

News Release

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Local Youth Cast to Perform Unabridged Production of *Into the Woods*

BEN LOMOND, Calif., January 27, 2015—Spotlight Youth Conservatory is pleased to announce its debut production, *Into the Woods*, the Tony-Award-winning musical where favorite fairytale characters navigate real-world moral dilemmas. The show runs from February 20 through March 1 at Park Hall in Ben Lomond.

Director Andrew Ceglio, known for his extraordinary work at Cabrillo Stage and beyond, guides a talented youth cast in this unabridged production of Steven Sondheim's richly textured musical. Players ranging from age 10 to 17 portray characters such as Cinderella, Jack (of Beanstalk fame), Little Red (Riding Hood), Rapunzel, and, of course, the Witch, in this twisted tale of love, longing, and loss of innocence.

"Most people are not used to seeing this show with a cast of youth performers. Generally you have seasoned professionals taking on these very complex adult characters," Ceglio explains. "Since the show itself places emphasis on the relationships between parents and their children as told through our favorite fairy tales, having a youth cast really enhances the message and provides some quite profound moments that you normally wouldn't get from adult performers."

Into the Woods, featuring Bernadette Peters as the Witch, debuted on Broadway in 1986, and won several Tony awards. A Disney film adaptation with Meryl Streep and Johnny Depp premiered in December of 2014, becoming a box office hit. Now, a new generation of talented young actors is ready to bring *Into the Woods* back to the stage, and into the forested mountain setting of Ben Lomond, where this tale should be told.

"These young artists bear their hearts and souls on stage," says Ceglio. "It is sure to be a meaningful experience for our audience."

Into the Woods runs from Feb. 20 to March 1 at Park Hall in Ben Lomond, Calif. Shows take place on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., and on Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets (\$12, general, \$10, students and seniors) can be purchased at the door, and in advance starting Friday, February 13 at spotlightconservatory.org.

About Spotlight Youth Conservatory

Spotlight Youth Conservatory is a dynamic new nonprofit theater art school re-formed from the methods of its predecessor, Spotlight Stage. The Conservatory challenges young actors to realize their potential in a safe, nurturing, and creative environment. Seasoned theater professionals hone the skills of Spotlight's youthful performers, while building character, self-esteem, respect for others, and a passion for the art of the stage. Find more information at spotlightyouthconservatory.org.