



**THE GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2023 SUMMER PERFORMING ARTS
COMPANY PRESENTS:**



Red River High School Performance Hall
July 13-16, 2023

This production will utilize strobe lighting



This program is supported in part by a grant from the City of Grand Forks through the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region.

THE GFPS SUMMER PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY PRODUCTION OF
DISNEY'S

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Music by
ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics by
HOWARD ASHMAN & GLENN SLATER
Book by

DOUG WRIGHT

Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & directed by John Musker & Ron Clements

Originally Produced by
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

Orchestrations by DANNY TROOB
Incidental Music and Vocal Arrangements by MICHAEL KOSARIN
Dance Arrangements by DAVID CHASE

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

PLEASE NOTE: STROBE LIGHTING WILL BE USED IN THIS PERFORMANCE.

CAST

Name followed by 2023-24 grade and school

Ariel Rowan Olmstead-10-GFC
Prince Eric Jack Berry-10-GFC
Sebastian Natalie Buchhop-10-RR
Ursula Kenai Auch-9-GFC
King Triton Jaded Halvorson-9-GFC
Flounder Rilyn Thompson-10-RR
Scuttle..... Andrew Foerster-10-RR
Chef Louis..... Owen Berglund-10-GFC
Flotsam Niska Kempenich-10-RR
Jetsam..... Isaac Hong-9-RR
Grimsby..... Bricker McGillicuddy-10-RR
Pilot Ryan McMullin-10-RR
Mersisters..... Elizabeth Malott-10-GFC, Simone Legerski-10-GFC, Miren Burbank-9-RR,
Layla Swatowski-10-GFC, Sonakshi Singhal-9-RR, Avery Spartz-10-GFC

ENSEMBLE

Kyla Aird-9-RR	Milo Gabrielson-9-GFC	Renna McMullin-9-RR
Ashton Bangert-10-EGF	Raghavi Garre-9-RR	Caroline Nyatuka-9-RR
Kenley Beaudry-9-RR	Nora Gillespie-9-RR	Kaylee O'Connor-9-RR
Makayla Bell-9-RR	Jasmine Hardersen-9-RR	Landen Oehlke-9-RR
Morgan Bethea-10-RR	Logan Hartze-9-RR	Dave Onyeka-9-RR
Kaia Boppre-9-RR	Finley Haugen-10-GFC	Bella Petrovich-10-EGF
Levi Borboa-9-GFC	Jade Hobbs-10-RR	Miley Piseno-10-RR
Marren Bremer-9-RR	Isabel Hoffarth-10-GFC	Georgia Price-9-RR
Emmy Briggs-10-GFC	Katelyn Hur-9-RR	Nile Riedhammer-10-RR
Emma Brown-9-GFC	Sophia Huschle Wendt-10-GFC	Ahna Saenz-9-RR
Destiny Butler-9-GFC	Espen Hutchinson-10-GFC	Adriana Sargent-9-RR
Madison Clark-10-GFC	Aireana Jaimez-Harris-9-GFC	Violet Spartz-10-GFC
Josiah Dawes-9-GFC	Landon Johnson-9-GFC	Rubee Stanley-9-GFC
Wyatt Dearinger-10-RR	Alena Kolodka-9-RR	Asher Suriano-10-RR
Josie Dodds-9-RR	Ben Larson-9-GFC	Anna Tedford-10-RR
Cameron Dudgeon-9-RR	Addyson Leddige-10-RR	Genevieve Ulrich-9-RR
Frank Dusek-10-RR	Brooklyn Lemoine-10-RR	Aubrey Washington-9-GFC
Giselle Emerson-10-RR	Jordan Lund-9-GFC	Cody Wigestrang-9-RR
Mairi Ferguson-9-GFC	Caleb Machart-9-GFC	
Maryjane Flick-9-RR	Kaitelyn McMains-10-RR	

DIRECTING TEAM AND TECHNICAL CREW

Director.....	Alex Hovey
Music Director.....	Alex Barta
Choreographer.....	Maren Dewar
Assistant Directors/Choreographers.....	Elizabeth Loeffler, Brady Ritland, Ella Henry
Rehearsal Accompanist.....	Roxanne Gessler
Technical Director.....	Jake Geffre
Technical Team.....	Ian MacKenzie, Sydnee Boucher, Isaac Barta, Cooper Miller, Brady Ritland, Paul Barta, Jackson Lee, Nora Lee, Jack Parrish, Quinlan Schudrowitz, Blake Storbakken, Matt Dunham, Chloe McCarthy
Sound.....	Austin Hardersen-9-HHS, CJ Leroux Peters-9-SHHS, Emerson Eastman-9-RR
Lights.....	Hudson Murphy-10-RR, Theo Lents-10-SHHS
Spotlights.....	Zaynab Anvari-Clark-9-RR, Jet Simek-9-GFC, Evelyn Sperle-9-SHHS, Amber Will-10-GFC
Backstage/Fly System.....	Alexander Haar-10-RR, Henry Haugen-11-RR, Caleb-9-RR, Zeke Shannon-9-RR
Video.....	Mackenzie Brown-9-RR
Scenic Painting.....	Chloe McCarthy, Syd Boucher, Amanda Kraft Jacobsen, tech staff and students
Costumes & Makeup.....	Amy Hahn, Cassel Everson, Emmalyn Danielson, SPA Students
Box Office/House Managers.	Mykaela Zola, Jada Jensen, Jen Phelps, Bree Barta, Ryann Barta, Matt Dunham, Chloe McCarthy

SPA 2023 STAFF

(The number in parentheses indicates the number of years the employee has worked for SPA.) * indicates SPA alumni

Director:	Allison Peterson* (27)
Technical Director:	Jake Geffre (17)
<i>Mamma Mia</i> :	Angie Black Erickson* (33), Rich McFarlane (21), Paul Barta* (19), Seth Brandl* (6), Noah Severud* (2)
<i>The Little Mermaid</i> :	Maren Dewar* (19), Roxanne Gessler (19), Alex Hovey* (9), Elizabeth Loeffler* (9), Alex Barta* (7), Brady Ritland* (5), Ella Henry* (2)
Office/Box Office:	Jen Phelps (9), Shealyn Klave* (8), Matt Dunham* (8), Bree Barta* (7), Ryann Barta* (7), Mykaela Zola* (4), Chloe McCarthy* (3), Ligia Feo (2), Jada Jensen* (1)
Technical Team:	Paul Barta* (19), Matt Dunham* (8), Ian MacKenzie* (6), Brady Ritland* (5), Sydnee Boucher* (3), Isaac Barta* (3), Chloe McCarthy* (3), Jackson Lee (2), Jack Parrish* (2), Cooper Miller* (2), Nora Lee* (1), Quinlan Schudrowitz* (1), Blake Storbakken* (1)
Voice Studio:	Alex Hovey - Coordinator* (9), Ryan King* (6), Mandy Moreno (5), Jonathan Mayo (1)
Costumes:	Amy Hahn (20), Cassel Everson (20), Emmalyn Danielson* (2)
MySPA:	Yvonne Kalka (17), Brenna Payne* (12), Bree Barta* (7), Ryann Barta* (7), Angie Johnson (3), Lee Ann Steckler (2), GFPS Paraprofessional staff
EL Summer School Guest Artists:	Kathy Coudle-King, Kelly King, Pam Swenson, Maura Ferguson*
Elementary SPA:	Chris Fosse (36), Jamie Toutenhoofd* (24), Lindsey Wood* (15), Brenna Payne* (12), Lukas Opp* (11), Trina Connell (8), Matt Dunham* (8), Bree Barta* (7), Ryann Barta* (7), Chris Loeffler* (6), Emma Dodds* (3), Chloe McCarthy*(3), Anna Benson (1), Eliza Dodds* (1), Jennifer Dodds (1), Hannah Holte* (1), Anika Suriano* (1), Kelsie Wiens (1)
Pre-K SPA:	Emma Dodds* (3), Eliza Dodds* (1), Jennifer Dodds (1), Hannah Holte* (1), Anika Suriano* (1)
Middle School SPA:	Rich McFarlane (21), Maren Dewar* (19), Elizabeth Loeffler* (9), Alex Hovey* (9), Alex Barta* (7), Allyse Dunnigan (7), Seth Brandl* (6), Noah Severud* (2), Ella Henry* (2)
Bands on the Red:	Sarah Harlow* (11), Brady Olson (3)

To demonstrate respect to performers and other audience members, please turn off your cell phones and remain in your seats during the show.

Also, no flash photography or videotaping is allowed at the performance.

Thank you, and enjoy the show!

ORDER OF SONGS

ACT 1

The World Above	ARIEL
Fathoms Below	PILOT, SAILORS, PRINCE ERIC, GRIMSBY
Daughters of Triton	MERSISTERS
If Only (Triton's Lament)	KING TRITON
Daddy's Little Angel	URSULA, FLOTSAM, JETSAM
Part of Your World	ARIEL
She's In Love	MERSISTERS, FLOUNDER
Her Voice	PRINCE ERIC
Under the Sea	SEBASTIAN, SEA CREATURES
If Only (Ariel's Lament)	ARIEL
Sweet Child	FLOTSAM, JETSAM
Poor Unfortunate Souls	URSULA
Act One Finale	URSULA, ARIEL

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission.

Bottled water and merchandise will be available in the lobby for free-will donation.

ACT 2

Positivity	SCUTTLE, GULLS
Beyond My Wildest Dreams	ARIEL, MAIDS, GRIMSBY
Les Poissons	CHEF LOUIS
Les Poissons (Reprise)	CHEF LOUIS, CHEFS
Daddy's Little Angel	URSULA, FLOTSAM, JETSAM
Kiss the Girl	SEBASTIAN, ANIMALS
If Only	ARIEL, PRINCE ERIC, SEBASTIAN, KING TRITON
The Contest	GRIMSBY, PRINCESSES
Poor Unfortunate Souls (Reprise)	URSULA
Ariel's Transformation	MERSISTERS
Finale	KING TRITON, ARIEL, PRINCE ERIC, ENSEMBLE

We would like to invite all SPA students/alumni to the stage for the "Body Electric" for all performances of The Little Mermaid. Please note – this version is different from the Pre-K, Elementary, and Middle School Versions. Students should stand by a High Schooler and follow their lead.

"I Sing the Body Electric"	SPA COMPANY
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THE LITTLE MERMAID DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to SPA 2023! We are SO excited to bring you our production of the ever-beloved Disney classic “The Little Mermaid!”

Summer is halfway through and the kids of summer have been hard at work preparing this wonderful story filled with some of the most recognizable melodies Disney has had to offer. From Under the Sea, to Kiss the Girl, and the powerful Part of Your World, it's safe to say that these students have had a blast singing and dancing to these notable songs. Alongside the work, there has been plenty of fun. Sharing our progress with the cast of “Mamma Mia!,” playing dodgeball (where we witnessed the first ever staff team victory!), water fights, and the traditional SPA-Dance are a few of the activities that have capped off our weeks.

Before we begin, I want, no...NEED, to highlight the immense efforts put in by our tech and costume teams this summer. You are about to see over 150 costumes fly on and off stage - and we're not talking about your basic dresses/suits/jerseys/etc that we see most years. We asked for jellyfish, seahorses, turtles, stingrays, gulls, chefs, maids, crabs, mermaids, sailors, a sea witch and the King of the Sea. Many of these have been handmade/handsewn/hand stitched by our wonderful costume team and for that we give all of our praise to the wonderful Amy Hahn, Cassel Everson, and Emmalyn Danielson.

Much like the costume team, we asked the tech team to go under the sea and create set pieces unlike anything we've seen here at SPA. What amazes me is not only the ability to build it, but to first design it, THEN craft it, paint it, re-paint it, make it fly into the ceiling, change it when it doesn't quite fit the stage, and then fix it (usually due to 83 teenagers running all over it!) My favorite part of the day is walking into the scene shop after lunch and seeing what awesome things they had put together that morning. (How about that boat!) Please take a moment during the show to look around at all the wonderful set pieces, lights, and sounds put together by the tech crew. When you see Jake, Paul, Ian, Matt, Chloe, Brady, Syd, Isaac, Jackson, Jack, Cooper, Nora, Blake, or Quinlan, give them a shout out!

Thank you so much for supporting the arts in Grand Forks, and for supporting these wonderful students. The lessons, skills, and friendships made along the way are what it's all about! Enjoy the show!

Alex Hovey, Director

NOTES FROM THE SPA DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 36th season of SPA! We are glad to have you here tonight to see firsthand the hard work and dedication the students and staff of High School SPA have put into this production. In total, there are just over 150 students involved in the High School SPA program. But, this program only represents 7% of the students involved in SPA this summer.

We hit the 1,000-student milestone this summer, and a few registrations are trickling in for the remainder of our July programs. As of printing this playbill, there were 1,059 children and students enrolled! SPA has many programs for students of all ages and abilities - from pre-K children to participants in the Adult Transition Program, and no experience is necessary to participate.

We couldn't do any of this with our generous grantors, private donors, in-kind sponsors, and volunteers. We value the support we receive from the community, and this year we are hosting a supply drive for items for the Grand Forks Foundation for Education Giving Tree and the Santa Claus Girls. Both organizations directly help many of the students and families that are involved with SPA and the Fine Arts during the school year.

This program also wouldn't be possible without the team of directors, instructors, college students, and alumni that work with the students every day and surrender their summer to bring creativity, fun, and inspiration to groups of hard working, energetic, and enthusiastic students. It's a privilege to work with such high-caliber individuals who are both good at what they do and whose focus is solely on bringing the best experience possible for the students.

Thank you for attending today's performance and showing your support for the students of SPA. We hope you enjoy the shows!

Allison Peterson, SPA Director

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you for attending and supporting our Summer Performing Arts (SPA) program this year. Over the past thirty-six years, SPA has created pathways for students to find and live their passion. This year, over 1,000 students are enrolled, with additional registrants coming in for MySPA and for the final Elementary SPA sessions. Many who are involved are multi-talented students who participate in additional co- and extra-curricular activities, and they well-represent themselves, their families and the school district. Several have gone on to perform on the national and international levels which defines an important cultural piece of the Grand Forks community. We are thrilled that SPA Director Allison Peterson continues to lead SPA today and into the future.

If you are a regular attendee, thank you for your commitment to our entire cast. If you are new to SPA, we hope your experience was uplifting and a reminder that our future is in good hands with those who work on stage and behind the scenes! Programs performing at the gold standard of SPA cannot be accomplished by talented teachers and students alone. It takes an entire community to support ongoing performances through sponsorship, attendance, and through in-kind contributions and I am most grateful, along with my colleagues, for SPA's reflection of the community's appreciation for the performing arts. For each of the performances this summer, I salute and congratulate all involved in the Summer Performing Arts Program!

This year, SPA participants and adult leaders are engaging in a supply drive to support the Grand Forks Foundation for Education Giving Tree, and the Santa Claus Girls, in order to give back to the community that is so generous to them. SPA recognizes that generosity is a two-way street.

~Enjoy the Show~

Sincerely, Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent

A SPA TRADITION

We would like to invite all SPA students/alumni to the stage for the "Body Electric" for all performances of The Little Mermaid. Please note – this version is different from the Pre-K, Elementary, and Middle School Versions. Students should stand by a High Schooler and follow their lead.



MILEY PISENO



GABRIELLE CORMIER

Following tonight's curtain call, there will be a final musical number. The rest of the students in the Summer Performing Arts Company will join the cast to perform "I Sing the Body Electric." This song has closed all SPA performances for the past 35 years. This symbolic song ties the entire program together. It has different meanings to different students, but a common theme can be found in the literal text. The students are celebrating not only the arts, but their growth in the arts yet to come. They will go on to create their own tomorrows as they continue in music and theatre. The song also symbolizes the passing of a class. This is the last summer program in which the class of 2024 will be able to participate. This "passing of the tradition" is represented by the two soloists selected to sing. Gabrielle Cormier, a senior, will sing the first verse and then turn the spotlight over to tenth-grader Miley Pisenó, a student new to the High School SPA company.

"AND IN TIME WE WILL ALL BE STARS."

PAST "BODY ELECTRIC" SOLOISTS

1990	CRAIG SMYSER, RYAN KARELS	2007	ZACH SPICER, JACY THIBERT
1991	SAM BLACK, LANA BOLLMAN	2008	BRIT LAZUR, IAN SHERWOOD
1992	TRAVIS LIEN, MIKE MARCOTTE	2009	CASEY SMITH, COLE SHERWOOD
1993	JUDY NYHLEN, JEFF JACOBI	2010	JENNA SPICER, BEN BREIDENBACH
1994	JAMIE CADY, JENNI DURIEUX	2011	WILL BEATON, KENNY PRICE, JR
1995	RYAN KARELS, JILL JOHNSON	2012	RYAN SCHUSTER, LOCUTUS LO
1996	ERIK HUNTER, CASEY KOOP	2013	KIRSTEN AAFEDT, LAUREN CRAIG
1997	MISTI KOOP, BILLY POEHLS	2014	JULIET WOLFE, ANTHONY SCHREIER
1998	ABBY LOCHNER, CHASE BURKHART	2015	TUCKER PEARSON, DREW RELLING
1999	MATT LUNEY, MAREN TUNSETH	2016	LAUREN CRAIG, ALYSSA DONACKI
2000	TERA KILBRIDE, LAUREN PALAY	2017	SYDNEY WARCUP, GRACIA LARSEN-SCHMIDT
2001	JASON MELIN, MOLLY KINNEY	2018	ANNA LAPP, CLAIRE HUEBNER
2002	CHASE BURKHART, DEVIN LEVANG	2019	CHLOE HEYDT, SOFIA RAMIREZ
2003	BETH LAIDLAW, KIRBY BLACK	2020	THE SENIOR CLASS OF SPA
2004	MAREN TUNSETH, JACE BEEHLER	2021	ELLIE KNUDSVIG, CAMI ANTONENKO
2005	MARCUS WOODARD, AMELIA KLAUS	2022	ELIZA DODDS, ANDREW FOERSTER
2006	JAMES FREESTONE, BEN SUN		

SUPER SPA SUPPORTERS

THESE INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS BEING OUTSTANDING SUPPORTERS OF SPA.

1992	EVERETT KNUDSVIG	2008	TIM & JOLYNN PRIBULA
1993	SHIRLEY BOSTROM	2009	MARILYN HAGERTY
1994	GLAYDE CORY	2010	DON LANGLIE - POPPLER'S MUSIC
1995	GENE DURIEUX	2011	DEB & GREG NELSON
1996	DUAINE SANDEN	2012	TOM & HELEN OPP
1997	PAT OWENS	2013	US BANK
1998	JUDITH KONERZA	2014	DR. ROGER AND KIM AMUNDSON
1999	LOREE STENEHJEM	2015	THE ULLAND FOUNDATION
2000	VICKI ERICSON	2016	DR. ERIC LUNN
2001	RON GRUWELL	2017	STEVE THOMAS – SCOTT'S MUSIC
2002	GRAND FORKS HERALD	2018	BECKY SCHMIDT
2003	KEN SHERWOOD	2019	MARIA WILLIAMS-KENNEDY
2004	"THE ANSWER" PROGRAM	2020	OUR GIVING HEARTS DAY SUPPORTERS
2005	LESLIE & PATRICIA HOWARD	2021	HUGO'S FAMILY MARKETPLACE
2006	GF COUNTY COMMISSION	2022	SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
2007	MARK SANFORD & RON GRUWELL	2023	INK, INC.



**Help us give back
this summer!**



**Let's work together to help students
in our community that need support!**



Providing gift bags to children
aged 12 and under from
low-income families during the
holiday season.

You will see spare change buckets at the doors to the performance hall at intermission and at the end of the show. We are collecting change for The Giving Tree and The Santa Claus Girls, two organizations that benefit the students in our community. Thank you for your consideration!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you for your help and donations!

GFPS print shop, GFPS buildings and grounds, Administration & custodial staff of: Red River High School, Phoenix Elementary School, Century Elementary School, Lewis & Clark Elementary School, South Middle School, Discovery Elementary School, & Grand Forks Central High School, Jennifer Dodds & Family, everyone that donated props/costumes, all businesses that displayed posters, Hugo's Family Marketplace, Northern Air Family Fun Center, B&N Oil, Inc, Ink.

A special thank you to all of the "SParents" and community volunteers that help make our summers happen. Your donation of time and treats, and your willingness to volunteer, is greatly appreciated!



Check us out online!

Website: www.spacompany.org



Twitter: @spa_co



Instagram: @summerperformingartscompany

Facebook: The Summer Performing Arts Company (SPA)

WHAT'S UP NEXT?



MAMMA MIA!

July 22, 24, 25 at 7 p.m. July 23 at 4 p.m.
GF Central High School Auditorium

Reservations:

gfps.ludus.com or call 701-746-2411