



## Press Release for “Into the Woods, Jr.”

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Youth Connection’s Theatre Experience at Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) in Wilmette, Illinois this year will be “Into the Woods, Jr.” based on the story by James Lapine and music/lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. There will be three performances of the show including Friday, March 16, at 7:30pm, Saturday, March 17, at 7:30pm, and Sunday, March 18 at 2:00pm. The performances will take place at the WJHS auditorium at 620 Locust Road in Wilmette, Illinois. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold general admission at the door on the nights of the performances and during lunch periods in the school cafeteria the week prior.

This production was directed by Dinah Barthelmess and produced by Emily Kalway, both teachers at WJHS. Youth Connection sponsors the play with board members and parents helping with financing, operations, and marketing.

The musical intertwines the plots of several Grimm fairy tales and follows them further to explore the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. The main characters are taken from the stories of Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, and Cinderella tied together by a story involving a baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family.

“Into the Woods” touches on relevant junior high school themes including responsibility, the consequences of individual actions, and ethical choices. There is a cast of 39 students and crew of 25 students made up of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from WJHS.

Youth Connection is a 501-C 3 charitable organization that provides social, service and educational opportunities to Wilmette area 5th-8th graders. For more information about Youth Connection, contact Mary Kay Dreyfus at [mkdreyfus@consultarts.com](mailto:mkdreyfus@consultarts.com). For information about “Into the Woods, Jr.” contact Emily Kalway at [kalwaye@wilmette39.org](mailto:kalwaye@wilmette39.org).