

## **Synopsis**

Be careful what you wish for as Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's cockeyed fairytale comes to life in this adaptation of their groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical. *Into the Woods JR.* features all of your favorite characters – Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables.

The musical centers on a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse and wind up changed forever.

With unforgettable roles, minimal dancing and no chorus, *Into the Woods JR.* showcases a medium-sized ensemble of talented singers and actors. The sophisticated score has been adapted to make it more accessible to young performers.

## **Character Descriptions**

### **Narrator**

The narrator is the storyteller who speaks directly to the audience. This character helps control the pacing of the show and always needs to be ready for their next entrance, as they pop in and out throughout the story. Find a charismatic girl or boy with great diction for this large speaking role with minimal singing.

Vocal Range

Bb3 - D4

### **Cinderella**

Cinderella is a simple peasant girl whose one wish is to go to the Festival. Unfortunately, when her wish comes true she learns that wishes sometimes come with consequences. Cinderella's inner beauty always shines through her sometimes clumsy and awkward exterior. Cast a great singer and actor who is charming while maintaining a sense of humor.

Vocal Range

A3 - G5

### **Jack**

Jack is an energetic young man who is always looking for an adventure. He begins this show as a simple little boy (his best friend is a cow), but by the end of the show he learns a few valuable lessons. You will want to cast an excellent singer and actor who can show great range in this demanding role.

Vocal Range

A3 - E5

### **Jack's Mother**

Raising a son and running a farm all by herself has made Jack's Mother a bit frazzled and most definitely overworked. Jack's Mother is a great role for a character actress with solid comic timing and good singing skills.

Vocal Range

Bb3 - D5

### **Baker**

The Baker is a good-hearted, likeable person who believes he can take on the Witch's curse all by himself. At first, this confidence and his desire to have a child drives him, but he soon learns he needs his wife's help to accomplish the goal. Cast an excellent actor and singer who is both personable and capable of portraying the Baker's strength of conviction.

### **Baker's Wife**

The Baker's Wife is a strong, determined and loving woman whose desire to have a child drives the action of the whole show. Her storyline helps tie all the characters' storylines together. Cast one of your strongest female performers in this role as it requires both excellent singing and acting as well as a good sense of comedic timing.

Vocal Range

A3 - E5

### **Little Red Ridinghood**

Little Red starts the show as a loud, bratty, pushy, glutton who happily manipulates people and situations to get her way. Eventually, she learns some valuable lessons and softens around the edges. The actress you cast should have a loud, powerful voice and be a good actor. Ideally, your Little Red will have a strong sense of musicality (her songs are often rhythmically challenging).

Vocal Range

Bb3 - Eb5

### **Witch**

The Witch is an ancient, mysterious and manipulative woman who will do anything possible to regain her beauty and protect Rapunzel. While she may seem old and haggard, she still has the strength to control other people. This role is perfect for a good character actress and singer who can physically and vocally portray the complexities of the role.

Vocal Range

C4 - C5

### **Cinderella's Prince**

Cinderella's Prince is a conceited man who adamantly pursues Cinderella and can't take no for an answer. When not chasing her, he is trying to show up Rapunzel's Prince. This role requires a good singer and actor who can portray arrogance while still being likeable.

Vocal Range  
B3 - D5

### **Cinderella's Stepmother**

Cinderella's Stepmother is a mean, evil woman who only cares about her birth children, daughters Florinda and Lucinda. She has only a few singing lines, so look mainly for an actress who can portray both the strong distaste the character has for Cinderella as well as the love she showers on her own spoiled daughters.

### **Florinda and Lucinda**

Cinderella's Stepsisters are spoiled brats who care only about themselves and marrying Cinderella's Prince. Cast two actresses who work well together and are able to portray their cattiness in a bold and comical way.

Vocal Range  
C4 - G4

### **Cinderella's Father**

Cinderella's Father will not win any Father-of-the-Year awards. He doesn't care about his daughter's well-being or her actions. This non-singing role is perfect for a new performer just learning to be comfortable onstage.

### **Cinderella's Mother**

Cinderella's Mother comforts Cinderella in her one short song. She has no dialogue, so cast a singer with a strong, pleasant voice for this role.

Vocal Range  
D4 - D5

### **Rapunzel**

Rapunzel has been stuck in a tower for the majority of her life. Finally, she stands up to the Witch in order to get out to see the world. This role doesn't have a great deal of dialogue, but you will want to cast an excellent soprano singer.

Vocal Range  
G4 - F#5

### **Rapunzel's Prince**

Rapunzel's Prince is the pompous and arrogant brother of Cinderella's Prince. Sibling rivalry runs rampant between the brothers, including each brother's belief that his lady love is the most beautiful. Cast a talented singer who can portray confidence both physically and vocally.

Vocal Range  
B3 - D5

**Mysterious Man**

Just like the name suggests, this is one mysterious man. Everything he does is to help the Baker, but he does not explain his motives until the last moment. Cast an engaging character actor who can speak the Mysterious Man's often puzzling lines clearly in this non-singing role.

**Wolf**

The Wolf is a sly and dangerous character intently focused on attacking Little Red Ridinghood. Cast an actor and singer who can physically and vocally bring the Wolf to life. Also keep your wolf on two feet—don't have the actor try to walk on his hands and knees.

Vocal Range

Bb3 - D5

**Granny**

Granny is a feisty woman who is not afraid to fight the Wolf face to face. This non-singing role is perfect for a young performer able to make strong character choices.

**Steward**

The Steward is the servant of Cinderella's Prince. He is dependable and willing to do whatever Cinderella's Prince asks. This smaller featured role is perfect for a performer new to the stage.