



INTO THE WOODS

Relaxed performance – Tuesday 12 January 2016, 2.30pm

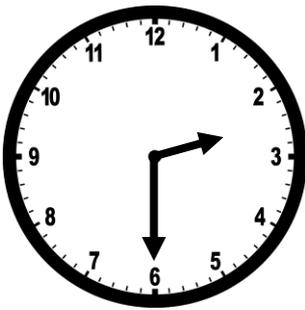
Welcome to this special performance of INTO THE WOODS. Here is some information to help you to enjoy the show.

Today we are presenting what is called a Relaxed Performance. A Relaxed Performance is for everybody but we particularly want to welcome people who might sometimes feel a bit anxious or worried about coming to the theatre, so we have tried to do a few things to make it feel fine! At the start of the play the actors will come on stage and introduce themselves and tell you what parts they are playing, and during the play we are making some of the sound effects a bit quieter than usual, so hopefully they won't be upsetting for people who don't like a lot of loud noise.

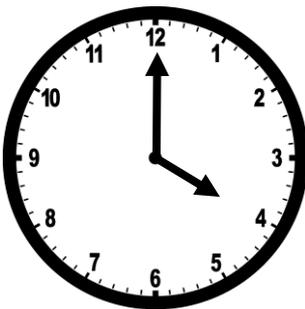
We hope you enjoy the show.

TODAY'S TIMETABLE

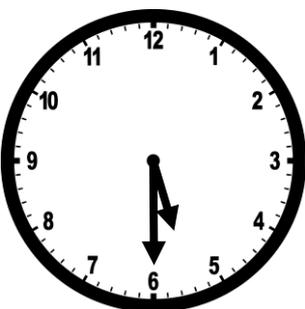
The play will start at 2.30pm



There will be an interval at 4pm which will last for about 20 minutes. This is a time when everyone - the actors and the audience - have a break.



The play will end at approximately 5.30pm



DURING THE PLAY

During today's play:

The lights will stay on, and the doors of the theatre will be left open so that you can go in and out if you want to.

If you want to get up and move around while the play is on then that is OK.

If you need to make a bit of noise while the play is on then that is OK.

If you want to go out of the theatre and have some time out then that is OK too.

In The Great Hall there are some chill-out areas where you can go to sit and relax. There are comfy bean bags and sofas. It's also ok if you want to walk around in the Hall.

ABOUT THE PLAY

In the play, a baker and his wife want to have a child but they soon find out they can't because of a family curse. The witch who cursed them says she will lift the curse if they bring her a red cape, a white cow, a golden shoe and a strand of blonde hair.

These are objects that are in the following fairy stories:

- The 'cape as red as blood' is in the story of Little Red Riding Hood
- The 'cow as white as milk' is in the story of Jack and the Beanstalk
- The 'slipper as pure as gold' is in the story of Cinderella
- The 'hair as yellow as corn' is in the story of Rapunzel

In INTO THE WOODS these four fairy stories get mixed up and changed by the Baker and his Wife as they cheat, steal from and lie to the characters in the fairy tales in order to get the objects they need to give to the witch.

The Baker and his Wife go into the woods where they meet fairy story characters who all have wishes and problems of their own. Cinderella wishes to go to the King's festival, Jack wishes his cow would give some milk (and he is having to sell it because it will not), Little Red Riding Hood is visiting her grandmother but she meets a wolf, Rapunzel is in a tower and is the witch's daughter, and two princes are chasing after the people they love. At the end of the first half of the play, everyone's wishes are granted and there seems to be a happy ending.

BUT, in the second half of the play, the characters are still wanting things that they don't have, and soon the bad things that the characters have done in the first half of the play come back to trouble them. The Baker and his Wife have a baby but wish they had a bigger house; Jack and his mother are wealthy but Jack wishes for his kingdom at the top of the beanstalk; Cinderella is getting bored with her prince. Everyone is unhappy and fighting.

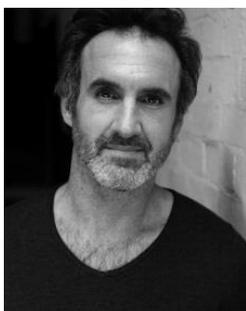
We hear the voice of an angry giant, who has come down from Jack's beanstalk. Some of the characters are killed by the giant. The others band together to kill the giant. They remember the choices they have made and how they must learn to be responsible for their actions. As the characters sing "Into the woods and out of the woods and happily ever after", Cinderella ends the play with the words "I wish...."

Things to look out for in the play

- Trees that grow! How do you think the trees are getting bigger?
- Grandma's Cottage. This is wheeled onto the stage. Look out for how the sides of the cottage open to show us what's inside
- A puppet cow. This is the size of a real small cow and is moved by someone called Rachel who is a puppeteer. A puppeteer is someone who works with puppets and makes them look as though they are alive
- Magic beans that make a small 'bang' and a little spark when they hit the ground.
- The bit in the play when the storyteller steals a chocolate brownie!
- The birds that come down to talk to the characters. Can you see the thin wires?

The actors and the characters they play

At the start of the play the actors will come on stage and introduce themselves so that you know who they all are. Here are some photographs of the actors and some information about the characters they are going to be in the play:



This is **Cameron**. He plays the part of the **Narrator**. He is telling his grandson a story that starts with the words 'Once Upon A Time...' He leads us through the play and even finds himself caught up in the story. He has a secret – he is really the Baker's Father!



This is **Francesca**. She plays the part of **Cinderella**. She is a warm-hearted, kind young woman who is forced to do lots of chores by her stepmother and stepsisters. She wants to escape her life of hard work and to attend the Princes' Festival.



This is **David**. He plays the part of **Jack**. He lives at home with his mother. His mother is worried that he may not be very clever – his best friend is the family cow! Jack enters the woods as a simple boy, but by the end he is a grown man and he has learnt many things about life.



This is **Rachel**. She is a puppeteer who plays the part of **Milky White**. Milky White is Jack's Cow.



This is **Alex**. He plays the part of the **Baker**. He is warm-hearted and determined but he has never faced his fears. He wants a child badly, but in order to achieve this he must undo the witch's curse.



This is **Amy**. She plays the part of the **Baker's Wife** who is determined, patient and clever. She is desperate to be a mother and she leads her and her husband's quest to undo the witch's curse.



This is **Gemma**. She plays the part of **Cinderella's Step Mother** who is selfish, mean-spirited, greedy, and demanding. Gemma also plays the part of **Granny**, Red Riding Hood's fierce grandmother who lives alone in a shack in the middle of the woods.



This is **Maimuna**. She plays the part of **Florinda** who is one of Cinderella's step sisters. She looks very beautiful but she is vain, self-centred and selfish.



This is **Michaela**. She plays the part of **Lucinda** who is the other one of Cinderella's step sisters. She looks very beautiful but she is vain, self-centred and selfish.



This is **Claire**. She plays the part of **Jack's Mother** who is poor and tired from running the farm and trying to manage as a single parent. But she is a tough fighter and she works very hard to make life good for her son Jack.



This is **Natasha**. She plays the part of **Little Red Riding Hood**, a clever young girl about to go on her first real adventure. At the beginning of the show she is a spoilt teenager, but by the end she is an independent young woman.



This is **Gillian**. She plays the part of the **Witch** who is controlling, sarcastic and powerful, but inside is lonely and insecure. She is a mysterious and mischievous character.



This is **Marc**. He plays the part of **Rapunzel's Prince** who is very big headed and only thinks about himself. He is very competitive with his brother.



This is **Amelia**. She plays the part of **Cinderella's Mother**. Cinderella's mother is actually dead, so she is a spirit/ghost. She is wise, caring and loving.



This is **Michael**. He plays the part of the **Wolf** who is a cross between a rock star, a children's entertainer and a wolf! He represents the dangers that can be found in the wood.

Michael also plays the part of **Cinderella's Prince** who is vain and very confident.



This is **Isabelle**. She plays the part of **Rapunzel** who was kidnapped as a baby and imprisoned in a tower for all of her life. This character is very innocent and isn't really prepared for the outside world.



This is **Michael**. He plays the part of the **Steward**. He has worked for the Royal family for as long as he can remember and has to do all of the hard work for the Prince and his family. He is very self-important.



This is **Maxine**. She plays the part of the **Giant**. We never see the Giant, we only hear her loud, angry voice. The Giant took Jack in when he was tired and hungry and in return he stole from her and chopped down the beanstalk, killing her husband in the process.



This is **Emeen**. He plays the part of the **Child**. He is a young boy who has been found crying by his Granddad. His Granddad tells him a story to calm him down.

The relaxed performance of INTO THE WOODS has been generously supported by Ordinary People, Interesting Lives and The Raffle family