

“The Little Mermaid” Character Descriptions

Please email info@upstageproductions.org with any questions.

ALL roles are listed with “appear” to be...**it doesn’t matter how old you are**, just what you can portray on stage (with hair/makeup).

ARIEL (15-18) (female)

Ariel is a strong-willed teenaged mermaid who longs to be human. She possesses a keen curiosity for the world both under and above the sea – much to the chagrin of her father, King Triton. Bighearted, she’s more accepting of and delighted by others’ differences than most of her fellow merfolk, but she also has a rebellious streak that can get her into trouble. A mezzo soprano. **MUST** be able to act with her face and body for all of Act 2 since she loses her voice.

PRINCE ERIC (17-25) (male)

Prince Eric is the adventurous human monarch who captures Ariel’s heart. Charming and sensitive in nature, he has a warm voice and demeanor that evoke his flair for romance. There is also a stubborn side to the Prince, who is determined to do whatever it takes to get what he wants – including the girl with the mysterious voice. Tenor.

GRIMSBY (50-up) (male)

Grimsby is Prince Eric’s prim and proper valet. Rigid in bearing and personality, he is constantly trying to guide Prince Eric toward the throne and a suitable bride fit for a royal marriage. Under his stern demeanor, Grimsby truly is fond of Eric, whom he worries about and attends to as though his own son. Though he has a few small solos, Grimsby needn’t be a strong singer – you should feel free to speaking this part.

FLOUNDER (9-13) (male or female, but played as a male)

Flounder is Ariel’s sincere and sensitive best friend who rarely leaves her side. A spunky fish with a sweet sense of humor, he can be awkward and anxious around his unrequited crush. Tenor.

SCUTTLE (13-30) (male or female) Scuttle is the know-it-all seagull who serves as Ariel's expert on all things human. Garrulous and off-beat, Scuttle's eccentricities are more endearing than aggravating. Even as he makes up ridiculous names and functions for common human objects, his intentions are friendly and his enthusiasm is infectious. Comic relief. Tenor.

KING TRITON (50 – up) (male)

King Triton, King of the Sea and a harried single father to seven girls, struggles to balance his political and paternal powers. A widower, Triton is as fond of his daughters as he is frustrated with their teenage angst. Even when unsure of his parenting technique, he is a tender patriarch who becomes a royal force to be reckoned with when Ariel's safety and happiness is threatened by his sister, the Sea Witch Ursula. Baritone.

SEBASTIAN (18 – 35) (male or female)

Sebastian is the choirmaster of King Triton's court who has a flair for the dramatic. A meticulous and uptight crab, Sebastian is ever-anxious, whether he's conducting a concert premiere or protecting Ariel from Ursula. When he's performing – which is almost always – he's undeniably charismatic. His movement should be more fidgety than fluid, and he should be able to perform a broad send-up of a Caribbean accent (rather than an authentic Jamaican one). Half the battle is swapping out all "TH" sounds with "D". Tenor.

MERSISTERS (18 – up) (female)

Aquata, Andrina, Arista, Atina, Adella, and Allana are the daughters of King Triton and sisters to Ariel. Full of personality and sass, each should be distinct in character. Sopranos.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM (16-30) (male or female)

Flotsam and Jetsam are Ursula's sinister lackeys. With devious charm, these electric eels convince Ariel to visit the Sea Witch. Tricky and menacing, they are always lurking about, ready to take advantage of sea inhabitants at their most vulnerable moments. Altos or tenors.

URSULA (45 – up) (female)

Ursula is the tentacled and manipulative Sea Witch who is sister to King Triton. Cunning and calculating, she will stop at nothing to get what she wants – and what she wants is Triton's throne. To gain the upper-hand, she utilizes her slick sense of humor, a flash of glamour, and larger-than life confidence. Heavy makeup and costume. Ursula can be played by a low alto, but a contralto is ideal.

CHEF LOUIS (35 – up) (male or female)

Chef Louis is the melodramatic head chef in the palace. Wild and frenetic, he becomes physically and vocally flustered by Sebastian, who always manages to escape his grasp. A tenor, he should be highly comedic with exaggerated movement and an over the-top French accent (replace all "TH" sounds with "Z" sounds).

ENSEMBLE ROLES

SAILORS (males)

The Sailors are the competent crew of Prince Eric's ship. Hardy and eager for adventure, they are vigorous, efficient, and attentive to the Pilot's orders, always prepared for rough seas and stormy weather.

SEA CREATURES (male or female)

Sea Creatures of various shapes, sizes, and species comprise the underwater ensemble of King Triton's court. "Under the Sea" presents opportunities to showcase both talented singers and dancers.

WINDWARD & LEEWARD (male or female)

Windward and Leeward, trumpet fish, are heralds in King Triton's court. Smaller actors. Must be able to project well

PILOT (45 – up) (male)

The Pilot, the uniformed helmsman of Prince Eric's ship, is a nautical expert who entertains the sailors with wild tales of the sea. A little too superstitious for Grimsby's taste, the Pilot nevertheless maintains strict control of his ship and crew even as he sings with a jolly cadence. Baritone.

MAIDS (25 – up) (female)

The Maids are four palace servants who report to Grimsby. They haughtily assist Ariel in preparation for dinner with Prince Eric and are a bit jealous of this pretty stranger in their midst.

CHEFS (males or females)

The Chefs comprise the sous staff of the eccentric Chef Louis. Their equally overblown movement adds to the comedic chaos of dinner as they chase Louis and Sebastian around the dining room.

PRINCESSES (18 – up) (female)

The Princesses try everything they can to win the heart of Prince Eric. As none possesses the voice he is searching for, each should have an exaggerated and comedic personality that is revealed through song.

GULLS (12 – up) (male or female)

The Gulls comprise Scuttle's zany back-up flock in Positivity and Human Stuff. These feathered friends of Scuttle's are equally as off-beat, though they present an opportunity to showcase the talented – and very on-beat – dancers in the cast. Possible tapping.

Poor Unfortunate Souls (no age, but must be shortest in cast) (male or female)

Ex- merfolk that have been “raked across the coals” by Ursula. Will be wearing very dark cloaks concealing all features. Will be forced to dance during Ursula's numbers. Will turn back into merfolk at the end.