

Showgram

by On The Stage

Into the Woods Sr.
The Venue Theatre
Conifer Colorado
Apr 12 – Apr 19 2026



Is proud to present our 55 and over production!

www.TheVenueTheatre.com



Tickets

Sun. Apr 12th 2026,
2:00 pm
Wed. Apr 15th 2026,
2:00 pm
Sun. Apr 19th 2026,
2:00 pm

INTO THE WOODS SR.

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine
Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Co- Directed by Stephanie Faatz Murry and Amy Dolan Fletcher

Into the Woods SR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International

About Into the Woods Sr.

Into the Woods SR. is presented through special arrangement with MTI and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International. www.MTIshows.com The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

About The Venue Theatre

The Venue Theatre Company, founded in 2013 as an educational 501c3 nonprofit, provides enriching performing arts education for the youth of the greater Denver and Foothills area. With highly trained, Broadway experienced educators, The Venue meets all children at the level they are currently at and encourages them to develop their skills both as performers and as individuals. Here at The Venue Theatre Company, we are deeply invested in the magic of art and performance. We believe in opening hearts and minds by giving youth the tools to share their songs and stories. The Venue is more than just a nonprofit theatre—it's a safe haven comprised of students, volunteers, and instructors all working toward one common goal: creating the best environment for children and young adults to become all that they can be. The Venue Theatre is committed to being a diverse, inclusive, and safe space for authentic expression and creative collaboration. All students, crew members, and volunteers, whatever their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation or identity, biology, education, neurodiversity, or physical ability, will be honored, integrated, and respected.



Annawyn Shamas

Narrator/Mysterious Man

Annawyn Shamas (Narrator/Mysterious Man), a theatre graduate of Oklahoma State University, was given both the Best Actress Award and Outstanding Theatre Student Award by OSU Theatre Faculty her senior year. Here in Colorado, she won Best Actress for her portrayals of Amelia Earhart in *Amelia Lives* and Dorothea in *Eleemosynary*. Her 69-year directing/acting career found her working in Ohio, Texas, California, Colorado, and Oklahoma. Shamas' productions won awards through the OCTA/CCTC organizations and were recruited for international performances in England, Monaco, and Germany. In 2024, Annawyn was honored with a Distinguished Alum Award from Oklahoma State University for her contributions to community theatre. She is currently working on honoring her mother by establishing the Evelyn DeBenning Storybook Trail in Stillwater, Oklahoma.



Alan Rubin

Jack/Steward

Alan Rubin is thrilled at having a rare chance at this point in his acting career to play a 15-year-old as Jack in this senior production of *Into the Woods* (although Alan fits the part, being very immature for his age). Many thanks to Amy and Stephanie for having the courage to attempt this production, and to my remarkably talented castmates for bringing this wonderful show to life. Most recently, Alan has performed as Santa in the Colorado Railroad Museum's production of *The Polar Express*, in several roles in musical theater produced by Ovation West, Wheat Ridge Theater Company, The School at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and the Colorado Ballet as the Friar in *Romeo and Juliet*.



Susan Conceicao

Jack's Mother/Rapunzel

Susan (Jack's Mother/Rapunzel) began her acting career as a professional child actress in New York City. Her most memorable role was that of Nikki Lee Blake in the *Patty Duke Show*. As an adult, she studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, and was involved in community theater in New York and New Jersey. Her plays included *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Sisters Rosenzweig*, *The Vagina Monologues*, and more. Recent credits in Colorado include *Radium Girls*, *Love Letters*, *Stu for Silverton*, *October Surprise*, and *La Llorona del Rio Rimac*. She will be appearing in *Tartuffe* with the Upstart Crow Company. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to appear in *Into the Woods, Sr.* as Jack's Mother and Rapunzel!



Lacey Ruskin

Little Red

In a different time and space, Lacey Ruskin (Little Red Riding Hood) made a living as an actor. Since then, she has settled in Colorado, earned a graduate degree, spent 13 years teaching theatre in Denver area public schools and returned to the world she loves, nonprofit development and operations. Her last show was 12 years ago, and just happened to be Into The Woods. Devastated that somehow she had become too old for Little Red Riding Hood, she played the part of Jack's Mother. Low and behold....a 55 and over production and she finally gets her wish! Thanks to Stephanie, Amy and The Venue for the opportunity to be young again!



Tom Scripps

The Baker

Meet Tom Scripps (The Baker)! Tom has been a member of the Evergreen Chorale since 1984 when he moved to Evergreen. Over the years he has performed in fifteen Chorale and Evergreen Players productions. Recently retired, he and his wife Barb have three married children all living in northwest Denver including one grandchild.



Ellen Shamas-Brandt

Cinderella

Ellen Shamas-Brandt is excited to join Into The Woods, Sr. as Cinderella! She is most thrilled to be performing again with her mother, Annawyn, for the fourth time! She has acted in church, community, and professional productions throughout her life. Three of her favorite shows are Once (Baruska) with the Town Hall Arts Center, We're Still Here (River Spirit) with Empathy Theatre Project, and Quilters (Ensemble) with the Main Street Players. She has served as a musical director, director, and collaborative pianist for many productions as well. An enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation, Ellen founded Celebration of Native Arts in 2023 to promote the works of Native American/First American performing artists. She has enjoyed working with Stephanie, Amy, her mother, old friends, and new friends in this show!



Greg Aigner

Cinderella's Prince/Wolf/Lucinda

Greg Aigner (Cinderella's Prince/Wolf/Lucinda) did one show in high school, but caught the bug at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, where he minored in Theatre. After traveling with Up With People, he settled in the Denver suburbs where he was quite active in community theatres; including the Main Street Players, Lakewood Players, South Suburban, Adult/Children's Theatre, and Bonfils Theatre. He's a retired Jeffco teacher and has directed over 40 talent shows at local schools. He's most proud of producing a couple of plays, a couple of children, and more than a couple of pranks on family and friends!



Shar Funk

Cinderella's Mother/Cinderella's Stepmother/Granny

Shar Funk is delighted to play not one, not two, but three parts in this amazing production (Cinderella's Mother/Cinderella's Stepmother/Granny)! Thank you to this superb (and patient!) cast for welcoming her back to the stage; Shar's last role was in high school which was a LONG time ago. Since then, Shar has kept busy with a variety of "roles": mother to two incredible kids, racket sports enthusiast, former "Marketing Whisperer", part-time bibliophile, avid traveler, and wife to a wonderful, supportive (and also patient!) husband!



M. Shane Grant

The Witch

Shane began doing theatre over 40 years ago! Recent local acting credits include We're Still Here (Empathy Theatre Project), In The Next Room, or The Vibrator Play (Theatre Company of Lafayette), The 25 th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Uniitive Theatre), Man Up (Empathy Theatre Project), Tony and Tina's Wedding (Moon Theatre), and Gypsy (Longmont Theatre Company). Also a director, recent credits include Time Stands Still at Coal Creek Theatre of Louisville, Stop Kiss (CCTL), Epic Proportions (CCTL), and You Can't Take It With You (Moon Theatre). Some favorite shows he's worked on include Almost, Maine, The Foreigner, Angels In America Parts One and Two, The House Of Yes, and The Last Five Years. Shane would like to thank Stephanie and Amy for this rare and unique opportunity.



Christy Izmirian

Florinda/Rapunzel's Prince

Christy (Florinda/Rapunzel's Prince) is a retired Jeffco theatre educator. She performed on stage from childhood through college, and sang with the Colorado Symphony Chorus. She now prefers backstage work to being in the spotlight, and thrives as a Costume Designer for school, community, and professional theatre companies. Although it has been decades since she last appeared onstage, she's very much enjoying the process and the company.



Lisa Feldman

Baker's Wife

"Being a cast member in 'Into the Woods' has been a privilege and a challenge," observes Lisa Feldman who plays the Baker's Wife. After a 30+ year hiatus from performing while working and raising a family in California, the move to Conifer presented opportunities to become involved with the local theater where she took classes, performed in showcases and a one-act play. Currently she is also performing in "We Ain't Done Just Yet," which is a musical review sharing and commiserating with the audience the good, bad and the sometimes ugly of being an older adult. "I feel so fortunate to be working with this fabulous group of performers in 'Into the Woods'. I've learned so much and there's never a shortage of laughter with this ensemble."

Amy Fletcher

Co-Director/Choreographer

Amy is a native New Yorker with 35 years of experience in professional theatre. After performing on Broadway and in numerous touring productions, Amy began pursuing a career as an educator and mentor. She has worked at several high schools, as a professor of Theatre and Dance at Five Towns College and achieved her MFA in interdisciplinary arts and theatre education from Goddard College. She was thrilled to join the Venue Theatre, after relocating to Colorado with her amazing husband Michael and son Matthew. Venue director and/or choreographer credits include: Thoroughly Modern Millie, Bye Bye Birdie, Guys and Dolls, Urinetown, Anything Goes, Newsies, Venue on Broadway and Venue Through the Years.

Stephanie Faatz Murry

Co-Director/Music Director/Props/Sound Board Operator

Stephanie is a native (Upstate!) New Yorker with over 20 years of professional theatre experience! She is the Founder and Producing Artistic Director for North Dakota Shakespeare Festival and spends her summers in ND! She holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Arkansas, a B.F.A in Musical Theatre/Dance Minor from SUNY Fredonia and a certificate in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (L.A.M.D.A.). She has worked across the country with companies such as Playhouse on the Square, Charleston Stage Company, Black Hills Playhouse, Nebraska Theatre Caravan and more! She also served as Head Teacher of the Edutainer program at Gyeonggi English Village in Paju, South Korea! Prior to moving to Colorado, she served as a Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of North Dakota and Ouachita Baptist University. Here in Colorado, she teaches at Montessori School of Evergreen as well as Adjunct work with Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Dept. of Theatre! Locally, she has directed with RRCC, MSU Denver, Ovation West, Vintage Theatre, Rocky Mountain Theatre for Kids and Evergreen Children's Chorale. She has performed with Town Hall Arts Center, Performance Now and Shakespeare in the Wild. She is thrilled to spend the 2025-2026 school year touring with Colorado Shakespeare Festival, playing Hamlet/Laertes (Hamlet) and Prospero/Trinculo/Alonso (The Tempest) for their Shakespeare and Violence Prevention Tour. Aside from theatre, her greatest loves in life are her husband Matthew and their fur baby, Chuggie!

Lyz Rand

Lighting Designer

Lyz Rand began her technical theatre career at her own High School theatre. Lyz has worked in Educational and Professional Technical Theatre for over 30 years and has worked in 26 theatres. She worked as a High School Theatre Manager for 7 years and prior to that as a High School Theatre Resident Lighting Designer for 5 years. Lyz has also worked with University Theatre students, designing lights for productions and teaching lighting workshops. Lyz's Bachelor's Degree is in Stage Lighting and her Master's Degree is in Entertainment Business Management and she held a High School Theatre Arts Teaching Certificate. This is her 5th show at The Venue!

Biz Schaugaard

Scenic Designer/Technical Director

Biz Schaugaard grew up in Evergreen and got her start with the Evergreen Players. She currently teaches at the Logan School for Creative Learning and coaches theater at Cherry Creek High School. Biz previously designed and built sets for The Drowsy Chaperone and Beetlejuice at The Venue!

Christy Izmirian

Costume Designer

Christy (Florinda/Rapunzel's Prince) is a retired Jeffco theatre educator. She performed on stage from childhood through college, and sang with the Colorado Symphony Chorus. She now prefers backstage work to being in the spotlight, and thrives as a Costume Designer for school, community, and professional theatre companies. Although it has been decades since she last appeared onstage, she's very much enjoying the process and the company.

Matthew Izmirian

Spot Light Operator

Russ Kirby

Sound Designer

Russ has been doing sound at theatre throughout the Denver area for the past year and sound for live bands throughout the nation forever. This is his fourth show at The Venue, having previously sound designed The Drowsy Chaperone, Beetlejuice, 13 Jr. and now Into the Woods!

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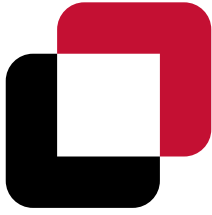
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