



# Broadway at Your Doorstep

## REAGLE MUSIC THEATRE OF GREATER BOSTON



News for Reagle Friends  
and Fans  
June 2010

### SEASON AT A GLANCE

#### Into the Woods

June 17-27

#### The Music Man

July 15-25

#### Hairspray

August 12-22

#### Remembering the '40s

September 24-26

#### Leslie Uggams in Concert

October 16-17

#### It's ChristmasTime

December 3-12

### SPECIAL OFFER!

Use the Promo Code  
**YORK** when ordering  
tickets to **Into the  
Woods** and receive  
**10% off!**

- Offer not valid with other discounts.
- Limit four tickets per person.
- Enter **YORK** online or mention when ordering by phone or at the Box Office.

## Reagle Wins Six IRNEs for Dolly, Mame, La Cage

Reagle took home six IRNE Awards on April 19 as the Independent Reviewers of New England celebrated the best of the region's theater for 2009. Nominated for a whopping 16 awards, Reagle earned honors for each of its summer shows.

Rachel York, returning this season to star as the Witch in *Into the Woods*, was named Best Actress in a Musical for her critically acclaimed turn as Dolly Gallagher Levi in *Hello, Dolly!* David Engel won the Best Actor in a Musical award for his flamboyant yet sensitive portrayal of Albin in *La Cage Aux Folles*. Local favorite R. Glen Michell took home the Best Supporting Actor in a Musical award for *Mame* and *La Cage Aux Folles*.

In addition, David Scala was named Best Choreographer for *La Cage*, and Daniel Rodriguez and Jeffrey P. Leonard earned Best Music Di-

rector awards for their work on *Dolly* and *La Cage*.

The highlight of the evening came when it was announced that Reagle's electrifying production of *La Cage Aux Folles* won top honors as Best Musical for 2009. It bested Reagle's other nominated production, *Hello, Dolly!* for the award.

Rachel summarized the mood of the evening in words read by her publicist: "I have great admiration for Bob's passion and determination to keep regional theatre alive and well."



**Rachel York as  
Dolly Levi in  
Hello, Dolly!**



## A Message from Bob Eagle: New Name Reflects Our True Mission

What's in a name? For 41 years our wonderful regional theater company has flown under the banner *Reagle Players*. Back in 1969 when a group of Waltham High School and college drama students teamed to establish a summer musical theater, the name came about almost as a joke. Since I was the group's advisor and artistic director, one of my students suggested combining my first initial with my last name, the way I did when signing papers. Just that quickly, the *Reagle Players* was born.

Today that name seems a bit too quaint for a professional organization that runs year-round and attracts Broadway stars to our productions. We have a unique model that casts local talent right alongside theater legends. We set the bar high and everyone rises to our uncompromising standard. We pride ourselves on delivering exceptional Broadway caliber experiences while offering unparalleled educational opportunities for aspiring professionals on stage and behind the scenes.

Our new name – *Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston* – now more accurately reflects our mission and matches the standard of excellence we have maintained all along. We look forward to our 42<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. With the talents of Rachel York, Scott Wahle, Sarah Pfisterer, and Marissa Perry leading the way, it promises to be another blockbuster season.

## Once a Doll, Now a Witch, Broadway's Rachel York Goes Into the Woods



**Rachel York and Julie Andrews tango in *Victor/Victoria***  
(Credit: Joan Marcus)



*Rachel York's got a voice that I would kill to have.*  
— Julie Andrews

Broadway powerhouse Rachel York returns to the Reagle stage this summer to play a decidedly different character from her IRNE Award-winning Dolly. This year she gets to wrap her gorgeous voice around the lush and lyrical score of Stephen Sondheim's masterful *Into the Woods*.

"In some ways it's a fairytale, but in other ways it's really complex," Rachel says. "On the surface it's really colorful and enjoyable – the costumes, music and characters are fantastic – but if you dig a little deeper, you find that things are not always what they appear to be."

Rachel explains that Sondheim likes to deal with dualities. "His songs have to do with opposing intentions and emotions simultaneously," she says. "In that way he's very true to life. Human emotions are not only multi-layered but oftentimes contradictory. They can be funny and dark at the same time. That's true of this show."

It's also true of Rachel's character, The Witch. A woman of great beauty who was cursed and transformed into an ugly crone, she can be bitingly humorous one minute and powerfully threatening the next. Her songs range from a hilarious rap number about her garden to the lovely and haunting "Children Will Listen."

"It's a beautiful score," says Rachel. "It's so universal that two completely different people with two completely different experiences can listen and connect. And as great as his music is, I'm an even bigger fan of his lyrics."

Rachel is also a big fan of the man himself. Sondheim became her savior when early in her career she starred in his musical revue *Putting It Together* with Julie Andrews. As tech rehearsals got underway, the then 23-year-old ingénue was still having a hard time finding her character. Her inexperienced director had offered no help other than to say, "No, no, no, no. You're ruining the show!"

Anxious and on the verge of tears, Rachel was handed a note from the audience. It read, "Think Goldie Hawn."

That simple scribble by Stephen Sondheim confirmed for Rachel an idea that she had been toying with on her own. Injected with newfound confidence, Rachel went on to deliver a performance that earned her the first of her three Drama Desk nominations. She was also offered her breakthrough role as Norma Cassidy in *Victor/Victoria* based on the talent Julie Andrews and her husband director Blake Edwards saw in *Putting It Together*. Rachel went on to win the Drama Desk for *Victor/Victoria*.

"Sondheim was incredibly helpful to me on that show," Rachel attests. "It was the first time I got any positive reinforcement in the entire process. I'm very grateful to him."

And that's *truly* grateful. Not *sorry* grateful. No duality there.

## Behind the Scenes: Angela Richardson Is All Business When It Comes to the Art of Making Art



**Angela Richardson Actor and Assistant to the Producer**

Angela Richardson, 24, of Burlington, considers herself very lucky to have cut her theatrical teeth on the Robinson stage. "Everything I know about theater I learned from Reagle," says Angela. "The sheer wealth of knowledge is astounding."

Angela has understudied stars Donna McKechnie, Lee

Meriwether, and Rachel York in recent years. "I'd try to glean little acting tips by watching them from the wings," Angela says. "To see their facial expressions, or the way they'd carry their bodies, change when they were getting into character was truly inspirational. They would transform. It's an

eloquent and beautiful thing."

Angela, who also works full time as assistant to the producer at Reagle, is very grateful for her experiences. "It takes a village to raise a child," she says. "I can say very confidently I am better off for having this Reagle village raise me."

## Local Music Man Scott Wahle Does Double Duty with Reagle This Summer

Don't tell Scott Wahle, WBZ-TV news anchor turned stage actor, that he should be taking it easy after hip replacement surgery. This intrepid star of Reagle's *Fiddler on the Roof*, *1776*, *Will Rogers Follies* and *The Music Man* simply refuses to pass up the chance to be in his first Stephen Sondheim show and reprise his 2004 IRNE Award-winning role as con-artist Harold Hill.

"I love Sondheim," Scott enthuses when talking about

*Into the Woods*. "He's absolutely brilliant. He'd be in the Hall of Fame just as a lyricist, never mind a composer. But if I had to pick one show as my favorite, it would have to be *The Music Man*."

"*The Music Man* is the first professional show I ever saw," Scott remembers fondly. "My Mom and Dad took me to see the national company at the Shubert Theatre on my ninth birthday. I absolutely fell in

love with musical theater that day. I was overwhelmed by the whole thing – the music, the lights, the costumes, the laughter, the applause. It's also the show that brought me back to the theater in 1993.

"I don't know if I was destined to play the role," he muses. "But I'm absolutely thrilled to be getting a chance to do it again. It's an opportunity to take a fresh look. Once more into the breach – with a new hip!"



**Scott Wahle**  
Star of *The Music Man*  
and  
Narrator/*Mysterious Man*  
in *Into the Woods*

## New Creative Team Is Putting It Together at Reagle

When director Stacey Stephens, music director Charles Peltz, and choreographer Wendy Hall talk about their love for Stephen Sondheim, you know that Reagle's 42nd season opener is in great hands. Brought together because of their experience with Sondheim and each other, this dynamic trio promises to make *Into the Woods* an unforgettable event.

"*Into the Woods* is really a lot like *Wicked*," Stacey says enthusiastically. "Both shows take very well known stories (in this case Grimm's fairytales), give you the facts that you know, but then also give you the back stories. On one level you can just sit back and enjoy the fun. But on another level you can delve into the humor and insights of the human condition and discover how the stories are interwoven to become adult morality tales."

Stacey, a former wardrobe

supervisor on Broadway and on the national tours of *Les Misérables* and *The Lion King*, is designing costumes for *Into the Woods* in addition to directing. He has also consulted with set designer Janie Howland to render a three-dimensional pop-up style storybook through which his characters will romp.

"Our concept is very different from anything I've seen done with the show," says Stacey. "It's going to be unique to Reagle."

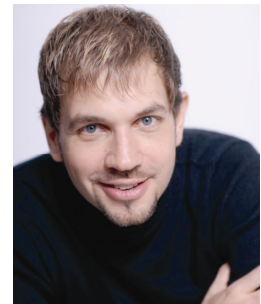
The challenge in any Sondheim show is to find actors who can sing magnificently but also interpret the intricacies of his elegant score. Music director Peltz, conductor of the Glens Falls Symphony and director of Wind Ensembles at the N.E. Conservatory, isn't worried. He says the cast they have assembled is "extraordinarily apt."

"We have actor/singers who

will sound terrific but also deliver all the subtext in the lyrics," says Charles. "They will serve this beautiful ensemble show very well."

Choreographer Hall says that the ensemble nature of *Into the Woods* actually liberates her from the traditional song and dance formula. "Instead of setting typical 8-count dance breaks," says the former Broadway dance captain and BoCo BFA, "I'm marrying acting and singing with character driven movement. I create interesting stage pictures based on intention."

Stacey, the new associate producer/artistic director at Reagle, is delighted to see the group stage one of Sondheim's masterpieces. "I just love the show's wit and playfulness," Stacey says. "It takes the darkness of Grimm's fairytales and makes them funny. It's brilliantly constructed. There's something in it for everyone."



**Stacey Stephens**  
Associate Producer/  
Artistic Director



**Cold Rush Offer!**  
Bring this coupon to  
the refreshment table  
for a  
**FREE ICE CREAM**  
at intermission of  
**INTO THE  
WOODS!**

## See inside for Special Discount Offers for Newsletter recipients only!

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 54205  
WALTHAM, MA



### REAGLE MUSIC THEATRE OF GREATER BOSTON

**Broadway at your doorstep...at prices  
Broadway hasn't seen in years!**

617 Lexington Street  
Waltham, MA 02452-3099

Phone: 781-891-5600

Fax: 781-647-5584

Website: [www.reagleplayers.com](http://www.reagleplayers.com)

## Reagle Celebrates Sondheim with *Into the Woods*

This summer Reagle has joined Broadway, London, and the New York Philharmonic in celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim. An American treasure who has been as influential to musical theater as his early mentors - Oscar Hammerstein II, Richard Rodgers, Leonard Bernstein and Jule Styne - Sondheim has earned an unprecedented eight Tony Awards in his career, more than any other composer in history.

For the first time, Reagle is including one of Sondheim's landmark musicals in its season. Why now? Producer and artistic director Robert Eagle says, "It's simply the right time."

"All the planets seem to have aligned to make this possible," Bob says. "We have the cast. We have the creative team. We have the rights. And we have a star who is going to be magnificent as *The Witch*. I've always wanted to treat our audiences to the beauty that is Sondheim. *Into the Woods* is the perfect introduction to his marvelous canon."

Sondheim's résumé as a composer/lyricist is a remarkable achievement: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Company*, *A Little Night Music*, currently enjoying a thrilling revival starring Catherine Zeta Jones and Angela Lansbury; *Sweeney Todd*, which was adapted for

the screen and became a box office smash with Johnny Depp; *Sunday in the Park with George*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize; and the ever popular *Into the Woods* which drew hundreds of actors from throughout the Northeast to Waltham to audition.

Add to this list Sondheim's stunning work as lyricist for two of the theater's most enduring classics - *West Side Story* and *Gypsy* - and you can understand why he is considered to be the "greatest and perhaps best known artist in American musical theater."

"Don't miss this opportunity," Bob exclaims. "*Into the Woods* kicks off our wonderful season in grand style."

*"Reagle has hit upon a winning combination. They mix Broadway veterans with local performers to get electrifying results."*  
- Theater Mirror



**Rachel York, IRNE  
Award winner for *Hello,  
Dolly!* stars as *The Witch*  
in *Into the Woods***