



Friday, March 12, 2004

OU students present musical 'Into the Woods'

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

OU student performers are presenting the Tony-award-winning musical "Into the Woods." The production puts a new spin on familiar storybook characters, including Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood.

"It's a different angle on fairy tales," said Catherine Lutz, a music and theatre junior who plays the baker's wife. "It poses the question, 'What if these people were real?' You'll go away thinking about your life and how fairy tales really don't exist."

"Into the Woods" is presented by OU's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** and runs March 18-28 at Varner Studio Theatre. The production is directed by Karen Sheridan, associate professor of theatre, with musical direction by David Sherline.

Written by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, the musical leads old and new storybook characters on a journey of growth and self-discovery, including Cinderella and her obnoxious stepfamily, Little Red Riding Hood and her granny, Jack (of beanstalk fame), and many other citizens of the Grimm Brothers fairy tale kingdom. As each of these beloved characters embark on a journey to get their respective wishes, all learn important lessons about community responsibility and individual identity.

"Into the Woods" premiered on Broadway in 1987, where it met critical acclaim and won three Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Score. It also enjoyed a successful Broadway revival in 2002. This dark look at fairy tales is appropriate for children ages 10 and older.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$8 for students, except for the 10 a.m. matinees, which are \$6 for all seats.

Tickets are available at the Varner Box Office by contacting (248) 370-3013 or mtd@oakland.edu. The Varner Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m. and one hour before each performance. Tickets also are available through Ticketmaster outlets, the **Ticketmaster** Web site or by calling (248) 645-6666.

For more information, visit the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** Web site.

SUMMARY

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