



Fine Arts Center  
COLORADO SPRINGS

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Do you dare venture *Into the Woods*? Fine Arts Center Theatre Company begins new era with Sondheim musical**

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (April 24, 2007) – Traditional fairy tales sometimes leave a lot of loose ends. There never seem to be any consequences. What does one do with a dead giant in the backyard? Does marrying a prince really lead to a happy and fulfilling life? What happens after “happily ever after?”

“Over the years, the great musicals of our time have been the foundation of the theatre at the FAC and in the spirit of this great tradition, I have selected Stephen Sondheim’s masterpiece *Into the Woods* to be the inaugural production of the new Fine Arts Center Theatre Company,” said Alan Osburn, the newly named Producing Artistic Director of the newly renamed Theatre Company. Osburn will also direct this production.

The ensemble cast features three Broadway actors, Susan Dawn Carson, Kelly Walters and Mercedes Perez, who the *Rocky Mountain News* honored as the 2006 ‘Top Actress in Musical Theater’ in Colorado.

*Into the Woods* follows Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack (of beanstalk fame) down the wooded path as they encounter the consequences that traditional fairy tales conveniently ignore, seamlessly blending four beloved fairy tales with the story of a childless Baker and his wife, who set out on a journey to reverse a family curse..

“This is only the beginning,” said Osburn. “I am using this production as a template of what is to come at the FAC. We have more professional actors in this cast than any previous FAC show and it’s the biggest production in terms of staging and set design. If you liked the ship in *Pirates of the Penzance* or the plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*, you will really enjoy what Chris Sheley and his design team has in store for you in this show.”

Sheley, the FAC Theatre Technical Director, earned the 2006 Ovation Award from the Denver Post for ‘best set design’ for *Pirates*.

One of Sondheim's most popular works, this timeless yet relevant piece is a rare modern classic that ran on Broadway for 764 shows. Sondheim is arguably America’s greatest musical theatre composer, having earned numerous Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1984.

In *Into the Woods*, Sondheim questions conventional fairy tale wisdom. An ambivalent Cinderella? A

bloodthirsty Little Red Riding Hood? A Prince Charming with a roving eye? A Witch ... who raps? They're all among the cockeyed characters in this fractured fairy tale.

When a Baker and his Wife learn they've been cursed with childlessness by the Witch next door, they embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell, swindling, lying to and stealing from Cinderella, Little Red, Rapunzel and Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk). Everyone's wish is granted at the end of Act One, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later, with disastrous results. What begins as a lively irreverent fantasy becomes a moving lesson about community responsibility and the stories we tell our children.

"Total enchantment. A spell-bounding score, witty enough to make old stories fresh for adults, lovely enough to enchant youngsters." – New York Daily News

"Bewitching... dazzling... triumphant." - New York Post

"Non-stop pure pleasure. A ravishing explosion of color and melody and magic and laughter."  
- Time Magazine

This production plays May 11 - June 3 at the SaGāji Theatre on 30 West Dale Street. Shows are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$26 for members in advance, \$28 for non-members in advance, or \$30 at the door.

There will also be two Special Family Matinees on Saturday, May 19, at 3 p.m. and Saturday, June 2, at 3 p.m.

For tickets and information, contact the FAC Box Office at 719.634.5583 or visit [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org)

The 2006/2007 theatre season is sponsored by The Gazette, Alan and Barbara Steiner, and the Sherman E Smith Family Foundation. The Family Matinee Series supported by the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado and T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation.

#### **ABOUT THE FINE ARTS CENTER**

Founded in 1936, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center. The FAC is currently embarking on a multi-million dollar building initiative. The renovated and expanded Fine Arts Center will open to the public on Aug. 4, 2007, with an *Extremely Grand Opening* celebration featuring a blockbuster traveling exhibition, special guests and events. Visit [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org).