

Points to Ponder

You are about to see *The Rose's Production of Disney's The Little Mermaid* performed live on stage! To get ready for the story, here are some questions you might want to talk about as you wait for the show to begin:



• This is a story about a mermaid from under the sea who wants to be a part of the human world above the surface. Would you be excited to live under the sea? How would your life be different if you lived underwater?

• This stage musical is based on the Disney's animated classic *The Little Mermaid*. Have you ever seen the movie? What are your favorite parts? How do you think this stage version might be different?

• If you have seen the animated film, you know that Ariel likes to collect objects that are a part of the world of humans. Do you have any collections? What do you like to collect and why is it important to you? Do you have a favorite item in your collection?

Cast & Credits

Cast
 Ariel Torisa Walker
 Prince Eric Marcel A. Daly
 Grimsby Kevin Olsen
 Scuttle Bill Grennan*
 Flounder Grace Titus
 King Triton Joe Dignoti
 Sebastian Camellia Yvonne Watkins
 Flotsam Joseph T. O'Connor
 Jetsam Jonathan Smith
 Ursula Heather Wilhelm
 Chef Louis/Male Ensemble John E. Jones
 Atina/Princess/Maid Rachel Busse
 Adella/Princess Zhomontee Watson
 Arista/Princess Olivia Jones
 Aquata/Princess Angela Gilbert
 Andrina/Princess/Maid Ali Foley
 Allana/Princess/Ariel U.S. Sierra Lancaster
 Female Ensemble Lucy Kupka, Gigi Hausman, Olivia Hess, Lizzy Fleissner, Mikaela Celine
 Male Ensemble Ryan McCann, Payton Johnson, Jake Williams, Drew Cota (Flounder U.S.), Kevin Mikuls (Prince Eric U.S.)

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, appearing under a Special Appearance Contract.

Artistic/Production Credits

Director Matthew Gutschick
 Musical Director Kevin Smith
 Scenic Designer Tim McMath*
 Choreographer Sue Gillespie Booton
 Lighting Designer Craig Moxon
 Production Stage Manager Ashleigh-Dawn Kriegh-Fleming
 Costume Designer Sherri Geerdes
 Projection Designer Brittany Merenda
 Director of Production Erin Solemsaas
 Technical Director Greg Rishoi, Grant Hilgenkamp
 Asst. Stage Manager Meghan Boucher
 Props Master Christopher Dills
 Costume Shop Foreman/Hair & Makeup Designer Erin Bragg
 Costume Construction Audio Helkuik, Clayton Shellgren, Liz Spray, Talia Duran, Karen Warnes
 Scenic Charge Lauren Crabtree
 Master Carpenter Robert Ortiz
 Carpenters Diana Lynch, Shad Clark, Avi Littky, Chloe Fulbright, Jacob Thielen
 Master Electrician Laura Hensley
 Fly Rail Operator Zach Ackerman, Chasen Pietryga
 Spot Operator Shane Litton, Amanda Harris

*The scenic designer of *The Little Mermaid* is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE.

Orchestra

Bass Tom Miller
 Cello Hannah Mayer
 Drums Ben Samson
 Horn Louis Stout
 Keyboards Kay Johnson, Amy Nunamaker, Katherine Turner
 Percussion Megan Durham
 Reeds Mark Benson, Michael Prucha, Andrea Smith
 Trumpet Clayton Rego
 Violins Claudia Holm, Cecilia Jensen
 Conductor Kevin Smith

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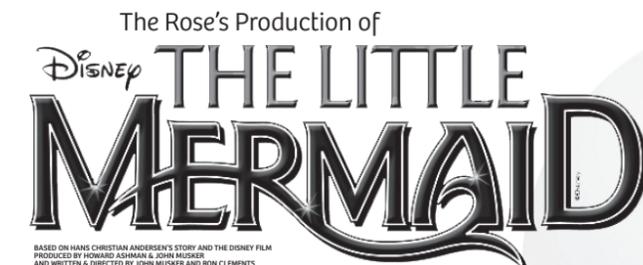
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Opening Night Sponsor:



BEYOND the CURTAIN



BASED ON HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S STORY AND THE DISNEY FILM PRODUCED BY HOWARD ASHMAN & JOHN MUSKER AND WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOHN MUSKER AND RON CLAMENTS. ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS. Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018. Phone: 212-944-4884. Fax: 212-397-4684. www.MTIshows.com.



About the Play

As Ariel, the Little Mermaid, dreams of a life above the ocean's surface, Prince Eric dreams of a life at sea away from all the responsibilities and burdens of being the head of a royal family. Ariel's adventurous spirit gets her in trouble when she and her best finny friend, Flounder, are caught going to the surface to consult about amazing "human stuff" with "knowledgeable" seagull, Scuttle, instead of appearing in Sebastian the Royal Musician's under the sea concert. King Triton bans Ariel from going to the surface, but she remains upset that her father doesn't understand how much she wants to be part of that world. Ariel's mersisters and Sebastian try to help Ariel and her father understand one another to no avail. When Triton loses his temper and destroys Ariel's collection of thinga-ma-bobs (she's got 20) and other treasures from the human world, she runs off to make a bargain with Ursula (the Sea Witch and Triton's power-hungry sister.) Ursula offers Ariel the opportunity to leave her under-the-sea life behind to become a human herself and join Prince Eric in his world. Will Ariel leave her family forever, and what will become of the merpeople if Ursula is able to usurp her brother Triton's position as Royal Ruler of the Seas?

COMING SOON!

2016-17 Season
GOODNIGHT MOON

SHREK THE MUSICAL



BEHIND THE SCENES SPOTLIGHT



Meet the Musical Director

We are delighted to welcome Kevin Smith back to Omaha as our Music Director for Disney's The Little Mermaid! Kevin has been a part of many Rose Theater programs and productions including working as the music educator for the Broadway at The Rose program and as a performer in You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown. We asked him to tell us more about his work on Disney's The Little Mermaid!

Q: Can you tell us a little about your job as the Music Director for Disney's The Little Mermaid? What does a music director do to get a musical ready for an audience?

A: A music director starts the process by teaching the cast all of the songs and harmonies, but the most important part of my job with the cast is making sure that the actor(s) are capable of telling their story through song. The other part of my job is to hire musicians to play in the pit. This is one of my most favorite parts of the job. It becomes important to makes sure the orchestra accompanies the cast in a way that enhances the story without overpowering the voices on stage.

Q: When you are asked to serve as the musical director for a production like Disney's The Little Mermaid, what are your first steps? Can you tell us what your music rehearsals are like?

A: My first step begins with learning the score inside and out. It is important to be able to play the score in a way that mimics the orchestrations, since all of our rehearsals are with piano only. Once we get to the final week before opening, we add the orchestra for the first time. The orchestra only has three rehearsals before they meet the cast, but the first time is a very magical evening for the cast.

Q: This stage musical has been adapted from a much-loved Disney animated movie musical. What are some of your favorite moments in this stage musical version of this story?

A: I would have to say that I love the songs added for Flotsam & Jetsam "Sweet Child"; Flounder and the Mersisters "She's In Loue"; Eric's "Her Voice"; and the "If Only" quartet with Ariel,

Eric, Sebastian and Triton. These songs give deeper character elements that are not available in the movie.

Q: Does the music for this show present any special challenges?

A: I think that the trickiest moments on this score are the underscoring sections. These are the parts of music that accompany the scenes without any singing. There are a lot of these sections and they give the audience a feeling of the characters emotions. The trick is to keep these sections of music the same, timed perfectly, from night to night.

Q: What is your favorite part of being a music director? What is one of the most challenging things about your job?

A: My favorite part of music directing is getting the chance to work with all of the actors, getting to know everyone in the cast and their amazing talents; as well as conducting/rehearsing the orchestra which fills The Rose theater with glorious music.

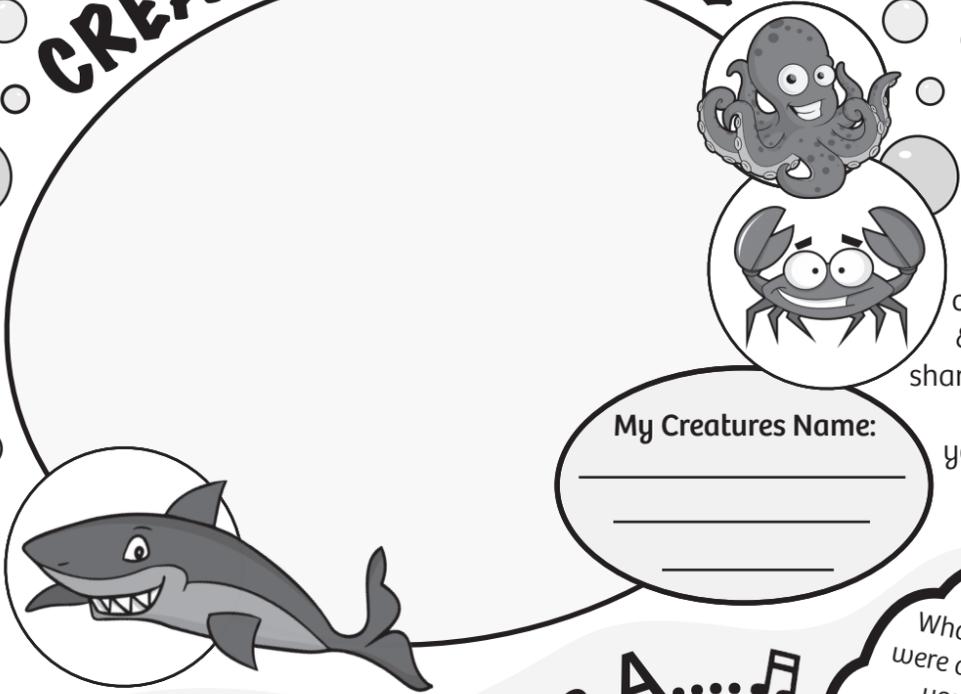
Q: What are some of your favorite musicals? What you do like about those shows?

A: I have to admit that *The Little Mermaid* is a score that I have wanted to conduct for many years and I am delighted to have the chance to make this dream come true. This is a hard question because there are many shows that I enjoy. I will have to speak from recent experience, as this past season I was able to Music Direct both *Next To Normal* and *A Little Night Music* in New York. They are both amazing scores and I feel very fortunate to have had a chance to bring them to life!

Thank you so much for sharing your work with us, Kevin!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

CREATE A CREATURE



My Creatures Name:

Can You Survive A... VOICE VACATION?!

In order to become a human, Ariel makes a bargain with Ursula and gives up her voice. How would your days be different if you had no voice? Try an experiment at home communicate with your friends and family without talking. Use gestures and pantomime what you are trying to say!

How did you communicate with your family or friends without using your voice?

What were 3 things that were difficult to do because you could not speak?

How did you communicate with your family or friends without using your voice?

Ariel and her family are mer-folk, imaginary under-the-sea creatures that are part-human and part-fish. Can you use your imagination and your sketching skills to dream up another half human/half sea creature creation? Perhaps a combination of human & octopus or human & shark or human & lobster! What will you name your new mythological magical mer-folk?

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

Autographs

Write to us!

If you have questions or comments about the show, let us know!

Send letters to:

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