

The Little Mermaid Jr. Audition Packet



The Spring 2023 youth theatre production will be *The Little Mermaid Jr.* The shows will run March 31-April 2, 2023. Important dates are:

*Week of January 2

Classes begin – a full matrix of classes and costs can be seen at <http://towntheatre.com/fall-2022-spring-2023-youth-theatre/>. Upon enrollment, you will choose a class day that corresponds with your grade level.

*March 11 – March 30

Students come together for group rehearsals with their cast.

During the group rehearsal time, students can expect a rehearsal schedule that mirrors that of a show as compared to the regular class time. Rehearsals will generally be held within the 5:00 PM/5:30 PM time frame and will conclude no later than 7:00 PM/7:30 PM. Younger students are often dismissed earlier. Students are not called every day, but the rehearsal intensity does pick up. This detailed schedule will be shared no later than February 1. Rehearsals during this period are considered NOT MISSABLE.

*Friday, March 31 (7:00 PM) and Saturday, April 1 (3:00 PM)

Monday/Tuesday classes perform

*Saturday, April 1 (7:00 PM) and Sunday, April 2 (3:00 PM)

Wednesday/Thursday classes perform

We believe the process of auditioning is an important tool for our actors to learn and incorporate it into our curriculum. However, because this is a class, ALL students are cast in the show. For *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, auditions will be held differently than in recent years for our older classes. Please keep reading below so that your student can be as prepared as possible for this process.

We will have two opportunities for parents to ask questions ~ **Monday, Nov. 28 and Monday, Dec. 5** ~ at 5:00 PM in the Town Theatre lobby. Or feel free to email Town's Executive Director at shannon@towntheatre.com.

The Audition Process – please read through this packet in its entirety.

Tuesday and Wednesday students (grades K to 4) will complete their entire audition in class. It will include vocal work, movement and improv. There is no advanced work required of this age group.

Monday/Thursday students (grades 5 to 12)

Auditions will be comprised of two parts – an in-class audition for ALL students (group vocals and dance) and an after-class audition for students interested in major speaking/singing roles.

- a. We have divided the principal characters into four groups. **These characters will be cast from our Monday/Thursday classes only.** Each group has a different list of songs to choose from as well as some required scene work.
- b. Students will select ONE group to audition for. However, on their audition form, they can also note if they want to be considered for characters in the other groups.

- c. Students should practice the attached songs and dialogue that correlate with their preferred group of characters.
- d. These auditions will be held IMMEDIATELY AFTER the first class on Monday, January 2 (for Monday students) and Thursday January 5 (for Thursday students).
- e. Students who do not wish to have a vocal or speaking solo do NOT have to stay for the after-class audition. They will be dismissed at 7:00 PM.
- f. If a student wishes to audition and cannot stay after class on his/her day, there will be a make-up audition on Friday, January 6 at 5:30 PM. Once classes are enrolled, we will have a sign up sheet for the auditions.

Remember! Everyone will get a part no matter what so congrats on getting cast! This is supposed to be a fun experience so have fun and break a fin!

Fun Fact: This audition packet was typed entirely in "Arial" font!

We will share music files after the Christmas show concludes so that your student can practice. The sides are included below.

Group A Characters: Ariel & Mersisters & Flounder:
Required singing (Pick one):

1. "Part of your World" **Page 22 measures #12-52** (*If interested in Ariel or Mersisters*)
2. "She's in Love" **Page 42 Measure # 8-40** (*If interested in Flounder. Sing all parts*)

Required reading: Side #1, Side #2, Side #4

Group B Characters: Sebastian, Scuttle & Chef Louis
Required singing (Pick one):

1. "Under the Sea" **Measure # 1-40**
2. "Human Stuff" **Measure # 1-53**
3. "Les Poisson" **Measure # 1-61**

Required reading for Sebastian and Scuttle: Side #2

Group C Characters: Prince Eric, Grimsby & King Triton
Required singing: "One Step Closer" **Measures # 7-27**

Required Reading: Side #3, Side #4

Group D Characters: Ursula, Flotsam & Jetsam:

Required singing: "Poor Unfortunate Souls" **Page 55 Measures #1-44** (*sing all parts*)

Required dialogue: Side #5

Common Questions

Can I sing without music?

Please sing with the provided instrumental track. We will have these on the days of the auditions but recommend that you listen to the rehearsal tracks and practice on your own with the accompaniment tracks. Remember, these will be provided after the Christmas show.

WHY NOT?

One important thing about on-stage singing is being able to match specific pitches. When you sing a cappella (without music), it is often difficult to hear someone's ability to match pitch. Singing with accompaniment also helps the production team see the student's ability to keep tempo, etc.

Do I need to memorize my song or dialogue?

We strongly encourage your student to memorize their song, if possible. However, they will be permitted to hold music if needed. The scenes do not have to be memorized but we strongly suggest that your student be familiar enough with the text so that he or she is comfortable auditioning.

Which characters will be in each cast?

The Monday and Thursday classes will be cast as Ariel, Sebastian, Flounder, Scuttle, Gulls, Chef Louie, Chefs, Ursula, Flotsam, Jetsam, Prince Eric, King Triton, The Mersisters, The Princesses, Grimsby, Sailors, The Pilot, Carlotta, and various Sea Creatures/Lagoon Animals.

The Tuesday and Wednesday classes will be cast as Sea Creatures, Lagoon Animals, The Seahorse and Creature Chorus. The Tuesday and Wednesday classes will also be featured in a special number/scene that precedes the show. This will give them more stage time and a continued learning opportunity.

How can I have a good audition?

- 1) Know that any time you are in class or at the theatre, you are auditioning! Even now!
- 2) On the day of the audition, be on your best behavior and make good choices where you sit and with whom you sit.
- 3) Sing/speak clearly and make sure to project so we can hear you.
- 4) Practice, practice, practice. You will feel a lot better if you are prepared.
- 5) Look out toward the audience when you are auditioning.
- 6) Don't be afraid to move around a little.
- 7) Be relaxed and confident.
- 8) It's okay to be nervous. It happens to all of us. Whatever happens, just keep going.
- 9) Have fun!

Character Descriptions

Ariel: Ariel, a mermaid who longs to be human. She is a strong singer and dynamic performer. Ariel must be able to convey meaning through gestures once she loses her voice.

Prince Eric: Prince Eric is the adventurous prince who captures Ariel's heart. Charming with a sensitive nature. Prince Eric has a few small solos, but a strong actor is needed for this role.

Sebastian: Sebastian is the meticulous and anxious crab who tries to keep Ariel safe while getting to lead some of the most memorable songs in the show! Looking for a strong singer who can also handle Sebastian's acting range.

Flounder: Flounder is Ariel's best friend who is loyal to the end. This spunky fish also has a show-stopping solo in "She's in Love."

King Triton: King Triton rules the sea and is a force to be reckoned with. This non-singer needs to command the stage as a strong leader but also show the tenderness of a parent.

Mersisters: The Mersisters (Aquata, Andrina, Arista, Atina, Adella, Allana) are Ariel's siblings and full of personality and sass. These are great roles for talented singers and dancers who can create and play six distinctive characters. May be cast as the princesses as well.

Ursula: Ursula is the manipulative sea witch who tries to overthrow King Triton. Looking for a performer who can play the villain while bringing out Ursula's more comedic side. Strong singer.

Creature Chorus: The dark sea creatures are extensions of Ursula, perhaps the poor unfortunate souls who are now trapped in her lair. Looking for a small group who can move as a unit.

Flotsam/Jetsam: Flotsam and Jetsam are Ursula's slippery spies. These electric eels are sinister and sneaky.

Scuttle: Scuttle is the know-it-all seagull who serves as Ariel's expert on humans. He is funny and off-beat. Looking for a singer/actor with great comedic timing who can have fun with Scuttle's oddities.

Gulls: The Gulls are Scuttle's flock of zany "back-up singers" who help explain human stuff to Ariel. These gulls will have a great feature role in the show!

Grimsby: Grimsby is Prince Eric's prim and proper valet. He is rigid in personality and constantly trying to guide Prince Eric towards the throne. While Grimsby does have some singing to do, strong acting trumps singing ability for this role.

Chef Louis: Chef Louis is the over-the-top head chef in the palace. He is always wild and frenetic. This is an excellent featured role for a comedic performer.

Chefs: The Chefs are Chef Louie's assistants.

Carlotta: Carlotta is the headmistress in Prince Eric's palace and Ariel's greatest human ally. This non-singing role needs to be warm and maternal to make Ariel feel welcome.

Princesses: The six Princesses try everything they can to win the heart of Prince Eric. Since none of them possesses the voice Prince Eric is searching for, actresses who can create an exaggerated and comedic personality through song are a must! May be cast also as the Mersisters.

Pilot: The Pilot is the head sailor on Prince Eric's ship. This nautical expert entertains the sailors with wild tales of the sea. The Pilot has a few speaking lines, but his singing voice is most important.

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. This non-singing part is a good role for a young performer with a clear speaking voice.

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

Lagoon Animals: The Lagoon Animals try to convince Prince Eric to kiss Ariel.

Side #1

FLOUNDER

Hey, Ariel! There you are!

ARIEL

Just look, Flounder! The sun, the sand... isn't it the most beautiful place you've ever seen?

FLOUNDER

I dunno, Ariel... I'm not sure we ought to be up here.

ARIEL

Dont be such a guppy!

FLOUNDER

A guppy?!? I'm as brave as you are! I'm not afraid of anything!

ARIEL

What about sharks?

FLOUNDER

Where?!?

ARIEL

Oh, Flounder, you really are a guppy!

FLOUNDER

I am not!

ARIEL

Awww...

(gives FLOUNDER an affectionate pat on the head)

You'll never guess what I found today. Look!

(lifts up a large silver serving fork)

Have you ever seen anything so wonderful in your entire life?

FLOUNDER

Wow! Cool! What is it?

ARIEL

I don't know... but I bet Scuttle will! Come on, I'll race you!

FLOUNDER

Hey, wait for me!

Side #2

Ariel! Are you okay?

FLOUNDER

Oh child, what have you done?

SEBASTIAN

(After a moment, ARIEL sits up and stares at her new legs in wonderment. Slowly and shakily she tries to stand, sticking her arms out for balance... then falls on her rear. SCUTTLE flaps in.)

SCUTTLE

Well, look who got beached! Hiya, Ariel! Wait, there's something different about cha. Don't tell me, it's your hairdo, right? You've been using the dinglehopper!

(ARIEL shakes her head no_

Nah? Hmm... I can't quite put my foot on it right now.

SEBASTIAN

She's got legs, you idiot!

FLOUNDER

Ariel traded her voice to the Sea Witch to become human!

SCUTTLE

Nah, kid! Not your beautiful pipes!

(ARIEL nods. She opens her mouth, but no sound.)

SEBASTIAN

Ya see? Not a sound! What would her father say? I'll tell ya what her father'd say: he'd say he's gonna kill himself a crab, that's what he'd say!

FLOUNDER

Now she's got three days to make Prince Eric fall in love with her. And to prove it, he's gotta kiss her!

SCUTTLE

The Prince? Well, I'll say!

Side #3

PRINCE ERIC

Now, suppose I don't want to be King...

GRIMSBY

I swore an oath to your dear father on his death bed that I'd turn you from a roustabout into a royal and have you married to a princess.

PRINCE ERIC

Ugh!

GRIMSBY

By your next birthday, which is now just three days away!

PRINCE ERIC

Did you ever try to take a princess sailing? It's a joke! Their dresses get caught in the rigging. And most of them can't even swim.

GRIMSBY

You know, there's more to a woman than her flutter kick. Our kingdom needs a queen!

PRINCE ERIC

Where am I gonna find her, Grimbsy? A girl who's as carefree and alive as the sea itself. Where?

(PRINCE ERIC stares out to sea.)

It's too much to hope for, isn't it? Somewhere, out there... a girl who's a match for a guy like me?

GRIMSBY

Perhaps you're not looking hard enough.

PRINCE ERIC

Trust me, Grimbsy. When I come across the girl of my dreams, it'll hit me like lightning.

Side #4

ARIEL

And now let me see... what did Scuttle call this one? Is it a ditty-whumper? A thumb-doodle? Whatever it is... Prince Eric held it in his own strong, beautiful human hands.

(An enraged KING TRITON bursts in.)

KING TRITON

Ariel!

(taken aback by the collection of human stuff)

What is all this?!?

ARIEL

Daddy, they're my -

KING TRITON

Human junk!

ARIEL

No, treasures!

KING TRITON

Did you save a human from drowning?

ARIEL

He would've died!

KING TRITON

That savage brute could have killed you! And it's my job to keep you safe from harm.

ARIEL

But he didn't frighten me. He made me feel... wonderful! Besides, I am not a child anymore!

KING TRITON

No? Well, you are certainly talking like one. He's a human and you're a mermaid.

ARIEL

It doesn't matter. You don't understand! I wish mother were here!

KING TRITON

(takes a moment to recover from the low blow)

Ariel, I miss your mother just as much as you do. But I am still the king. And you are not to go to the surface ever again. Am I clear?!?

Side #5

Ursula: *(Speaking to Flotsam and Jetsam)* Use a little black magic to help out a few merfolk, and this is the thanks I get! Well, now it's time to turn the tides on Triton...You two find out what that girl really wants then lure her here to my lair. I'll whip up a little spell to make her dreams come true. Once we have her trapped, Triton will rush to her rescue. And then, my dears...the trident, crown, and throne will be mine!

Jetsam/Flotsam: *(Trying to get Ariel to go to Ursula)* Poor, sssweet, misssunderstood child. She has a very ssserious problem, hasn't she? Who will ease her woes and worries? Who will help her get her man? Perhaps the Sea Witch can! She's been dying to help you!