



ABOUT THE MUSICAL

An ambivalent Cinderella? A blood-thirsty Little Red Riding Hood? An unfaithful Prince Charming? A Witch... who *raps*? They're all among the cockeyed characters in James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim's fractured fairy tale.

The show covers multiple themes: growing up, parents and children, accepting responsibility, morality, and finally, wish fulfilment and its consequences.

“Be careful what you wish for” seems to be the ongoing theme in Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine’s Brothers Grimm inspired musical, *Into the Woods*.

The story follows The Baker and his wife who wish to have a child, Cinderella who wishes to go the King’s Festival, and Jack who wishes his cow would give some milk.

When the Baker and his wife are visited by the neighbourhood witch, who reveals to them that she placed a curse on their family, the two set off on a journey into the woods to reverse the curse.

Also in the woods, we meet Little Red, who is trying to visit her grandmother, the Wolf who loves tasty little girls, the Witch’s daughter Rapunzel, and the Princes who are chasing after their loves. By the end of Act I, everyone has got their wish and will seemingly live happily ever after.

But in Act II, when Jack’s beanstalk brings them a visit from an angry Giant, we see how the consequences of their actions haunt them in disastrous ways. The community must come together to save each other and their kingdom, but sacrifices must be made.

STEP ONE: RESEARCH

Please get as familiar as you can with the musical!

NOTE: Please... do not COPY what the actors/actresses are doing.

We only want you to watch/listen so you can get a sense of the plot and characters.

* **LISTEN:**

These links will take you to the Original 1988 Broadway Soundtrack: [Youtube](#) and [Spotify](#).

These links will take you to the Broadway Soundtrack for the 2022 Revival: [Youtube](#) and [Spotify](#).

* **WATCH:**

The full original Broadway cast did a live taping for PBS which [you can view HERE!](#) If you want a better quality recording, you can find out [where to stream it HERE!](#)

* ITW was made into a feature film in 2014. We personally don't care much for this film adaptation, and would like to caution that if you do watch it, just know that your directors aren't fans of most of these particular performances. If you'd still like to see it, you can find out [where to stream it HERE!](#)





CASTING:

There are no chorus/ensemble roles in the world of INTO THE WOODS, so actors will need to show us at auditions that they are strong performers capable of carrying larger roles!

Every role in the show is comedic, so we will be looking for that! We are seeking bright and dynamic performers who can make fun choices!

***WITH REGARDS TO GENDER:**

Generally, we are open to gender-blind and re-gendered casting. Therefore, please audition for whatever roles you are attracted to!

However, please try to choose the roles that best reflect your talents. Just because you like a role doesn't mean you are suited for it, and you want to have the strongest audition possible!

As you get to know the show and the music, please pay attention to the characters' vocal ranges and required skill sets. Sometimes we can slightly adjust the key of a character's solo song, but we prefer to keep accompaniment in the original key as much as possible.

Carefully read the character descriptions and requirements below and let us know if you have any questions!

AUDITION:

Choose one of the following songs

1. No One is Alone (Part 1) (Baker's Wife)
2. Giants in the Sky (Jack)
3. I Know Things Now (Little Red Riding Hood)

Scores for all three are here: [Drama - Into the Woods Audition Materials - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Just because you audition with a song for a particular character does not indicate that you will only be considered for that role. Feel free to choose whichever of the songs works best for your voice.

TIPS ON PREPARATION:

- Auditions are competitive and roles are limited. Knowledge of the music and the show is required. Show us what role you deserve. It's always obvious to us who is prepared and it makes a huge impression. Practice over and over - practice in front of your parents and siblings! Ask them for feedback!
- You will perform A LOT better if you memorise the material. Always bring your sheet music/sides with you just in case, but if you never have to look at them, it will make a much better impression! Being off-book frees up your hands to express yourself, and frees up your face and eyes so we can connect to you emotionally (instead of you looking at a piece of paper).
- Work on projecting loudly and articulating clearly.
- In addition to your musical proficiency and competency, we are looking to see you act a character through song. Just as (or MORE) important as a pretty voice is the way you ACT out your song. Tell us a STORY with your song! We want to see that you can use your body, your hands and your facial expressions at the same time as you sing. We know, it seems obvious, but we see so many stand-and-sing performances!
- It's very, very important that you make bold, exciting choices and give the character a strong personality - that is much more important to us than having you sing or act perfectly! We can even sometimes change the key of the song for the right actor.
- Do some character research! Watch videos of other performers doing your song and decide what it is you like about their performance, or don't like, and WHY. Were you bored because they just stood there and sang with their hands by their sides? Were you entertained because they acted out the lyrics well and had great facial expressions? Did you like the way they voiced the character? Did they choose things to do physically that helped tell the story? Did they have an interesting emotional arc? How was their energy? What can you do to make some memorable choices about your song and scene? :)

- Be familiar with the style of the show. Is it realistic/naturalistic, or cartoonish/over the top? It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with the show.... but please do NOT merely imitate another actor's performances.
- The keys to comedy?... timing, being in the moment and making fresh choices!
- We are not expecting a perfect, finished product from you. It's only the beginning of the production process, and it's our job to direct you to make you even better. But we DO want to see you give it all you've got!

Auditions

Thursday 12th September 3-6 pm - meet in Dr2.

There may be some recalls following the main auditions.

Rehearsals:

Our main rehearsal night will be Thursdays with rehearsals initially running until 5pm and, later in the term, until 6pm. There will also be some Sunday rehearsals.

Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday 19th September.

There will be a rehearsal from 1-9pm on October 3rd 2024 (open evening).

Show dates:

30 January to 1st February 2025.

Roles/Character Breakdowns:

The Witch

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Adult

Sarcastic, ugly-then-gorgeous, obsessive protector of Rapunzel who is straightforward and aggressive. On the surface, she is self-serving, possessive, sarcastic, vain, and charismatic. Inwardly, she is insecure and lonely.

One of the leading roles with plenty of songs -- a challenging role, strong singing and acting needed.

The Baker's Wife

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Adult

An ambitious and clever woman who is determined to be a mother. She leads a simple life but can be a romantic and materialistic at times.

One of the leading roles with several songs. Strong comedic and dramatic acting skills needed.

Cinderella

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Young Adult

A earnest and warm-hearted young maiden who is constantly mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters. She is a survivor, just trying to find her place in the world.

One of the leading roles with several songs. Strong acting and singing skills needed.

Little Red Riding Hood

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Teen

A spoiled, clever, vain young girl who is strong-willed. She is also quick-witted and fearless, but because of her age she is naive. She seeks approval in the place of love, of which she has had none.

Fun character to play, one of the leading roles with several songs. Strong comedic acting skills needed.

Rapunzel

Vocal range top: A5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Young Adult

A loopy-but-lovely maiden who is sheltered by the Witch and terribly lonely. Being locked away, she is completely and utterly innocent of worldly matters. She yearns to experience the world.

Needs good vocal control. Strong soprano.

Jack's Mother

Vocal range top: Gb5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Older Adult

Browbeating and weary, Jack's protective mother who is independent, bold, and strong-willed. As a single mother she's a strong fighter, working hard and determined to make a good life for her hapless son.

Strong comedic acting skills needed.

The Baker

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: Ab2

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Adult

A warm-hearted baker who is determined but insecure, and has never faced his fears. He is simple and loving, yet protective of his family. He is willing to do anything to ensure his wife's happiness, but it's hard for him to admit that she is the brains behind the operation.

One of the leading roles with several songs. Excellent acting skills needed.

Jack

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: B2

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Teen

The reckless Giant Killer, who is 'almost a man.' He is adventurous, naive, energetic, and bright-eyed. Eager to please and impulsive. A little slow of learning, and misled by his lack of self-knowledge.

One of the leading roles with several songs. Strong tenor. Great acting skills needed. A challenging role.

Cinderella's Prince

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: B2

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Adult

Self-dramatizing and endlessly confident. A hero in his own life's story. Vain and gorgeous, he is a disloyal lover who is currently searching for the next new, exciting thing.

One of the leading roles with several songs. Great comedic acting skills needed.

Rapunzel's Prince

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: C#3

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Adult

Just as vain and gorgeous as his older brother. Strives endlessly to be beat him in all things. He is also always chasing the newest, most exciting endeavour.

Of the princes, his is the more humorous role. Several songs. Strong comedic acting skills needed.

Narrator

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: G2

Character's Gender: Any

Character's Age: Any

An intellectual and excellent storyteller who relates directly with the audience. He/she helps to orchestrate the show and illustrate lessons to the audience but can also speak to and interact with the characters.

Mysterious Man

Vocal range top: Eb4

Vocal range bottom: G2

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Old Age

A mischievous vagrant and nosy meddler... with a secret. He is a good-natured protector and observer.

Must be a physical actor, who can move.

Wolf

Vocal range top: Gb4

Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Adult

Hungry and insatiable hunter who takes advantage of the weak by misleading and captivating his prey. Seductive.

A good mover preferred. Actor may wear prosthetics or a mask.

Cinderella's Mother

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: E4

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Adult

Nurturing and loving. She is deceased, but her soul inhabits a tree that Cinderella visits. Her mother's spirit guards and aids her, and dispenses useful advice.

Good singing voice.

Cinderella's Stepmother

Vocal range top: F#5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Adult

The mean-spirited, greedy, demanding stepmother of Cinderella. **Superb character part.**

Florinda and Lucinda

Vocal range top: Ab5

Vocal range bottom: C4

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Young Adult

Cinderella's stepsisters who are black of heart. They follow in their mother's footsteps of abusing Cinderella.

Loud, energetic. Good character role.

Granny

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Old age

Bitter and vindictive, she is Little Red's feisty, savage, knife-wielding grandmother.

No solo singing, but plenty of humour.

Giant

Character's Gender: Female

Character's Age: Adult

Voiceover role. The Giant is a vengeful 'monster' seeking restitution for the murder of her husband.

Both female and male voices would be appropriate. Loud, angry. Offstage voice only.

Steward

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Adult

Accompanies the Prince on his missions. Surly and bureaucratic, full of self-importance.

Open vocal range. No solo singing but plenty of good lines.

Cinderella's Father

Character's Gender: Male

Character's Age: Adult

A drinker, out of touch with his family but harmless and well-meaning. **No solo singing. Open vocal range.**