

Tony Award-winning musical branches out beyond fairytale endings

Stirling Theatre Saturday, July 3rd, 2021

WHAT happens beyond “happily ever after”?

It’s a question posed in the popular Stephen Sondheim musical *Into The Woods* where fairytales collide to explore the consequences of various wishes and quests.

Directed by Kimberley Shaw at Stirling Theatre, characters merge and influence each others’ stories as they move around the woods.

Into The Woods won eight Tony Awards in 1988 and was adapted into a 2014 film starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, Tracey Ullman and Johnny Depp.

“We meet Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack from the famed beanstalk tale and a smattering of princes, as well as a baker and his wife who are trying to lift a curse so they can have a child,” Kimberley said.

“The show is darker than you might expect but also fun to watch.

“Many consider Sondheim to be the world’s best musical theatre writer but his work is renowned for being tricky and challenging to perform.

“*Into The Woods* is a musical theatre favourite, yet not frequently performed, so the expectations are high – I hope I can live up to the level of anticipation.”

Involved in theatre for more than 30 years, Kimberley has worked with Blak Yak, KADS, Playlovers, Roleystone and Kwinana Theatres and is currently president of the Independent Theatre Association.

She has several awards to her credit, twice-winning best production and best youth production at Dramafest, the annual state drama festival, and also twice-scoring the best musical gong at the Finley Awards.

“*Into The Woods* appealed because I wanted to do something that was both celebratory and a joy to watch, as well as being a delight to work on and perform,” Kimberley said.

“It’s a favourite with performers, so I have been able to attract a stellar cast.”

Into The Woods plays at 7.30pm July 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24 with 2pm matinees July 11 and 18. Tickets \$25, \$22 concession – book at www.trybooking.com/BNVUF.

Stirling Theatre is on Morris Place, Innaloo.

*Please note below: Rp van der Westhuizen’s first name is “Rp” – capital R, lower-case l – that’s what’s on his birth certificate

CAPTIONS

woods1: *Into The Woods* features Rp van der Westhuizen, left, Tadhg Lawrence, Grace Johnson and Madeleine Shaw.

woods2: The baker (Tadhg Lawrence, left), Jack (Rp van der Westhuizen),

Contact Profile

Stirling Theatre

Stirling Theatre is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to promote and encourage drama and allied arts within the City of Stirling for cultural, educational and recreational purposes. The community theatre group based in the Innaloo Community Centre near Perth, Western Australia.

The group has been in existence since 1970 and prides itself on the quality of its productions, endeavouring to produce five or six seasons a year. Stirling Theatre also promotes youth theatre activities through workshops, youth musicals and one-act play seasons. It also offers opportunities for community groups to fundraise through charity nights held during a season.

Our history

Stirling Theatre began in 1970 with the amalgamation of Northbridge Repertory and The Intimate Players.

Our original home was in the Old Perth Roads Board on Main Street, Osborne Park, but we were soon moved to the Progress Hall in Gildercliffe Street, Scarborough. Our membership increased gradually and, in 1978, we were given the old Health Administrations Office in the City of Stirling precinct. After much renovation, this became the much-loved Stirling Theatre. Here we stayed, growing in strength and reputation, until Christmas 2000 when we were forced to move. The City of Stirling then gave us the use of the Innaloo Community Centre and equipped us with a new purpose-built stage, greenroom and bio-box, auditorium chairs and evaporative air-conditioning. The job was finished with the installation of theatre lights, sound equipment and stage curtains. We were also given sole use of the office and a storeroom, which became our props room, and a double-meeting room that was used to create a large wardrobe area.

We have been fortunate to receive valuable assistance from Lotterywest on two occasions. In the early days at the community centre, funding was made available for necessary lighting and sound equipment and, in 2008, we received another grant that enabled us to install retractable raked seating. The theatre now comfortably seats 118 people. There is wheelchair access and two seats reserved for wheelchairs in row A. There is also an accessible toilet. Stirling Theatre is happy to welcome all patrons with disability.

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Cinderella (Grace Johnson) and Red (Madeleine Shaw) face off against the witch (Amber Reid) in *Into The Woods*.

woods3: Cinderella (Grace Johnson, centre) with her horrible stepsisters Lucinda (Amy Sales) and Florinda (Zoe Stephens).

woods4: Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods* features Amber Reid as the witch, Zoe Stephens and Amy Sales as the wicked stepsisters Florinda and Lucinda and Ann Speicher as Grandma.

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