

Go! Wednesday

Your guide to getting out, brought to you by the staff of SouthFlorida.com

MOVIE REVIEWS

Witches, princes and wolves, oh my!

Rob Marshall, sterling cast transport Sondheim's musical to the screen

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Tribune Newspapers critic

In the generation since "Into the Woods" opened on Broadway, the entertainment world has recycled a forest's worth of enchantress-based, princess-dependent and fairy tale-steeped mythology for mass consumption — from Disney's "Frozen" and "Maleficent" to the smaller screen's "Grimm," "Once Upon a Time" and "Charmed." And let's not forget the theatrical extravaganza "Wicked," whose anthemic, full-bore sensibility and songs (full-bore in both senses) are exactly what you do *not* find in "Into the Woods."

For years composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim's 1987 fairy tale mash-up, written with librettist James Lapine, has hacked its way through the thicket of Hollywood development. And the movie now, at least, before us? Here's a relief: It's good. It's a little harried. The stage version always was heavily plotted verging on chaos, and director Rob Marshall tends to push the camera too close to the bustle. But it works.

By now, dark-underbelly revisions of fairy tales are nothing new, so that storytelling aspect of "Into the Woods" isn't what it once was. But like the popular, oft-revived stage version Marshall's film will likely find a wide audience.

In creating the stage show, Lapine and Sondheim combined several existing fairy tales, particularly those of the Brothers Grimm. To the tales of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack and the beanstalk and Little Red Riding Hood, they added new characters, chief among them a baker (James Corden in the film, terrific) and his wife (Emily Blunt, also terrific). Their desire to have a child has been forestalled by a curse laid on them by the witch next door (Meryl Streep), whose back-story never was



COURTESY/PETER MARTIN/DISNEY

Broadway's Lilla Crawford stars as Little Red Riding Hood in "Into the Woods."

'Into the Woods' ★★★

MPAA rating: PG (for thematic elements, fantasy action and peril, and some suggestive material)

Running time: 2:04

Opens: Dec. 25

the most compelling thing about "Into the Woods."

Little matter; Streep kills it and has serious fun with Sondheim's intricate patter songs. To undo the curse the baker and his wife venture into the woods in search of four objects: a cow as white as milk; a cape as red as blood; hair as yellow as corn; and a slipper as pure as gold. Anna Kendrick shines as a conflicted Cinderella; Chris Pine has the great fortune to sing (with his fellow prince, played by Billy Magnussen)

the hilariously egocentric duet "Agony"

Everyone's wishes come true in "Into the Woods" but the price is steep. Jack slays the giant in the sky but the giant's wife craves revenge. Cinderella gets her prince, but the price is a charming cad.

I wish the film were 10 or 15 minutes longer; as is, it's a tightly packed 124 minutes, but there's some connective tissue missing between the material's violent mood swings. Marshall's camera eye is more functional than inspired, and too often he contents himself with scrambling after whoever's singing while skipping, or running, or arguing. He's not one for careful composition.

"Into the Woods" was a natural for the movies, with its transformation scenes, its jump-cut-friendly storytelling, hopping from one set of characters to another and back again.

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Inspiration and perspiration from director Jolie

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Tribune Newspapers critic

Laura Hillenbrand's 2010 nonfiction account "Unbroken" introduced millions to Louie Zamperini, the Italian-American who competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics and, in World War II, became an Army Air Corps bombardier flying missions over the South Pacific. In 1943 Zamperini was aboard a rickety B-24 aircraft, the "Green Hornet," when it crashed in the water. He and two other survivors, "Phil" Phillips and "Mac" McNamara, survived 33 days on a life raft, contending with Japanese bomber strafings and killer sharks.

McNamara didn't make it to day 34, but Zamperini and Phillips eked out two more weeks at sea, only to be captured by the enemy. Then, until the end of the war, Zamperini was tortured by his captors, chiefly the Japanese prison commander known as "The Bird" (played by Japanese singer-songwriter Miyavi).

Hillenbrand's title, which is also the title of



HANDOUT/TNS

Jack O'Connell in "Unbroken."

director Angelina Jolie's film version, indicates a hard-won triumph. Zamperini survived these ordeals and lived to the age of 97. Jolie's version of the story is solidly crafted if slightly hollow.

"Unbroken" makes for a grueling experience, which is not quite the same as a memorable one. Jolie's previous directorial effort, the Bosnian War drama "In the Land of Blood and Honey,"

'Unbroken' ★★½

MPAA rating: PG-13 (for war violence including intense sequences of brutality, and for brief language)

Running time: 2:17

Opens: Thursday

announced a filmmaker of moral seriousness as well as technical prowess. Both are fully on view in "Unbroken," but there's something aggressively Hollywood-y about it.

I wonder if Jolie's formidable, often fearfully intense work as an actress has affected her way of seeing and framing other people's stories. Often in "Unbroken," the camera glides in slowly, in mythic mode, while O'Donnell holds a pose, unblinking, stalwart, unbroken.

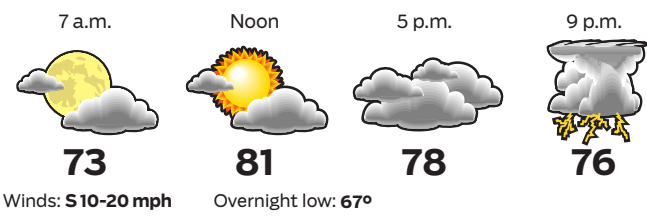
mjphillips@tribune.com

The weather

Latest updates and radar at SunSentinel.com/weather

Forecast for Wednesday

High: 83° RealFeel 85°



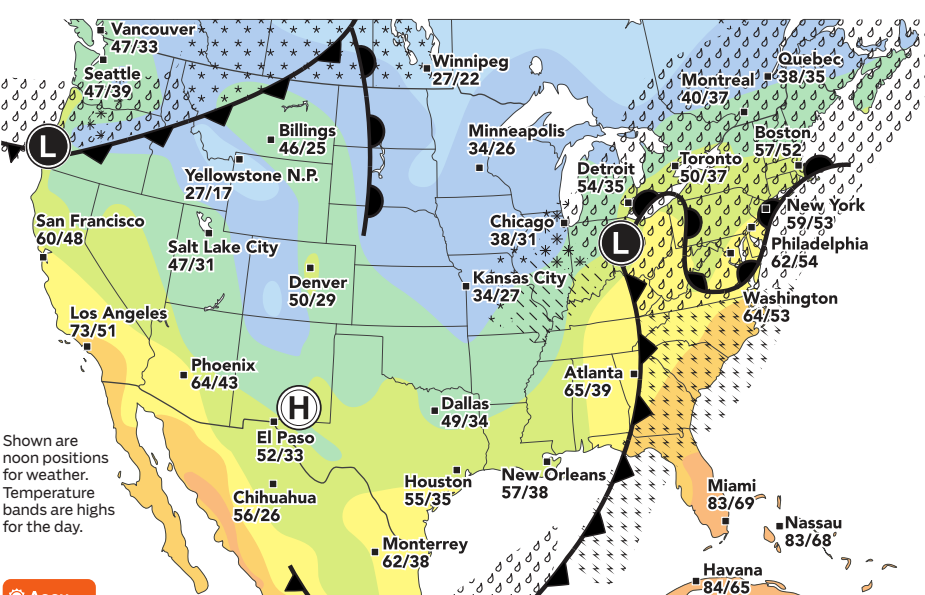
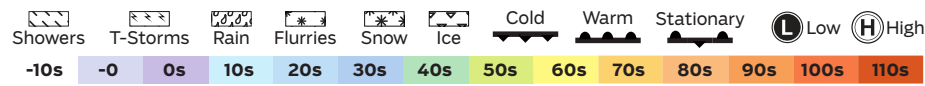
Winds: S10-20 mph Overnight low: 67°



John Matthews' outlook

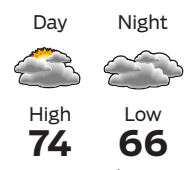
Today will be partly sunny, breezy and dry. Look for mostly cloudy skies and moderate winds at night with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.

WPEC chief meteorologist, PO Box 198512, West Palm Beach, FL 33419. Email: jmatthews@cbs12.com



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2014

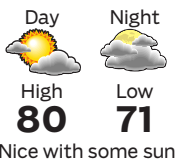
Thursday



A morning shower; not as warm

Winds: N 7-14

Friday



Nice with some sun

Winds: ENE 8-16

OUTDOOR PLANNER

Southeast Florida tides

Wednesday	High	Low
Bahia Mar Y.C.	10:08a	10:24p
Bkrs Hlvr-Inside	11:10a	11:26p
Boca Raton	10:36a	10:52p
Boynton Beach	11:18a	11:34p
Delray Beach	11:37a	11:53p
Fort Pierce	9:59a	10:15p
Hillsboro Inlet	9:57a	10:13p
Hollywood Beach	10:50a	11:06p
Jupiter Inlet	10:03a	10:19p
Lake Worth Inlet	9:28a	9:44p
Laud-by-the-Sea	9:39a	9:55p
Port Everglades	9:44a	10:00p

Thursday	High	Low
Bahia Mar Y.C.	10:56a	11:19p
Bkrs Hlvr-Inside	11:58a	---
Boca Raton	11:24a	11:47p
Boynton Beach	12:06p	---
Delray Beach	12:25p	---
Fort Pierce	10:47a	11:00p
Hillsboro Inlet	10:45a	11:08p
Hollywood Beach	11:38a	---
Jupiter Inlet	10:51a	11:14p
Lake Worth Inlet	10:16a	10:39p
Laud-by-the-Sea	10:27a	10:50p
Port Everglades	10:32a	10:55p

Boating conditions

Area	Wind	Seas	Cond.
St. Aug to Jupiter Inlet	S15-25	4-7	Mod.
Jupiter Inlet to Key Largo	S12-25	3-5	Mod.
Key Largo to Dry Tortugas	SSE10-20	3-5	Mod.
C. Sable to Tarpon Sprgs	S10-20	1-3	Light

UV Index

4 Moderate
45 minutes to burn

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Pollen level

12 low
CAUSE: Palm/Juniper

Source: Florida Center for Allergy & Asthma Care

Lawn-watering restrictions

Hallandale Beach and Lake Worth
Water once per week Odd address: Monday; Even address: Thursday
Rest of Broward and Miami-Dade counties
Water twice per week Odd address: Wed., Sat.; Even address: Thur., Sun.
Palm Beach County
Water twice per week Odd address: Wed. and Sat.; Even address: Thur. and Sun.

Sun & Moon

FIRST:	FULL:	LAST:	NEW:	Sunset ton.	Sunrise tom.
Dec 28	Jan 4	Jan 13	Jan 20	5:35 p.m.	7:05 a.m.
				9:09 a.m.	8:41 p.m.

AROUND FLORIDA

City	Today	Thursday
Daytona Beach	82/57/t	67/50/pc
Ft. Myers	83/54/t	74/59/c
Gainesville	78/54/t	63/39/s
Jacksonville	79/53/t	63/39/s
NAPLES	80/63/t	74/59/c
NASA	80/58/t	67/53/pc
Orlando	84/59/t	68/51/pc
Pensacola	62/39/c	57/43/s
Tallahassee	72/41/t	61/35/s
Tampa-St. Pete.	79/59/t	67/51/pc
Vero Beach	84/63/t	71/56/c

US CITIES

City	Today	Thursday
Anchorage	28/22/sf	---
Atlanta	65/39/r	---
Baltimore	57/52/r	---
Boston	57/52/r	---
Buffalo	55/37/r	---
Burlington, Vt.	44/42/r	---
Charlotte	67/42/r	---
Chicago	38/31/r	---
Cincinnati	58/36/r	---
Cleveland	60/36/r	---
Dallas	49/34/pc	---
Denver	50/29/s	---
Des Moines	38/28/c	---
Detroit	54/35/r	---
El Paso	52/33/s	---
Hartford, Conn.	55/50/r	---
Honolulu	78/67/t	---
Houston	55/35/pc	---
Indianapolis	47/32/sn	---
Kansas City	34/27/c	---
Las Vegas	57/43/s	---
Los Angeles	73/51/s	---
Miami	83/69/t	---
Minneapolis	39/30/sn	---
Mississippi	34/25/c	---
New York City	59/53/r	---
Norfolk	69/56/r	---
Oklahoma City	45/30/pc	---
Philadelphia	62/54/r	---
Phoenix	64/43/r	---
Pittsburgh	60/37/r	---
Portland, Ore.	46/40/r	---
Raleigh	70/51/r	---
Richmond	69/54/r	---
Rochester, N.Y.	58/42/r	---
St. Louis	40/34/sn	---
Salt Lake City	47/31/pc	---
San Diego	71/56/s	---
San Francisco	60/48/r	---
San Jose	59/43/pc	---
Santa Fe	37/21/s	---
Seattle	47/39/r	---
Wash., D.C.	64/53/r	---

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Today	Thursday
Bahia Mar Y.C.	85/74/sh	---
Bogota	82/65/s	---
Buenos Aires	82/65/s	---
Cancun	85/67/r	---
Caracas	87/72/s	---
Guadalajara	74/42/pc	---
La Paz	76/52/s	---
Mexico City	59/46/sh	---
Monterrey	62/38/s	---
Panama City	91/77/r	---
Rio de Janeiro	85/74/r	---
Santiago	85/56/s	---
Sao Paulo	70/65/r	---
Veracruz	68/58/r	---
Atlanta	36/18/sn	---
Calgary	28/10/pc	---
Edmonton	45/43/r	---
Hallifax	40/37/r	---
Montreal	40/37/r	---
Ottawa	31/20/pc	---
St. John's	47/33/pc	---
Toronto	47/33/pc	---
Vancouver	27/22/s	---
Winnipeg	27/22/s	---
Athens	67/50/s	---
Baghdad	58/39/s	---
Beijing	43/20/s	---
Berlin	49/36/r	---
Budapest	48/34/s	---
Cape Town	78/61/pc	---
Dublin	44/35/pc	---
Geneva	48/33/c	---
Helsinki	26/12/pc	---
Jerusalem	56/42/s	---
London	52/37/pc	---
Madrid	52/28/pc	---
Moscow	23/11/c	---
Paris	51/39/r	---
Rome	58/44/sh	---
Seoul	41/17/s	---
Stockholm	29/21/pc	---
Sydney	74/67/t	---
Taipei	71/61/pc	---
Tokyo	52/40/pc	---

Weather: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, f-fog, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, tr-trace