



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact Alicia Andrews, Program Associate 212-262-0200

City Lights Youth Theatre

presents

Into the Woods

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

Directed by Paula Meyer

February 24 – March 6, 2005

Thursday, February 24 at 7:30 pm **(FREE)**

Friday, February 25 at 7:30 pm **(FREE)**

Saturday, February 26 at 2:00 (**PRICE**) & 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 27 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 pm

Friday, March 4 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 5 at 2:00 & 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 pm

American Theatre of Actors, Chernuchin Theatre

314 West 54th Street (between 8th and 9th Avenues), 2nd Floor

Adults: \$12 Youth (under 18): \$8

Special Group Rates Available

For reservations or more information, call City Lights: 212-262-0200

New York, NY, February 15, 2005: A slipper as pure as gold, a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, and hair as yellow as corn. . . **City Lights Youth Theatre** continues its 14th production season with *Into the Woods*, featuring music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. This production is directed by Paula Meyer, Artistic Director of **City Lights**, with Musical Direction by John Bronston, Choreography by Cheryl Swift, Assistant Direction by Deann Simmons Halper and Assistant Musical Direction by David Austin.

Into the Woods weaves various familiar fairy tales through a twisting journey on the road to “Happily Ever After.” This fantastical production, filled with humor, mystery, music and dance, showcases characters who ultimately discover that actions have consequences, and that by working together they find the path to greatest strength. The original Broadway production of *Into*

the Woods opened on November 5, 1987 and ran for 764 performances at the Martin Beck Theatre. It was nominated for nine Tony Awards in 1988 and received three; Stephen Sondheim won for Best Score, James Lapine won for Best Book, and Joanna Gleason, who played the role of the Baker's Wife, won for Best Actress in a Musical.

Into the Woods is part of **City Lights Youth Theatre's** ongoing Production Program, which is dedicated to expanding the canon of theatrical work relevant to young people and to providing high-quality performance training to youth from a wide range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Twenty advanced musical theatre students ages 13-19, who hail from all five boroughs of New York City, have been rehearsing ***Into the Woods*** since November. Director Paula Meyer chose to double-cast six major roles, with a new combination of students performing together each night. "By double-casting so many significant roles, we are able to give a greater number of our advanced students the opportunity to shine," explains Meyer. "In addition, by having a teammate to work with on the challenging music Sondheim has written for each role, the kids have been able to elevate their level of singing more quickly and develop an amazing feeling of camaraderie."

City Lights Youth Theatre is a nonprofit theatre company providing young people of diverse backgrounds with the opportunity to participate in theatre experiences in order to develop confidence, teamwork, responsibility, and a greater sense of self and community. Since 1991, **City Lights** has reached thousands of New York City youth, ages 3-19, through distinctive in-school residencies, after-school dramatic arts workshops, and full-scale productions. Over 50% of students receive need-based tuition and transportation subsidies through **City Lights'** Scholarship Fund. For more information on **City Lights**, please visit www.clyouththeatre.org or call 212-262-0200.



This production is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.