



Pre-Audition Meeting Into the Woods



I. Production Policies

- A. Students must be enrolled in the Summer Session before you can be scheduled for an audition time
 - Once you have auditioned, you will not be eligible for a refund or credit for your class tuition.
- B. You must be age 8-18 on July 27th, 2018 to be eligible to audition or crew the show.
- C. You must have an appropriate crew credit.
 - After two shows as a cast member, you must crew a show before you can audition again.
- D. You may not miss any performances or tech week rehearsals.
 - Tech Week: July 22nd 12-6p, July 23rd-25th 4-9p, July 26th 5:30-9:30p
 - Performances:

Friday July 27 at 7p Saturday July 28 at 2p Sunday July 29 at 2p

Friday Aug 3 at 7p No Second Saturday Sunday Aug 5 at 2p

Friday Aug 10 at 7p Saturday Aug 11 at 2p Sunday Aug 12 at 2p

- School Day shows:

No School Day Shows

- E. There is a \$95 Production Fee for cast members and \$50 for Crew Members. This pays for memory books, production and lobby photos, parties and receptions, director's gifts, etc.
- F. There are parent volunteer requirements that are great ways to get involved.

II. Audition Process

- A. Audition workshops are available prior to the week of auditions. Each workshop is a 20 minute, one on one session with a Junior Theatre teaching artist who will listen to your audition piece and offer suggestions for improvement. The cost for this workshop is \$25. Please call the office to schedule a workshop.
- B. Audition Dates
 - Auditions are by appointment only, and are held in one-half hour increments. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to check in at Room 208.

Monday April 23rd 4-6p Tuesday April 24th 4-6p Wednesday April 25th 4-6p

- C. What to prepare for auditions
 - Come to auditions with the audition form filled out completely. Be honest about any conflicts! Include a recent headshot.
 - Students should prepare a 1 minute song cut for their auditions. Please bring sheet music in the correct key, a pianist will be provided. No acapella singing or singing to tracks will be allowed.
- D. Call Backs Date

Monday April 30th 4-7p

III. Rehearsals

- A. First rehearsal will be held Monday June 4th from 4-6p. Everyone is called to the first rehearsal.
- B. Rehearsals will be Monday-Friday from 4-6p. From June 18th till July 16th 3-6p. From July 17th till 20th 3-7p
- C. All actors will not be called to every rehearsal. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be handed out at first rehearsal

IV. Questions

V. Director's Notes

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Marjorie Treger



Although *Into the Woods* starts in the traditional "Once upon a time..." format, it is anything but traditional. The storytelling, themes, motifs and morals are as relevant today as they were when it premiered in our own backyard at The Old Globe in 1986. Seeing that production was one of my most formative theatre going experiences! This is not a play about fantasy, but more about the reality and consequences of living, even after our "happily ever after". Our production will be set in a present day, hipster, upcycled world where we recognize ourselves, our friends and our families in the characters and their dilemmas. It will be contemporary and personal. We will focus on the messages of "children will listen" and "no one is alone." After all, we are all in this life game together. *Into the Woods* is a play about taking a risk, losing the way and finding our true path. It's about the space in between absolutes, the grey area of life that we have to come to terms with to be happy. Through this play we learn to practice tolerance, empathy and understanding.

For this production I am looking for smart, thoughtful actors, strong singers who know how to tell a story, and movers who can be creative in enhancing the physicality of the play. There are roles that sing a lot and roles that sing very little. I'm looking for creative artists who can be vulnerable and comfortable taking risks, understand how to be part of an ensemble and have a terrific work ethic. For the audition, choose the best one minute song cutting you've got that plays to your strengths, shows off your voice, character and storytelling skills. Be sure to list any special talents you may have on your audition form. Please list any dance training you have, gymnastics and any instrument you may play. Most of all bring your positive attitude!

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Act 1- "Once upon a time," begins the Narrator "in a far-off kingdom lived a fair maiden, a sad young lad and a childless baker with his wife." More than anything, Cinderella wishes to go to the King's Festival, Jack wishes his cow, Milky-White, would give him some milk, the Baker and his Wife wish for a child. But, scrubbing in the kitchen, Cinderella and her foolish reveries are mocked by her Stepmother and her Stepsisters; Jack's Mother wants him to sell Milky-White; and the Baker and his Wife are distracted by the arrival of Little Red Riding Hood, in search of a sticky bun to take to her grandmother in the woods. The Witch next door offers to end the couple's barrenness if the Baker can find four crucial ingredients for a magic potion: "the cow as white as milk, the cape as red as blood, the hair as yellow as corn, the slipper as pure as gold."

Accompanied only by six beans from his father's jacket, the Baker sets off into the woods; so does Jack, to sell his cow; and Cinderella, to visit her mother's grave. Once there, Cinderella repeats her wish and, magically, a white and silver gown and gold slippers drop from the hazel tree and she goes off to the festival. Elsewhere in the woods, Red Riding Hood is surprised by a slaving Wolf, who persuades her to take a short detour. Jack sells Milky-White to the Baker for five beans and then tells his cow goodbye. The Baker feels badly about taking advantage of a simpleton, but his Wife thinks the beans were a fair exchange. At the cottage, both Grandmother and the Little Red Riding Hood are swallowed by the Wolf. Rescued by the Baker, Red Riding Hood savors her new self-awareness and realizes, "I Know Things Now." Once Jack returns home with the beans, his mother admonishes him and throws the beans outside, where a giant beanstalk grows. Jack climbs up the beanstalk, where he discovers gold and giants. Cinderella's Prince, thwarted in his search, commiserates with his Brother, who's in a similar agony over Rapunzel, a maiden confined to a doorless tower accessible only by climbing her hair. For the Baker and his Wife, though, the pieces are falling in place. They have the cow, a strand of Rapunzel's hair, Red Riding Hood's cape - all secured by their sense of teamwork. The Witch, furious that her daughter Rapunzel is seeing a Prince, ends up chopping off her hair. Jack is being pursued by a giant - until, thinking quickly, he chops down the beanstalk and with a dull thud, the giant lands dead in the yard.

Everything has turned out for the best: the Baker produces the ingredients, the ugly old Witch mixes her potions and restores her beauty, the Baker's Wife becomes pregnant, Jack - laden with gold - and his cow (restored to life) resume their friendship. Cinderella and Rapunzel marry their Princes. Everyone lives happy Ever After.

Act 2- Once upon a time - later ... As the Narrator explains, despite one or two quibbles everyone is content - until, suddenly, the Baker's house is reduced to rubble. The only clue: a huge footprint.

Back into the woods they go - except Cinderella's and Rapunzel's Princes who, marital bliss notwithstanding, have come across Sleeping Beauty and the equally unwakeable Snow White, two new maidens who again have them in agony. A giantess is on the rampage, eager to avenge her husband's death, and she carelessly tramples Rapunzel to death. The Witch begins a lament for her daughter and turns on the Narrator because she doesn't like the way he's telling the story. Only after she's tossed him to the Giantess does it dawn on them that the story is now out of control. Cinderella's Prince seduces the Baker's Wife and after a few brief moments in the woods, he leaves her and she is crushed to death by falling timber. The characters first blame each other for their predicament, until finally they all decide to blame the Witch for growing the beans in the first place. Disgusted and fed up, the Witch curses and scolds them for their inability to accept their own individual responsibility and throws away the rest of her magic beans, reactivating her mother's curse and making her vanish. The grieving Baker flees, but is visited by his father's spirit who convinces him to face his responsibilities. Devising a plan to slay the Giantess, the Baker, Cinderella, Red Riding Hood and Jack comfort each other with the thought that no one is alone. When peace is restored to the woods, the Baker begins to tell his son the story - "Once upon a time. ." and share what he has learned.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Narrator- Male or Female- Storyteller who helps to orchestrate the show and illustrate lessons to the audience. Captivating.

Cinderella- Female- A young woman who is mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters. Longs for a better life and finding where she really fits in.

Jack- Male- Of "Jack and the Beanstalk" fame. His mother describes him as "touched". Genuine, sweet, his cow is literally his best friend. On the cusp of becoming a man. Playing guitar is a bonus

Jack's Mother- Female- Overwhelmed, exhausted, trying to make ends meet. Loves her son but worries about him. Willing to stand up for herself and Jack.

The Baker- Male- Hard working, loves his wife, wants to make everything work out. Running a bakery, trying to have a child, has weirdo neighbors. Trying to figure it all out, natural protector. Hipster vibe.

The Baker's Wife- Female- Determined, strong personality. Wants to be a mother, probably has an Etsy business on the side. Trying to balance work, marriage, trying to have a child and weirdo neighbors. Loves her husband, but loses her path. Hipster vibe.

Cinderella's Stepmother- Female or Male in Drag- The mean-spirited, demanding stepmother of Cinderella. Dotes on her natural daughters. Think Kris Kardashian.

Florinda And Lucinda- Female or Male in drag- Cinderella's stepsisters who are black of heart. They follow in their mother's footsteps of abusing Cinderella. Out for themselves at the expense of anyone else. Think Kardashian sisters.

Little Red Riding Hood- Female- A younger girl who is strong-willed, quick-witted, fearless, yet naive. In that coming-of-age window. Think bossy middle schooler who doesn't know what she doesn't know. Exploring dangerous things that excite her.

The Witch- Female- Sarcastic, ugly-then-gorgeous, obsessive protector of Rapunzel who is straightforward and aggressive. Starts out hag-like and transforms into gorgeous Mother Earth figure. Holds a grudge against the Baker for his father's transgressions.

Cinderella's Mother- Female- Deceased with her soul guarding and aiding her daughter from a tree. Beautiful and haunting.

Mysterious Man- Male- The Baker's father, thought to have died in a baking accident. Been living as a homeless man. Loves his son and trying to make amends. Speaks in riddles.

Wolf- Male- Hungry and insatiable hunter who takes advantage of the weak by misleading and captivating his prey. Charming and captivating in a weird way. Could have a cult leader vibe.

Rapunzel- Female- Lovely maiden who is held captive by the Witch and is terribly lonely. Knows nothing of the outside world. Actually, the Baker's secret sister. Falls in love with one of the Princes.

Cinderella's Prince- Male- Vain and gorgeous, he is a disloyal lover who is currently searching for the next new, exciting thing. Pop/Rap star vibe. Seductive and charming.

Rapunzel's Prince- Male- Just as vain and gorgeous as his Prince brother, he is always chasing the newest, most exciting endeavor. Men's model vibe.

Giant- Female- Part of a huge, multi-operator puppet. The Giant's wife is an angry and vengeful 'monster.' She is seeking restitution for her loss. Was nice to Jack when he climbed the beanstalk. Non-singing role but may be part of the ensemble/Pit chorus

Milky White- Male or Female- Jack's best friend. A cow. Great role for mime and physical comedy. Think Mr. Noodle from Sesame Street. Non-singing role

Sleeping Beauty and Snow White- The next conquests of the Princes. Small parts. Disney-bounding style. May be part of the ensemble/Pit chorus

Granny- Female- Little Red's grandmother. Feisty. Think "Nasty Woman" #shepersisted. Skins the wolf. May be part of the ensemble/Pit chorus

Prince's Steward- Male or Female- Bossy and uptight. Thinks he's better than the common folk. Must ride a bicycle. Sings in group numbers

Cinderella's Father- Male- Sad, trapped man. Didn't know what he was getting into with his new marriage. May be part of the ensemble/Pit chorus

Mini-me Ensemble- An ensemble of younger students who lurk in the woods to hear the story. "Children will listen." Think wood nymphs/Greek chorus. Sings in group numbers

Woods Ensemble- Group of dancers/movers who provide transitions, texture and creativity to the staging. May sing in group numbers