

Audition Information for Tale As Old as Time

If your child would like to be considered for a lead role they will NEED to supply an audition both acting and singing. This is not meant to be scary but a way for me to see what they are able to do so that the roles can be cast prior to the commencement of the program. If your child does not wish to audition they will form part of the ensemble. They still can get speaking roles (if they would like one) and will learn the singing and dancing and be quite busy on stage in a variety of different roles.

Acting Audition

The children who are wanting to audition for a lead role will need to submit a video audition reading some lines. Please note that this MAY NOT be the role that the student is wanting to try out for but it should give me an idea of their ability.

Singing Audition

The student can either sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY or sing a song of their own choice without vocals (backing track or acapella). This can only be approx. 30-60 seconds.

Character Description Tale As Old as Time

Narrators

The Narrators must be able to speak clearly, enunciate and project, as they guide the focus and pace of this beautiful tale. They can read the lines from their script. These roles are non-singing and will also be a part of the ensemble.

Belle (lead)

Belle is a smart, confident young woman from a small village. You needs to be a strong singer and actor who is able to stand up to Gaston while showing compassion for Maurice, the Servants and eventually the Beast.

Maurice (lead)

Maurice is an aging and eccentric inventor, but more importantly, the adoring and protective father of Belle. This non-solo singing role is perfect for the student who can have fun interpreting this crazy old man while conveying some very strong emotions: fear and fatherly love.

Beast (lead)

The Beast is a young prince who was hideously transformed by the Enchantress s spell. Casting for size is not as important as choosing a student who can handle this complex character: a dictator, a hurt child, a hero, a defender and a smitten prince.

Gaston (lead)

Gaston is pompous and dim-witted and will do whatever it takes to win Belle's hand. Gaston has all the confidence in the world but lacks the humility to balance it. Finding a strong singer and actor is more important than physical size and stature for this role. He has to be able to sell his big eponymous number with gusto and arrogance. Biceps can be added to the costume, but the bravura needs to come from within.

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Lefou (lead)

Lefou is Gaston's equally dim-witted lackey. This character needs to be Gaston's foil and should double the laughs for them both. Lefou should be able to sing, act and dance.

Lumiere (lead)

Lumiere is a confident, charming French maître d who (under the enchantress' spell) is becoming a candelabra. He/she has an incessant bickering rapport with Cogsworth, so consider auditioning in pairs to find a good fit. Lumiere should be a strong singer who can light up the stage in Be Our Guest. Being able to add the French accent would be a plus! This role covers a range of emotions (from charming entertainer to brave soldier) and requires prominent song and dance.

Cogsworth (lead)

Cogsworth is the British major-domo of the castle who is becoming a clock. Like all of the castle's Servants, he shows a fatherly compassion for Belle yet is perfectly submissive to the master, the Beast. Cogsworth enjoys feeling like the boss and has no problem getting into it with Lumiere.

Mrs. Potts (lead)

Mrs. Potts is the castle's endearing cook who is becoming a teapot. The actor you cast needs a strong, sweet voice and should be able to convey comforting, maternal qualities amidst the chaos that is breaking out in the castle.

Babette (lead)

Babette is the maid of the castle who is turning into a feather duster. She misses the finer things in life. Babette is happy to be at Belle's service at a moment's notice. She needs to have a strong speaking and singing voice.

Old Beggar Woman/Enchantress (minor lead)

The Old Beggar Woman/Enchantress should be portrayed by an actor with a flair for the visually dramatic as this is a non-speaking role. Her transformation in the Prologue needs to entice the audience into the story.

Monsieur D'arque (minor lead)

Monsieur D'Arque is the proprietor of the lunatic asylum. This role needs to convincingly exude his sinister personality. Speaking role only.

Servants (ensemble)

The Servants of the castle can include Statues, a Dust Pan, Flatware, Plates, an Egg Timer, Napkins, a Carpet, Salt & Pepper Shakers and any other household (or castle hold items) you and your cast can imagine. These enchanted characters are the Rockettes of the castle.

Villagers (ensemble)

The Villagers are the inhabitants of Belle's town. There are some featured solos and lines that will come from this ensemble (Bookseller, Baker, etc.). The group must provide vocal power throughout the show and dance in the production numbers.

Wolves (ensemble)

Non speaking or singing. Just howling and movement like wolves

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Someone else can read the other part or parts for their audition or they can read both.

Acting Audition piece 1: Narrators

(don't have to learn of by heart but read loud, clearly and confidently).

The Prince tried to apologize, but it was too late, for she had seen that there was no love in his heart.

As punishment, she transformed him into a hideous beast and placed a powerful spell on the castle and all who lived there.

Ashamed of his monstrous form, the Beast concealed himself inside his castle with a magic mirror as his only window to the outside world.

Acting Audition piece 2: Belle or Maurice

MAURICE

Oh, I'll never get this bone-headed contraption to work!

BELLE

Yes, you will! And you'll win first prize at the fair tomorrow.

MAURICE

Well... we'd better get cracking then! Now let me see, where did I put that dog-legged clencher?

BELLE

Papa...(holds out a funny-looking tool)

MAURICE

Oh... thank you, dear. (takes the tool and starts tinkering) So... did you have a good time in town today?

BELLE

I got a new book.

MAURICE

You do love those books. (MAURICE ducks behind the invention.)

BELLE

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Papa... do you think I'm... odd?

MAURICE

My daughter! Odd? (re-appears with silly-looking goggles) Now where would you get an idea like that?

BELLE

I don't know. It's just... I'm not sure I fit in here. There's no one I can really talk to.

MAURICE

What about Gaston? He's a handsome fellow.

BELLE

He's handsome all right... and rude and conceited and— oh Papa, he's not for me!

MAURICE

Well, don't you worry, 'cause this invention's going to be the start of a new life for us. (MAURICE pulls a lever. The invention chugs to life.)

Acting Audition Piece 3: Belle or Gaston

(GASTON enters approaching BELLE's cottage. BELLE enters carrying a flowerpot and sees GASTON. There's nowhere to hide!)

BELLE (plasters a fake smile on her face) Gaston? What a... pleasant surprise. (BELLE sets the flowerpot down.)

GASTON

Isn't it, though? I'm just full of surprises. (With BELLE's back turned, GASTON plucks the flowers from the pot and hands them to her.) For you... mademoiselle.

BELLE

(taking the flowers) Oh, Gaston... (looks at the pot, sighs)... you shouldn't have.

GASTON

Don't mention it. Belle, this is the day your dreams come true!

BELLE

What could you possibly know about my dreams, Gaston?

GASTON

Plenty! Picture this. A rustic hunting lodge. My little wife massaging my feet while the strapping boys play on the floor with the dogs. We'll have six or seven.

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BELLE

Dogs?

GASTON

No, boys!

BELLE

Imagine that!

GASTON

So Belle, what'll it be?

BELLE

I just don't deserve you.

GASTON Who does?

BELLE

But thanks for asking! (Gaston exits and says to audience) One day, mark my words, you will be mine.

Acting Audition Piece 4: Lumiere or Cogsworth or Mrs Potts

LUMIERE

What were we thinking? We will never be human again.

MRS. POTTS

Well, what would you have us do? Give up? I like this girl. I like her spunk.

COGSWORTH

Well, if you ask me, she was just being stubborn. After all, he did say "please."

MRS. POTTS

I think that may be the first time I've ever heard him use that word. (BELLE pokes her head out of her room.) Hello, dearie. I hope the Master didn't frighten you too much. He can be a little temperamental.

BELLE

A little?

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COGSWORTH

I am Cogsworth, head of the household. And this is Lumiere...

LUMIERE

(kisses BELLE's hand) Enchanté, mademoiselle.

COGSWORTH

If there is anything we can do to make your stay more comfortable. Anything... anything at all!

BELLE

I am a little hungry.

COGSWORTH

Except that.

MRS. POTTS

Cogsworth!

COGSWORTH

Well, you heard what the Master said!

MRS. POTTS

Oh, pish tosh! I'm not about to let the poor child go hungry!

COGSWORTH

Fine. Glass of water, crust of bread and then-

LUMIERE

Cogsworth! She's not a prisoner, she's our guest! We must make her feel welcome here!

COGSWORTH

All right, dinner. But keep it down! If the Master finds out, it'll be our necks!

LUMIERE

Of course... of course! But what is dinner without a little music?

COGSWORTH

Music?

LUMIERE

Ma chere mademoiselle, it is with deepest pride and greatest pleasure that we welcome you tonight. And now we invite you to relax. Let us pull up a chair as the dining room proudly presents... your dinner!

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Acting Audition Piece 5: Lefou or Gaston

GASTON

Who does she think she is? That girl has tangled with the wrong man!

LEFOU

Darn right!

GASTON

No one says no to Gaston! Dismissed! Rejected! Publicly humiliated! It's more than I can bear.

LEFOU

Bear? Where?!? (LEFOU ducks behind GASTON and shudders.)

GASTON

Oh, Lefou... I'm disgraced.

LEFOU

(emerges from behind GASTON) Who, you? Never! Gaston, you've got to pull yourself together.