

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

25TH ANNIVERSARY
May 29–Jun 30



Disney **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

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DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Music by ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics by HOWARD ASHMAN AND TIM RICE

Book by LINDA WOOLVERTON,

Choreographed by DENIS JONES

Directed by MARK S. HOEBEE

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CREATIVE TEAM



ALAN MENKEN (Music). Stage musicals: God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater; Little Shop of Horrors; Beauty and the Beast; A Christmas Carol; The Little Mermaid; Sister Act; Leap of Faith; Newsies; Aladdin; The Hunchback of Notre Dame; The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz; Kicks; A Bronx Tale. Film: The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Newsies, Aladdin, Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Hercules, Enchanted, Tangled. Television:

Sesame Street, Lincoln, The Neighbors, Galavant. Awards: Tony, Drama Desk, 8 Oscars, 11 Grammys, seven Golden Globes, London's Evening Standard, Olivier, Outer Critics Circle. Honors: Songwriters Hall of Fame, Billboard #1 single and album, Disney Legend, Hollywood Walk of Fame, doctorates from NYU and UNCSA.



HOWARD ASHMAN (Lyrics) wrote the lyrics for the Disney animated films The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin (three songs). With composer Alan Menken, he received two Academy Awards and two Golden Globes for Best Song ("Beauty and the Beast" and "Under the Sea") and four Grammy Awards. He was author, lyricist, and director of the stage musical Little Shop of Horrors as well as the screenwriter for the film adaptation, which earned an Oscar nomination for

Best Song.



TIM RICE (Lyrics) has worked in music, theater, and film since 1965, when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Their collaborations include Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Evita. Tim has also worked with composers such as Elton John (The Lion King, Aida), Alan Menken (Aladdin, King David, Beauty and the Beast), and Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (Chess). In 2013, he wrote and presented a 52-

part series for BBC Radio 2, American Pie, a trawl through the music and musicians of every state. He has won several awards, mainly for the wrong thing or for simply turning up.



LINDA WOOLVERTON (Book) wrote the screenplays for Beauty and the Beast (Golden Globe winner and Academy Award nominee for best picture, the first animated film to receive such a nomination), Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey, The Lion King, Alice in Wonderland (dir. Tim Burton), Alice Through the Lookingglass, Maleficent, and Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (upcoming) as well as the books for the Broadway musicals Beauty and the Beast (Tony Award

nomination for best book, Olivier Award for Best New Musical), Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida, and Elton John's Lestat. She also wrote the young adult novels Star Wind and Running Before the Wind.

"If he could learn to love another and earn her love in return by the time the last petal fell, then the spell would be broken. If not, he would be doomed to remain a beast for all time. As the years passed, he fell into despair, and lost all hope, for who could ever learn to love a beast?"

~ Lyrics from DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST ~

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MARK S. HOEBBE (Director, Producing Artistic Director) joined the artistic team at Paper Mill Playhouse in 2000. Under his leadership, Paper Mill was presented with the Regional Theatre Tony Award in 2016 and in recent years launched such noteworthy projects as the world premieres of *Newsies*, in partnership with Disney Theatrical Productions, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *Ever After*, *Bandstand*, *A Bronx Tale*, *The Honeymooners*, and *The Sting* starring Harry Connick, Jr., as well as the American premieres of the 25th Anniversary Production of *Les Misérables*, working alongside Cameron Mackintosh, Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and the national tour of *The Bodyguard* starring Deborah Cox. On Broadway, Mark directed the Actors Fund benefit of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* starring Jennifer Hudson. He has directed national tours of *Victor/Victoria* starring Toni Tennille, *Dreamgirls*, *Company*, and *An Evening of Lerner and Loewe* starring Diahann Carroll. His directing credits at Paper Mill include *West Side Story*; *Annie*; *Mary Poppins*; *Dreamgirls*; *Hello, Dolly!* starring Tovah Feldshuh; *Harold and Maude: The Musical* with Estelle Parsons; *The Will Rogers Follies* starring John Davidson; *Meet Me in St. Louis*; *The King and I*; *Miss Saigon*; Disney's *High School Musical*; *Peter Pan*; *Smokey Joe's Cafe*; *Oliver!*; *Damn Yankees*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Curtains*; and *The Full Monty* starring Broadway legend Elaine Stritch. He resides in Glen Ridge with his partner Larry Elardo, Coordinating Broadcast Producer for the CBS Evening News and CBS Sunday Morning, and their children, Stephen and Ashley.



ALEX SANCHEZ (Choreographer) is thrilled to return to Paper Mill after having served as choreographer for *West Side Story*, associate choreographer for *Carnival*, and playing Harry Beaton in *Brigadoon*. He has directed *Sweet Charity*, *Newsies*, and *Evita* (The Marriott Theatre in Chicago); *In the Mood* (Bud Forrest Entertainment/national tour); and *The World Goes 'Round* (Riverside Theatre, NYC). In New York he choreographed *Roman Holiday* (pre-Broadway/GFI Productions); *Giant* (The Public Theater—Lortel nomination); *Far from Heaven* (Playwrights Horizons); *Where's Charley?* and *Fiorello* (New York City Center Encores!); *Red Eye of Love* (co-choreographer, Amas Musical Theatre—Calloway Award winner).



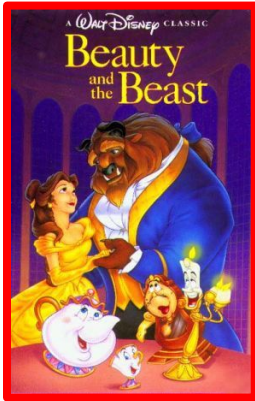
"Madame Gaston, can't you just see it. Madame Gaston, his little wife. Not me, no sir, I guarantee it. I want much more than this provincial life."

~ Lyrics from "Belle (Reprise)" ~

Belinda Allyn as Belle in rehearsal for Paper Mill Playhouse's production of *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*

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THE CREATION OF THE MUSICAL ON FILM AND STAGE



Following two failed attempts to adapt *Beauty and the Beast* as an animated film, following the success of *The Little Mermaid*, Disney decided to try one more time to tell this story, this time as an animated musical. The film was written by Linda Woolverton, with songs by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman. The movie premiered in the fall of 1991 and immediately became a hit. It grossed \$425 million at the box office, won the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) and was the first animated film to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture.

On the surface, *Beauty and the Beast* looked like a slam-dunk to be a fantastic stage musical. At the same time, it took some convincing to get Disney CEO Michael Eisner to take the leap to start producing their musicals on Broadway. They set out to adapt the stage musical with mostly the same team of the film musical. The one change was that lyricist Howard Ashman had passed away six months before the movie premiered due to complications from AIDS. Lyricist Tim Rice was brought on to help Menken write six additional songs for the stage musical. They smartly took some time to expand the storylines from the film, including delving deeper into the struggles of the Beast and spending more time featuring with the household objects. This became the task of costume designer Ann Hould-Ward, who based her work on the animated film characters, but found creative ways to bring the household objects to life integrated into the actor's stage costumes.



After an out of town tryout in Houston in November 1993, the show opened on Broadway at the Palace Theater in April 1994. The show surprised many of its critics and began an instant audience favorite. The show would go onto be nominated for nine Tony awards, winning for the innovated Costume design. The show eventually moved to the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre and overall ran 5,461 performances, which makes it the 10th longest running show in Broadway history. The musical has been performed all around the world in cities like London, Toronto, Seoul, Sydney, and Mexico City, as well as touring the United States many times over.

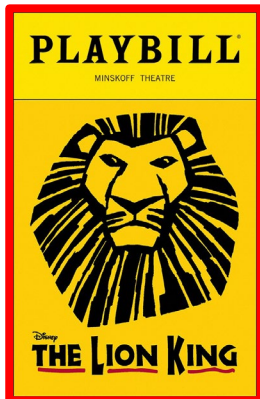


In 2017, Disney decided to produce a live action musical film version of *Beauty and the Beast*. This new adaptation, led by Director Bill Condon, was a combination of the original film's story and integrated many of the new songs from the stage musical, as well as a few of the character arcs. Starring Emma Watson and Dan Stevens in the title roles, it was released in the spring and became a box office hit, eventually grossing over \$1.263 globally. On Broadway, *Beauty and the Beast* will always be significant as it was Disney's first Broadway success story and led them to bring more of their properties to Broadway.

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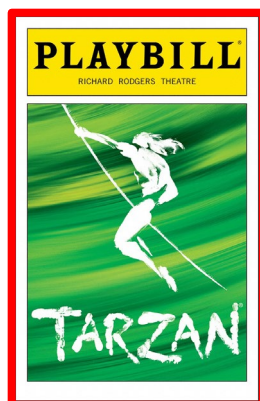
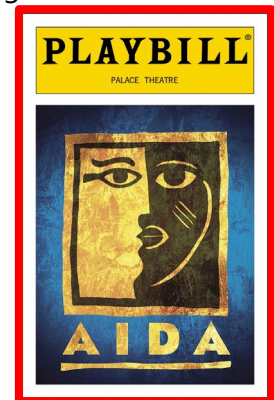
DISNEY THEATRICALS

Walt Disney Theatrical Productions, informally known as Walt Disney Theatricals or Disney on Broadway, is the stage play and musical production segment of The Walt Disney Company. Led by Thomas Schumacher, the company was created in the early part of the 1990s for Disney to have a place on Broadway to produce adaptations of their animated films and create new musicals. They have gained a prestigious reputation within the industry for creating professional and popular productions since the opening of the acclaimed *Beauty and the Beast* in 1994.



Following that success, The Walt Disney Company, in 1997, led the charge to clean up 42nd Street by completing the restoration of the historic New Amsterdam Theater. The theater, which used to be the home of the Ziegfeld Follies, laid dormant for years until Disney decided to make that theater their flagship space on Broadway. They opened the theater with their most popular musical adaptation, *The Lion King* at the New Amsterdam. The show debuted in Minneapolis in July 1997 before becoming the hit of the Broadway season that October. The show uses a range of theatrical techniques and broke many conventions of typical musical theatre. In doing so, the show became the most popular production Disney Theatricals has ever conceived and one of the most loved productions in the world. Directed by visionary director Julie Taymor, the show was nominated for eleven Tony Awards and won six, including Best Musical. The show has consistently been one of the highest grossing musicals on Broadway every week, always performing to sold out audiences. The show will celebrate 22 years on Broadway this November and shows no signs of slowing down. The show's popularity has produced many productions around the world, including in London, Toronto, Hamburg, Melbourne, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

The next Disney musical was their first piece that was not based on their own animated film. *Aida*, based on the opera by Giuseppe Verdi, had a score written by Elton John and Tim Rice and a book written by Linda Woolverton, Robert Falls, and David Henry Hwang. The show won five out of the six Tony Awards it was nominated for. The show opened in 2000 on Broadway and had a four-year run of 1,852 performances.



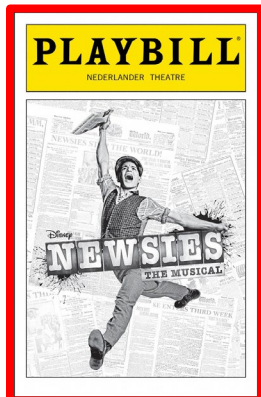
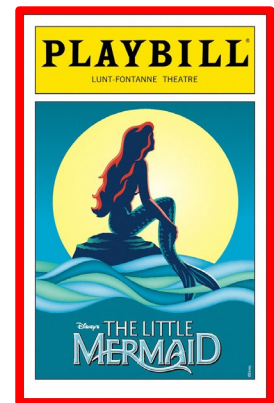
The next Disney production, *Tarzan*, was not as big a success as its 3 predecessors. The musical debuted on Broadway on May 10, 2006 at the Richard Rodgers Theatre and was heavily hyped and publicized by composer Phil Collins and book writer William Henry Hwang. While the show only ran a year on Broadway, it has had a long life in productions around the world and at community and professional stages throughout the United States.

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Their next project was a special co-production with producer Cameron Mackintosh: *Mary Poppins*. The show featured the songs from the popular film, as well as new music by British writers George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. The musical adaptation, directed by Richard Eyre and choreographed by Matthew Bourne, was a huge success in London's West End before transferring to Broadway on November 16, 2006. The show was nominated for seven Tony Awards, winning one for Bob Crowley's Set Design. The show ran for over six years on Broadway, playing over 2,600 performances at the New Amsterdam Theatre. Paper Mill produced *Mary Poppins* in May 2017, starring Elena Shaddow as Mary.

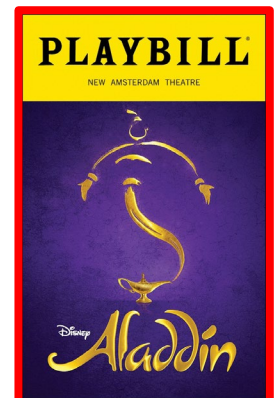
The next Disney musical to open on Broadway was their adaptation of the animated film, *The Little Mermaid*. The show featured all of the songs from the movie, as well as nine new songs written by Alan Menken and lyricist Glenn Slater and a book by Pulitzer Prize and Tony winner Doug Wright. The musical opened on Broadway on January 10, 2008 at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre and while it received mixed reviews, it still was nominated for two Tony Award nominations. The show went onto play over 700 performances on Broadway before being produced around the world and at Paper Mill Playhouse in 2013.



After a few years of helping bring a musical version of *Sister Act* and the play *Peter and the Starcatcher* to Broadway, their next venture started here at Paper Mill Playhouse. The stage version of the cult 1992 hit film musical *Newsies* premiered at Paper Mill in the fall of 2011 and became an instant success. Fans from all over the world converged on Millburn to see their favorite movie on stage and were delighted that Harvey Fierstein fleshed out a hit stage musical. Following huge support from the critics and audiences, Disney decided to transfer the production for a limited run on Broadway. The response on Broadway was so massive that it decided to make the run open ended. The show was nominated for eight Tony Awards, winning for Best

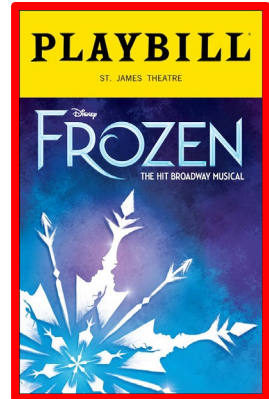
Original Score and Best Choreography, and ran for over 1,000 performances on Broadway. *Newsies* was only the beginning of Paper Mill's partnership with Disney, subsequently producing four more Disney musicals on our stage, including this production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

Over the last five years, Disney has brought two of their most popular animated films to Broadway: *Aladdin* and *Frozen*. *Aladdin* opened at the New Amsterdam Theatre in March 2014 and was nominated for five Tony Awards, winning one for James Monroe Iglehart's star turn as the Genie. To date, it's run over 2,100 performances on Broadway, recently celebrating five years running on Broadway.



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Frozen, based on the smash hit 2013 film, made the quick transfer as a stage musical in 2018. Written by Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Bobby Lopez and Jennifer Lee, the same team who wrote the movie, the show played an out of town engagement in Denver, directed by Michael Grandage. The musical transferred to Broadway in March 2018 and was nominated for three Tony Awards. The show has run over 500 performances and heads into its second summer on Broadway.



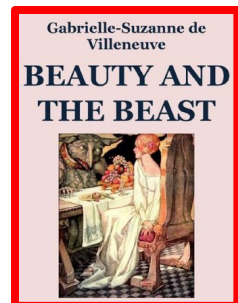
Disney's arrival was met with initial skepticism throughout the entertainment industry. The reality was that it was the most positive entry into Broadway in a generation. Their shows have brought billions of dollars and millions of new audiences to Broadway, creating a new generation of theatre lovers in the process. *Beauty and the Beast* will certainly not be the last Disney musical to grace the Paper Mill stage!

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST BEFORE DISNEY

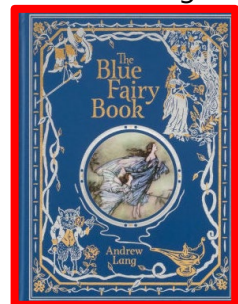
The story of Beauty and the Beast has a long history that started centuries before Disney produced the famous movie in 1991.



Historians believe the basic story of a beauty marrying a beast goes back thousands of years. Most credit writer Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve (see picture on left) with the first modern version with her fairy tale titled *La Belle et la Bête*, (see picture on right) which was released in 1740. The story was meant to reflect the society of its time and teach the reader to look beyond materialistic notions and judge someone by what's inside of them instead of their appearance. It also was ahead of its time in that it featured a female character making a choice about whom she would marry. It was commonplace for women to have their spouses chosen by their family, most typically their father.



By 1756, the story was edited and rewritten by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont in a collection called *Magasin des enfants*. (see picture on left) Over a century later, it was rewritten once again by Andrew Lang, which became the most commonly used version of the story. It debuted in his collection *Blue Fairy Book* in 1889. (see picture on right) This was the version that Walt Disney attempted to attempt at two different points in the 1930s and 1950s and could not get the story the world. It was not until the 1980s that the animation team was able to find the right way to tell this beautiful story.



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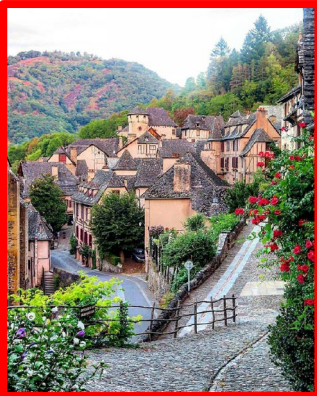
WHERE DOES THE STORY TAKE PLACE?

One of the age-old questions about the story of *Beauty and the Beast* is where and when does the show take place.



Given the French authors who created the most recent versions of the stories a few hundred years ago, the setting has always been placed somewhere in the 18th/19th Century in the Alsace region of France.

Some believe they were based on Riquewihr and Rebeauville, (see picture on right) two neighboring towns in France. Both of these places are like walking into a history book, featuring beautiful medieval villages with cobblestone streets, large squares and markets, many castles, and centuries old houses lined up across the town.



For the most recent film adaptation, the filmmakers based their designs off the French town called Conques. (see picture on left) Located in the Aveyron region in Southern France, it's similar to the other medieval towns, with narrow cobblestone streets. Many of these towns have influences from other German and French towns given their history of being conquered and then liberated, but some of the architecture has stood the test of time. To this day, you can visit this town, which doesn't have many cars given the narrow streets and are meant for locals and visitors alike to take a walk back in time.

The cast of Paper Mill Playhouse's production of *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* in rehearsal



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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

After you see the show and read this study guide, use these prompts to start a discussion with your students and peers.

- 1) *Beauty and the Beast* has had many different iterations including books, two Disney movies and a musical. If you've seen multiple versions, how do they compare? What is different in the musical?
- 2) Belle sings "A Change in Me" in Act Two. Explain the changes Belle goes through during the course of the musical.
- 3) What does society and the media teach us about the ideas of "beauty" and "beast." What do you think about these messages? How does the musical dispel those preconceived notions?
- 4) Compare and contrast the musical's townspeople to today's current events involving xenophobia or hate groups.
- 5) Have you ever felt judged based on your own appearance, or judged someone else based on their appearance? Did your opinions change as you got to know each other more?

The Adopt-A-School Project is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Additional support is provided by C.R. Bard Foundation, The Mall at Short Hills, MetLife Foundation, Nordstrom, PNC Foundation, and the George A. Ohl, Jr. Trust.

With special appreciation to PSEG Foundation.

Paper Mill Playhouse Education & Outreach are proudly sponsored by The Goren Family & Harmony Helper.

Audience Guide content written by Andrew Lowy.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



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A SINGER'S BEST FRIEND

