**Into The Woods Character Breakdown**

University of Idaho. Department of Theatre Arts
Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine
Jeremiah Downes, Director
Kelly Quinett, Acting Coach
Chaz Wolcott, Choreographer
Elliott Folds, Dramaturg

**THE BAKER**
The “hero” of the story, although his actions are not always heroic. The Baker feels he must “fix” his and his wife’s inability to have children and initially tries to pursue his quest without her, but he soon realizes he is much better off with her by his side. The Baker is an original character created for the musical but inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s Thumbelina and The Brothers Grimm’s tale Rapunzel. Vocal Range: Baritone (Ab2–G4)

**THE BAKER’S WIFE**
Badly wanting a child, the Baker’s Wife would go to any length to have one. However, when her husband sets off into the woods to seek the things that would enable them to remove their “curse” of infertility, her assertiveness and stubbornness eventually help bring about a change between her and her husband. The Baker’s Wife is an original character created for the musical but inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s Thumbelina and The Brothers Grimm’s tale Rapunzel. Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano (F3–G5)

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**
Little Red Riding Hood must journey from youth and innocence into adulthood. Until The Wolf comes along, she believes that everything and everyone is good in her life, and everyone is to be trusted. However, this encounter causes her to grow up, and she must take responsibility by taking her journey through the woods. The Brothers Grimm’s tale is a metaphor for the loss of innocence. Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano (Bb3–F5)

**THE WITCH**
Initially portrayed as "the villain," the Witch's story is much more complicated. At times, yes, she is an adversary, but the Witch is just as human as the characters who cross her path. She has an ulterior motive when she reveals she was the one who placed the curse of infertility on the Baker's family. The Witch is an original character created for the musical but loosely based on the Witch from The Brothers Grimm's Rapunzel tale. Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano (Bb3–F5)

**CINDERELLA**
Even though she lives with her father, wicked stepmother, and two cruel stepsisters, Cinderella is kind and good, and her only wish is to go to the Prince's festival (a.k.a. The
Ball), but once she does go and the Prince pursues her, she is uncertain about how to proceed. The story of Cinderella originates from a tale called Rhodopis, from the first century BC. In Rhodopis, a Greek courtesan weds the king of Egypt after a bird brings him one of her shoes. This story is the basis for the lost glass slipper we associate with Cinderella and her Prince. However, The Brothers Grimm's tale is the most well-known. Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano (Bb3–F5)

JACK
Foolhardy, sometimes dense, and desperate for a better life, Jack sells his beloved cow Milky White for magic beans which lead him up the beanstalk and on a journey of growing up and learning to accept the consequences. The original story first appeared as The Story of Jack Spriggins and the Enchanted Bean in 1734. Vocal Range: Tenor (B2–G4)

FLORINDA & LUCINDA
Cinderella’s cruel stepsisters who follow in their mother’s footsteps. While the sisters experienced an ambiguous fate as part of a certain animated movie, their story in the musical closely follows The Brothers Grimm’s tale. Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano (C4–Ab5)

JACK’S MOTHER
A single mother and a fighter, Jack’s Mother is mainly concerned with not starving. She forces Jack to sell his beloved cow, Milky White, to survive. She first appeared as part of The Story of Jack Spriggins and the Enchanted Bean in 1734. Vocal Range: Soprano (Bb3–Gb5)

RAPUNZEL’S PRINCE
Attractive and pompous like his brother, Cinderella’s Prince, he is second-in-line, has a chip on his shoulder, and is always searching for the next best thing. He tries his best to help when Rapunzel starts to lose her grip on reality. He appeared as part of The Brothers Grimm’s tale, Rapunzel. Vocal Range: Bass-Baritone (Bb3-Gb5)

CINDERELLA’S STEPMOTHER
Psychologically abusive, greedy, selfish, and mean-spirited, Cinderella’s Stepmother wants what is best for herself and her two daughters, but not Cinderella. She initially appeared as part of The Brothers Grimm's tale. Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano (A3-F#5)

CINDERELLA’S PRINCE / THE WOLF
Though charming, handsome, and seemingly perfect, Cinderella’s Prince thinks his royal birth entitles him to take anything, and anyone, he wants. Also known as Prince Charming in other tales, he appears as part of The Brothers Grimm's tale. Vocal Range: Bass-Baritone (B2-F4)

Into the Woods, UIDAGO CHBREAKDOWN
A rather hungry creature, the Wolf represents imminent danger and the chaos of life and death. The Wolf appears in many versions of the Little Red tale, but the most well-known is The Brothers Grimm’s tale. Vocal Range: Baritone (Bb2-Gb4)

NARRATOR / THE MYSTERIOUS MAN
Following the path of teachers and parents’ footsteps, the Narrator helps guide the story along. The Narrator is an original character created for the musical. Vocal Range: Baritone (G2-E4)

A wandering vagrant found in the woods, he is full of riddles and an important secret. The Mysterious Man is an original character created for the musical. Vocal Range: Bass-Baritone (G2-Eb4)

RAPUNZEL
Raised and locked away by The Witch, Rapunzel grew up confined to a tower in the woods; and even though she escapes to start a new life and understand her true history, she struggles to maintain her sanity after her distressing upbringing. Her story originates in her very own Brothers Grimm’s tale. Vocal Range: Soprano (B3-A5)

CINDERELLA’S MOTHER / GRANNY / VOICE OF THE GIANT
Though no longer living, Cinderella’s Mother is still pivotal in granting useful advice and helping fulfill Cinderella’s wish of going to the Prince’s ball. While not directly referred to, her hazel tree is part of The Brothers Grimm’s tale. Vocal Range: Soprano (E4-F4)

Little Red’s grandmother who lives in the woods. She is feisty and vindictive towards the Wolf. She is a primary character in The Brothers Grimm’s tale. Vocal Range: Spoken

The giant’s wife that lives at the top of the beanstalk. She is loud, angry, and very, very big. She appeared as part of The Story of Jack Spriggins and the Enchanted Bean in 1734. Vocal Range: Spoken

THE STEWARD
An attendant of Cinderella’s Prince, he is a self-important, surly servant to the royal family. While we see his character in a certain animated version, he is not directly referred to in the original Brothers Grimm’s tale. Vocal Range: Bass-Baritone (G2-Eb4)