



proudly presents

INTO THE WOODS JR.

MARCH 19TH - 21ST
2024

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Book by JAMES LAPINE

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Original Broadway production by

Heidi Landesman Rocco Landesman Rick Steiner
M. Anthony Fisher Fredric H. Mayerson Jujamcyn Theaters

the Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, CA

*MBCS First Middle School
Musical Production*

Director's Note


As a child, I grew up in South St. Vital. Our backyard was a gateway to the hidden Dakota Forest. After school, my older brother and I would eagerly dash into those woods, our faithful canine companion bounding alongside us. Amidst the rustling leaves and dappled sunlight, we discovered a treasure trove of JUNK behind what is now known as the Jonathan Toews Community Centre. Armed with nothing but determination, we scavenged tools, nails, and spare wooden boards from our father's garage, fashioning a majestic fort in the heart of the forest. It became more than just a structure; it was our sanctuary, where our youthful spirits roamed free and our wildest dreams took flight.

"Into the Woods" holds a special place in my heart, resonating deeply with its tapestry of drama, laughter, and timeless life lessons. Tonight, as you immerse yourself in Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's captivating production, I urge you to journey back to your childhood. Recall the forests you once explored, the forts you bravely built, and the boundless worlds you conjured within your imagination. You see, I have come to recognize that as we grow out of one thing, we grow into another. This show reminds us that there exists no decree that mandates the abandonment of our innate sense of childlike wonder. As you take in tonight's performance, be reminded of the enchantment found in innocence and the boundless delight derived from unbridled curiosity.

There are two poignant lines from the show that never fails to stir my soul: "Isn't it nice to know a lot, and a little bit not", and "Careful the things you say, children will listen." Both of these lines carry a conviction that will always stay with me. My heart swells with pride for these talented young actors, who have poured their souls into this production. They stand ready to share their gifts if only you are willing to receive them. So, without further ado, step into the woods and let yourself be carried away.

Enjoy the show, and may it reignite the spark of wonder within you!

Alexander Grant



***"Careful the things you say,
children will listen."***

Lyrics from *Curtain Music* - Stephen Sondheim



PRODUCTION

Baker	Austin Wiebe Gr.8
Baker's Wife	Willa Ritchie Gr.7
Cinderella	Martina Knezic Gr.7
Little Red	Calla Veenstra Gr.5
Witch	Genevieve Evan Gr.7
Jack	Braedan Walker Gr.7
Rapunzel	Annalie Martens Gr.8
Narrator	Violet Koslowsky Gr.5
Narrator	Avielle Toews Gr.5
Wolf	Angelo Koodoo Gr.7
Mysterious Man	Lucas Wilson Gr.8
Cinderella's Prince	Felix Elvebo Gr.7
Rapunzel's Prince	Wesley Neufeld Gr.7
Jack's Mother	Amy Bouchard G.7
Milky White	Piper Gerbrandt Gr.7
Steward	Seth Smalley Gr.7
Step-mother	Isabella Winter Gr.8
Lucinda	Isabella Amato Gr.7
Florinda	Autumn Stiles Gr.7
Granny	Robyn Pitura Gr.6
Cinderella's Mother	Anna Shao Gr.7
Cinderella's Father	Joshua Johannson Gr.6
Ensemble	Abigail Carrasco Gr.6
Ensemble	Nicolino Giancola Gr.5
Ensemble	Ariam Unduche Gr.7
Ensemble	Arienna Zoledowski Gr.5
Ensemble	Rosie Rewucki Gr.5
Ensemble	Ruth Turk Gr.7
Ensemble	Miriam Turk Gr.7
Ensemble	Shalom Kibreab Gr.5

CASTING

Director	Alexander Grant
Assistant Director and Set Manager	Sheri Kovacs
Assistant Director and Props Manager	Tricia Turnbull
Stage Manager	Andie Elvebo Gr.10
Backstage Manager	Cooper Gerbrandt Gr.10
Lighting	Stachu Dawybida Gr.7
Sound	Max Wiebe
Costume and Set Design	Alexander Grant
Set Building	Grade 7 Art Class
Music Director	Kathryn Amato

THE STORY OF INTO THE WOODS

Be careful what you wish for,
as Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's cockeyed fairytale comes to life
in this adaptation of their groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical.

Into the Woods JR. features all of your favorite characters —

Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack
(and his beanstalk) and the Witch — in this lyrically rich retelling of
classic Brothers Grimm fables. The musical centers on a baker and
his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend
the King's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk.
When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because
of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse,
and wind up changed forever.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the MBCI Leadership Team for believing in the idea of a Middle School musical and to all those on our team of staff who provided encouragement and logistical support. Alexander Grant, Sheri Kovacs and Tricia Turnbull worked tirelessly as Directors and in pulling together the many details involved in mounting a production of this caliber. Ken Geddert, Andrew Klassen, Wes Koslowsky, Tara Toews and Max Wiebe all contributed their expertise in various ways - thank you!

Many students outside of the cast stepped in. Andie Eivebo and Cooper Gerbrandt provided outstanding leadership as managers and student mentors. We're grateful to Stachu Dawybida, Sarah Monita, the tube was constructed by Luke Kellington, Seth Branson, Tyler Wiebe, and Majok Deng, and the Gr. 8 Woodworking class helped with construction. Our Gr. 7 Art students worked many hours creating beautiful and creative sets.

Our MBCI community of families is instrumental in the success of this show, with special thanks to those who went above and beyond, including Kathryn Amato, Erin & Miguel Carrasco, Michael & Sharon Pitura, Duane Wilson, Josh & Julie Veenstra, and Cheryle Zoledowski. Thank you also to all who donated set and costume items. We couldn't have done this without you!

A final thank you to WMS, Westwood Collegiate,
and Novalex for props and set items.

**Refreshments and roses are available
for purchase in the foyer.
Courtesy of the Grad Committee**

