several guilders. She and PETER begin to exit.*)

HANS. Juffrouw Hilda! Thank you for your generosity but we can't accept this.

PETER. Why not?

HANS. We haven't earned it.

HILDA (*thinking quickly*). What a beautiful necklace, Gretl. Did someone make it for you?

GRETL. My brother Hans made it for me. He made our skates also. He's very clever with wood.

HILDA. Will you make me a necklace, Hans? Just like your sister's?

HANS. I would be happy to do that for you. I shall have it for you tomorrow. (*He tries to give her back the money.*)

HILDA. No, you must keep the money. Why, that's barely enough to pay for the necklace! (*HILDA skates away to PETER and whispers. HANS and GRETL begin to spin.*)

PETER. Excuse me, Hans. My little sister is in need of a necklace also. If you would be so kind—(*Taking coins out of a leather pouch.*)

HANS. At your service.

PETER. Goodbye then. See you soon, Hans. (*HILDA and PETER exit.*)

HANS & GRETL. Goodbye.

GRETL. Now we will both have a pair of good skates!

HANS. I think we must spend the money on a warm coat for you, little sister.

GRETL. Oh, Hans! Not buy the skates? You can't be serious. I'm not really cold at all. Why, whenever I feel a little cold I just tell the blood in my veins, "Keep me warm! Keep me warm!" Oh, please, Hans, say yes. I want a chance to win the race.

HANS. All right, Gretl. You will have your chance to win the pair of silver skates. Come on, now. Let's go home.

SCENE THREE

SCENE: *Several days later. The Brinker cottage.*

AT RISE: *Inside the humble Brinker cottage, HANS carves, DAME BRINKER knits while GRETL brushes her mother's hair and RAFF sits, staring into space. Outside the cottage are a young willow tree and a large tree stump.*

PRODUCTION NOTES and SUGGESTIONS

Playing Areas / Scenery

1. Canal on the outskirts of village – Most of the playing area should be used for the frozen canal. A log or bench could be used to indicate the bank of the canal. A backdrop may show a wintry sky and flat landscape with windmills and village buildings in the distance.
2. Interior and exterior of Brinker cottage – Simple area staging or full set can be used. The Brinker cottage interior should be small with simple and worn furnishings. A hearth with a mantelpiece, a large chair or small bed for Raff, and trunk, bench, stool, chairs, etc., are recommended. The exterior of the cottage entrance door and window may simply be mimed.

In the original production of Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates, a free-standing hearth unit with windmill on opposite side was used. The unit was on casters and reversed from scene to scene, with the upper arms of the windmill folding in to form part of the hearth mantelpiece. A backdrop with a wintertime Holland landscape was used for all scenes.

3. Van Gleck's home – The stage apron could be used for Optional Scene Four-A. Lavish holiday decorations should dress the playing area.

Sound

In Scene Six, whistling wind is heard during the operation when Gretl is outside the cottage.

Stage Management Direction

At the end of Scene Seven, the baskets carrying food and blankets must be removed. At the top of Scene Eight, we see new blankets covering Raff, and food and wine on mantelpiece or table.

“Ice Skating” Suggestions

After the wooden dance takes place in **On the Canal** in Scene One, all actors begin the convention of ice skating whenever they are on the designated frozen canal playing area. The actors can wear dance slippers or simple black shoes or boots and assume ice skating actions with dance-like glides and pushing-off movements. It is important that the ice-skating convention be maintained thoroughly, including its use on entrances and exits. When there are references to the tying of strings, laces, straps, and buckles, actors should mime these actions.

GLOSSARY and PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Important Pronunciation Notes:

All “g”s should be pronounced with a soft guttural sound, as in *Bach*. A “gh” is indicated in the pronunciation guides to help achieve this sound, which is not used in English.

All “r”s are slightly rolled, as in Irish or Spanish dialects.

dames (**dah**-mes / dah, as in doll) – ladies

dike – a wall built to keep water back

goede gunst (ghood-uh **ghunst** / ghunst, as in hut) – an expression meaning *good fortune*, or *what good luck*

gulder (gil-der) – a unit of money; in the 1900s, a coin (the Dutch word is “gulden”)

heren (**hair**-en) – gentlemen

juffrouw (**yuh**-frow / frow, as in brow) – miss

mijnheer (**mei**-nair) – mister; sir

mevrouw (muh-**vrow**) – misses, or madam

wees welkom (wayce **wel**-cum) – welcome; we welcome you

Zuider Zee (**zaou**-der zay) – the South Sea; large body of water in the Netherlands

Names

Doctor (**dock**-tor) Boekman (book-man)

Bouman (**bow**-mahn / bow as in bow-wow)

Brinker (**Brink**-er)

Broek (brook)

Gretl – the name used by Mary Mapes Dodge in the

original "Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates." The Dutch name for Gretl is Grietje (gri-é-shuh) and could be used in production instead of Gretl.

Hendrickje (hen-drick-yuh / drick as in trick)

Meitje (meit-shuh)

Raff (rahf)

Rychie (rich-ee) Korbes (kor-bus)

Voostenwalbert (voost-en wal-bert) Schimmelpenninck
(sghim-mle-peñ-ink . mle as in little, or pebble)

Schummel (sghum-mle)

Sinter Klass (sin-ter klahs) - Santa Claus

van Gleck (vahn ghleck / "e" as it)

van Holp (vahn holp / holp as in hole)