

REIF THEATER ARTS PRESENTS

Disney

THE LITTLE MERMAID



Tuition and registration due before first class. Space is limited!

**1st Class/
Auditions
Sunday, Jan. 7
Performances
April 12-14**

Journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends in *Disney's The Little Mermaid JR.*, adapted from Disney's Broadway production and the motion picture (featuring the enormously popular Academy Award-winning music and delightfully charming book and lyrics). Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories, *Disney's The Little Mermaid JR.* is an enchanting look at the sacrifices we all make for love and acceptance.

In a magical underwater kingdom, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, longs to leave her ocean home — and her fins — behind and live in the world above. But first, she'll have to defy her father, King Triton, make a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, and convince the handsome Prince Eric that she's the girl whose enchanting voice he's been seeking.

Disney's *The Little Mermaid Jr.* is presented through special arrangement with and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International.

Theater Arts build confidence and character. Come make friendships and memories that will last a lifetime!

AUDITION SCHEDULE

3rd-6th Grade Sunday, January 7th, 12:00-2:30pm

7th-12th Grade Sunday, January 7th, 3:00-6:00pm

(Please plan to stay for your entire audition time.)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

JR. ENSEMBLE* (Likely younger cast)

Tuesday & Thurs 3:30-5:00, Some Fridays 3:30-6:30

SR. ENSEMBLE (Likely older cast)

Monday, Wed, Friday 3:30-6:30

PRINCIPALS (MAIN CHARACTERS)

Mon, Wed, Fri 3:30-6:30, Tues & Thurs 3:30-5:30

Not all Cast members will be required for the entirety of every rehearsal. Detailed weekly schedules will depend on casting.

REHEARSALS BEGIN MONDAY, January 8th, 2024

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES. INCLUDE ANY POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH YOUR REGISTRATION.

In addition to the regular schedule these additional rehearsals will take place.

January 22, February 19, March 22 (NO SCHOOL)

We will still have rehearsal these days either at the regular rehearsal time or as daytime rehearsal Times TBD

April 6-11 TECH WEEK

MANDATORY rehearsals-Times TBD

We can work with you on some conflicts but Tech week is crucial. Please make sure these dates are available.

*Students in 1st and 2nd grade will be placed in the Jr. Ensemble and DO NOT need to attend auditions. Space is limited. Which group you are placed in depends on casting. Every role is important. Students who are cast in larger roles will have to attend more rehearsals. If you do not wish to be considered for a main role, please let the director know.

AUDITIONS FOR MATILDA JR. SUNDAY, January 7th @ THE REIF

Grades 3-6 12:00-2:30pm | Grades 7-12 3:00-6:00pm

All participants get a part. Auditions just help me place you where you fit best. Please plan to stay for the entire session of auditions for your age group. Students must be registered and paid before auditions.

How to prepare for auditions:

- ◆ **Listen to the soundtrack.** All songs are available on the Reif Website. Get to know the music and practice singing with the performance tracks. Everyone will sing individually during auditions.
- ◆ **Read the audition sides** that are available on the website. Get to know the characters and try experimenting with saying the parts out loud.
- ◆ **Prepare something to recite at auditions.** This can be anything you have memorized. I want to see how you handle language that you are really comfortable with. It can be a poem, a speech or your favorite commercial. (Returning performers, I challenge you to choose something new each time you audition!) Once you have recited, I may ask you to do it again as though you are stuck in quicksand or as though you smell rotten eggs. This allows me to see how well you take direction and how you handle different feelings or emotions. (Parents, please help your kids understand ahead of time that getting direction does not mean they have done anything wrong. Sometimes kids shut down when they feel like they are being criticized. Taking direction is part of theatre. Sometimes we try things several different ways before we find the “right” one.)
- ◆ **Come ready to dance!** Everyone in the show will dance, some more than others. During auditions, students will learn a bit of choreography and I will be watching for their performance quality and willingness to try new things. Above all, look like you are having fun and the “audience” might not see little mistakes!

Check out the Reif website www.reifcenter.org for the following resources...

- Links to all of the audio tracks. There will be a version of the music with words to help you learn the song. There will also be a version of the music without words for them to practice with once they are comfortable. Students will audition with the version without words.
- Audition sides to get familiar with some of the language used in the show. Audition sides are short scene selections from the script that may be used as part of the audition process. These sides will help you understand the characters and how they interact with each other.

You can choose which song you would like to audition with. This does not mean that you will only be considered for that one role. You may be asked to read for multiple parts. Just remember that every moment counts in auditions. Give it your all even if you are not reading for the part you want. Directors are always looking to see how versatile you can be and how well you take direction.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE...

Students will be required to supply their own footwear for the performance. In addition to shoes, certain items may be required for their costumes as well. Instructions regarding these items will go out after casting and the design process is complete. We do our best to provide costumes but as the cast sizes keep growing, it has become impossible for us to purchase and store everything we need for a musical of this size.

Parents should anticipate volunteering to help. We need help monitoring children during performances, sewing costumes, gathering props, etc. Please let me know how you can help!

REHEARSALS BEGIN MONDAY, January 8th, 2024

PERFORMANCES April 12-14, 2024

Please see page 1 for other important dates.

Register at www.reifcenter.org Questions: Call The Box Office (218)327-5780 or email Katie ksmith@reifcenter.org

Cast of Characters



Ariel Ariel, the heroine of our story, is a mermaid and King Triton's youngest daughter. She is obsessed with everything about the human world, and dreams of becoming a part of life above the water. Hard-headed, naive, and emotional, but also kind hearted.

Prince Eric A human monarch who has no interest of taking the crown. A handsome, affable lad with a buoyant, adventurous nature. After Ariel saves his life, he becomes obsessed with finding her and hearing her voice once more.

Sebastian A crab and advisor to King Triton. A musical virtuoso who is constantly distraught from keeping after Ariel. Despite his paranoia, he can't bring himself to stand in Ariel's way.

Flounder A fish and smitten with Ariel, his best friend. Rambunctious but cautious, fearful of the dangers that lurk in and above the water.

King Triton King of the Sea and Ariel's father. Beneath his imposing presence and commanding nature lurks a harried single father who will do anything to protect his daughters. The death of his wife has also given him an irrational fear of humans.

Mersisters The Mersisters (Aquata, Andrina, Arista, Atina, Adella, Allana) are Ariel's siblings and full of personality and sass

Ursula The banished Sea Witch and sister of King Triton. Supposedly spurned at childhood, she will use whatever method necessary to steal the kingdom and claim it as her own. Malevolent, calculating, and deceptive.

Tentacles The Tentacles are extensions of Ursula, perhaps the poor unfortunate souls who are now trapped in her lair.

Flotsam & Jetsam Eels and Ursula's lackeys. Oily and spineless, they will say anything you want or need to hear.

Scuttle A disheveled seagull and expert in human artefacts. Loudmouthed, optimistic, and a bit ignorant, despite his supposed expertise.

Gulls The Gulls are Scuttle's flock of zany "back-up singers" who help explain human stuff to Ariel.

Grimsby Prince Eric's British guardian. Droll, stuffy, and constantly urging Eric towards his royal duties, specifically marriage.

Chef Louis The French palace chef, diabolical and violent. A culinary perfectionist with an affinity for blades, seafood in particular.

Chefs The Chefs are Chef Louis's assistants.

Carlotta Carlotta is seemingly the castle's primary maid and housekeeper. She is exceptionally kind to Ariel and does her best to make her feel comfortable.

Princesses The neighboring royalty who try everything they can to win the heart of Prince Eric.

Pilot The Pilot is the head sailor on Prince Eric's ship. This nautical expert who entertains the sailors with wild tales of the sea.

Sailors The Sailors are the crew of Prince Eric's ship. They are eager for adventure and ready to tackle a storm.

Seahorse The Seahorse is the court herald for King Triton.

Sea Chorus The storytelling inhabitants of the sea.

Sea Creatures The Sea Creatures are the ensemble under water animals in King Triton's court.

Merfolk The Merfolk of King Triton's Court.

Lagoon Animals The musical inhabitants of Prince Eric's Lagoon who try to convince Prince Eric to kiss Ariel.