

Auditions for ISU Theatre's

# BABA

## A new musical by Jessica Kahkoska and Elliah Heifetz

Directed by Cason Murphy  
Musical direction by Patrick Gagnon  
Choreography by Valerie Williams

### **BABA description:**

BABA is a contemporary, climate crisis-driven musical retelling of Russia's Baba Yaga fairytale that takes place in familiar-yet-mythic woods of rural America.

Sylvie, a teenage girl with a passion for the environment lives with her loving father near a mysterious forest—one that provides for them but is rumoured to be haunted by a terrible witch. But when her father marries a wicked woman whose riches come from deforestation, the girl's only hope in saving all she holds dear is venturing deep into the forest that surrounds her home. Racing against time, Sylvie must earn the trust of the mythical witch Baba Yaga, reluctant to help humans after centuries of betrayal.

Weaving together traditional Russian fairy tale, exchanting Americana folk music, and issues of the current climate crisis, this musical poses the question to everyone: How far will we go when our own forest is under threat?

### **Audition Details:**

Thursday, Dec. 2 • 6:00pm-9:30pm • Carver 308

Sign Up online at Sign Up Genius by visiting [here](#).

Or scan the audition sign-up QR code:



Or song video submissions will be accepted [until Dec. 2 at 9:30 pm here](#)

Or scan the video submission QR code:



Dance call and callbacks will be held the evening of Friday, Dec. 3

### **What to Prepare?:**

Prepare a 1-2 minute cut of a contemporary musical theatre, folk, or pop song in the style of one of the characters in the show.

Roles and descriptions are below—along with Spotify playlists compiled by the composer to give a sense of each character’s style.

### **Roles Available:**

**SYLVIE** — female, 16, mezzo soprano, brilliant and brave, think: Greta Thunberg. Sings in a folk-pop style, like Taylor Swift and Lorde in the woods around a campfire in Appalachia. Not too mature—she's a teenager! Needs a very strong singer in the singer-songwriter sense.

[SYLVIE PLAYLIST](#)

**BABA YAGA** — female, can read older, witchy as all hell; the mythic, bony-legged, sharp-toothed witch of the Eastern forests; an enigma of discrepancies, both kind and terrifying, good and evil, all-powerful and all-over-the-place. Needs a singer with an interesting/distinct voice who can belt. Whether that's super low, or super high, or super smoky/rough, the singer must have some serious power/volume and be able to sound “commanding.”

[BABA YAGA PLAYLIST](#)

**KOSCHEI** — male, can read older, bass or baritone; tremendous gravitas, quite captivating with a hint of danger. Low, theatrical, crooner-y, possibly with some gravel or grit. Needs an actor who can sing.

[KOSCHEI PLAYLIST](#)

**SYLVIE’S FATHER** – male, 40s, baritone or tenor; salesperson for various “Saw-it-on-TV” products. Broad, warm voice. Middle-aged good ol' boy, who can be able to sound tender but also corny/like a salesman.

[SYLVIE'S DAD PLAYLIST](#)

**JOY** – female, 30s, soprano; LA influencer yogi type who appears to be the perfect vegan environmentalist but is more than what she seems. Bright, chirpy, cheery, high strung... yet able to be sinister. Needs a very strong singer in the theatrical sense.

[JOY PLAYLIST](#)

**FERN & WILLOW** – Joy’s teenage daughters who are also playing at loving the rural life. FERN is an urban hipster who dresses like a lumberjack but can’t stand the country. WILLOW is the influencer travel blogger #nomadlife. Both are talk-sing-y, sassy, snotty, classic pop princesses. Needs strong actors who can sing.

[FERN & WILLOW PLAYLIST](#)

**ENSEMBLE MEMBERS** – Will play a variety of roles within the world of the musical, from bar patrons to board members to forest creatures. A range and variety of voices needed; performers with strong physical/movement training preferred.

**STUDENT PRODUCTION ROLES** – Students who are interested in the following production roles—ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DRAMATURG, and ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR—should contact Cason Murphy for more information/application.

**Production Details:**

Performances: April 7-10, 2022

Rehearsals for this production will be coordinated through the THTRE 504A: Advanced Musical Theatre Seminar class. **Anyone cast will be required to register for THTRE 504A for the spring semester.** The class will meet Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm for the semester, adding Thursday evenings from 6:00pm-8:00pm starting Feb. 10, and then moving to a 5 night-a-week schedule starting March 7 until production.

**Credit Availability:**

3 credits of THTRE 504A.

**Questions:**

Please contact  
Cason Murphy at [cwmurphy@iastate.edu](mailto:cwmurphy@iastate.edu)