

The Woods (Concept Exploration)

The Woods are Esoteric Metaphysical Constructs. They are perceived by humans as trees, birds, beanstalks, etc. They are magical. God-like. They answer to no one but cannot directly impact this world. They are the memories of people who have died in the forest. They are not wood nymphs, fairies, lesser known fairytale creatures. They evoke power and fear but can show compassion to humans who learn a lesson in the trees.

Prologue

When “woods” is spoken/sung they move slowly from the audience far from the houses.

“Birds in the sky” Some members created birds with their hands which fly across the stage, peck through the ashes and depart back to the trees.

When the song ends, all the trees are posed on their stumps all over the stage.

Scene 2 Cinderella At The Grave

Create the large tree for Cinderella’s mother. Actress in the middle connected to The Woods. Branches shiver and quiver.

Pieces of fabric swirling around carried by The Woods come together and replaced by a complete version of Cinderella’s Ball Gown.

Mysterious man can burst forth from a cluster of The Woods after Cinderella’s Mother exits.

Hello Little Girl

Transition to a single path which Red Riding Hood is traveling on. Stopped by the wolf.

The Woods present a single path for Red to follow but during the song new unexplored and enticing paths are created. These have the promise of flowers and birds and time for adventure before granny’s.

Witch’s entrance

Maybe They’re Magic

When magic beans are mentioned The Woods perks up, reacts when the beans are transferred.

Help facilitate bringing on Rapunzel’s tower and become vines on its sides. Remove the tower.

Facilitate bringing on Granny’s and become the three oak trees around it.

Know Things Now

Possible repetition of some imagery from *Hello Little Girl*.

Show the beans traveling from Jack’s house to the Stalk.

Hide Cinderella when she runs from the Prince.

Growing the beanstalk

One Midnight Gone

The Woods part similar to sliding doors so humans can enter and exit as they pursue their quests.

Scene 3 Giants in the Sky

Create the Beanstalk which Jack is standing high in. He descends and the stalk remains. Number ends and trees return to trees.

Facilitate Mysterious Man entrance.

Witch's Entrance.

Agony

Just low, sitting, still. Possibly offstage for a break.

Mysterious Man entrance.

Rapunzel's tower

It Takes Two

Woods carry Baker and Baker's Wife around the stage in celebration.

Two Midnight's Gone

Same idea as above.

Scene 4

Stay With Me

"Stay" hands grabbing and grasping but slowly and sadly hoping and wishing for Rapunzel not to go.

On the Steps of the Palace

The Woods appear as dancers in Cinderella's mind as she remembers the time at the ball.

When the Beanstalk is cut The Woods creates the torn bottom of the plant. Can also reverberate around the playing space.

Perhaps we see the Beanstalk cut when Jack's Mother relays the story of him chopping it down.

Witch's Transformation

Scene 5

Recreate Cinderella's Mother's Tree

Pigeons blinding the Stepsisters

Maybe Beanstalk growing as Act 1 Ends

End of Act 1

ACT 2 Scene 1

Deciding how to play the crashing at the end of the prologue. Do we see the woods? Do they crash into the Baker's house? Do we do the footsteps idea? Are they onstage at all? Maybe in between the houses?

Birds return to Cinderella

When woods advance this time they come through the houses. End in less upright positions on stumps.

Scene 2

Agony Reprise

Another break for the woods or they remain in broken positions.

Perhaps after Agony The Woods slink off the perimeter since a large number of people will be standing onstage.

Shaking as the giant approaches.

Maybe they all move to the Beanstalk?

Maybe they are between the Humans and the Giant so people run or are pushed through them as they exit to die?

Create a ring for Baker's Wife and Cinderella's Prince.

Moments in the Woods

When Prince kisses Baker's Wife, Woods accent, head turns etc.

Woods close around Prince and Baker's Wife as they exit

Create ruined tree for Cinderella in transition.

Baker's Wife and Prince emerge from grove of trees.

When Baker's Wife walks on uptempo woods moves around her.

Woods settle on if life were made of moments.

"Don't forget it" Woods gives Baker's Wife a flower.

On final music Woods settle in circle standing around Baker's Wife.

While Baker's Wife fears the giant, trees are stationary. On large crash they fall away from her in center and she throws up her arms. Blackout? Do they swallow her up? Fall on top of her? Don't want it looking too much like the Witch but don't know how to get her offstage.

Your Fault

Humans are stationary, possible on trunks, Woods move quickly around them until Witch shushes them.

Last Midnight

Trees crouch/cower as Witch sings.

Grow when Witch throws beans.

Quickly circle Witch as song is ending, pulling pieces of fabric off of her to disperse around the set and exit in multiple directions.

No More

Woods return with Mysterious Man and Baker

Settled on trunks, stationary, calm during song

When Baker exits, trees shift as Cinderella, Jack, Red return.

Birds return.

No One Is Alone

Not sure about staging for this number. Some woods could be low with Jack and Baker seeming to be sitting in a tree. Maybe Cinderella and Red are on the floor off of the platform somehow?

Not sure how to stage slaying the Giant. Probably happens offstage. Do we see birds?

Maybe we can do something with the Woods to show her toppling over?

Finale

Do the characters giving morals stand on stumps? Have they died and become part of the forest? Are the woods onstage at this point or should they wait for Children will Listen? Unclear, want to talk this through.

Does Baker's Wife appear in tree similar to Cinderella's Mother but then walk out of it to talk to the Baker?

Is the Witch still in the Tower?

Are we breaking the fourth wall at the end? How does this involve the Woods? What final picture do we want to see? Trees all over? Characters on stumps and the trees around them? Trees offstage? That seems the least strong.

I think the less we do in the Finale the stronger it will be. Make one or two choices and stick to them. Not a lot of movement, weaving, pattern. It always seems messy.

I however love the full company freeze for bows from the Original. Maybe all the characters are in the center and the Woods are in the houses? In the audience? All over the rest of the playing space?

Let's Chat 😊