

Features

The Blue Banner

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Fairy tales live again in Sondheim musical

Jane LaFerla
Staff Writer

Into The Woods, the award-winning Broadway musical, comes to the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium March 20 at 8 p.m.

UNCA's Cultural and Special Events Committee sponsors the national tour's performance of this Stephen Sondheim-work.

The story leads the audience on a musical exploration of what happens after the happily ever-after endings of well-known fairy tales.

Musical Preview Into the Woods

Using some of the Brothers Grimm's most notable characters, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Cinderella, Jack (of beanstalk fame), a witch and a giant, *Into The Woods* examines what happens when we get what we wish for -- and find that it isn't what we really wanted after all.

Some critics have cryptically substituted the word "wouds" for "woods."

Richard Bruno, in his study guide for *Into The Woods* says, "The woods are where the characters go to pursue their fondest wishes, where they attempt to turn reality into what they would want it to be."

"It is in the woods that characters also learn that often the most frightening thing of all is when wishes actually come true, and so, wishing must be done with great care."

Adults and children will be able to enjoy the show. A quote from a *New York Daily News* review says, "Into *The Woods* is total enchantment. A spellbinding

score, witty enough to make old stories fresh for adults, lovely enough to enchant youngsters."

Music and lyrics are by Stephen Sondheim, with the book by James Lapine who also directed the Broadway production.

Sondheim and Lapine formerly collaborated on the musical *Sunday in the Park with George* inspired by the pointillist painting "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" by artist Georges Seurat. For this collaboration, Sondheim and Lapine received a Pulitzer Prize.

Sondheim wrote the lyrics for *Westside Story* and *Gypsy*. He also wrote the scores for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music* and *Sweeney Todd*.

Sondheim musicals are best known for their sophisticated lyrics, wit, and ability to tackle complex subjects.

Into The Woods opened on Broadway in November of 1987. The musical garnered awards from both the 1988 N.Y. Drama Critics Circle Award, and the 1988 Drama Desk Award in the best musical category.

The show captured three Tonys in 1988 for best score, best book and best actress in a musical, Joanna Gleason, who originated the role of the miller's wife.

In 1989 the original cast recording won a Grammy for best cast album.

Tickets are on sale at the Asheville Civic Center office and the usual outlets. To charge by phone, you may call 251-9999.

UNCA students, faculty and staff may purchase specially priced tickets at the Highsmith Center.

Ticket prices are \$16 and \$13 for regular reserved seats. Tickets for children 14 and under are \$10.

For faculty and staff tickets are \$13. UNCA student tickets are \$5.

If you need more information call 251-2999 or 251-6584.



Photo by Suzanne Plunkett

Popular fairy tale characters star in *Into the Woods*, a musical by Stephen Sondheim.

Pisgah Players present unique adaptation

Connie Pegg
Staff Writer

The Pisgah Players presented William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* Wednesday through Friday nights in Lipinsky Auditorium.

Theatre Review *The Winter's Tale*

The dialogue was authentic. The dress and settings, however, were anything but.

The opening scene featured a mock office, complete with computer in one corner of the stage, and a child's playroom, teddy bear and all, in another corner.

Kings Polixenes and Leontes, played by Jack Parsons and David Hopes, respectively, entered the stage, dressed in dark, three-piece suits. Amy Ellison played Queen Hermione, Leontes' wife. She appeared in a black, textured mini-dress.

Camillo and Paulina, advisors to Leontes, were played by Olivia Chiavaras and Flo Vaught. They also wore black or dark, modern costumes. The dark attire, accented by dramatically contrasting white accessory pieces,



Photo by Diane Maney

The Winter's Tale is updated by the Pisgah Players.

established an ominous, wintery mood for the opening scene in Leontes' country of Sicilia.

Act I, Scene 6 took on a new light, however, opening on the seacoast of Bohemia, homeland of Polixenes. Here, bright colors, including tie-dyed shirts, dominated the settings. Camillo, who defected to Bohemia with

Polixenes years earlier, appeared on stage with him. Both were

Never could Shakespeare, even in his most vivid imagination, have envisioned one of his plays being produced using tie-dyed clothes. . .

dressed in white tennis clothes and she practiced her back swing as they talked between themselves.

The atmosphere remained light-hearted and carefree as other Bohemian citizens appeared on stage clad in walking shorts, tennis shoes and various other sports wear. Some of the young people of Bohemia enjoyed a picnic, complete with sunglasses and suntan lotion.

At one point, Autolyus, played by Jennifer Dakes, wearing tight, knee-length denim pants and a fringed leather jacket, boogied onto the stage to the Rolling Stones' song, "I Can't Get No Satisfaction."

Additional music was provided by flutist Mary Demodica. Performing live and on-stage, Demodica rested between two of her performances in an orange bean bag chair.

Never could Shakespeare, even in his most vivid imagination, have envisioned one of his plays being produced using tie-dyed clothes, bean bag chairs, computers, suntan lotion and music by the Rolling Stones.

This unique adaptation, directed by Steven Lynch of the UNCA literature department, worked, however, proving that Shakespeare's writings are as timely today as they were when he first wrote them.

Winter turns to spring in Sicilia, as Act II, Scene 5 returns us to Leontes' kingdom. Leontes is reconciled with his long-lost daughter Perdita, played by Michelle Gagliano. Hermione, believed dead these many years, magically returns to life.

The *Winter's Tale* is a

collection of conflicts. The winter colors and deadness of Sicilia give way to the life of spring and sense of rebirth in Bohemia. Leontes' structure and rigidity contrast with the chaos and freedom of Polixenes.

Shakespeare shows us that personal, family, and even national conflicts remain the same. Only the players change.

The Pisgah Players was formed in 1989 from the UNCA creative writing department. The group serves as a medium for new playwrights and directors.

Their next project titled "But is it Art?" is scheduled for April 10 and will star Michael Sheldon. This presentation will serve as part of the UNCA Festival of the Arts.

Future projects being considered for presentation by The Pisgah Players are "Guitar Glory," by Tom Dolce, "Godzilla Eats Mexican," by Nick Morgan, "The Phantom of Blue Letters," by David Hopes and "Measure for Measure," by Shakespeare.

UNCA BOOKSTORE SPECIAL SPRING DATES

- Sat., March 9
- Sat., March 10 CLOSED - SPRING BREAK
- Tues., March 12 STAFF APPRECIATION DAY
- Mon., March 18 SENIORS' GOWNS AVAILABLE
- Sat., March 23 ADMISSION'S OPEN HOUSE
- Sat., April 6 BOOKSTORE WALK FOR MS.
- Fri., April 12 DEADLINE FOR SENIORS TO GET CAPS AND GOWNS
- Thur., April 18
- Fri., April 19 BOOKSTORE SIDEWALK SALE
- Sat., April 20 ADMISSION'S OPEN HOUSE
- Mon., April 22 JOSTEN'S RING DAYS
- Tue., April 23
- Week of May 6 USED BOOK SALE
- Sat., May 11 COMMENCEMENT - STORE OPEN

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