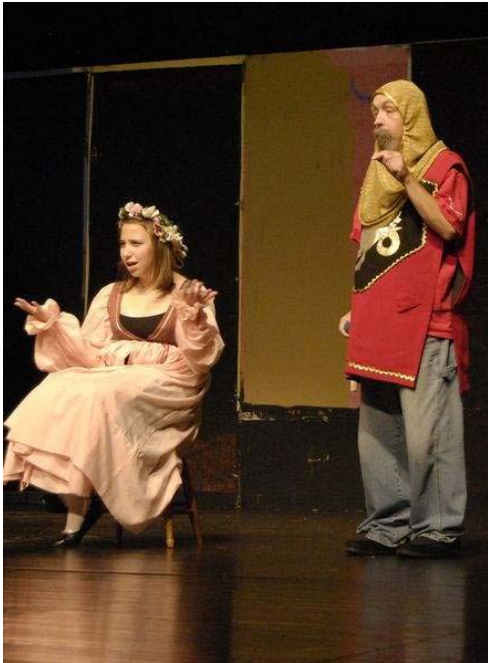


Classic play updated with new music, characters

By Lisa Wakeland • lwakeland@communitypress.com • July 30, 2010

Director Larry Behymer remembers the thrill he felt as a child going to the Taft Theatre to see "Jack and the Beanstalk."



Princess Tulip, played by Abby Winternitz, listens to a plan from her faithful servant Sir Stumble Mumble, played by Garry Hohnecker, during a rehearsal for "Jack and the Giant," which is at the Anderson Center from Aug. 6 - 14.

Now, decades later, he wants the audience to feel that same excitement with the Beechmont Players' production of "Jack and the Giant," which begins Friday, Aug. 6, at the Anderson Center.

The stage adaptation of the classic fairy tale has a modern twist complete with new characters, songs and dance numbers.

"It's an interesting version and when I first read the play I fell in love with it," Behymer said. "It's really good for kids, but has a lot of adult humor."

Max Kamphaus, 17, who plays Jack, said he is excited to be in a role that is much different from his high school plays.

"It's really cool to bring one of the childhood stories to life and I hope the little kids have so much fun," he said.

Steve Phelan, who plays the Giant and stomps around the stage in platform shoes and a hat that make him 8 feet tall, said he is excited about singing his song as Elvis Presley.

Phelan said he and the 25 cast members are working hard to transport the audience to a mythical village.

"Everyone does their best and it comes together magically," he said.

Carolyn Lipchik, assistant director and stage manager, said "Jack and the Giant" is full of fun and imagination but has some important messages.

"I like that this story has so many unique characters and takes you into this world and shows you around," she said.



Grady Lehman, who plays Jack's mother, left, Sheila Mudd Baker, the chicken, Max Kamphaus, who plays Jack, and Tommy Galvin, the troll, rehearse a scene from the Beechmont Players' production of "Jack and the Giant."

The play has both evening and matinee performances and runs through Saturday, Aug. 14.