



MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women To Excel

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Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY -
Mostly Sunny
High 79/ Low 55

THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
High 85/ Low 61

FRIDAY
Scattered T-storms
High 82/ Low 63

SATURDAY
Scattered T-storms
High 81/ Low 61

SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 85/ Low 59

MONDAY
Isolated T-storms
High 58/ Low 43

TUESDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High 80/ Low 54

Into the Woods

CHRISTY NASH
Staff Writer

For those of us that grew up reading Fairy Tales, we were taken back to our childhoods in a way when Meredith Performs presented *Into the Woods*, a musical by Stephen Sondheim. *Into the Woods* centers on a baker and his wife and their desire to have a child. They are, however, unable to, because they were cursed never to have children by the witch next door. The only way to break this curse is to gather objects together which happen to belong to several familiar characters: a cape as red as blood from Little Red Riding Hood, a cow as white as milk from Jack (as in "and the beanstalk"), hair as yellow as corn from Rapunzel, and a slipper as pure as gold from Cinderella.

It was amazing how these characters were woven together with such ease. We can almost forget that they weren't meant to be in the first place. They interact on many levels and in many situations as the baker and his wife chase down these objects from the owners, who

are all less than willing to part with their prized possessions. Finally though, all four objects are found, and every character's wish is granted. This should lead to "happily ever after," but since that was only the end of Act One, there was plenty of time for things to go awry.

Into the Woods is based on the premise of what happens after "happily ever after," because as children reading these fairy tales, we are always under the misconception that the perfect happy ending does exist. This musical takes on the traditional fairy tales with an adult twist. It explores issues of deception, sexual immorality, and violence, and when characters go into the woods, they discover new things about themselves and the world around them. They grow up in a sense and realize along with the audience that there are consequences to every wish we make. Those wishes granted came with a very steep price, and cost the lives of many of the characters.

The Cast of *Into the Woods* gave a superb performance, drawing us all into the world of fantasy. Lormarev Jones

was amazing as the witch. She was very believable, though she did not play a wicked witch at all, but rather the voice of reason. She played the part humorously and highlighted her performance with a rap. Katherine Anderson was the ideal Cinderella. She looked and sounded the part. Will Sanders captured the character of Jack marvelously, with the perfect amount of naivety and dimness. He came across very sympathetically and made it easy for the audience to be on his side. Robert Terrell Milner and Rosa Wallace were wonderful as the baker and his wife, and their willingness to do whatever it takes to have their wish granted was felt by the audience. It was easy to identify with that desire. Karen Ainsley did really well at capturing the innocence and energy of a little girl and seemed to grow a great deal during the musical. Perhaps a highlight was Matthew-Jason Willis with his performances as both the wolf and Prince Charming. He captured the roles perfectly, portraying the wolf as a hungry beast that was turned on by the

sight of a young innocent girl like Little Red Riding Hood. As Prince Charming, he had the dashing hero part down pat, but at the same time, the prince had an enormous ego. Byron Jennings II also played a prince, although it was Rapunzel's prince. He too was perfect in the role, and when the two princes sang the song "Agony," it was anything but agony. In fact it was a highlight of the show. Finally, while not a main part, Shayna Peters as Milky White stole the show with her performance as Jack's cow. Every time she appeared onstage, the audience roared with laughter.

Besides the performances, the scenery was amazing. It truly gave the illusion of a path traveling deep into a forest. William C. Rodgers did a wonderful job of creating the environment. LeGrande Smith also created beautiful costumes that added tremendously to the musical. Overall, *Into the Woods* was wonderfully done all around. It drew the audience into the world of Fairy Tales and made them real to us all.

Coffeehouse

This Saturday, April 22, 8pm 2nd
Cafe!

Featuring the band of professors,
Shards of Fargo!

Members include Michael Novak, History, MC;
Bill Schmidt, Physics, MC; Georgia Schmidt,
Music, MC; Steven Vincent, History, NCSU;
Keith Uyeno, itinerant double bass player.

Come out and enjoy a night of eclectic acoustic
courtesy of your professors and CAB!

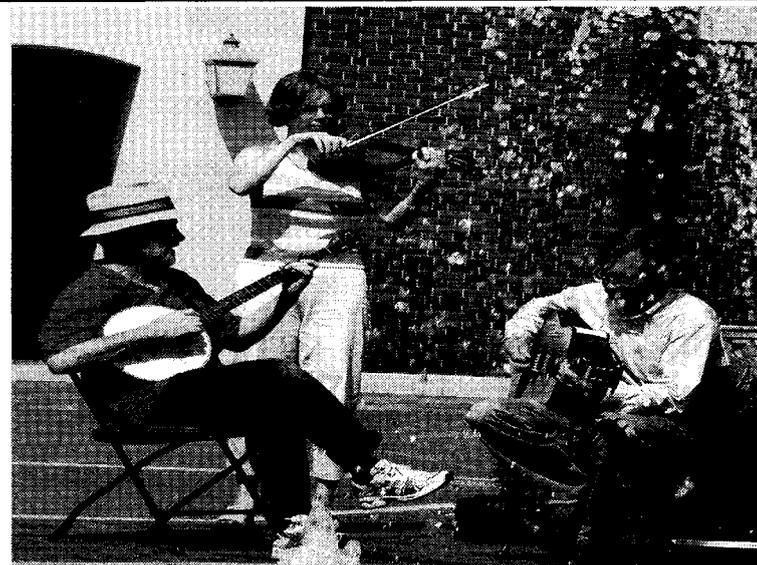


Photo Courtesy of Dr. Michael Novak
In this photo: Steven Vincent, Georgia Schmidt, and Michael Novak.