

INTO THE WOODS

JUNE 27 - JULY 2

CONTENT GUIDE

"Careful the wish you make!" This dark musical comedy by the legendary Stephen Sondheim is inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairy tales you loved as a child and reminds us that sometimes granted wishes bring unwanted consequences.

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Into The Woods
Hello, Little Girl
I Guess This Is Goodbye
Maybe They're Magic
Our Little World
I Know Things Now
A Very Nice Prince
Giants In The Sky
Agony
It Takes Two
Stay With Me
On The Steps Of The Palace
Ever After

ACT II

So Happy
Lament
Any Moment
Moment In The Woods
Your Fault
The Last Midnight
No More
No One Is Alone
Finale: Children Will Listen

RUN TIME

About 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission

PARENTAL GUIDELINES

Recommended Audience: 10+ (Contains Mature Themes and Coarse Language)
Please note that children under the age of 3 will not be admitted to the theater.

CHARACTERS

Narrator: An intellectual and pleasant story-teller who illustrates lessons to the audience.

Cinderella: A young, earnest maiden who is constantly mistreated.

Jack: The feckless Giant killer. He is adventurous, naïve, energetic, and bright-eyed.

Jack's Mother: Jack's protective mother who is independent, bold, and strong-willed.

The Baker: A harried and insecure baker who is simple and loving, yet protective of his family.

The Baker's Wife: Determined and bright woman who wishes to be a mother.

Cinderella's Stepmother: The mean-spirited, demanding stepmother of Cinderella.

Florinda And Lucinda: Cinderella's cruel stepsisters.

Little Red Riding Hood: A spoiled young girl who is fearless, yet naïve.

The Witch: Sarcastic, obsessive protector of Rapunzel who is straightforward and aggressive.

Cinderella's Mother: Deceased with her soul guarding and aiding her daughter from a tree.

Mysterious Man: A mischievous vagrant and nosy meddler.

Wolf: Hungry hunter who takes advantage of the weak by misleading and captivating his prey.

Rapunzel: A loopy-but-lovely maiden who is sheltered by the Witch and terribly lonely.

Cinderella's Prince: Vain and gorgeous, he is a disloyal lover

Rapunzel's Prince: Just as vain and gorgeous as his Prince brother

SYNOPSIS

(CONTAINS SPOILERS)

Act I "Once upon a time," beings the Narrator in his **Prologue: Into the Woods**, "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.

Cinderella at the Grave repeats her wish and, magically, a white and silver gown and gold slippers drop from the hazel tree. Elsewhere in the woods, Red Riding Hood is surprised by a slaving Wolf (**Hello, Little Girl**), who persuades her to take a short detour, while Jack sells Milky-White to the Baker for five beans and then tells his cow, **I Guess This Is Goodbye**. The Baker feels badly about taking advantage of a simpleton, but his Wife thinks the beans were a fair exchange. **Maybe They're Magic**, she suggests, and, anyway, their chances of children depend on getting the ingredients: the end justifies the beans. But the Baker is worried about Red Riding Hood - and with good cause. At the cottage, both Grandmother and the young girl have been swallowed by the Wolf. Rescued by the Baker, Red Riding Hood savours her new self-awareness and realises, **"I Know Things Now."**

Endeavoring to shake off **A Very Nice Prince**, Cinderella stumbles across a giant beanstalk, but it is now the end of the day - the **First Midnight** - a time to reflect on the day's adventures. Only Jack is curious enough to shin up the beanstalk, where he discovers gold -and **Giants In the Sky**. 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 corn-yellow 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: **It Takes Two**, they tell each other.

Unfortunately, the cow dies. The Witch, furious that her daughter Rapunzel is seeing a Prince, ends up chopping off her hair. **On the Steps of the Palace**, Cinderella mulls things over: the Prince has spread pitch on the stairs and trapped her. Jack is being pursued by a giant - until, thinking quickly, the lad chops down the beanstalk and begs her to **"Stay With Me"** but with a dull thud, the ogre 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. With the exception of Cinderella's stepsisters, blinded by pigeons, everyone lives happy **Ever After**.

Act II Once upon a time - later ... As the Narrator explains in another **Prologue: So Happy**, 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 un-wakeable Snow White, two new maidens who again have them in **Agony**. But, for one of them, there'll be no need for a messy divorce. A Giant - actually, 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: the Prince's Steward kills Jack's Mother, **Any Moment** now they could be dead, says Cinderella's Prince before seducing the Baker's Wife; after a few brief **Moments In the Woods**, she is, indeed, crushed to death by falling timber. "It's **Your Fault**," everyone tells each other. It's the **Last Midnight**: the Witch scatters a few beans and disappears in a puff of smoke. **No More**, decides the Baker. It's time to take responsibility.

Devising a plan to slay the Giantess, the Baker, Cinderella, Red Riding Hood and the others 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. (**Finale: Children Will Listen**).



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