

## “Into the Woods” Character Breakdown (in order of appearance)

*Playing age usually, but not always, matches real age. Some 16-year-olds look 20. Some 50-year-olds look 35. Playing age is not a science—it’s meant as a guideline to help you determine whether or not you would be considered for a given role.*

*Vocal ranges are provided to give you additional ideas about appropriate characters to consider. Not sure your range? After a full vocal warmup, play up and down on a piano to see how high and low you can sing. When you reach the last note that you can sing comfortably and well at the low end, this is your bottom note. When you reach the last note you can sing comfortably and well and the high end, this is your top note. Music directors use Scientific Pitch Notation to write your vocal range, and you will see it used here on the character descriptions. In Scientific Pitch Notation, each octave is given a number. The lowest C on a grand piano is C1. Each note above C1 is assigned a 1 after it, until you get to the next C, which becomes C2. On a standard-size (88-key) piano, the lowest note is A0 and the top note is C8. Middle C is always C4.*

E2 F2 G2 A2 B2 C3 D3 E3 F3 G3 A3 B3

C4 D4 E4 F4 G4 A4 B4 C5 D5 E5 F5 G5 A5 B5 C6

### **Narrator**

An imaginative, but unhappy, kid who feels as though he’s been forgotten at home. He tries to make sense out of his own personal loss and alienation by imagining a world of characters straight from the Brothers Grimm. Good memorization a must.

Gender: Male (may be played by a girl)

Playing Age: 9-14

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: G2

### **Cinderella**

A young, earnest maiden who is constantly mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters. She wants to break away and live her own life, but discovers maybe being rescued by a prince isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 20 to 30

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: G3

### **Jack**

The feckless Giant-killer who is 'almost a man.' He is adventurous, naive, energetic, and bright-eyed. He is devastated by the loss of his best friend, the family cow.

Gender: Male (may be played by a young woman)

Playing Age: 13 to 17

Vocal range top: G4 (G5 if sung up an octave)

Vocal range bottom: B2 (B3 if sung up an octave)

### **Milky White**

A hapless, hungry cow who is falling apart at the scenes. This is a role for a young puppeteer with an expressive face.

Gender: Female (can be played by a male)

Playing Age: 8-18

### **Jack's Mother**

Browbeating and weary, Jack's protective mother who is independent, bold, bitter, and strong-willed.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 40 to 55

Vocal range top: Gb5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

### **The Baker**

A harried and insecure baker who is simple and loving, yet protective of his family. He wants his wife to be happy and is willing to do anything to ensure her happiness but has old-fashioned views about the role of a wife.

Gender: Male

Playing Age: 30 to 45

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: Ab2

### **The Baker's Wife**

Determined and bright woman who wishes to be a mother. She leads a simple, yet satisfying life and is very low-maintenance yet proactive in her endeavors. This is a role for a strong actress who can convey a wide range of emotional states.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 30 to 45

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: F3

### **Cinderella's Stepmother**

The mean-spirited, demanding stepmother of Cinderella. She is a ruthless social climber.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 40 to 60

Vocal range top: F#5

Vocal range bottom: A3

### **Florinda And Lucinda**

Cinderella's stepsisters who are beautiful of face but black of heart. They follow in their mother's footsteps of abusing Cinderella.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 16 to 30

Vocal range top: Ab5

Vocal range bottom: C4

### **Cinderella's Father**

A hapless sucker who sacrifices his daughter's happiness and well-being for the sake of appeasing his shrewish wife.

Gender: Male

Playing Age: 45+

### **Little Red Ridinghood**

A young girl who is strong-willed, quick-witted, fearless, yet youthful and naive. She has a love of sweets. This is a role for a strong triple threat, as it involves dancing, singing, and acting.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 9 to 13

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

### **The Mechanicals**

Our featured ensemble of puppeteers who make the story happen through the Narrator's eyes. They become the furniture, the props, and even the face of the Giant. This is somewhat physically demanding, so it would not be appropriate for those with mobility issues.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Teen and Adult

### **The Trees**

Graceful, always watching, always listening. These are our featured dancers!

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Any

### **The Birds**

Featured child dancers. Graceful friends of Cinderella's who will do anything to make her happy, even pecking out the eyes of her enemies.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Young Children

### **Woodland Creatures**

Our children's ensemble who participates in and observes the story. These roles require limited rehearsal time.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Children and Teens

### **The Witch**

Sarcastic, obsessive protector of Rapunzel who is straightforward and aggressive. She dislikes and mistrusts most people. This is a physically and vocally demanding role.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 35 to 60

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: F3

### **Witch's Coven**

A trio of young witches who assist in the Witch's spells.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: Teens

### **Cinderella's Mother**

A memory of a beloved mother, a ghost guarding and aiding her daughter from a tree.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 40 to 55

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: E4

### **Mysterious Man**

A mischievous vagrant and father/grandfather figure. He is a good-natured protector and observer.

Gender: Male

Playing Age: 50 to 65

Vocal range top: Eb4

Vocal range bottom: G2

### **Wolf**

A hunter who enjoys the game. He is dapper and sophisticated, an elegant dancer.

Gender: Either (but vocal range is low)

Playing Age: Adult or Teen

Vocal range top: Gb4

Vocal range bottom: Bb2

### **Wolf #2**

A second wolf who enters to woods, chasing after three little piggies.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Adult or Teen

Vocal range top: Gb4

Vocal range bottom: C#2

### **3 Little Pigs**

Squealy little hapless victims of the second Wolf.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Children or Teens

### **Granny**

Street-wise and nobody's fool. She protects herself and her grandchild with a vengeance.

Gender: Female (can be played by a male)

Playing Age: 55+

### **Rapunzel**

A ditzy and deeply unsatisfied maiden who is sheltered by the Witch and terribly lonely. She yearns to experience the world.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 14 to 28

Vocal range top: A5

Vocal range bottom: B3

### **Cinderella's Prince**

Vain and gorgeous, he is a disloyal lover who is currently searching for the next new, exciting thing.

Gender: Male

Playing Age: 30 to 40

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: B2

### **Rapunzel's Prince**

Just as vain and gorgeous as his older and more jaded brother, he is always chasing the newest, most exiting endeavor.

Gender: Male

Playing Age: 16 to 30

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: C#3

### **The Horses**

Three horses, one for each prince, and one for the Steward. These should be skilled gallopers, who use coconut halves to make their galloping sound.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Teen

### **Steward**

A nasty servant who dislikes his role and dislikes the peasantry even more.

Gender: Male (can be played by a female)

Playing Age: Teen or Adult

### **The Giant**

Angry and vengeful, particularly because she shows kindness to a child who then kills her husband. She is seeking restitution for her loss. Should have a formidable speaking voice.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: Any

**Snow White & Sleeping Beauty**

Young maidens who get suckered into being the princes' next victims, while they are sleeping and waiting to be saved.

Gender: Female

Playing Age: 15-25

**A Dwarf**

He makes the prince uncomfortable, but watches out for Snow White

Gender: Male (can be played by a female)

Playing Age: Young Child

**The Harp**

Jack's prized possession. A graceful human harp.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Child

**The Hen**

Jack's other prized possession. A skilled young puppeteer.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Child or Teen

**Townfolk**

This is our more limited, walk-on ensemble for those with rehearsal conflicts or mobility issues that might eliminate other roles. This will require limited rehearsal time.

Gender: Either

Playing Age: Any