

# Village Theatre

## Production Preview Guide

# INTO THE WOODS

“Happily ever after” is just the beginning in this musical collision of the original Grimm fairytales. When Cinderella, Jack, Rapunzel, Little Red, and more venture into the woods after their heart’s desire, they get a lot more than they bargained for. As princes seduce and giants roam the land, stories get intertwined and the plot (like the beanstalk) thickens. Featuring one of Sondheim’s most celebrated scores of music, this Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning musical will take you “into the woods, to get the thing, that makes it worth the journeying.”

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### **THE PURPOSE OF A PRODUCTION PREVIEW GUIDE:**

Many people have different ideas about what material is appropriate, both for themselves and their families. This production preview guide is provided to give you the necessary information to determine if the content of our production is suitable for you and your loved ones. Please be aware that this document is provided with the intent of full disclosure, and therefore contains plot spoilers. Also, because all of our productions are locally produced, there may be cases where minor changes occur as the director prepares the show for the stage. In such cases, this guide will be updated accordingly. Once the show is open and on stage, there will be no further changes.

### **SCRIPT CONTENT DETAILS:**

#### *Language*

There is limited use of strong language. In the opening scene, the Witch says “he was robbing me, raping me,” but this is meant to only describe that she was stolen from. Florinda says, “we would have if that mongrel with the cow hadn’t molested us,” in reference to the Baker trying to compare their hair color to an ear of corn. The word “damn,” is used once.

#### *Violence*

There is violence throughout the show. The more intense instances of violence include: the Steward clubbing Jack’s Mother with a cane and Jack’s Mother dying from the injury in the arms of the Baker; Florinda slapping Cinderella across the face for pulling her hair too tight; the Witch pulling Rapunzel across the stage and throwing her to the ground; Rapunzel’s Prince appearing onstage with bloody eye makeup after it’s explained that he fell onto thorns that pierced his eyes; and the Mysterious Man dying onstage as the result of a spell.

Moments of moderate violence, often of a humorous nature, include: Little Red disappearing under the side of the bed when the Wolf “eats” her; the Baker freeing Little Red and Granny by stabbing the blanket covering the bed with a knife; Cinderella’s Stepmother cutting off Florinda’s toe and Lucinda’s heel (their feet are not visible to the audience when this occurs); birds represented by pieces of paper “pecking” out the Stepsisters’ eyes; Little Red stomping on the Baker’s foot and threatening Jack and the Narrator with her knife; the Baker’s Wife pulling out some of Rapunzel’s hair; the Witch tossing a baby to the Baker; characters falling to the ground or reacting in pain when the Witch casts spells on them; and characters arguing and yelling at each other.

Offstage deaths and violence are often represented by sound effects or described by characters: the Wolf eats Little Red's Granny; Little Red and Granny talk about skinning the Wolf; a giant falls from the sky and dies in Jack's backyard; various homes are destroyed by a giant; several characters, including main characters, are killed by a giant; and characters work together to kill a giant, which they describe with remarks such as "the club is stuck in her head," and "she's bleeding all over."

### ***Sexual Content***

There is flirting and kissing among characters, sometimes of an extramarital nature. In Act I, there is a suggestive musical number involving the Wolf, who is an adult male, and Little Red, who is a young girl. In Act II, there is a sexually charged scene between Cinderella's Prince and the Baker's Wife — both of whom are married to other people— involving passionate kissing and the removal of the Prince's belt and some other outer items of clothing. However, they both remain fully clothed throughout the scene.

### ***Drugs/Alcohol***

No presence of drugs or alcohol.

### **PRODUCTION EFFECTS:**

A haze/fog effect is used in this production.