

ABOUT

Join “Gimme-the-Ax” as he travels aboard the Rootabaga Express, a train that hoots, clangs, and pfisty-pfoosts all the way to the fantastical Rootabaga Country. There, boys shrink to bugs, rusty rats are superheroes, and the moon dances with shoes at night. Take your own trip to Rootabaga Country in this exciting and vibrant new musical and celebrate the joy of imagination!

Approximate Running Time: 40 minutes

Recommended Ages: Grades K through 5 (and older!)

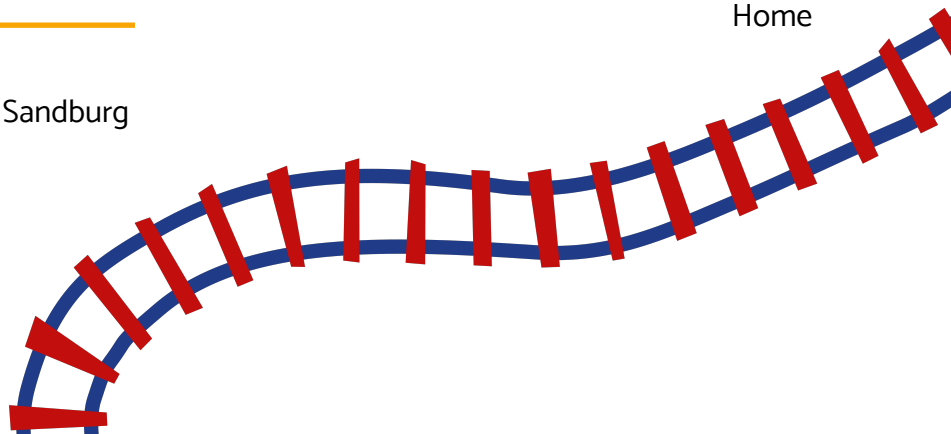
THEMES

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Imagination | Dreaming |
| Teamwork | Cooperation |
| Listening | Conflict Resolution |
| | Home |

CREDITS

Music & Lyrics by Ethan Andersen

Based on **Rootabaga Stories** by Carl Sandburg





SONGS

0. ROOTA-TUNING
1. ROOTABAGA EXPRESS!
2. THREE BOYS WITH JUGS OF MOLASSES AND SECRET AMBITIONS
3. HOW THE FIVE RUSTY RATS HELPED FIND A NEW VILLAGE
4. NEVER KICK A SLIPPER AT THE MOON
5. HOW BIMBO THE SNIP'S THUMB STUCK TO HIS NOSE
6. HOW THE ANIMALS LOST THEIR TAILS
7. FINALE
8. MEGABOWS



CAST

A flexible cast (8 minimum) playing various, genderless roles

*doubling included



INSTRUMENTATION

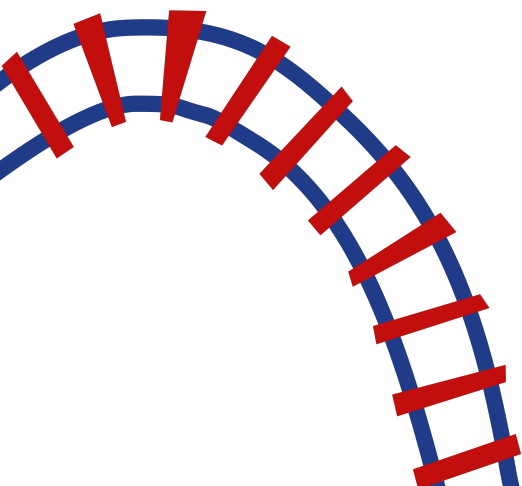
Keyboard 1, Keyboard 2, Guitar, Bass, Drums

*Full accompaniment tracks available

MEDIA

Demo recordings, photos, & video:

<https://www.ethan-andersen.com/rootabaga-express>



BIOS

Ethan Andersen – (music & lyrics) Ethan is a New York based composer-lyricist, music director, and pianist. He's a current member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, and his musicals have been produced by the New York Musical Festival, Elon University, annually at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, and on tour across North Carolina. He was the music director and conductor of the *Saturday Night Fever* national tour, Flat Rock Playhouse (state theater of North Carolina), and Elon University's Music Theatre program. He works for *Mean Girls* (August Wilson Theatre) and has conducted for BCEFA's Easter Bonnet Competition (Minskoff Theatre). Ethan is a proud alumnus of Elon University and member of Local 802 AFM. For more, visit: ethan-andersen.com



Carl Sandburg – (original author, 1878-1967) Sandburg was an American poet, biographer, journalist, and editor. He won three Pulitzer Prizes: two for his poetry and one for his biography of Abraham Lincoln. His children's book, *Rootabaga Stories*, included whimsical stories using nonsense language originally created for his daughters.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Rootabaga Express! was written in 2016 by adapting six of Carl Sandburg's most vibrant stories from his book, *Rootabaga Stories*. It was produced that summer at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in North Carolina. Receiving tremendous support from the community and national visitors, the show is now produced and presented every summer at Carl Sandburg's home, where the stories were originally written.



CONTACT

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