



Into The Woods **Educator Resources**

Why are you excited to bring your students to the theatre?

We know that each educator has her or his specific reasons for bringing students to the theatre. In Center Theatre Group's Student Matinee program, not only are theatre teachers welcomed to bring their students, but educators from any and all disciplines are encouraged to participate. We are eager to introduce the world of theatre to as many young people in the Greater Los Angeles area as possible!

*Why are you excited for your students to see *Into The Woods*?*

Here's why we are excited about students coming to see a show at our theatres...

At Center Theatre Group, it thrills us to bring students to our productions. Whether they are seasoned theatre-goers, or first-time attendees, we want our student audience members to have culturally rich and personally fulfilling experiences when they come to see a play on one of our stages. We want them to feel smart, ready and welcomed when they arrive at the theatre.



Getting the most out of your visit...

In order for students to get the most out of *Into The Woods* please explore with your class the educational materials provided by Center Theatre Group. For this production, students will receive a Discovery Guide which welcomes them to the world of the play with thought-provoking questions that connect the material back to their own lives. Information about Center Theatre Group and theatre in general is also provided. Each educator will receive detailed instructions of the activities covered at the *Into The Woods* Educator Conference. We encourage you to dive into the play using these activities.

Use the student materials to go over the Where, Who, What and Why of going to the theatre. Take time to discuss the upcoming performance. Have your students seen live theatre before? If they have, what were their experiences like?

Emphasize the impact that each audience member has on the show. Let them know it is great and necessary to react and enjoy. However, in addition, remind your students that, since the actors can see and hear them, they should respond to the story unfolding onstage and not try to get a laugh or distract a classmate. Talk about the responsibility each audience member has to help shape that performance and how that makes every piece of theatre a one-of-a kind event!

Also, please go over the section for students on the “Performance Day Logistics” handout. That way they know not to bring a big bag or cell phone with them, and that there is no food in the theatre. If they are aware of the rules, they won’t be surprised when they arrive at the theatre.

Teaching Artist Visit

We suggest having a Center Theatre Group teaching artist come to your school site for a pre-show visit. Having a classroom visitor is a novel experience for students. Diving into the world of the play with one of our teaching artists furthers the intrigue and enthusiasm your students have for the upcoming event. Our teaching artists can also conduct a post-show session to explore your students’ experiences of *Into the Woods* as well as to dig deeper into the themes of the play.

Students as audience members

The above approach makes students feel confident about visiting the theatre. Before arriving, they have been introduced to the characters, learned about the creative team and explored the setting of the story. It’s as if they have an “in” because they are so familiar with the world of the play. This type of engagement enhances the quality of their attention to the performance, therefore it becomes a more enriching experience for them.

When they are so connected to the world of the story, they feel free to react heartily with laughter, gasps, tears and applause in all of the right places. Students who visit our theatres are some of the most expressive audiences you will ever watch a play with! We can’t wait to have you and your students visit the Ahmanson Theatre for Center Theatre Groups’ *Into The Woods*.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you would like to dive more deeply into the world of *Into The Woods* with your students, we have provided links below for you to engage.

Roundabout Theatre Company Upstage Guide for *Into The Woods*

https://www.roundabouttheatre.org/Roundabout/media/Roundabout/PDF/UPSTAGE/INTO-THE-WOODS_UpstageGuide_WEB_1.pdf

Aarne-Thompson-Uther Classification of Folk Tales

<http://www.mftd.org/index.php?action=atu>

“There are many different folk tales in the world, but many tales are variations on a limited number of themes. The classification system originally designed by Aarne, and later revised first by Thompson and later by Uther, is intended to bring out the similarities between tales by grouping variants of the same tale under the same ATU category.”

More quotes about fairytales, and other topics, by Bruno Bettelheim:

http://www.azquotes.com/author/1355-Bruno_Bettelheim

Fairytales Definition

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/fairytales_discovering.htm

Fiasco Theatre

<http://www.fiascotheater.com/>

***Into The Woods* National Tour website**

<http://www.intothewoodsontour.com/>

***Into The Woods*: Scene(s) from the show:**

<http://www.roundabouttheatre.org/Shows-Events/Into-the-Woods.aspx>

Multilingual Folktale Database

<http://www.mftd.org/index.php?action=home>

***New York Times* Review**

By Ben Brantly, Jan 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/23/theater/into-the-woods-stripped-down-by-fiasco-theater.html?_r=0

Sondheim

PBS Newshour Interview: "Composer Stephen Sondheim's Life, Times and Rhymes"

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/entertainment-july-dec10-sondheim_12-08/

AHMANSON SEATING CHART

This is a seating chart of The Ahmanson Theatre, where *Into The Woods* will take place. Use this as a tool to familiarize your students with the layout of the Ahmanson and with its seating capacity. The capacity for the Student Matinee performance, which includes seating in the orchestra, mezzanine, and onstage, is 1,588.