

## Beauty and the Beast Jr. Full Synopsis

Once upon a time in a faraway land, an Enchantress turns a cruel, unfeeling Prince into a hideous Beast. To break the spell, the Beast must learn to love another and earn her love in return before the last petal falls from an enchanted rose. Ten years later, in a small village far below the Beast's castle, a beautiful and intelligent young woman, Belle, yearns for adventure ("Belle"). On his way to show his invention at a fair, Belle's father, Maurice, gets lost and seeks shelter in the Beast's castle. Enchanted servants - Cogsworth, Lumiere, Babette, Mrs. Potts and Chip - try to make Maurice comfortable, but the Beast imprisons the intruder.

Meanwhile, back in town, Gaston, the village brute, proposes to Belle, to the dismay of Les Filles De La Ville, who fawn over him. Belle turns Gaston down ("Belle - Reprise"). When Belle notices Gaston's sidekick, LeFou, wearing her father's scarf, Belle runs off to search for him. Belle finds her missing father at the castle and offers herself in exchange for his freedom. The Beast agrees, sending Maurice back to the village, and then escorts Belle to her bedroom, where she considers what she has done ("Home"). Seeing their guest forlorn, Mrs. Potts and Madame de la Grande Bouche comfort Belle ("Home - Tag").

In the village tavern, Lefou and the Villagers try to lift Gaston's spirits ("Gaston"). When "crazy old" Maurice barges in claiming that he has seen a Beast, Gaston and Lefou form a plan to win Belle ("Gaston - Reprise").

At the castle, the servants coach the Beast on how to act like a gentleman. When Belle refuses to accept the Beast's invitation to dinner, he loses his temper and tells her to starve. However, Lumiere and the SERVANTS offer Belle an extravagant feast anyway ("Be Our Guest"). After, Cogsworth gives Belle a tour of the castle and she wanders off into the forbidden west wing. The Beast discovers her there and loses his temper, which causes the frightened Belle to flee the castle.

In the forest, Belle is attacked by wolves. The Beast comes to her rescue, but is injured in the process. Having a change of heart, Belle helps the Beast back to the castle and dresses his wound. The servants recognize something different between Belle and the Beast ("Something There") and express their hope that the spell may soon be broken ("Human Again"). The Beast asks Belle to have dinner with him and they share a romantic evening together ("Beauty and the Beast").

Despite this new friendship, Belle longs to see her father. Using the Beast's magic mirror, Belle sees that Maurice is in trouble, so the Beast frees her. Belle finds Maurice in the forest and takes him home to the village, where Gaston has arranged for Monsieur D'Arque to take him away. Belle proves that her father is not crazy by showing the Beast in the magic mirror. Jealous of Belle's affection for someone else, Gaston whips the villagers into a frenzy. They storm the castle to kill the Beast ("The Mob Song"). While the servants defend the castle from the villagers' attack, Gaston confronts and stabs the Beast in the west wing. The Beast, while still much stronger than Gaston, refuses to kill him and Gaston runs away in shame. Belle arrives and tells the dying beast she loves him ("Home - Reprise"), which breaks the spell. The Beast transforms back into the Prince, the servants become human again, and they all live happily ever after.

## Character Breakdown-

**Please note that most characters listed as male may be played by a female in costume.**

**Belle-** Belle is a smart, confident young woman from a small village. Strong singer and actress who is able to stand up to Gaston while showing compassion for Maurice, the Servants and eventually the Beast.

Gender: Female           Vocal range top: F5           Vocal range bottom: G3

**Beast-** 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. Need an actor who can deliver a range of conflicting emotional states. Although the Beast does sing a small bit during "Something There" and the "Finale," this is truly an acting role

Gender: Male                      Vocal range top: E5              Vocal range bottom: B3

**Narrators-** The Narrators provide great opportunities to involve students who are more comfortable speaking than singing. They guide the focus and pace of this beautiful tale. Four or more.

Gender: Any

**Old Beggar Woman/Enchantress-** 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.

Gender: Female

**Gaston-** 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 as well as lead the Villagers in "The Mob Song." The bravura needs to come from within.

Gender: Male                      Vocal range top: F5              Vocal range bottom: A3

**Lefou-** 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.

Gender: Male                      Vocal range top: E5              Vocal range bottom: B3

**Les Filles De La Ville-** Les Filles De La Ville are in love with Gaston and will do almost anything just to be near him. We're looking for three girls who can portray the comic nature of these roles and enjoy playing off each other. Les Filles De La Ville sing together in three numbers and their sound should mix well.

Gender: Female                      Vocal range top: F5              Vocal range bottom: C4

**Maurice-** 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.

Gender: Male

**Lumiere-** Lumiere is a confident, charming French maître d who (under the enchantress's spell) is becoming a candelabra. He has an incessant bickering rapport with Cogsworth. Lumiere should be a strong singer who can light up the stage in "Be Our Guest." This role covers a range of emotions (from charming entertainer to brave soldier) and requires prominent song and dance. Looking for a strong, versatile performer.

Gender: Male                      Vocal range top: D5              Vocal range bottom: A3

**Cogsworth-** Cogsworth is the British major-domo of the castle who is becoming a clock. Like all of the castles 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. Cast a strong actor and singer who can act in charge.

Gender: Male                      Vocal range top: E5              Vocal range bottom: A3

**Mrs. Potts-** Mrs. Potts is the castles 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. Look for a student who can play a loving mother figure to all the characters.

Gender: Female                      Vocal range top: E5              Vocal range bottom: F3

**Chip-** Chip is Mrs. Potts s son who is becoming a teacup. Chip has a wonderful naïveté that endears him to all of the Servants. Must be shorter than Mrs. Potts. Cast an actor who can portray the honesty and spirit of a child and is comfortable trying to sing Chips solo lines.

Gender: Male                      Vocal range top: D5              Vocal range bottom: D4

**Madame De La Grande Bouche-** Madame De La Grande Bouche is an opera singer who is becoming a wardrobe. Madame is larger-than-life in everything she does, including her singing and dancing. Look for that student who can portray the ultimate diva with a heart with an outsized personality and voice. Madame has some harmony lines with Mrs. Potts and Babette, so we're looking for a singer who can hold her own but knows when to pull back in order to sound good with the others.

Gender: Female      Vocal range top: C5              Vocal range bottom: A3

**Babette-** 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, but her true heart comes through in Human Again. Look for a good actor with solid vocal skills to handle Babette s harmonies.

Gender: Female      Vocal range top: B4              Vocal range bottom: A3

**Monsieur D'Arque-** Monsieur D'Arque is a sinister townsman who works for Gaston. Cast an actor who can believably exude his sinister personality. Although Monsieur D'Arque has few lines of solo singing in "The Mob Song," this is primarily a non-singing role, so look for a solid actor first. Monsieur

Gender: Male

**Servants-** 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) etc. These enchanted characters are the Rockettes of the castle.

Gender: Any

**Villagers-** 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.).

Gender: Any