

NEWS RELEASE

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99th Street Summer Theatre Festival Presents
"Into The Woods" to Close Season

"Into The Woods" is an award-winning musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. When the show premiered on Broadway, it won several Tony awards including Best Actress in a Musical (Joanna Gleason as the Baker's Wife). The musical is inspired by Bruno Bettelheim's 1976 book, *The Uses of Enchantment*, the musical intertwines a collection of uncensored versions of 18th century Brothers Grimm fairy tales. An original story involving a baker and his wife's quest to begin a family ties together the stories of Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, and Cinderella. Each character's wish for something that he or she does not have leads to complications. As the stories are unveiled each character learns valuable lessons and they all help slay the Giant who not only stalks the woods by also their lives.

The 99th Street Summer Theatre production will be on July 26th, 27th, and 28th at 8:00 pm at the McAuley Theatre, 3737 W. 99th Street. It is appropriate for audiences of all ages. Tickets are available for \$17 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens and \$12 for children under 10. Group rates are available for groups of 25 or more. Reservations and information about tickets is available by calling 773-881-6512.

The 99th Street Summer Theatre cast is a talented group of seasoned performers who have appeared in many previous 99th Street productions. Leading the cast is Mark Bartishell (Chg) as the Baker and Erin Haynes (Evergreen Park) as the Baker's Wife. Mark and Erin were both in "Merrily We Roll Along" last summer. Erin has also appeared in "The Music Man," "Once On This Island," "The Wizard of Oz," "Oklahoma" and several other shows. Playing the role of the Mysterious Man is Brian Rigg (Orland Park) whose credits include "City of Angels," "Secret Garden," "Oliver," and many others. Jill Schechtmann (Orland Park) plays the Witch and has previously appeared in "Children of Eden" and "Merrily We Roll Along." Veteran 99th Street

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performer Margaret Hayes (Oak Lawn) plays Jack's Mother and is known to 99th Street audiences for her performances in "Oklahoma," "Annie," "Once On This Island," "The Sound of Music:" and many other shows. Cinderella is played by Jenni Roney who has been seen in "Once on This Island" and "Merrily We Roll Along."

The roles of Little Red Riding Hood and Jack are played by Stephanie Seweryn (Chg. Ridge) and Jeff Kurzys (Oak Lawn) in their first summer theatre lead roles. The Stepmother is played by veteran Julie Schuberth (Chg., Beverly) who can be remembered for her role in "Oliver." Her daughters are played by Jeanine Stupka (Bridgeview) and Maura Moran (Evergreen Park). Cinderella's Prince is played by Tony Levine who can be remembered for his performance in last season's "Merrily We Roll Along" and Rapunzel's Prince is played by Patrick Byrnes (CHg., Beverly). Cinderella's mother is played by Becky Finn (Oak Lawn) and Cinderella's father is played by Ron Buscemi (Evergreen Park) who appeared in our production of "The Wizard of Oz" with Andy Lambros (Chg) who plays the Steward. The role of Rapunzel is played by Colleen Duffy (Oak Lawn) remembered best for "Annie."

The show is under the Direction of Patricia Haynes with Musical Direction by Patrick Mooney and Additional staging by Michael Gutrich and Marci Caliendo. The Scenic Design is by long-time 99th Street Summer Theatre Scenic Designer Don Haynes with lighting design by Lizz Wright and Colleen Thomas and Technical Direction by Donnarose Thomas. The show will be the final production of the season.

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