

# CURTAIN UP REVIEWS



**INTO THE WOODS** GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY now at The Arts Theatre through 29 September.

A first-class effort with all cylinders firing to the music of **Stephen Sondheim** in this clever, if at times confusing, retelling of interwoven fairy tales...primarily *Red Riding Hood*, *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and a spacey *Rapunzel*. The performers, directed by **Richard Trevaskis**, are all excellent and in fine voice, especially **Trish Spence**'s bi-polar witch and the two-faced Princes **Steve Rudd** and **Andrew Crispe** (who are really knaves). The plot wickedly restores some of the intrinsic darkness inherent in the original stories.. for example, the brutal lengths to which the step-sisters resort to try fit into Cindy's tiny slipper. The set and costumes by **David Lampard** are a visual delight and the music under the baton of **Ross Curtis** is lively and pleasant. The show lacks a memorable tune to hum on your way home but that's true of most musicals today, sadly. Still, *Into the Woods* is a truly fun outing for young and old.



**MULTI-TALENTED** Narrator **Dave Lampard**, gives **Trish Spence** (the Witch) a G&S opening night hug. Lampard not only acted but designed the striking set and costumes for *Into the Woods*.

**CURTAIN UP REVIEW RATINGS**

 **WOW!** Outstanding, a must-see.

 **EXCELLENT** Solid performance all round.

 **GOOD SHOW** Pleasant evening diversion.

 **VALIANT EFFORT** They gave it a go.. and it went.



**GOOD-BYE GUFFAWS** Director **Richard Trevaskis** enjoys a light moment as *Into the Woods* choreographer **Hazel Green** receives a farewell bouquet from the **Gilbert & Sullivan Society**. Green is moving interstate to Melbourne.