

Centerstage Academy
presents



June 27-28, 2014

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Audition Information

We are excited about our upcoming production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast!* Prior to auditions, you should receive an audition packet with the following materials:

- Audition Information
- Audition Form
- Guidelines & Contract
- Character Breakdown
- Audition Sides
- Biography Questionnaire
- Costume Measurement Form
- Program Ad Form
- Audition Cheat Sheet
- Vocal Demo CD



When Are Auditions?

Auditions will be held Saturday, **January 18** between 9:00am and 6:00pm by appointment only. Callbacks may be scheduled for Sunday, **January 19** between 2:00-5:00pm. Overflow appointments will be arranged as needed. Please schedule your audition time through the studio office at (757) 890-0175. Here are a few things to remember as you prepare for the audition.

What's Different About This Production?

We are planning for this production to be a large-scale event that gives our theatre students a more "professional" stage experience. We are in the process of renting the **James-York Playhouse** (200 Hubbard Lane, Wmbg) for our mainstage performances. This 300 seat theatre is newly constructed, with graduated seating for increased visibility and state-of-the-art lighting and sound.



We are also challenging our students with the full-scale, **original Broadway version** of this classic musical (not the junior or high school edition). We make theatre education a priority with all of our shows, but this will certainly provide everyone--beginners AND veterans--with the opportunity for personal growth and artistic excellence!

About the Original Broadway Version



Step into the enchanted world of Broadway's modern classic! Based on the Academy-Award winning animated feature, the stage version includes all of the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice.

Audiences are transported to the heart of provincial life in a lovely French town. When Maurice becomes lost in the woods on the way to the fair, he seeks shelter in an old castle, but the master of the castle is a horrible beast that takes him captive. Maurice's daughter, Belle, must then give up her freedom to save his life. Belle's taming of the unfortunate Beast and his ultimate transformation back into a handsome prince enthralled Broadway audiences for over 13 years.

Fun Facts

In 1991, the animated feature *Beauty and the Beast* became the first "cartoon" to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture. Prompted by the unprecedented success of the film, and by critics likening the music to that of a Broadway score, Disney executives began to develop a stage version with an eye toward the Great White Way. Of course, award-winning composer Alan Menken would write the new songs needed for the expanded story, but with the untimely death of his writing partner Howard Ashman, a new lyricist was needed. Tim Rice, who had already worked with Menken on additional material for the Aladdin Film, was asked to contribute. In all, the pair wrote seven new songs. In addition, the song "Human Again," with lyrics by Ashman but cut from the film, would be restored for the stage.



Disney's Beauty and the Beast first premiered at Houston's Theater Under the Stars in December 1993. There were 40 performances in Texas before the show opened at Broadway's Palace Theater on April 18, 1994. The original cast included Susan Egan as Belle, Terrence Mann the Beast, and Tom Bosley (of TV's happy Days) as Belle's father, Maurice. Disney's unmatched reputation for quality family entertainment was clearly in evidence, as the show broke box office records for single-day ticket sales.



Disney's Beauty and the Beast was nominated for nine 1994 Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

In 1999, Disney decided to move the show to the Lunt-Fontanne theater in order to make room for its production of *Aida* at the Palace. *Disney's Beauty and The Beast* was slightly scaled down, but lost none of its trademark Disney magic.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast celebrated thirteen years on Broadway, and after 5,464 performances is currently the 8th longest running musical in Broadway history. Over the years, several prominent stars assumed the role of Belle, including Andrea McArdle, Deborah Gibson, and Christy Carlson Romano. In 1998, when pop sensation Toni Braxton played the part, the song "A Change In Me" was added to the score and remains in the show.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast has been performed in over 15 countries and 7 languages around the world.



Who Can Audition?

Auditions are open to anyone in **grades 6-12**. Younger students may be allowed to audition by invitation only. Auditions are especially for students who want to try out for a featured speaking role. Students who want to participate as part of the chorus or ensemble are not required to audition, however we would love to have this opportunity to meet with you individually.

Music Theatre Class

This production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* is part of a Music Theatre class. Classes/rehearsals will be held from February through June. **Tuition** will be charged those six months: \$108/month (10% discount for currently enrolled students).

A **Registration Fee** (\$70) for new students (one-time annual fee) is due at registration when you pick up your audition packet and sign up for an audition time. This is non-refundable. It covers the cost of the audition materials and audition expenses. A **Materials/Costume Fee** (\$75) is due before auditions. It covers CDs, script rental and costume rental/construction. This is usually paid at time of registration.

There will be **no other expenses** or fees throughout the production, other than tickets and optional purchases such as headshots or t-shirts.

We are very fortunate to have the BEST parent volunteers to coordinate and sew our costumes, as well as other Centerstage volunteers to build the sets. Without the gift of their services, our production costs would be much higher. Please thank them with your assistance!

Auditions for Speaking & Singing Roles

Students interested in a featured singing/speaking role (with lines or solo), should prepare a script and/or vocal audition, as indicated in the **Character Breakdown**. Auditions Sides are included in this audition packet, and contain the excerpts of the script we expect the students to prepare and ideally memorize. Check the Character Breakdown to determine which side to use based on the character for which you are auditioning.

Many of the characters are required to do a vocal audition. The specific song will vary by character. Check the Character Breakdown to see what is expected for your character. Prepare it to the best of your ability – we'll be listening for vocal clarity and precision, but also for your ability to portray your character (and his/her emotions) through the song. You will be asked to present this song with the accompaniment only either in its entirety or in part. It's best if you know the entire song well and are able to sing it memorized.

In addition to your prepared presentations, we will most likely ask you to do a "cold" reading as well, one that you haven't prepared in advance, just to see how you can adapt to a variety of roles and directives.

Audition Tips

The following tips are helpful when preparing the singing/acting excerpts for the audition (you can also look on the back of your audition forms to see how you will be evaluated by the audition panel):

1. **Projection:** Speak or sing with a loud voice, so that you can be *heard* at the back of the auditorium.
2. **Enunciation:** Speak clearly, not too fast, so that you can be *understood* at the back of the auditorium.
3. **Expression:** Use good expression with your vocal, facial and body movements.
4. **Eye Contact:** Look up and out at your audience.
5. **Movement:** Feel free to move around and use as much stage space as you need.
6. **Exaggeration:** Use motions, voice, expressions that are appropriate for stage performance.
7. **Characterization:** Show us that you ARE the character, not just someone reading their lines.

The auditions will be individual, with only one student at a time in front of an audition panel of 4-6 people. This is a casual audition of approximately 15 minutes and will be done in a non-intimidating manner. Just relax and be yourself, then show us how you can "become" your character. The auditions may be recorded so that we can review them again later as we make casting decisions.

For more tips on auditions, we have included an extra "cheat sheet" that gives six tips for a successful audition: *What Every Performer Should Know Before They Audition*. It is general information designed to help with a variety of audition experiences.



Audition Time & Location

Be sure you know your specific audition time, and plan to arrive a few minutes early. Auditions will be held at Centerstage, downstairs to the right, in **Studio 16**. You may wait in the reception area until we come out to greet you!

Please complete and bring the following, which are included in this packet:

- **Audition Form**
- **CURRENT PICTURE**
- **Guidelines & Contract**
- **Biography Questionnaire**
- **Costume Measurements**
- **Audition Sides**

Call Backs & Casting

The auditions are designed to place you in roles that are most suited for you, where you can grow as performers and develop your theatre skills. This is a large cast production, and there is something for everyone—both beginners and veterans alike. Everyone will be a part of the production!

We may find it necessary meet with a few students again. In that case, we would call those students for Call Backs on Sunday between 2:00-5:00pm.

Casting is usually done within a week and will be announced via **email** and **posted online**. Once you know what character(s) you'll be portraying, start memorizing your lines and songs! Memorization is only the first basic step—and that must be done as quickly as possible so that we can get to the blocking and characterizations.



What Role Will I Get?!

Students should be aware that casting will be very competitive!! We are expecting a large number of performers to audition for this production.



Please be aware that you will be expected to take the role to which you are assigned and perform it to the best of your ability—whatever it is. Casting decisions are made based on several factors, including audition performance, past experience, maturity, cooperation level, and how well they “fit” both the roles and the cast as a whole. There will be many students who excel at the above criteria and who could excel at any given role. Remember this is a performing arts school—you are auditioning with other strong performers. We will have to make tough decisions based on small details. This is part of the learning process. As tough as it seems here, it’s even tougher out there! Learning to take any role and make it your best is a learned skill for both on stage and off. Those that succeed have mastered that skill.

Performances

We have 3 performances scheduled for June 27-28, 2013 (Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 2pm and 7pm). The performances are expected to be held at the James-York Playhouse.

Tickets will be available for purchase online, with reserved seating. Ticket prices TBD. Complimentary tickets will be given out to those assisting with the production.



Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held at Centerstage primarily on Fridays and Saturdays. We will do our best to arrange rehearsals around cast conflicts and schedules. Dress rehearsals and performances are of course mandatory.

Production Help

This is a large production, with lots of creative possibilities. We will need the help of volunteers to make this a successful show. Specifically, we'll need parents and or older siblings to help with make-up and hair, costume changes, lighting, ticket sales, promotion, program ads and concessions. We'll also need lots of help with costumes!! Please indicate on your audition form the area you would be able to serve.

Program Ads

We will be selling program ads to help support the cost of the production. Please encourage business owners you know to purchase an ad (forms are included in the packet). It's great exposure! We'll have several packed performances, and families always keep their programs as a souvenir. In addition, parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, neighbors and even pets are encouraged to put in a congratulatory (break-a-leg) ad for their favorite cast member. Surprise them before the show with a personal message that tells them how proud you are!

Contact Information

If you have questions regarding the auditions or any matters regarding the production, please feel free to contact me via email or call the studio office with a message. I will be able to answer most emails the same day.

Rebecca Lowe, Director

Rebecca@SpotlightOnCenterstage.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 2:00-7:00pm

(757) 890-0175

www.SpotlightOnCenterstage.com

