

Disney’s THE LITTLE MERMAID

Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater Book by Doug Wright

Based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson

SCHOOL SHOWS PUBLIC PERFORMANCES Nov 16, 17, 18, 2016 at 10.00am and 1.00pm

At KCP we believe that sound artistic training, discipline and exposure to the arts help build the qualities of character, judgment, insight and sensitivity so important to good citizenship and to a rewarding life in any vocation the student might choose.

- - -Thank you for joining us! - - -

SYNOPSIS: Ariel, a sixteen-year-old mermaid princess, is dissatisfied with life under the sea and curious about the human world. Her father, King Triton, continually warns her about the “barbaric fish-eaters” on land – but Ariel’s curiosity is the ruler of her heart. One night, Ariel travels to the ocean surface to watch a celebration for the birthday of Prince Eric, with whom Ariel falls in love. A sudden storm threatens the partyers. Everyone manages to escape except for Eric who goes back to rescue his dog, Max. Eric almost drowns saving Max, but, is saved by Ariel, who drags him to the beach. Upon waking, Eric has a vague impression that he was rescued by a girl with a beautiful voice and he vows to find her. Ariel also vows to find a way to join Eric. Triton and his daughters notice a change in Ariel, who is openly lovesick, and Triton angrily forbids Ariel to return to the human world. Despondent, Ariel goes to meet Ursula, the Sea Witch, to strike a deal. But, Ursula has bigger plans for the little mermaid princess – and her father, the King.

THE SOURCE: Hans Christian Andersen 1805 – 1875 Hans Christian Andersen was the first author to emerge from the underprivileged class in Denmark. He enjoyed fame as a novelist, dramatist, and poet, but his fairy tales are his greatest contribution to world literature. Hans Christian Andersen was born on April 2, 1805, in Odense, Denmark. His father was a shoemaker, and his mother earned money washing other people's clothes. At the age of fourteen, Andersen convinced his mother to let him try his luck in Copenhagen, Denmark, rather than studying to become a tailor. For three years Andersen lived in one of Copenhagen's slums. When he was seventeen, a government official arranged a scholarship for him in order to give him a second chance to receive an education. But he was a poor student and was never able to study successfully. He never learned proper spelling or formal writing in Danish. As a result, his writing style remained close to the spoken language and, consequently, still sounds fresh today. After spending seven years at school, Andersen celebrated the passing of his university exams in 1828 by writing his first narrative. The story was a success, and it was quickly followed by a collection of poems. Andersen's career as an author had begun, and his years of suffering were at an end. In 1835 Andersen completed his first novel, and he published his first small volume of fairy tales, an event that attracted little attention at the time. Andersen began his fairy-tale writing by retelling folk tales he had heard as a child from his grandmother. Soon, however, he began to create his own stories. Most of his tales are original. Among his most famous fairy tales are "The Ugly Duckling," "The Princess and the Pea," and "The Little Mermaid." At first Andersen was not very proud of his fairy-tale writing, and, after talks with friends and Danish critics, he considered giving them up. But he later came to see fairy tales as the poetic form of the future, combining folk art and literature with the tragic and the comical elements of life. While children can enjoy most of the tales, the best of them are written for adults as well. The tales also take on different meanings to different readers, a feat only a great poet can accomplish. A lifelong bachelor, he lived most of his life as a guest at the country homes of wealthy Danish people. He made many journeys abroad, where he met and in many cases became friends with well-known Europeans, among them the English novelist Charles Dickens (1812–1870). Andersen died in Copenhagen, Denmark, on August 4, 1875.

THE AUDIENCE’S ROLE: “Never treat your audience as customers, always as partners.” – Jimmy Stewart The audience is an essential element for any performance. In fact, without an audience there is no performance - there is only rehearsal. Most performers will tell you that it is the audience that energizes and inspires them. The atmosphere that is created by the interaction between the personality of the audience and that of the cast is often palpable. That is why it is so important that each be at their best at all times. Please spend time with your students reviewing what it means to be a good audience before attending your KCP performance. • The audience stays in their seat once the performance begins. Trips to the bathroom or drinking fountain should be planned well in advance of the curtain going up. • Once the lights go down all conversations stop. • All cell phones are on silent. • No flash photography is allowed during a performance. The relationship between the performers and audience should be one of mutual appreciation and respect. The audience avoids doing anything that would distract the performers and the performers aim to deliver their best. In the end, the performers demonstrate their appreciation by coming out to bow to the audience. The audience returns the favour with their applause. We look forward to seeing you in the theatre!

For a complete study guide to “Disney’s The Little Mermaid, Jr.” go to: <http://img.broadway.com/images/TheLittleMermaidStudyGuide.pdf>

For school show reservations visit [www.kempenfeltplayers.com](http://www.kempenfeltplayers.com) , click on Teachers Resources and click on Book your schools

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