



Into the Woods

2/15/2020

0 Comments

Since I first saw **Into the Woods** — back in the 80s, between marriages (“Sometimes people leave you halfway through the woods”) — it has remained one of my all-time favorite shows. MSU has put up a remarkable rendition of it at Fairchild Theatre. In accordance with their “Invention/Reinvention” season theme, they’ve set the play in Detroit in the 1930’s — which may seem a little contrived, but also demonstrates the durability and universality of the themes of resilience and community. Whether experiencing “The Great Depression” or your own personal depression, loss, confusion... this show resonates and uplifts.

Costumes (Jenna Grove) and scenic elements (Brandon Barker) suggest 30’s Detroit artfully abstracted into fairy tale scenes. The excellent music (14 piece orchestra under the direction of Dave Wendelberger) and the technical devices, lighting (Shannon Schweitzer) sound (Jason Painter Price) and especially media/projections (Griffin Irish) were outstanding and brought fairy-tale magic to life. The whimsical puppet/cow animated by Jason Dernay was a nice touch.

All the voices and performances are strong under the direction of Deric McNish with choreography by Alisa Hauser. The Princes’ “Agony” song was a highlight, spoofing the common human trait of always wanting what we can’t have. (Case DeKoning, Christopher Michael) The contradictory nature of the Witch is another delightful paradox (Naomi Blansit). The Baker and his wife (Kevin Craig, Sarah Gramercy) break your heart and give you hope, along with Little Red Riding Hood (Maeyson Menzel) and Jack (Quentin Nottage).

Though it is based on fairy tales, this is not a “kids show.” The moral complexities of these intermingled tales could be too much for younger kids, and unsettling/scary, maybe PG in act II. Also, it is not a short show — a bit over two and a half wonderful hours that might be a stretch for younger kids.

This musical is a classic in my book. Don’t miss this beautifully realized version, continuing through February 23 in Fairchild Theatre, through the back doors of the Auditorium Building at MSU.

<https://theatre.msu.edu/woods/>

Like 1

Name

0 Comments

Reviews

Read more about Jane and the creation of the G.L.U.T. on the "[About G.L.U.T.](#)" page.

RSS Feed

Categories

- All
- All Of Us Express Children's Theatre
- All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre
- Blue Light Players
- Grand Ledge HS
- Homegrown Productions
- Ixion Ensemble
- LCC Dept. Of Theatre
- Mid Michigan Family Theatre
- MSU Dept. Of Theatre
- MSU Summer Circle
- MSU Summer Circle Theatre
- MSU Summer Circle Theatre
- Okemos HS
- Over The Ledge
- Owosso Community Players
- Peppermint Creek Theatre
- Peppermint Creek Theatre
- Renegade Theatre Festival
- Riverwalk Theatre
- Riverwalk Theatre
- Starlight Dinner Theatre
- The Studio Performing Arts Center
- Wharton Center (MSU)
- Williamston Theatre

Your comment will be posted after it is approved.

Leave a Reply.

Post Archives

- November 2019
- October 2019
- September 2019
- August 2019
- July 2019
- June 2019
- May 2019
- April 2019
- March 2019
- February 2019
- January 2019
- December 2018
- November 2018
- October 2018
- September 2018
- August 2018
- July 2018
- June 2018
- May 2018
- April 2018
- March 2018
- February 2018
- January 2018
- December 2017
- November 2017
- October 2017
- September 2017
- August 2017
- July 2017
- June 2017
- May 2017
- April 2017
- March 2017
- February 2017
- January 2017
- April 2016
- March 2016
- January 2016
- December 2015
- November 2015
- October 2015
- July 2015
- June 2015
- May 2015
- April 2015
- March 2015
- February 2015
- January 2015
- December 2014
- November 2014
- October 2014
- September 2014
- August 2014
- July 2014
- June 2014

May 2014
April 2014
March 2014
February 2014
January 2014
December 2013
November 2013
October 2013
September 2013
August 2013
July 2013
June 2013
May 2013
April 2013
March 2013
February 2013

 [RSS Feed](#)

This G.L.U.T. site is © 2014-2019. All Rights Reserved.

All included and re-posted content is © by it's respective owners and used with permission. Nothing on this site may be reprinted without the express written consent of the site owners and the owners of the content. All information is deemed reliable at the time of publishing. Visitors should confirm all information with the theatre before making any plans or arrangements.

This G.L.U.T. website is created and maintained by Aaron Herrbach, under collaboration with Jane Shipley Zussman.

Content updates provided by Jane Shipley Zussman.

**Would you like to be an assistant webmaster?
Contact Jane!**

[Contact the Webmaster](#) | [Contact the Publisher](#)
[Google Services Login](#)