



East Side Players proudly announces the cast of...

Into the Woods

Charming Cast

JUNE 7, 9, 13, 15

Narrator*	Issiah Current
Cinderella*	Ellen Chew
Jack*	Isiah Blair
Milky White	Dylan Castle
Jack's Mother*	Jennifer Kershaw
Baker*	Russ McGee
Baker's Wife*	Chelsae Plageman
Cinderella's Stepmother*	Heather O'Meara
Florinda*	Claire Rowe
Lucinda*	Marissa Edwards
Cinderella's Father	John Wenstrup
Little Red Ridinghood*	Julia Trenary
Witch*	Jessica Steuver
Cinderella's Mother	Shellie Blair

Mysterious Cast

JUNE 8, 10, 14, 16

Peter Wilkens
Isabella Rosa
George Bell
Shelby Sansom
Tricia Wilkens
Jacob Hart
Grace Francomb
Susan Schapiro
Julia Blake Howard
Jillian Betz
John Wenstrup
Franny Bell
Amanda Osburn
Laurie Barber

Mysterious Man*	Gene Blair	Ed Goldman
Wolf *	Kayla Swelbar	Kara Mangan
Wolf 2/Snow White	Tia Casey	Tia Casey
Granny*	Annie Geibel	Leslie Goss
Rapunzel*	Lexi Kodish	Olivia Haines
Rapunzel's Prince*	Justin Huddilston	Mickey Masterson
Cinderella's Prince*	Chris Bell	Chris Bell
Steward*	Chris Staat	Chris Staat
Giant (voiceover)*	Kayla Swelbar	Kara Mangan

Features

The Witch's Coven	#1 Brianna Penilla (Captain) #2 Miranda Tejada #3 Julia Staat #4 Alex Sullivan	#1 Brianna Penilla #2 Miranda Tejada #3 Alex Sullivan #4 Julia Staat
CP's Horse	Brianna Penilla (Captain)	Brianna Penilla
RP's Horse	Julia Staat	Alex Sullivan
Imposter Cow	Alex Sullivan	Julia Staat
Steward's Horse	Miranda Tejada	Miranda Tejada
The Trees Featured Dancers	Erica Budde (Captain) Natalie Kodish (Jr. Capt.) Covey Sperber (Jr. Capt.) Kelly Greivenkamp Brynn Gvozdanovc	Erica Budde (Captain) Natalie Kodish (Jr. Capt.) Covey Sperber (Jr. Capt.) Kelly Greivenkamp Brynn Gvozdanovc

	Annamarie Jowanovitz Sabine Huhn Karissa Collins	Annamarie Jowanovitz Sabine Huhn Karissa Collins
The Birds <i>Featured Dancers</i>	Kiera Hawks (Captain) Leah Christman Evie Webster	Maggie Farwig (Captain) Anya Sperber Neve Seaman-Kossmeyer
The Hen / Piggy #1	Toby Weatherston	CJ Bell
The Harp / Piggy #2	Lily Larsen	Addie Goss
The Dwarf / Piggie #3	Nathan Chamot (not performing 6/15)	Max Ackermann (also performing 6/15)
Sleeping Beauty -	Kara Schirmer	April Reed
The Mechanicals <i>(Featured Puppeteers)</i>	Laurie Barber (Captain) Shelby Carter Bailey Harrell Kieran Koch Alessandra Massa Rhett Miller April Reed Kara Schirmer Shellie Blair	Laurie Barber (Captain) Shelby Carter Bailey Harrell Kieran Koch Alessandra Massa Rhett Miller April Reed Kara Schirmer Leslie Goss
<u>Creatures</u>		
Rabbits	Paige Corsmeier Maria Klein (missing 6/9)	Annalise Vanover Emma Islas (also 6/9)
Fox	Abby Dowden	Anne Marie Wessinger
Raccoon	Sam Carto	Tory Dawes Cole Seaman-Kossmeyer
Squirrels	Maelynn Geoppinger	Annie Delph Anne-Marie Tardivon

Townfolk

Arielle Bachrach
Nicole Bucalo
Holly Horner
John Masterson
Sarah Wessinger

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PRODUCER'S NOTE:

Please remember that in any production of this type, it is not unusual for cast changes to occur after this list is posted. Everyone who is listed above, is expected to be at the general meeting / first rehearsal on **Monday, April 2 from 7-9pm** at the Blue Ash Amphitheater. The \$25 per family yearly participation fee required from all (on stage, off stage, staff, crew) participants, as well as the \$40 per person costume fee (\$100 per family per year max.) will be due at this time. An additional deposit of \$25 will be required from everyone listed with an * after their name (your scripts and vocal books will be issued at this time and the deposit will be refunded when they are returned). We may have a few extra scripts available which you can put a deposit on, if you feel like you need to have one for any reason. If you have any questions or concerns, decide for any reason that you no longer wish to be part of the show, or cannot make the general meeting on April 2 (and have not already listed that day as a conflict), please email Rick Reinhardt rick@xoter.com. More information will be coming in the next few days.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Casting a show is one of the most emotionally grueling artistic endeavors. On one hand, it is exciting to envision the different cast possibilities and imagine the wonderful show we will create together. On the other hand, it is heartbreaking to not have enough lead roles to go around. Many, many hours (and a couple of sleepless nights) have gone into the casting decisions represented by this list. With 114 unique and talented cast members, many with professional credentials and training, these decisions were not easy. In every instance, we chose the singers, actors, and dancers we felt best suited to each role. I'm grateful for such an awesome and collaborative artistic team working alongside me, using their imaginations and insights to broaden mine. If you did not get the role you wanted, please don't be disheartened. I want all of you to know that, whether you are in the ensemble or in a lead role, you are a valuable and important part of this production, and I look forward to working together as artists to create a beautiful and meaningful story we will be proud to bring to our amphitheater.

We have opted to double cast our ensembles to allow each and every one of you a chance to shine individually. I knew I did not want large groups of people clumped together on a crowded stage for this production. Sondheim's music is so intimate—our challenge will be to bring that sense of intimacy to such a large audience. A large ensemble would overwhelm our stage and not serve the intentions of the play. My hope is that by double-casting even our smaller roles, every one of you will feel like an integral part of this beautiful story. Only those roles that

were simply not cast-able with two people were single cast. In some cases, there was only one actor who could fill the role in a way that would be true to the story we want to tell.

Into the Woods is a fantasy with a wide range of moral lessons. Our production will emphasize that children's worlds are shaped by the love they do or do not receive. As a mother, as a director, and as a human, I find this very compelling, and as part of this all-ages community group, I am always aware that we are helping shape the lives of the young people we cast in our shows. That is a responsibility my staff and I take very seriously.

The second act of this show is potentially dark. Though we will warn audiences that those with young children may choose to leave at "Happily Ever After" (the end of Act One), it is important that young cast members understand that, in this show, some familiar characters they may know and love make choices that are not good for them or for others, and though not portrayed in a graphic or violent way, some choices even lead to death. Parents should discuss this with young cast members in whatever way is appropriate for your family. (When my children were little and we went to see "Into the Woods" for the first time, I told them that Rapunzel and Cinderella weren't the "real" ones from the Disney movies, and that this was just a story. This should be an easy concept for even our youngest cast members to understand, since they are part of the story being told.)

As your director, my primary goal is to make sure this show is a positive and joyful experience for every single person in our cast and crew. We will run every rehearsal with an expectation of only the highest level of consideration, respect, and collaboration. As a director, I expect professionalism and courtesy from and toward everyone in the cast and crew, regardless of age or role. Rehearsal will begin promptly at the start time, so you will be expected to arrive a few minutes early, warmed up, ready and eager to get straight to work at the posted start time. If you enjoy socializing a bit before rehearsal, feel free to come early, as many do. Though some absences cannot be avoided, the only quality I dislike more than tardiness is poor attendance, so please note I will be firmly adhering to ESP's new attendance policy for this production. This will be a challenging show, and we need nothing less than everyone's best efforts to make it as beautiful and moving as it deserves to be.

Whether you are 7 or 70, whether you are a Princess, a Peasant, a Puppeteer, or a Prince, we appreciate your contributions and look forward to making this a great experience for you, and for all our cast and crew.

I hope you are as excited as I am to share this magical story of choices and consequences, love, loss, and redemption. I know I speak for all of us on the production team when I welcome you to this show. I can't wait to go "Into the Woods" with all of you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brauer-Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Brauer-Bell, Director