

# signaturenews

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## ***SIGNATURE OPENS ITS NEW TWO-THEATER COMPLEX WITH STEPHEN SONDHEIM AND JAMES LAPINE'S INTO THE WOODS***

- Eric Schaeffer directs his twelfth Sondheim musical
- Set and costumes by Robert Perdziola
- Features a cast of Signature favorites

*Arlington, VA — Signature marks the grand opening of its new \$16 million, two-theater building with Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's **Into the Woods**. The well-known tales of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Riding Hood are combined with an original story of a Baker and his Wife who desperately want children, but must remove the curse standing in their way. As the characters work to live "Happily Ever After," they face consequences traditionally ignored in fairy tales. "Into the Woods simply sings...you float into an enchanted world" (*The New York Times*). In distinct Signature-style, we bring audiences this tangled, twisted telling of Grimm's Fairy Tales starring a cast of Signature favorites. Signature's Artistic Director **Eric Schaeffer**, directs his twelfth Sondheim musical to bring the grandest opening to Signature's new home. **Into the Woods runs January 12 – February 25, 2007, at the new Signature building in The MAX Theatre. Tickets are on sale now at Tickets.com (800) 955-5566 or online at www.signature-theatre.org.***

*"For the opening of our new building there was no question that it had to be a Sondheim show," said **Eric Schaeffer**. "To help us celebrate, I've assembled a cast of performers who've starred in numerous Signature musicals over the last 17 seasons. Perhaps what I'm most excited about is the fact that The MAX Theatre in the new space allows us to do fantastic things with this show that the old converted-garage would not. We really get to show off the scale of the theater by taking audiences directly into the world of the show. **Into the Woods** is wonderful in that it easily adapts with the times. While we all can enjoy the ride of Act One — going through the woods with the Grimm's Fairy Tale characters — it's not until the fatality and demise of Act Two that we see the real world around us. **Into the Woods** starts beautifully, but where the characters, the story, and the audience end up is a different tale. This journey will hopefully make us all look at our own lives and what we're all doing to battle the 'big, tall, terrible giants in the sky.'"*

— *MORE* —

### DIRECTION & DESIGN

The MAX, Signature's new mainstage theater, accommodates up to 299 seats and enhances Signature's ability to amaze and delight audiences with seamless, high-quality production elements. With a double-height ceiling, the MAX provided the *Into the Woods* design and direction team the space to create a truly environmental experience, allowing the audience to feel as though they are entering the woods alongside the characters on stage.

Choreographer **Karma Camp** is a Signature Artistic Associate where she's worked on almost 20 productions, most of with Eric Schaeffer. Camp won the 2006 Helen Hayes Award for her work on Signature's production of *Urinetown* and recently collaborated with Schaeffer on *My Fair Lady*, the final show in the converted-garage space. Select Signature credits include *Nijinsky's Last Dance* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Follies*, *110 in the Shade*, and *Cabaret* (Helen Hayes nomination). Signature's Resident Music Director **Jon Kalbfleisch**, an eleven-time Helen Hayes Award nominee and three-time recipient, returns after music directing last season's *Assassins*. Additional Signature credits include *Pacific Overtures*, *The Highest Yellow*, *Allegro*, and *Follies*. A three-time Helen Hayes Award recipient, Set and Costume Designer **Robert Perdziola** returns after his critically-acclaimed costume designs in *Follies*. Other credits include *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Don Carlos*, and *The Country Wife* all for Shakespeare Theatre. Three-time Helen Hayes Award nominee, Lighting Designer **Chris Lee** returns to Signature where his previous work includes *Urinetown*, *Elegies*, *One Red Flower*, *Follies*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Grand Hotel*, and *Side Show*. For Signature, Sound Designer **Tony Angelini** recently worked on *My Fair Lady*, *Assassins*, *The Sex Habits of American Women*, *Nevermore*, and *Urinetown*.

### CAST

The cast of Signature favorites includes **Florrie Bagel** (Florinda), a graduate of Signature's Overtures Musical Theater Institute, who is making her professional debut. **April Harr Blandin** (*Baker's Wife*) reprises her 1994 Helen Hayes nominated role as the Baker's Wife. Additional Signature appearances include *Allegro*, *Passion*, and *A Grand Night for Singing*. **Matt Conner** (Steward) was seen at Signature recently in *My Fair Lady*, *Assassins*, and *Pacific Overtures*. Conner is best known as the composer of Signature's critically-acclaimed world premiere of *Nevermore*. **Daniel Cooney** (Baker) was last seen as Edgar Allen Poe in *Nevermore*. Other credits include Broadway's *Les Misérables* and the national tour of *The Civil War*. **Priscilla Cuellar** (Lucinda) has been seen recently in *My Fair Lady* and *Assassins* and is a graduate of Signature's Overtures Institute. **Steven Cupo** (Cinderella's Father) returns to Signature where he was last seen in *My Fair Lady*. Additional Signature appearances include *Urinetown*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Follies*, *Grand Hotel*, and *Cabaret*. **Erin Driscoll** (Rapunzel) appeared in *Assassins* and *Urinetown*. **Eleasha Gamble** (Witch) was recently seen in *My Fair Lady*. Other Signature credits include *Urinetown*, *Follies*, *Grand Hotel*, *Gospel According to Fishman*, *The Christmas Carol Rag*, *The Rink*, and *Company*. **Dana Krueger** (Cinderella's Mother/Grandmother) is best known to Signature audiences for her Helen Hayes Award-winning performance in *Wings*. Other Signature credits include *My Fair Lady*, *Allegro*, *Follies*, *Grand Hotel*, *The Christmas Carol Rag*, and *Sweeney Todd*. **Sean MacLaughlin** (Rapunzel's Prince) was seen at Signature in *A Funny Thing ... Forum*. Other Signature credits include *Follies*, *The Gospel According to Fishman*, and *Grand Hotel*. **Channez McQuay** (Stepmother) was recently seen at Signature in *My Fair Lady*. She has also appeared at Signature in last season's *Nevermore* and in *Pacific Overtures*. **Donna Migliaccio** (Jack's Mother),

Signature co-founder, was last seen in *Assassins*. Select Signature credits include *Urinetown*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Follies*, *Gypsy*, *Sweeney Todd*, and Signature's first production of *Into the Woods*

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(1994). **James Moyer** (Cinderella's Prince/Wolf) starred in Signature's *110 in the Shade* and appeared on Broadway in *The Full Monty* and *Urinetown*. **Stephen Gregory Smith** (Jack) has been seen in such Signature productions as *My Fair Lady*, *Assassins*, *Pacific Overtures*, *The Highest Yellow*, *One Red Flower*, *Allegro*, and *110 in the Shade*. **Stephanie Waters** (Cinderella) first appeared at Signature in *A Little Night Music*. Other credits include the Broadway production and national tour of *Les Misérables*. **Lauren Williams** (Little Red Riding Hood) was most recently seen in *My Fair Lady*. Other Signature credits include *Nevermore*, *Allegro*, and *A Funny Thing ... Forum*. **Harry A. Winter** (Narrator/Mysterious Man) was a 2006 Helen Hayes nominee for *Pacific Overtures*. Additional Signature credits include *My Fair Lady*, *Allegro*, *A Funny Thing ... Forum*, and *110 in the Shade* among others.

### DETAILS

#### INTO THE WOODS

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

#### Cast (in alphabetical order)

<i>Florinda</i>	<b>Florrie Bagel</b>
<i>Baker's Wife</i>	<b>April Harr Blandin</b>
<i>Baker</i>	<b>Daniel Cooney</b>
<i>Steward</i>	<b>Matt Conner</b>
<i>Lucinda</i>	<b>Priscilla Cuellar</b>
<i>Cinderella's Father</i>	<b>Steven Cupo</b>
<i>Rapunzel</i>	<b>Erin Driscoll</b>
<i>Witch</i>	<b>Eleasha Gamble</b>
<i>Cinderella's Mother/Grandmother</i>	<b>Dana Krueger</b>
<i>Rapunzel's Prince</i>	<b>Sean MacLaughlin</b>
<i>Stepmother</i>	<b>Channez McQuay</b>
<i>Jack's Mom</i>	<b>Donna Migliaccio</b>
<i>Cinderella's Prince/Wolf</i>	<b>James Moyer</b>
<i>Jack</i>	<b>Stephen Gregory Smith</b>
<i>Cinderella</i>	<b>Stephanie Waters</b>
<i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>	<b>Lauren Williams</b>
<i>Narrator/Mysterious Man</i>	<b>Harry A. Winter</b>

#### Direction & Design

<i>Director</i>	<b>Eric Schaeffer</b>	<i>Lighting Design</i>	<b>Chris Lee</b>
<i>Choreography</i>	<b>Karma Camp</b>	<i>Sound Design</i>	<b>Tony Angelini</b>
<i>Music Direction</i>	<b>Jon Kalbfleisch</b>	<i>Production Stage Manager</i>	<b>Kerry Epstein</b>
<i>Set &amp; Costume Design</i>	<b>Robert Perdziola</b>		

### Schedule

**January 12 – February 25, 2007**

**Press Date:** Friday, January 19, 2007 at 8:00pm

**Show Times:** Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Exceptions:** There are no matinee performances on January 13, 14, 20, or 21.

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### Tickets

Tickets are \$37 to \$63 and are sold through [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com) (800) 955-5566 and online at [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org). Discounts are available for students, seniors (60+), military and groups of ten or more. The Signature Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during performances.

### ABOUT SIGNATURE

*Signature is a non-profit professional theater dedicated to producing contemporary plays and musicals, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. To date, Signature has presented over 20 world premiere productions. The works of Stephen Sondheim, however, remain Signature's signature. Signature is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with an intimate playing space, and using live orchestras with unamplified performers. In addition to the finest talent from the D.C. metro-area, Signature has been a home to such luminaries as Cameron Mackintosh, Stephen Sondheim, Terrence McNally, John Kander and Fred Ebb. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> season under Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, Signature has been nominated for 209 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theater (18 nominations in 2006) and has been honored with 50 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2006, and Outstanding Play in 1999. Signature was also recognized by the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation for "its artistic vision and commitment to the support and development of musical theatre artists." Signature was recently awarded a \$1 million grant from The Shen Family Foundation for the creation of *The American Musical Voices Project*, a two-pronged program consisting of Musical Theatre Composer Grants and Musical Theatre Leadership Awards. The Composer Grants support the commissioning and presentation of three emerging composers' new musicals over the course of the next four theater seasons. Commissions were awarded to Ricky Ian Gordon, Michael John LaChiusa, and Joseph Thalken. The Leadership Awards, presented in May 2006, recognized Bruce Coughlin, Adam Guettel, Audra McDonald, and Ted Sperling for their extraordinary influence on and contribution to the advancement of new musical theater. In November, Signature moved into its new \$16 million two-theater complex in Shirlington Village with the grand opening scheduled for January 2007. Signature is a member of the Theatre Communications Group, The League of Washington Theatres, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, the Arlington Arts Alliance, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and the Washington, DC Convention and Tourism Corporation.*

### Directions

*Signature Theatre is located just five miles from downtown Washington, D.C. at 2800 South Stafford Street in Arlington, VA, immediately off I-395 at the Shirlington exit.*

**Contact Info**

*Tickets.com (800) 955-5566*

*Box Office (703) 820-9771*

*Administration (571) 527-1860*

*Fax (703) 820-7790*

*[www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org)*

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