

MERELY PLAYERS ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS

for

A Musical Classic *INTO THE WOODS*

Our Annual Spring Musical

Monday and Tuesday, December 15 and 16, 2025 from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Merely Players is excited to offer the opportunity for community members aged 16 and older to work together once again as we produce our annual spring musical.

Once upon a time, James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim took everyone's favorite fairytale characters and brought them together in an enchanting and award-winning musical, *Into the Woods*. We are overjoyed to bring it to Durango this season. Staged with imagination, puppetry, passion, and Merely Players' bold and sparkling creativity, the show brilliantly weaves music and life lessons into an unforgettable tale. It's an adventurous world of glass slippers, beanstalks, giants, magic, and witches - where wishes are granted and happily ever after is not always what it seems. Anything can happen in the woods. Parental discretion advised.

Rehearsals begin on Feb. 23, 2026, and performances are APRIL 24, 25, 30, MAY 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm and APRIL 26, MAY 3, 10 at 2:00 pm

There are no particular roles set aside for youth. High School youth will be competing for roles alongside adults.

All Roles are Open.

The show will be directed by Mona Wood-Patterson, choreographed by Suzy DiSanto, musically directed by Tom Kyser, & designed and tech directed by Charles Ford.

For more information about the musical, see <https://www.mtishows.com/into-the-woods>

FEMALE :

Cinderella: G3 – G5; 20 -40. A young, earnest maiden who is constantly mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters.

Jack's Mother: Bb3 – Gb5; 45 – 70. Browbeating and weary, Jack's protective mother who is independent, bold, and strong-willed.

The Baker's Wife: F3 – G5; 20 - 55

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.

Cinderella's Stepmother: A3- F#5; 40 to 75

The mean-spirited, demanding stepmother of Cinderella.

Florinda and Lucinda: C4 – Ab5; 20 - 45

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

Little Red Ridinghood: Bb3 – F5; 16 - 30

A spoiled young girl who is strong-willed, quick-witted, fearless, yet youthful and naive.

The Witch: F3 – G5; 35 - 80

Sarcastic, ugly-then-gorgeous, obsessive protector of Rapunzel who is straightforward and aggressive.

Cinderella's Mother: E4 – F4; 35 - 70

Deceased with her soul guarding and aiding her daughter from a tree.

Rapunzel: B3 – A5; 16 -40

A loopy-but-lovely maiden who is sheltered by the Witch and terribly lonely. She yearns to experience the world.

Giant: Voiceover; 30 - 80

The Giant's wife is an angry and vengeful 'monster.' She is seeking restitution for her loss.

MALE:

Narrator: G2-E4; 40 – 80. An intellectual and pleasant story-teller who helps to orchestrate the show and illustrate lessons to the audience.

Mysterious Man: G2 – Eb4; 40 - 80

A mischievous vagrant and nosy meddler. He is a good-natured protector and observer.

The Narrator and the Mysterious Man will be cast with the same actor

Jack: B2 – G4; 16 – 40. The feckless Giant killer who is 'almost a man.' He is adventurous, naive, energetic, and bright-eyed.

The Baker: Ab2 – G4; 20 – 55; 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 refuses to let others fight his battles.

Wolf: GB4- Bb2; 30 - 55

Hungry and insatiable hunter who takes advantage of the weak by misleading and captivating his prey.

Cinderella's Prince:F4 -B2; 30 - 55

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

The Wolf and Cinderella's Prince will be cast with the same actor

Rapunzel's Prince; C#3 – E4; 30 - 55

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

Small ENSEMBLE

Must sing and act well. Includes Granny and Steward

PUPPETEERS:

We are looking for people with an aptitude and interest in operating puppets. No vocalization is necessary.

THEATRE TECHNICIANS

We are also looking for fun and capable backstage technicians. No experience is necessary – we train. Those interested in tech are welcome to come on either date for a tech interview.

REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE:

This musical will have a fun and lively 9-week rehearsal period, beginning on February 23, 2026. There is no rehearsal from March 14 – 22 (Durango Schools spring break).

Rehearsals will typically be Mondays – Thursdays from 6:00-9:30. Rehearsals will last until 10:00 during the last week.

There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, April 11, from 9:30- 7:00. There will also be a Friday rehearsal on April 17. The entire cast and crew must be present at these rehearsals.

A rehearsal schedule will be provided to let everyone know specific times that they are called once the show has been cast.

Performances are April 24, 25, 26, 30, May 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2026. You must be able to attend all performances.

Please be sure to write down or discuss any known conflicts with the director – sometimes, it's possible we can work around a conflict or two if we know in advance. You will not be considered if you cannot make it to all rehearsals in the last two weeks and all performances.

AUDITION DETAILS:

Monday and Tuesday, December 15 and 16, 2025 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Everyone auditioning can appear at 6:00 on either date.

Callbacks by invitation only will be slated later as needed.

If you are unable to attend either audition, you may submit your audition via video to merelydirectors@gmail.com no later than Monday, November 15, 2025. Naturally, it is to your advantage to appear in person.

AUDITION LOCATION:

MERELY UNDERGROUND – 789 Tech Center Drive

Singing

At your audition, you should come prepared with 16- 32 bars of **any song from the show**. We are reaching for a high level of acting and singing. Choose a selection that shows us what you can do. We will have a live accompanist (Kathy Kolbe). You can bring your own sheet music or tell our accompanist what song and section you will be singing. Please sing in the correct show tune key; if you do not, you may be asked to sing in the key of the show later.

Dance

There will also be a movement/dance audition, but you do not need to prepare specifically for that.

Acting

Additionally, you will have an acting audition. Choose one of the following monologue sides for your audition. Memorization is required. EVERYONE, other than puppeteers and technicians, must complete an acting audition.

AUDITION SIDES:

Choose two of these sides. Memorization is required. You will perform both sides at your audition. Give us your best fairy tale character rendition.

For Female Identifying:

Sarah:

Brothers and sisters, resist the devil and he will flee from you. That is what the Bible tells us. And that is why I am standing here in the Devil's own city, on the Devil's own street, prepared to do battle with the forces of Evil. Hear me, you gamblers! With your dice, your cards, your horses! Pause and think before it is too late!

Sarah:

You saw what happened last night. They gambled – in our Mission. I'll get over Sky Masterson. The man I love will NOT be a gambler.

Adelaide:

Nathan darling, this book is very interesting. The doctor gave it to me. I went to him about my cold. The doctor asked me how long I had had it, and I told him a long time, and I said I thought it was on account of my dancing with hardly any clothes on, which is what I usually wear, so he said to read this book, because he said it might be due to psychology.

Adelaide:

Nathan, this is something I never told you before, but my Mother , back in Rhode Island – she thinks we're married already. I couldn't be engaged for 14 years, could I? People don't do that in Rhode Island. They all get married. And then, after about two years... we had a baby. It was a boy. I named it after *you*, Nathan.

For Male Identifying:

Nathan:

A marker ain't just a piece of paper that says IOU. \$1000, signed Nathan Detroit. A marker is like a pledge which a guy can't welch on it. It's like not saluting the flag. My marker is as good as gold, only Joey Biltmore don't think so. It don't seem possible. Me without a liveleihood. Why, I have been running the crap game ever since I was a juvenile delinquent.

Nathan:

Sky Masterson! He's the highest player of them all. Higher than anybody. Why do you think they call him Sky? That's how high he bets. I once saw him bet five thousand dollars on a cockroach. And another time he was sick and he wouldn't take penicillin on account he had bet ten C's that is temperature would go to 104. Did it? He's so lucky it went to 106. Good old Sky.

Nathan:

Go ahead, shoot me. Put me in cement. At least I would know where I am. Here I risk my neck to set up a crap game. I even promise to get married on account of it. So look how I wind up. Broke in a sewer. Believe me, my tough friend from Chicago, there is nothing you could do to me that would not cheer me up.

Harry:

Nathan, if there is no crap game tonight, I am sure that Big Jule will be considerably displeased; and Big Jule does not like to be displeased, as you can find out from those citizen who at one time or another displeased him. Although, I will admit it is very hard to find such citizens in view of the fact that they are no longer around and about.

Nicely:

Sky, do you see Miss Adelaide? I bring a message for her from Nathan. I wish Nathan would bring his own messages. It's this way. Nathan's aunt in Pittsburgh was suddenly taken ill with -er- a rare tropical disease. Oh – Miss Adelaide! Nathan is in Pittsburgh with a rare tropical aunt. Goodbye!

Big Jule:

I'm rolling a thousand. And to change my luck, I will use my own dice. I had them made for me especially in Chicago. I had the spots taken off for luck. But I remember where the spots formerly were.

For Any Gender:

Lt. Brannigan:

Any of you guys seen Nathan Detroit? I mean the Nathan Detroit who's been running a floating crap game around here and getting away with it by moving it to a different spot every night. I know you two bums work for Detroit, rustling up customers for his crap game.

