



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALENDAR INFORMATION

What: Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*

Presented by: Woodminster Summer Musicals by Producers Associates, Inc.

When: 8 pm on August 30, 31, September, 6, 7 and 7pm on September 1, 5, 8

Where: Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park, 3540 Sanborn Drive, Oakland

Tickets: 510-531-9597 or www.woodminster.com or at the box office before any performance

PRESS RELEASE

Closing Woodminster's 53rd Season With Sondheim's *Into the Woods*

August 5, 2018, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates ends the 53rd season of Woodminster Summer Musicals with Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*! The Brothers Grimm hit the stage with an epic fairytale about wishes, family and the choices we make. James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take everyone's favorite storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless, yet relevant, piece... and a rare modern classic. The Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching.

The story follows 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. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

Says music director Mark Dietrich, "The *Into the Woods* plot takes unusual and unexpected twists and turns...and so does the music in this amazing score. Audiences have loved the show since the mid-80's, and I know our Woodminster patrons will be delighted!"

Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 10-4 Monday-Sunday, or at the box office 2 hours before any performance. Performances are August 30 (opening), 31, September 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8, with Friday and Saturday performances at 8pm and Thursday and Sunday performances at 7pm.

Starting this season, we are offering Open Captioning for two performances of each show. Open Caption performances of *Into the Woods* will be September 7 and 8. We will also be including a performance with Audio Description on September 5. Hearing devices and printed scripts will be available for every performance at both the upper and lower entrances. Please contact Harriet Schlader to reserve a printed script at least one week in advance of the performance attending. Visit our website for more accessibility details. We want as many people as possible to experience "Broadway in the Redwoods" at our amphitheater.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$33 to \$70, with a \$2 discount for seniors 62 and older and a wonderful K75 discount for Kids 16 and younger. Since the beginning, one of Producers Associates' missions has been to make live theater affordable for families in the local community, and the organization offers many ticket discount programs with that in mind. They include:

- Season tickets and flex passes (about a 15% discount)
- Group rate 25+ (about half price, specific performances)
- Group rate 12+ (about 15% off, any performance)
- Oakland residents (about half price, opening night of each show)
- 17-24-year olds (about half price, at the door any performance)
- Kids Come Free (up to 16 yrs, 1 free with 1 paying adult, at the door any performance)
- K75 (up to 16 yrs, about 75% off, 5 discounted kids with 1 paying adult, pre-sales, any performance)

The production is directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Mark Dietrich, and choreography by Harriet Mason. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6.

The role of Cinderella will be played by Amanda Sylvia*, recently seen earlier in the season as Katherine in *Newsies*. The princes will be played by Noel Anthony* and Gary Stanford Jr. This extremely talented cast (both Equity and non-Equity) will bring this fairytale musical *Into the Woods* to Oakland's redwoods.

Over the last 53 years, Producers Associates has presented 160+ productions, entertaining over a million Woodminster Summer Musicals ticket holders. The shows have been performed by more than 5000 actors, over 20% of them members of Actors Equity Association, making the organization one of the Bay Area's most reliable employers of professional actors. The musicals have always been performed with live professional orchestras, which have included 23 different conductors and over 1800 members of Musicians Local #6. In addition, the organization has employed 26 professional set designers, 17 lighting designers, 25 costume designers, 6 sound technicians, 18 choreographers, 6 directors, and over 1,500 young backstage interns.

Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park high in the Oakland Hills. The park's spectacular views and serene woody environment made it the perfect setting for the amphitheater, cascades, reflecting pool, and paths that were originally built as a WPA project in

1939-40. For many East Bay families, it is a long-standing summer tradition to enjoy a picnic in the park and then see a musical at Woodminster.

For more information about the 2019 season or the history of the organization, visit www.woodminster.com.

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