



# CASTING

**A**lthough widely known and beloved for its iconic score, *The Little Mermaid* requires a cast of strong actors who not only can sing, but also are comfortable creating characters through physicality and movement. Below is a description of each character along with recommended audition material from the show and vocal ranges.

## LEADING ROLES

*in order of appearance*

### ARIEL

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. Big-hearted, 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 with strong top notes, your actress must be able move well in order to clearly convey meaning once Ariel loses her voice.



### PRINCE ERIC

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

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 – your actor should feel free to speaking his part.





## FLOUNDER

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

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. Tenor.



## KING TRITON

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

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). Tenor.



## MERSISTERS

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.

## FLOTSAM & JETSAM

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

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. Ursula can be played by a low alto, but a contralto is ideal.



## CHEF LOUIS

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.



## USING ACCENTS IN *THE LITTLE MERMAID*

While not written into the script, Sebastian and Chef Louis should speak and sing with broad accents. To accomplish this, for Sebastian, replace TH with D, and for Chef Louis, replace TH with Z, and you’re mostly there! For an idea of how these accents should sound, refer to Sebastian and Louis’s songs on the Guide Vocal CD.



# ENSEMBLE ROLES

*in order of appearance*

## **PILOT**

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.

## **SAILORS**

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**

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**

Windward and Leeward, trumpet fish, are heralds in King Triton's court.

## **GULLS**

The Gulls comprise Scuttle's zany back-up flock in "Positovity." 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 your cast.

## **MAIDS**

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**

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 around the dining room.

## **PRINCESSES**

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.