



## Out of court and into the woods: new production of Broadway classic gives legal professionals a chance to let their hair down

Proving that they are more than just *Suits* or *Crownies*, members of Melbourne's legal community are taking to the stage next month to do justice to one of Stephen Sondheim's most well-loved musicals, ***Into the Woods***, opening on 15 February 2018 at the Gasworks Theatre.

The show will be the major event in 2018 for BottledSnail Productions, a Not for Profit production company dedicated to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing within Melbourne's legal profession, while offering those connected to the profession an outlet for their creative talents.

***Into The Woods*** intertwines the stories of a number of classic fairytale characters, such as Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk, but gives them a more adult and contemporary context by examining the consequences of each character's decisions and actions.

According to BottledSnail's Artistic Director, Samuel Pearce, the musical was chosen because it features a large cast, which has afforded many people from within the industry the opportunity to be involved. It was also felt that some of key themes of the musical would resonate with those connected to the law.

"Whilst *Into the Woods* is very witty and a lot of fun, it also explores some serious and universal themes. Each of the characters in the story ventures into the woods in search of a 'wish'. They quickly learn, however, that the means used to achieve their wishes can have long term (and, in some cases, deadly) consequences; not only for themselves, but for their loved ones and the wider community", he says.

The production features a number of lawyers and barristers, as well as law students, legal support staff and even former County Court judge, Michael Strong, who plays the role of the Mysterious Man. Mr Strong is

joined by Legal Aid solicitor, Kathryn Moloney, who plays the leading role of the Witch; commercial lawyer, Rourke Pukсанд, who plays the Baker; and government lawyer, Kathryn Sutherland, who features as the Baker's Wife.

The production is supported by principal sponsor, Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers.

The musical will open at Port Melbourne's Gasworks Arts Park Theatre on 15 February 2018 and run for a two-week season closing on 25 February 2018. For more information, go to:

<http://www.gasworks.org.au/event/into-the-woods>

**Did you know** that the legal profession has one of the highest rates of anxiety and depression? A 2011 survey by Beaton Consulting, involving 25 professional associations and 100 professional services firms, found that 62% of lawyers had experienced symptoms of depression – the most of any group surveyed.

**"Clever, fast-paced sketch show – 4.5 stars!" - Review of *The Law Revue* (2013), Herald Sun**

**"Sobering musical hits home" - Review of BottledSnail's *Parade* (2015), The Age**

**Media contact for interview arrangements, high-res photos, bios and further information:**

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