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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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[mtc.org](http://mtc.org)

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**ADVENTURE THEATRE MTC SENDS TALENTED YOUNG PERFORMERS  
TO JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL JANUARY 16-19, 2015**

*Into the Woods Jr. to be performed upon return, January 23-24, 2015*

GLEN ECHO, MD – Adventure Theatre MTC will bring a corps of talented students performers to the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta, Georgia this upcoming weekend. The students from ATMTc Academy will perform *Into the Woods, Jr.*, a child-friendly version of the Sondheim and Lapine classic musical, directed by James Gardiner with Music Direction by Bill Yanesh.

Upon their return from Junior Theater Festival, the cast will perform *Into the Woods, Jr.* publicly in the ATMTc theater in Glen Echo Park on January 23 and 24. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students, and may be purchased online at [www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org](http://www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org), by calling our Box Office at (301) 634-2270 or at the door 60 minutes before curtain.

*Into the Woods, Jr.* is an adaptation of one of Sondheim’s most popular works designed especially for young performers. All of the favorite characters—Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk), and the Witch—meet and interact in this whimsical original story. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse and wind up changed forever.

“This Winter has been all about *Into the Woods*,” says Producing Artistic Director Michael J. Bobbitt. Our students were absolutely thrilled to be able to perform this classic Sondheim musical, especially because the movie was about to come out. Thanks to Disney Movies, some of our students were able to see a sneak preview in December. It’s a Broadway enthusiasts’ dream.”

Produced by iTheatrics and sponsored by Music Theatre International and Disney Musicals, the Junior Theater Festival is the largest celebration of musical theater for young people held annually in Atlanta, Georgia every Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. Participating school, community theater and academy groups perform a 15 minute selection of one Broadway JR. or KIDS Collection show for adjudication, participate in workshops specifically designed for student performers, and make connections with other musical theater groups

This marks the first year ATMTC Academy will bring a student production to the Junior Theater Festival.

"We are incredibly excited for the opportunity to participate in the festival for the first time," says Kathryn Hnatio Vicere, Education Director. "Our cast will get to see first-hand what their peers in other parts of the country are doing in the musical theater world and support the performances and work of other talented kids. It will be an eye opening experience in so many ways for them as young performers to have something to compare themselves to."

The students, who were cast in September, started rehearsals on December 29 during Winter Break, which will continue in the evenings up until January 15<sup>th</sup>, when they board a bus headed for Atlanta.

"It has been an amazing experience working with this talented group of students at Adventure Theatre MTC," says *Into the Woods, Jr.* director James Gardiner. "As someone who grew up and trained at the Musical Theatre Center, I know that ATMTC sets high standards for their students. Over the past two weeks I've been blown away by the maturity, professionalism, and talent of this particular group. Adventure Theatre MTC is a remarkable training program that is unparalleled in the DC area. I couldn't be more excited for this group to represent ATMTC at this year's Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta."

In the fall, the cast of *Into the Woods, Jr.* joined forces with DC Actors for Animals in support of the second annual Beltway Barks event on October 11, 2014 held at The Park at CityCenterDC. The students helped assemble Doggie Bags for all 70 dogs presented at the event, helped sell raffle tickets, made signs and announcements for the event, ran the Pizza Booth, Face Painting Booth and assisted the photographer/videographer of the event take footage. The project has been nominated by iTheatrics and Playbill.com, as one of five finalists for the 2015 Playbill Community Service Award.

The students also participated in an all-nighter "Blackout" event on Saturday, December 5, which raised over \$3,000 to support the cost of the trip.

### **ABOUT ADVENTURE THEATRE MTC**

Adventure Theatre MTC (ATMTC) is an award-winning children's theater and training academy. With locations in both Glen Echo Park and Rockville, Md., ATMTC serves over 100,000 children and adults each year with theatrical productions and the highest quality musical theater training, which help develop the next generation of artists and life-long theater patrons.

In 2012, Adventure Theatre (founded in 1951) and Musical Theater Center (founded in 1986) merged to become Adventure Theatre MTC. Led by Producing Artistic Director Michael J. Bobbitt and Managing Director Janet Butler Berry, ATMTC is a leader in exciting stage adaptations of children's stories, premiering new plays for young audiences, exemplary training in musical theater training.

### ***Into the Woods Jr.* Fact Sheet**

**January 23-24, 2015**

Book by James Lapine

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Based on classic fairy tales

Directed by James Gardiner

Music Direction by Bill Yanesh

**CAST**

The Narrator.....Bella Brody  
The Baker's Wife ..... Cassie Cope  
Rapunzel's Prince.....Eli Schulman  
Cinderella's Stepmother..... Emma Tower  
Cinderella..... Emma Sophie Moore  
Cinderella's Prince ..... Greg Kenney  
Jack .....Henry Niepoetter  
Cinderella's Father.....Jeremy Scheck  
Lucinda.....Kendall Jones  
Milky White .....Kevin Grieco  
Granny .....Lailah Fritz  
Florinda .....Lexi Rhem  
Little Red .....Mia Goodman  
Wolf.....Michael Mattocks  
Jack's Mother.....Nadia Gaylin  
Cinderella's Mother.....Nadia Duncan  
The Witch.....Nia Smith  
The Mysterious Man.....Sammy Strent  
Steward .....Taylor Rand  
The Baker ..... Trevor Band  
Rapunzel .....Tuyet Gunter

**PRODUCTION CREW**

Director..... James Gardiner  
Assistant Director.....Leayne Dempsey  
Music Director.....Bill Yanesh  
Set Designer .....Court Watson  
Props Designer ..... Toni Goldberg  
Costumes Designer.....Brittany Graham  
Lighting Designer..... Jason Arnold  
Sound Designer.....Neil McFadden  
Stage Manager..... Toni Goldberg  
Assistant Stage Manger..... Donna Stout

**Performance Times**

Friday, January 23.....7pm  
Saturday, January 24 ..... 3pm and 7pm