THE LITTLE HOUSE OF COOKIES is about co-operation, friendship, and working hard to make your dreams come true. Alice, a ten year old, is rejected and ignored by the other kids in the neighborhood. When Alice meets Jane, the new kid on the block, the two girls begin an adventure that ultimately changes the whole neighborhood and everyone in it!

For some strange, magical reason, none of the kids in the neighborhood have been able to get into an abandoned, old house. They know the door is unlocked, but no matter how much they bend and wiggle, they can't fit in. The door keeps shrinking whenever they try to enter. Does the house know that the kids are only thinking of themselves and don't really care about the welfare of the house? It's a good bet, since Alice and Jane, who only want to fix up the place, have absolutely no trouble getting in!

Meanwhile, an eccentric old woman, Mrs. O'Brien, has been trying to sell her home-made cookies on the street, but nobody will buy them. Alice suggests that they turn the little house into a cookie shop, and before you can say "Scrum-dilly-yum- dilly-ooh," the kids in the neighborhood have bought every cookie.

There is some last minute tension when the landlord discovers what's going on and tries to kick them out. But when Jane stuffs the last cookie into his mouth, he's a changed man. Not only does he let the cookie shop stay, but he lets Mrs. O'Brien live there as well, fulfilling a dream she has had for years. The neighborhood kids see that Alice isn't so bad after all, and, as Alice and Jane sing, "Now this is a place where anyone and everyone fits in."

The score is in a light-rock/Broadway style. It is challenging, but always accessible.

The play takes place in New York City. The time is sometime in the past – mid 60's.

CAST REQUIREMENTS with approximate ages (plus or minus a year)

ALICE (10) strong singer and actress.
JANE (10) strong actress. Ideally a strong singer, but not necessary.

The Basketball Group:
LEON (12)
CARL (11)good actors and singers
SQUIRT (6-7) Carl's little sister

The Dieters:
MICHELLE (12-14) Strong actress and singer, with flair for boogie-woogie style.
STACY (12-14) good actress; some solo singing.

The Musicians:
JOHN (11) good actor; some solo singing.
PAUL (11) good actor; some solo singing.
GEORGE (11) good actor; some solo singing.
STINGO (11) good actor; some solo singing.
MARTINA(11) good actor; some solo singing. The bands manager

RAGGEDY ANN (6) no singing, but must be able to do simple dance.
MRS. O'BRIEN (40-70) strong actress and singer.
LANDLORD (35-60) strong actor, minimal singing.
NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS (10-14) singers and dancers, some dialogue.

Vocal range for children's parts is A-flat below middle C to C above middle C, staying in a comfortable mid-range most of the time. Ideally, the boys' voices should not have changed yet.

BAND:
PIANO, piano part is full piano/vocal score, with chord symbols as well.
DRUMS, optional but desirable.

TECHNICAL:

COSTUMES: street clothes.

SETS: Basically you see the same house from different perspectives. It is very important that the magic be ever present in the set and lighting and musical sound effects of the show. Also, there should be decorations indicating Christmas and Chanukah (Holiday) time. Here are the different views:

- Beautiful little house in the middle of a meadow
- Angry/ugly apartment buildings growing up around the house overpowering it and squishing it (this is a smaller house than in the first description). Garbage can, streetlight. Basketball net?
- The same house but now bigger so that people can be in the right proportion to it. This house is run down and sad looking and it has a magical door that's gets shorter or narrower when it doesn't want to let people in. The house spins around when Alice and Jane enter and then we are inside the house. It is dirty and dusty. There are crates, trunk, spider webs, dirt that can be cleaned up so that it eventually looks beautiful and happy.

PROPS:

- big marching drum to be carried on a person's back(1/2 size of kid)
- Big raggedy Ann doll (size of kid playing raggedy Ann)
- Cymbals, two other instruments
- Basketball (must bounce)
- Money
- Basket w/wide variety of homemade cookies
- Bags of junk food
- Broom
- Feather duster
- Old toy chest or trunk w/raggedy Ann doll, pillow, tablecloth (really just a piece of cloth), twigs & glass, pad and markers (pre-made sign?)
- Christmas tree that needs to eventually light up and be beautiful