



FOUNDED 1809

# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

## EDUCATION

Disney

# THE LITTLE MERMAID

© Disney

JR

# STUDY GUIDE

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

Journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends in Disney's *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, a song-filled musical for kids adapted from the hit Disney Broadway show and the Academy Award-winning movie. In a magical underwater kingdom, the young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home—and her fins—behind and live in the world above.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### BEFORE THE SHOW

1. What do you think *The Little Mermaid Jr.* is going to be about?
2. If you never watched *The Little Mermaid*, what Disney movie was your favorite? Who was your favorite character?
3. If you could be a Disney princess or character, who would you be?
4. What do you think of when you hear the word, "villain"?

### AFTER THE SHOW

1. What did you like about *The Little Mermaid Jr.*? What did you dislike about the show? Why?
2. Who was the villain in the story?
3. What was the moral of the story?
4. Which character do you think you relate to the most?

## THEATRE 101

### Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting a show up on its feet. Please review the following with your students:

**PLAYWRIGHT:** The playwright writes the script.

**DIRECTOR:** The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

**COSTUME:** What the actors wear during the show.

**SCENERY:** Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the setting, or the place in which the story is occurring.

**PROPS:** All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

**LIGHTS:** Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

**SOUND:** Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

**ACTORS:** The actors are the people that perform the show on-stage.

**AUDIENCE:** The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!

### AUDIENCE RULES

- ◆ Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- ◆ Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- ◆ Use your better judgment on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- ◆ Stay in your seat during the performance.
- ◆ Make sure you go to the bathroom *before* the show starts.

## Color in Your Very Own Mermaid or Sea Creature

Directions: Your students will have the opportunity to color in their very own mermaid or sea creature to bring home with them. So they can make their own Ariel, or a completely different mermaid of their choosing. For the ones that do not want to color in a mermaid, they can color in a sea creature.





## TRY IT YOURSELF

### DIRECTIONS

Give students a chance to act out a scene from *The Little Mermaid*.

Before jumping into the performance, think about all of the elements that go into a play. Are there any props that we can use to improve the scene? Where are the characters when this scene is taking place? What might the scenery look like?

### VARIATION

Have students come up with their own endings to the show and perform them for the class.



## SAMPLE SCENE FROM THE LITTLE MERMAID

**FLOTSAM:** Look out!

**JETSAM:** The shell!

**URSULA, TENTACLES:** You fool!

**FLOUNDER:** You witch!

**FLOTSAM:** Not so fast, guppy!

**JETSAM:** Get the shell!

**SEBASTIAN:** Stop there, sea-snake!

**ARIEL:** My voice...

**URSULA:** Well... look who's talking! No matter. I have what I want now. And you don't!

**ARIEL:** You may have my father's trident, but you'll never have his power.

**URSULA:** Impertinent mermaid. I'll dispatch you just as easily as I eliminated your mother.

**ARIEL:** So Father was right!

**URSULA:** Yes, Father was right! And you'll soon see just how insignificant the merfolk become when Ursula's in charge! With trident in hand, I shall unleash the power of Poseidon to destroy you all! Wait. Oh, no. Stop. I-I can't control it!

**SEBASTIAN:** Ariel, the trident!

**URSULA, TENTACLES, EELS:** Noooooo!

**SEBASTIAN:** Ariel! Are you all right, child?

**ARIEL:** Yes. Thank you for your help.

**FLOUNDER:** Not such a guppy anymore, am I?

**ARIEL:** Nope. You're the best friends a girl could wish for.

**KING TRITON:** Ariel!

**ARIEL:** Daddy! I've caused so much trouble. Can you ever forgive me?

**KING TRITON:** Why, I've never been prouder. Somehow, in the blink of an eye, when my back was turned, you grew up.



## Activity: Walk Your Favorite Animal



Directions:

- \* For this activity you will need enough floor space for students to walk around and transform into their animals.
- \* Before the activity begins, give the students the opportunity to think about their favorite animal and three other animals. Also, let them think about the animals' characteristics. For example, how the animal would move around the space, sleep, gather its food, play, hide, etc.



## Activity: Walk Your Favorite Animal Continued

- \* Ask the students to spread out and begin walking around the room in a “neutral stance” or how they would normally walk.
- \* Once the students settle into a rhythm, ask the class to freeze where they are.
- \* Once they are frozen., ask students to resume walking, this time personifying their favorite animal (I.e. walk like a alligator, lion, cat, hamster, etc.).
- \* Repeat this step, allowing the students to walk through the space performing the rest of their animals.



### Follow-Up

- \* After students have a chance to walk around like their animals, discuss how the different animals changed their movements.
- \* Prompt students with questions such as: “*What was your favorite animal walk? What was your least favorite?*”

## STUDENT WORKSHEET: Your Life Under the Sea

### DIRECTIONS:

Let your students get the opportunity to create what their life will be like under the sea. Who would their friends be? What would they eat? Would they be a mermaid, a human that can breathe under water, or a sea animal. Would they go to school or spend the day swimming in the ocean? The students can be as creative and imaginative as they want with this activity. This should be a fun exercise. They can write their thoughts down or draw what their life could be like under the sea.

### LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

#### Send letters or drawings to:

Walnut Street Theatre

ATTN: Education Department

825 Walnut St.

Philadelphia, PA 19107





# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

## EDUCATION

### BIOGRAPHY



Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 210 years! Due to the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre has been a self-producing, non-profit theatre company for over 30 seasons. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most-subscribed theatre company in the world! . Last season, **172,000** children and adults were

impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs, including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools, and our artist-in-residency programs.

### WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	TJ Sokso
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Amanda Pasquini
EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE	Nate Golden
RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST	Ali Walker
EDUCATION APPRENTICE	Quanece Thompson
ACTING APPRENTICES	Sam Paley
	Andrew Mullin
	Oliver Feaster
	Jasonica Moore

#### WEB

#### WST Kids Series

<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/theatre-kids.php>

#### Drama Games for Kids

<http://www.bbbpress.com/dramagames/>

#### Interesting Facts about Mermaids

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Mermaid>

### THE LITTLE MERMAID CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR	Jessie Bernstein
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ronnie Keller
CHOREOGRAPHER	Nate Golden
BOOK	Doug Wright
MUSIC	Alan Menken
LYRICS	Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater

### KIDS SERIES SPONSORS

Scott & Sharon Rankin

The Mutual Fire Foundation

Shriner's Hospital

### THANK YOU

The Walnut Street Theatre Education Department gratefully acknowledges the support from the following:  
Ash Family Foundation\* Bryn Mawr Trust Company \* Louis N. Cassett Foundation \* Connolly Foundation \* Covenant Bank \* Peter & Audrey Denton Fund \* William Goldman Foundation \* Hamilton Family Foundation \* Hassel Foundation \* Hellendall Family Foundation \* Herman Goldner Company \* Syde Hurdus Foundation \* William Penn Foundation \* Lincoln Financial Group Foundation \* M&T Bank/ Wilmington Trust \* National Endowment for the Arts \* PECO \* Philadelphia Insurance Companies \* PNC Arts Alive \* TD Charitable Foundation \* Theatre Forward \* United Way of Bucs County , Cumberland County, Capital Region, Delaware Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Greater Portland, and the Tri-State \* Universal Health Services \* Vulcan Spring & Mfg. co. \* The Walt Disney Company

# Walnut Street Theatre Educational Opportunities!

## WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

*Bring a show to your school!*

**Bob the Bully Buster** Grades K-5

**Mean Girlz R Bullies Too** Grades 5-8

**Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans** Grades Pre K-5

**No Easy Road to Freedom** Grades 6-12

*Open a dialogue with students about  
issues that affect them!*

Call 215-574-3550 , ext. 584

## Walnut Street Theatre for Kids!

2019-2020  
SEASON

*Bring your kids to Walnut Street Theatre!*

**Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.**

**Grace for President**

**Junie B. Jones: The Musical**

**Nate the Great**

**Tickets just \$11-\$13!**

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!

Call 215-574-3550



## *The Theatre School at* **WALNUT STREET THEATRE**

*Classes for kids, students, and adults!*

For students from 2 to 102! Great for networking,  
providing a creative outlet, and professional training.

Find your inner star at the Walnut!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

## **RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

*Let us design a dramatic and  
educational program for your school!*

We support teacher's objectives with  
personalized programs that meet your needs  
and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 584