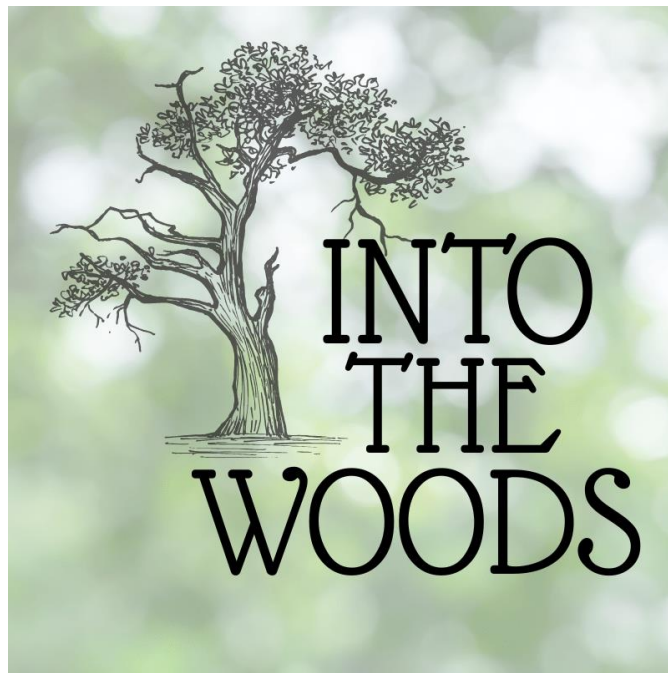


**KTK's Production of INTO THE WOODS:  
Know Before You Go**



## GETTING THERE

*Into the Woods* will be performed in the gymnasium at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, located at 4200 Delor in St. Louis – very close to the Bevo Mill (Das Bevo). The church is on the south side of Delor, near the Gravois and Morganford intersections.



A view of St. John the Baptist, showing the clock tower and steeple that are visible from the street.

There is a gated parking lot by the public entrance, with a sign over the gate that says “Theater Parking.” There is another lot on the other side of that building, next to the main church building. This lot will be used by most of the cast and crew and backs up to the entrance that’s being used as the stage door, but the public is also allowed to park there if there is room.

If you use the Metro transit system, the closest bus stop to the church is the Gravois and Itaska stop, serviced by the 10 Gravois-Lindell route. If you ride the 10 toward the Hampton Gravois Transit Center, you’ll get off the bus at the westbound Gravois and Itaska stop, walk for about three-tenths of a mile, and cross both Gravois and Delor. If you ride the 10 toward the Central West End Transit Center, you’ll get off at the eastbound Gravois and Itaska stop, walk for about two-tenths of a mile, and cross Delor. You should be aware that there is construction on Delor that blocks some of the sidewalks.

If you’re unable to make the walk from the bus stop comfortably and safely, your options include booking a Call-a-Ride trip if you’re eligible, or using a rideshare service such as Lyft or Uber. Metro’s own Via rideshare service does not cover the area near the church.

## BUILDING BASICS

The main entrance to the building is through a glass door into a small entryway. The box office is in a room to your left as soon as you get into this entryway. There are no stair-steps or levels from the parking lot to this entrance to the box office.

From the box office, you'll go back into the same entryway and up a set of several stairs to your right to get to the gymnasium/theatre. These stairs are equipped with a wheelchair lift, and a theatre volunteer can help operate the lift if you need to use it. Once you get up the steps/lift, you will be in the large open area of the gymnasium, and the seating area will be straight ahead and to the right. A member of the house crew can help you locate your seat if you need.



Seating is reserved and is all on one level, with no stair-steps or risers. The seats are folding chairs which can be moved or taken away to accommodate wheelchairs. Seats will be assigned when you arrive. If you need an accommodation related to seating, such as being on an aisle or being farther away from the orchestra, ask the box office workers for a seat that meets your needs.

To get to the restrooms, you'll go to the back of the gymnasium, away from the stage and past the tech table, and through an open doorway. A single-stall, non-gendered accessible restroom will be on your left as soon as you go through this doorway. Gendered, multiple-stall restrooms are down a set of stairs to the right as soon as you go through the open doorway.

Evening performances of *Into the Woods* will begin at 7:30, and matinees will begin at 2:00. The theatre seating area will open 30 minutes before each performance.

*Into the Woods* features a live orchestra, which will be seated to the audience's left.

## WHAT'S ALLOWED?



Pictured is a pile of small spiky balls in various pastel colors.

You're welcome and encouraged to bring quiet fidget or comfort items if you need these to fully enjoy your time with us. These can include earplugs, noise-cancelling headphones or ear defenders, small fidget items, or weighted vests or lap pads. We ask that any items you bring be noiseless and not light up.

There will be a limited supply of earplugs and fidget items available at the box office. If you use the earplugs, for sanitary reasons, please do not return them.

During the performance, phones, tablets, and other electronic devices must be on silent and put away. Texting, photography, and recording are not allowed during the performance.

Concessions will be sold before the show and at intermission. The concession counter is in the back of the gymnasium, away from the stage, past the tech table to the right. Free coffee will also be available in the back of the gymnasium at intermission while supplies last. You can bring concessions back to your seat.

## SHOW CONTENT

*Into the Woods* is a combination of several familiar stories (and one original story) that take some unfamiliar twists and turns. Through the work of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, and with the guidance of a pair of narrators, you'll encounter well-known fairy tale figures like Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (of "and the Beanstalk" fame), Rapunzel, Cinderella, and two charming princes. You'll also meet a wolf (because there are always wolves), a witch (because there's always magic), and a giant (because... well, why not?). At the center of it all are a baker and his wife, and their wish to have a child brings all of the stories together.

*Into the Woods* is PG-13, appropriate viewing for adults and teens. For younger children, adult guidance is suggested, especially once act two starts. None of the characters in *Into the Woods* are squeaky clean, and they don't get the neat, happy endings that you find in media made for small children. Because of this, some families may not be comfortable with their very young children seeing the second act at all.

Here is some show content to be aware of:

- To quote another familiar "storybook story" out of context, *Into the Woods* is "a kissing book." While there is nothing explicit beyond kissing, there certainly *is* kissing, some of which takes place in the context of marital infidelity. Scenes involving intimacy have been choreographed to make sure they are performed safely and with respect for and consent of all of the actors involved.
- If you know these stories, you know to expect some unfortunate events, and not everyone makes it out of those events alive. Scenes with fighting or on-stage death have been choreographed with safety in mind, and the actors rehearse fight action before every performance to make sure it remains consistent and safe.

The run time of *Into the Woods* is a little over two and a half hours, which includes one 15-minute intermission. The intermission takes place after the entire cast sings about their stories ending "happy ever after."



Bernadette Peters as the Witch in the original Broadway production of *Into the Woods*.

## SENSORY CONSIDERATIONS



The performance takes place in a gym, which may cause sounds to echo. The performance space also has windows and doors which open directly to the outside, and that means you may hear traffic noise and sirens from the nearby roads. Before and after the performance and during intermission, the air conditioning may be turned on, and it runs very loudly in the gym.

There will be a variety of sound cues, such as a crying baby, falling trees, and the heavy footsteps of a giant, which may be uncomfortable for those who are very sensitive to sound and noise. There will also be screams from multiple actors (including Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, and the Giant), who will have microphones on. Feel free to utilize the ear plugs that will be available at the box office if you are sensitive to sound and noise.

The orchestra will be seated to the audience's left. While they will be surrounded by some sound-baffling items, you may want to ask for a seat at "house right" if you are very sensitive to the volume of sound.

If you need a sensory break during the performance, you're welcome to go to the restroom hallway in the back of the gymnasium or the box office area downstairs.

The temperature inside the gym tends to match the temperature outside. While there is air conditioning, it's usually off during the performance because of how loudly it runs. Dress to match the conditions, and take precautions if you're sensitive to heat.

# THE BROTHERS GRIMM

The Brothers Grimm – Jacob and Wilhelm – are credited with making many fairy tales popular, including most of the stories represented in *Into the Woods*. Their versions of these stories aren't exactly what we saw in Disney movies, though. They're a bit more... dare we say... grim. *Into the Woods* is closer to the dark and gritty versions of these stories than to the animated feature films. And while the Brothers Grimm made many of these stories famous, they weren't the original storytellers.



The title page of an early edition of the Grimms' stories. The title, in German, translates to "Children's and Household Tales."

**Little Red Riding Hood** encounters not one wolf in the story found in the Grimms' collection, but two! The wolf in *Into the Woods* is very similar to the *first* wolf Little Red meets in the Grimms' version, and the tempting invitation in his song "Hello, Little Girl" is found in that story. Believe it or not, earlier versions of the Little Red Riding Hood story have a *worse* outcome than the one made famous by the Brothers Grimm!

**Jack and the Beanstalk** is *not* found in the Brothers Grimm collection. Jack is the star of a series of English stories, and scholars say the basic story of a boy stealing treasure from a giant, an ogre, or a giant ogre can be traced back thousands of years. The key elements of the English story – a cow, some beans, a giant *couple*, and a burglary or two – are present in *Into the Woods*.

**Cinderella** is called Aschenputtel (roughly, "little one in the ashes") in the Brothers Grimm version of her tale. Along with Cinderella's father, stepmother, and stepsisters, you'll find some very helpful birds and a very important hazel tree in the Aschenputtel story, just as you will in *Into the Woods*. The earliest known Cinderella-type story dates back to ancient Greece.

The Grimms' telling of the story of **Rapunzel** starts with an enchantress who is very protective of her garden, much like the Witch in *Into the Woods*. The garden crop our Witch calls her favorite – rampion, which has edible leaves and roots – is sometimes called by another name, and you may have guessed it: Rapunzel. The plant had the name before the princess!

As you can see, the stories presented in this show stick rather closely to the versions put to paper centuries ago... *in act one*. Act two – well, that's another story.