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Please contact:

Ruth Baum Bigus
Publicist, Theatre in the Park
(913) 707-774
ruthwrite1@gmail.com

The Theatre in the Park presents Sondheim favorite INTO THE WOODS July 6-14:

“Careful the things you say, children will listen....”

Those lyrics are part of the magical Stephen Sondheim musical **INTO THE WOODS**, the third production in **Theatre in the Park’s (TTIP)** 2018 summer outdoor season. Set appropriately in the “woods” of Shawnee Mission Park, **INTO THE WOODS** opens this **Friday, July 6** as part of a seven-performance run at the outdoor amphitheater. Performances continue Saturday and Sunday **July 7 & 8** as well as the following Wednesday through Saturday **July 11-14**. Showtime for all productions is 8:30 p.m. with gates opening at 7 p.m. This production is rated PG.

Fairy tales become larger than life in this musical written by James Lapine and Sondheim and re-imagined in the 2014 star-studded film that featured Meryl Streep. The Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching bringing new meaning to these traditional tomes in a magical way. Characters must learn what it is like when their fantasy world intersects with that of the real one in the woods.

INTO THE WOODS follows 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 pair sets off on a journey to break the curse. While everyone’s wish is granted, the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

This musically sophisticated show features such songs as “Children Will Listen,” “Agony,” “It Takes Two” and “No One is Alone”.

Chris McCoy, an assistant professor of theatre at William Jewell College, directs **INTO THE WOODS**. McCoy returns to his TTIP roots where he performed as a youth and has directed other productions. Music director Langston Hemenway, director of instrumental studies at William Jewell, joins McCoy. Together they have assembled a talented cast of local performers bringing **INTO THE WOODS** to life on the TTIP outdoor stage. *(Cast list follows below.)*

"INTO THE WOODS was one of the first Broadway musicals that I fell in love with when I was in high school and it's a privilege to present it at TTIP," McCoy said. "What I love about the show is that it reaches audiences on so many different levels. Young people love the show because it has characters they are familiar with, but explore their stories in new ways. Adults can relate to the interpersonal issues and relationships that are really at the heart of each story. Sondheim is a master at expressing some of life's most profound experiences -- love, loss, hopes, and disappointment -- through beautiful lyrics and music that reach directly to the soul."

Full details about this production are available on the TTIP web site, www.theatreinthepark.org.

Following **INTO THE WOODS**, TTIP's outdoor venue at Shawnee Mission Park will feature two additional musical productions, all with seven evening performances. Additional productions include the TTIP premier of the comedic and quirky **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** and Disney's fun loving **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 1 & 2 (One Act Version)**.

TTIP's 2018 Season sponsors are Shawnee Mission Health and First National Bank.

The performance dates for the remaining TTIP OUTDOOR are:

- **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** (July 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 & 28; directed by Zach Faust; rated PG)
Filled with dark humor, this musical features "Just Around the Corner," "Where Did We Go Wrong" and "Live Before We Die".
- **Disney's HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 1 & 2-ONE ACT Versions** (Aug. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 11; directed by Guy Gardner; rated G)
These one-act versions of the musical include such fan-favorite songs as "Get'cha Head in the Game" and "All For One".

Full details for the entire 2018 season are available on the TTIP web site: www.theatreinthepark.org.

The TTIP box office opens at 6:30 p.m. and the gates to the seating bowl open at 7 p.m. TTIP OUTDOOR ticket prices are \$8 for adults (plus tax), \$6 (plus tax) for youth and children three and under may attend for free (but require a ticket for entrance). Reserve seats and parking are also available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.theatreinthepark.org, or at the theatre box office the nights of performance.

MOVIES IN THE PARK are back and they are just one dollar per person! On movie nights, gates open at 7:30 p.m.; films start at 8:30-8:45 p.m., depending on sunset. This season's remaining movies include:

- Tuesday, July 10: **DESPICABLE ME 3** (Rated PG)
- Tuesday, July 24: **THE LAND BEFORE TIME** (Rated G)
- Tuesday, August 7: **Disney's COCO** (Rated PG)

TTIP ACADEMY

The TTIP Academy program continues this summer. The TTIP Academy focuses on developing children's talents in the performing arts using local as well as national teaching artists in this hands-on program.

Enrollment is now under way; details are available at www.theatreinthepark.org/academy

Remaining TTIP Academy productions include:

- **JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH JR** (July 27, 6 p.m. & 28, 2 & 6 p.m.; rated G)
Based on one of Roald Dahl's most poignantly quirky stories, Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach JR. is a brand new take on this "master peach" of a tale. Featuring a wickedly tuneful score and a witty and charming book, this adventurous musical about courage and self-discovery is destined to be a classic.
When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach, rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous

proportions. James befriends a collection of singing insects that ride the giant piece of fruit across the ocean, facing hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements along the way.

The TTIP Winter Academy production, held during the school winter break, is geared to older teens. This is a full production that focuses on the refinement of skills already developed within performers. The Winter Academy is designed to focus on individual performance aspects, and because of that we only allow a maximum of 30 people to be in the program. This program is audition based and auditions are usually in September.

- **ZOMBIE PROM** (Dec. 28 & 29; rated PG)

Pretty High School Senior Toffee has fallen for the class bad boy. Family pressure forces her to end the romance, and he charges off on his motorcycle to the nuclear waste dump. He returns glowing and determined to reclaim Toffee's heart. He still wants to graduate, but most of all he wants to take Toffee to the prom. The principal orders him to drop dead while a scandal reporter seizes on him as the freak du jour. History comes to his rescue while a tuneful selection of original songs in the style of 50s hits keeps the action rocking across the stage.

TTIP OUTDOOR is located in Shawnee Mission Park at 7710 Renner Road, in Shawnee, KS. TTIP INDOOR performances take place at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf, in Overland Park, KS.

A program of the Johnson County Park & Recreation District, TTIP is the largest outdoor community theater in the country, and has been providing quality theatre entertainment in the community for 49 years!

For more information about 2018 TTIP productions, please visit www.theatreinthepark.org.

Cast of INTO THE WOODS

(Character, Performer & City of residence)

Baker: Tony Francisco, Kansas City, MO

Baker's Wife: Alyson Golladay, Kansas City, MO

Jack: Arthur Clifford, Kansas City, MO

Cinderella: Courtney Koval, Prairie Village

Little Red Riding hood: Catie Wolff, Kansas City, MO

Narrator/Mysterious Man: Reed Uthe, Kansas City, MO

Jack's Mother: Ruth Baum Bigus, Overland Park

Witch: Wendy Musick, Raymore, MO

Cinderella's Prince/Wolf: Thomas Nelson, Liberty, MO

Rapunzel's Prince: Carson Tate, Overland Park

Rapunzel: Rachel Adcock, Lenexa

Cinderella's Stepmother: Mariah Boothe, Kansas City, MO

Florinda: Haley Knudsen, Lenexa

Lucinda: Ariel Talacko, Kansas City, KS

Cinderella's Mother/Granny: Wendy Bross, Lee's Summit

Steward: Raheem Fielder Bey, Kansas City, MO

Cinderella's Father: Ray Zarr, Overland Park

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