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Into the Woods (1990)

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Press Release for Into the Woods

Providence College

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PRESS RELEASE
for
INTO THE WOODS

A dimwitted, amoral boy and a hungry little girl. A little, stunted kitchen wench and a childless baker and his wife. A near-sighted giant and a mischievous witch—hardly the typical line-up for contemporary musical theatre. Yet these characters (better known under different aliases) constitute the cast for Providence College's production of Stephen Sondheim's INTO THE WOODS on November 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 1990. With direction by Mary G. Farrell and musical direction by Anthony A. Torelli, the Blackfriars Theatre enthusiastically announces this newest Sondheim musical sensation as the opening production of its 1990-1991 season.

Winner of three Tony Awards in 1988 for both Best Score and Best Book, INTO THE WOODS is the latest collaboration of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. Perhaps today's most innovative artist of contemporary musical theatre, Stephen Sondheim has written lyrics or complete scores for WEST SIDE STORY, GYPSY, FOLLIES, COMPANY, A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, PACIFIC OVERTURES, SWEENEY TODD, and SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE. Indeed, Sondheim's blatant genius with lyrics and music has made him one of the most respected creators of American musical theatre.

As his subject for INTO THE WOODS, Stephen Sondheim has entwined many of the Brothers Grimm fairytales including Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Ridinghood. Sondheim ties all of the well-known tales together with the story of a childless baker and his wife who encounter the other fairytale figures on their journey into the woods. In order to reverse a witch's spell, the baker and his wife try to get specific ingredients for the witch's potion from the other characters. By the end of the first act, all of the characters

have obtained their wishes and all seems well in the kingdom. But in Act Two—after the "Happily Ever After"—reality sets in. Once again the fairytale characters have to go into the woods to learn how to cope with getting their wishes. And throughout this playful adventure, Stephen Sondheim skillfully weaves in poignant reflections of human nature and society. As Howard Kissel of THE DAILY NEWS remarks, INTO THE WOODS has "a spellbinding score; witty enough to make old stories fresh for adults, lovely enough to enchant youngsters."

Remember, "to get your wish you can't just think; you have to act"! So come into the woods at Providence College and take another journey with Stephen Sondheim for an evening of nonstop entertainment. For ticket information and reservations, please call the P.C. Box Office at (401) 865-2218.