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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

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**OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE VENTURES *INTO THE WOODS***

Is there ever a happily ever after ending? That question provides the background for the musical Otterbein College Theatre will present this spring. *Into The Woods* by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine will be performed April 30 - May 3 and May 7 - 9.

The musical, co-sponsored by the Department of Music, merges *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Rapunzel* with a newly-created tale of a childless couple—the baker and his wife. The couple is willing to steal Cinderella's slipper, Jack's cow, a lock of Rapunzel's golden tresses and Red Riding Hood's hood for the chance to have a baby promised them by a witch, who needs the items to regain her youth and beauty.

The first act ends with everyone headed toward a happily ever after ending but the second act reveals the down side of getting what you wish for. Cinderella's prince turns out to be a hopeless philanderer while she finds idle solitude in the palace as bad as poverty and abuse. The baker and his wife, now proud parents, bicker and wind up in family therapy. Rapunzel, a chronic neurotic, races around during the action while the widow of the giant Jack killed threatens to squash them all. Through its fractured fairy tales, *Into The Woods* offers insight on growing up and taking responsibility for the choices made.

*Into The Woods* won the 1988 N.Y. Drama Critics Circle Award and the 1988 Drama Desk Award for Best Musical as well as earning Tony Awards from Best Score and Best Book.

The play, with its familiar fairy tale characters, will appeal to children while adults will appreciate the underlying truths accompanying the varied stories in the musical. This is a production for the entire family to enjoy and for the first time, Otterbein's spring musical will be performed over two weekends.

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Otterbein College Theatre Artistic Director Dennis Romer will again direct the spring musical. Professor Craig Johnson will serve as music director and music faculty member Stephen Monroe is the vocal director.

Lauren Lambie, who created costumes for the Otterbein production of *Evita* in 1990, will design the costumes for this play. Previously Lambie was the resident costumer for Players Theatre and now is the resident costumer for the Studio Arena Theatre of Buffalo. Otterbein expects to spend \$7,000 on the lavish costumes for this spectacular production.

The performance is being choreographed by Patricia Hiatt. She was responsible for the choreography in the very successful *Man of La Mancha* produced last year.

Set designer Rob Johnson will be responsible for bringing the woods into Otterbein's Cowan Hall for this production and he promises there will be plenty of magic and special effects such as the witch rising on a cloud of fog or the bean stalk that will grow from the orchestra pit to the top of the theatre.

All performances of *Into the Woods* will be held in Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St. The opening night performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Other evening performances will begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and \$11 for this show and can be reserved by calling 898-1109 between 1 and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.