

The FOOTLIGHTERS THEATER

Production of

Disney's  
Beauty  
& the  
Beast 

SEPTEMBER 6-22

Music by  
Alan Menken

Book by  
Linda Woolverton

Lyrics by  
Howard Ashman & Tim Rice



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## DIRECTORS' NOTES

This show is called the “Tale as Old as Time” for a reason; everyone knows and loves this age-old tale defined by the theme of true beauty being found within. It is also incredibly important to me, as it was one of my first EVER musicals that I performed in as a child. At age 11, I was Chip with Twisted Art Productions. It sparked my love of theater and introduced me to so many incredible people, who I am still in touch with to this day. I still get together with my Mrs. Potts. This version and role, however, challenged my resolve and expectations with what this show is and could be.

I have seen the power and growth of every single person on this stage. I cannot say enough about the care and passion that each member of this cast brings to the stage. Not to mention the incredible production staff who put the icing on this enchanted cake. I could not ask for more. I hope you enjoy the immense amount of work that went into this show from every single person listed below. This was a labor of true love, and it shows.

While not from this show a quote that I think defines this process and these incredible people is from the movie *A Wonderful Life*. It reads: **“Remember no man is a failure who has friends.”** This production would not be possible without the friends/family in my life, old and new. The amount of pouring out I received during this journey from those directly involved with this show (Josh, Sam, Helena, August, John, Bill, David, and others), to the many others not directly, involved has touched my heart immensely. If you see me tearing up during or after the show, know that it is not because I am sad, but because I am overwhelmed with joy by this outpouring and overwhelmed with pride for every single person on and off that stage.

If you can do one thing for me it's this: Tell your people how truly wonderful they are and thank them on my behalf for giving me the privilege of working with them these months. Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy our production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast!*

- James Wier, director

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## DIRECTORS' NOTES

*Beauty and the Beast* is a classic that transcends the regular standards of incredible. This show is done time and time again by theaters across the world for a reason. It's a story of love, sacrifice, family, and identity. This story is one very special to my heart. I knew immediately directing this show with James would be an experience unlike any other. Having done this show many times, I feel very connected with the story it tells. The connection it creates between the audience and its cast members is bonding.

I won't elaborate on the characters and their journeys since everybody knows. I would rather like to speak on how wonderful the entire cast is both on and off the stage. Every principal in this cast exemplified true humility from day one. There was never a single person with an ego, chip on their shoulder, or any other cliché. On the other side of that coin we have had an ensemble full of energetic, loving, and kind people. The environment they built was nothing but encouraging and accepting. I have been blessed to be able to work with this group of actors and I hope you all enjoy our production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*!

- Joshua Starczewski, director

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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

“Belle” .....	Belle, Gaston, LeFou, Les Filles de le Ville, Townspeople
“No Matter What” .....	Belle, Maurice
“Maurice Travels” .....	Maurice
“Me” .....	Gaston, Belle
“Belle (reprise)” .....	Belle
“Home” .....	Belle
“Home (reprise)” .....	Mrs. Potts, Madame de la Grande Bouche
“Gaston” .....	Gaston, LeFou, Les Filles de la Ville, Townspeople
“Gaston (reprise)” .....	Gaston, LeFou
“How Long Must This Go On?” .....	Beast
“Be Our Guest” .....	Lumiere, Mrs. Potts, Cogsworth, Madame de la Grande Bouche, Chip, Babette, Enchanted Objects
“If I Can’t Love Her” .....	Beast

## ACT 2

“Something There” .....	Belle, Beast, Lumiere, Mrs. Potts, Cogsworth
“Human Again” .....	Lumiere, Mrs. Potts, Madame de la Grande Bouche, Cogsworth, Chip, Babette, Enchanted Objects
“Beauty and the Beast” .....	Mrs. Potts
“If I Can’t Love Her (reprise)” .....	Beast
“A Change in Me” .....	Belle
“The Mob Song” .....	Gaston, LeFou, Monsieur D’Arque, Townspeople
“Transformation/Finale Ultimo” .....	Beast, Belle, Company

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & SPECIAL THANKS

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy  
Michelle Rhodes  
Karen Dixon  
Tracy Flynn  
Melody Connell  
Jasmin Chacon  
Nick Burbo  
Megan Lee  
Richard Lewis  
Stacey Ballard

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## CAST

Belle.....	LINDSAY LOOLOIAN
Beast .....	RYAN STARCZEWSKI
Gaston.....	NOAH BLOOM
LeFou .....	JOE BILLETTA
Maurice.....	JIM DONSKY
Cogsworth .....	MICHAEL MANN
Lumiere.....	SHANE ROCHE
Mrs. Potts .....	AIMEE DIMICHELE
Chip .....	VIOLET ROCHE, LAWRENCE RHODES
Madame De La Grande Bouche.....	LYNDSAY VARSACI SPAZIANI
Babette .....	DEANNA CORINO
Les Filles de la Ville.....	TAYLOR RESSLER, SIENA NGUYEN, MANDIE CURTIS BANKS
Ensemble.....	ASHLEY CLUSKEY-GALLAGHER, TED FELIX, BRETT KENNA, AMANDA MAHONEY, KEDRA MILLER, MINH-CHAU SCOTT, MAISIE THOMPSON, RUSSELL WEIDENMILLER

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Producers .....	BILL GILBERTSON, JOHN DIFERDINANDO
Directors .....	JAMES WIER, JOSHUA STARCZEWSKI
Music Director.....	AUGUST W. WALKER
Choreographer .....	SAMANTHA ROCHE
Stage Manager.....	HELENA VANNATTER
Set Designer/Master Carpenter.....	JAMES WIER
Lighting Designer.....	DAVID CRAIG
Costumers .....	JAMES WIER, HELENA VANNATTER, JOSHUA STARCZEWSKI
Wig Artist .....	TELL VANFOSSON-WILLIAMS IV
Props Designers.....	HELENA VANNATTER, JAMES WIER
Scenic and Billboard Artist.....	EMILY ENGLE
Mural Artist.....	ASHLEY CLUSKEY-GALLAGHER
Technical Director.....	CARMEN ROSCE
Relaxed Performance Coordinator .....	JANET ABBOTT
Playbill .....	CARA GLATFELTER
Season Producer/Marketing.....	DAN WILLIAMS
Box Office/Front of House .....	SUE SCOTT, BILL GILBERTSON
Concession Manager.....	MARY RODE

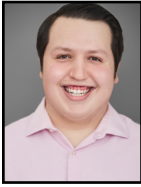
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# CAST



Mandie  
Curtis Banks



Joseph  
Billetta



Noah  
Bloom



Ashley Cluskey-  
Gallagher



Deanna  
Corino



Aimee  
DiMichele



Jim  
Donsky



Ted  
Felix



Brent  
Kenna



Lindsay  
Looloian



Amanda  
Mahoney



Michael  
Mann



Kedra  
Miller



Siena  
Nguyen



Taylor  
Ressler



Lawrence N.  
Rhodes



Shane  
Roche



Violet  
Roche



Minh-Chau  
Scott



Lindsay Varsaci  
Spaziani



Ryan  
Starczewski



Maisie  
Thompson



Russell  
Weidenmiller

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**MANDIE CURTIS BANKS (Les Filles de la Ville #3)** is thrilled to make her Footlighters debut! Professional credits include the national tour of *Grease* with Frankie Avalon and Chubby Checker (Ensemble/US Sandy & Patty), *The Christmas Show* at American Music Theater (Singer/Dancer), and a singer/dancer in several shows at Dorney Park. Mandie is a proud theater alum of West Chester University. She teaches theater and dance and has choreographed numerous musicals. Most of her teaching experience was spent at the Episcopal Academy where she also served as the theater and dance department chair. Mandie has taught/choreographed at Strath Haven High School, Upper Darby Summer Stage, Young People's Theater Workshop (YPTW), and the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus. (she/her)

**JOSEPH BILLETTA (LeFou)** is ecstatic to be back at Footlighters, reprising the same role he played in 2019 at Steel River Playhouse! He is honored to be Noah Bloom's personal hype-man and punching bag. Some previous credits: *Green Day's American Idiot* (Theo), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfée), *Disaster!* (Tony Delvecchio), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), Menken's *A Christmas Carol* (Jacob Marley), and *Les Misérables* (Javert). Special thanks to his wonderful voice teacher, Kim Russell, and all his loved ones who support him! @jbilletta on IG! (he/him)

**NOAH BLOOM (Gaston)** is excited to make his Footlighters debut! Some of his favorite previous roles include *Footloose* at Revival Productions (Willard), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at FaceTime theater (Quasimodo), and *The SpongeBob Musical* at FaceTime theater (Patrick). This is his third time being in *Beauty and the Beast*, but this cast made it a standout experience! He would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support, and he hopes you enjoy the show! (he/him)

**ASHLEY CLUSKEY-GALLAGHER (Ensemble)** returns to the stage after a 9-year hiatus with her Footlighters debut. Her favorite credits include *Reefer Madness*, *Seussical*, *Les Misérables*, *West Side Story*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Ashley would like to thank her voice teachers Amanda Testa-Oerth and Amy Suznovich. She also extends her deepest gratitude to her husband for his unwavering support while she pursues her passions. Ashley is an independent artist, muralist, and designer and donated her time to create the library set piece for this production. She is available for commissions at [www.ashleycg.com/murals](http://www.ashleycg.com/murals) (she/her)

**DEANNA CORINO (Babette)** is so excited to be making her Footlighters debut! Some of her favorite credits include *Bright Star* (Margo), *The Addams Family* (ensemble), *Les Misérables* (Cosette), and *The Phantom of the*



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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

*Opera* (Christine). Deanna recently graduated from Penn State University and now works as an operations analyst at a consulting firm. She would like to thank her parents and friends for always supporting and encouraging her love of theater <3 (she/her)

**AIMEE DIMICHELE (Mrs. Potts)** feels incredibly grateful to be making her Footlighters debut with this tale as old as time, alongside a cast of amazing humans (and enchanted objects)! Previous credits include *Titanic* (Kate Mullins/Others) and *Godspell* ("By My Side" soloist). Thank you to Jim for all the things <3 (she/her)

**JIM DONSKY (Maurice)** is delighted to portray Maurice in his Footlighters debut. The role holds special meaning for him, as he draws inspiration from his daughters Lyra and Anja. Jim previously appeared in *Titanic* at Facetime Theatre and Forge Theatre's production of *Godspell* (Judas). When not on the theater stage, he performs as the lead singer and guitarist of the folk/rock band The Bent Benjamins. Jim extends his gratitude to Aimee for her unwavering support. (he/him)

**TED FELIX (Ensemble)** is grateful to be in his first show with Footlighters! Prior to joining Footlighters, Ted was a part of Liva Arts Company, a student-run theater group at the University of Scranton. He participated in musicals such as *The Addams Family* (Gomez Addams), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart), and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Senex). Ted thanks all of his friends and family for their continued support of his desire to continue acting. He would also like to thank the cast for reminding him how great theater really is! (he/him)

**BRETT KENNA (Ensemble)** is honored to be making his Footlighters debut in *Beauty and the Beast*. Brett's past theater experience includes *Oliver!*, *Cinderella*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Anything Goes*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Mary Poppins*, *City of Angels*, *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, and *Titanic*. Being classically trained at Mansfield University, Brett has also performed in several operas including *Die Zauberflote*, *La Boheme*, *Don Giovanni*, *Thais*, and *Orpheus in the Underworld*. Brett wants to thank his family for their continued support of his artistic endeavors and thanks his boyfriend for putting up with him during tech week.

**LINDSAY LOOLOIAN (Belle)** is ecstatic to be making her Footlighters debut in this absolute dream role! She was most recently seen in *Oliver* (Nancy). Other previous credits include *She Loves Me* (Amalia), *City of Angels* (Alaura/Carla), *Crazy for You* (Polly Baker), *Legally Blonde*

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Elle Woods), *Shrek* (Pinocchio), *Joseph* (Narrator), *The Addams Family* (Morticia), *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Gargoyle/Gypsy), *Into the Woods* (Bakers Wife), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Courtesan), *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), and *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lady Larken). Lindsay would like to thank her family and friends for always being so incredibly supportive.

**AMANDA MAHONEY (Ensemble)** is overjoyed to be making her Footlighters debut! She was last seen in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Wendy) at Candlelight Theater. Other past credits include: *City of Angels* (Mallory), *The Sound of Music* (Postulant), *She Loves Me* (Ensemble), and *Matilda* (Ensemble). Amanda wants to thank her friends and family for their never-ending love and support! (she/her)

**MICHAEL MANN (Cogsworth)** is so excited to return to Footlighters for such a fun Disney classic. Previous credits include *American Idiot* (Tunny), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Riff Raff), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Quasimodo), *She Loves Me* (Head Waiter), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Tinman/Hickory). Michael is so grateful to work with such a wonderful production staff and amazingly talented cast.

**KEDRA MILLER (Ensemble)** is beyond excited to be making her Footlighters debut in *Beauty and the Beast!* She is a rising second year at NYC's Institute for American Musical Theatre (IAMT). Previous credits include *Jekyll & Hyde* (Aristocrat Ensemble), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Featured Ensemble/Choir), and *Anastasia* (Dunya/Featured Dancer/Others). She would like to thank everyone who has supported her artistic endeavors and hopes you have a beast of a time! (she/her)

**SIENA NGUYEN (Les Filles de la Ville #2)** is a senior at Conestoga High School and is so excited to make her Footlighters debut! Her favorite credits include *The Little Mermaid* (Dance Captain), *She Loves Me* (Dance Captain), *A Wrinkle in Time* (Mrs. Whatsit), *Anastasia* (Ensemble), and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Ensemble). She dances and competes for the Contempra Dance School and with the Contempra Dance Theatre Company in their annual Philly Nutt Crack Up. She gives a huge thanks to her voice teacher Elizabeth Duska, her dance teachers, and her amazing family and friends. She's crazy about this lovely cast (and not just Gaston)! (she/her)

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**TAYLOR RESSLER (Les Filles de la Ville #1)** is thrilled to be making her Footlighters debut with such a fun show! Favorite credits include *Jane Eyre* (Mary Ingram), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Margot), *The Wizard of Oz*, *Spring Awakening* (Thea), *Brigadoon*, and *Oklahoma!* Proud graduate of Temple University! Much love to my friends and family for their endless support. To my husband, LJ, thank you for keeping me fed throughout the rehearsal process. I'm so excited to be doing this show with our future prince/princess along for the ride!

**LAWRENCE N. RHODES (Chip)** is excited to be returning to Footlighters. He is 10 years old and will be starting middle school this fall. His recent credits include *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Chum/Sheldon) and *Mary Poppins* (Michael Banks) at SALT, *Matilda* (Bruce) at MCT, *Newsies Jr.* (Tommy Boy) and *A Christmas Story* (Randy Parker) at UMLY, and *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim) at Footlighters. He is thankful for the training and support of his voice instructor, Nick Harmantzis, and his dance instructors at Wayne Ballet, and the support from his friends and family.

**SHANE ROCHE (Lumiere)** is thrilled to return to the Footlighter's stage following his performance as Favorite Son in *American Idiot!* His most recent roles include *Grease* (Doody), *Anastasia* (Gleb), and *Chicago* (Amos). He has loved getting to work alongside his sisters Sam and Violet throughout the process of this show, as well as the rest of the amazing cast and crew. Enjoy the show! (he/him)

**VIOLET ROCHE (Chip)** is excited to be back at Footlighters, where she performed as Ben/Lisa in *Disaster!* Previous roles include *Oliver!* (Oliver), *Annie Kids* (Annie), *Honk Jr.* (Ugly), *Descendants Jr.* (Carlos), *Seussical* (JoJo), *The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis) and *The Broadway Blockbusters*. Violet has also been in the ballets *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Nutcracker*, numerous dance showcases, and the music video for Bowling For Soup's song "Getting Old Sucks". Violet is very happy to be working with her siblings, Samantha and Shane.

**MINH-CHAU SCOTT (Ensemble)** is so happy to be making her Footlighters debut! Past onstage credits include *High School Musical* (Gabriella Montez), *Godspell* (Gilmer), and *Mary Poppins* (Winifred Banks). Past offstage credits include music directing *Carousel*, *It Shoulda Been You*, and *A Chorus Line*. She also wrote, directed, and performed a solo show, *Glad I Exist*, as her senior project for Villanova University's department of communication. She graduated from Villanova in May and now works as an editor. So much love to her family and friends who support her from near and far. (she/her)

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**LYNDSAY VARSACI SPAZIANI (Madame de la Grande Bouche)** majored in Vocal Performance at West Chester University and enjoys performing classical, opera, jazz, and musical theater repertoire. She has been active in the arts through Footlighters Theater, G&S Society of Chester County, The Brandywine Singers, Olde Towne Carolers, Opera Tutti, and more. Recent roles include *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Lucy), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Pearl), *Into the Woods* (Little Red), *Ruddigore* (Little Red), *The True Story of Cinderella* (The Fairy Godmother), *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Amahl), *Chess* (Svetlana), and *Nunsense* (Sister Robert). She has performed as a soloist in such works as Handel's *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabeus*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

**RYAN STARCZEWSKI (Beast)** is very excited to be making his Footlighters debut (thanks Bill!). His previous roles include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Jekyll/Hyde), and *Chess* (Anatoly). He has only been in *Beauty and the Beast* two times—less than Noah and Josh. He would also like to thank the entire production team and his cousin Travis.

**MAISIE THOMPSON (Ensemble)** is so stoked to be making her Footlighters debut in *Beauty and the Beast*! Maisie's a high school senior, and you might have caught her in either *Mean Girls* (Janis) or *Clue* (Cook) at Downingtown High School East. She's also performed with the Barley Sheaf Players a number of times, including *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Edwin Drood). When she's not acting, Maisie can often be found tap dancing, playing piano, reading a book, or occasionally all three at the same time. She would like to thank her voice teacher Stephanie Heavens, all her dance teachers, and everyone who Maisie's ever been too busy to hang out with because of tech rehearsals. Lots of love! (she/her)

**RUSSELL WEIDENMILLER (Ensemble)** is excited to make his Footlighters debut in this Disney classic! His previous stage appearances include *The Laramie Project/Ten Years Later* (Various), *Heathers* (Kurt's Dad/Big Bud Dean/Principal Gowan), *The Wedding Singer* (Sammy), *A Few Good Men* (Sam), and *The Glass Menagerie* (Tom). He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant and unending support, and his feet for keeping up with (most of) the choreography.

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CREW

**SAMANTHA ROCHE (Choreographer)** is so excited to be working on *Beauty and the Beast* again after her performance in the show at Walnut Street Theatre. Previous Footlighters credits include *Disaster!* (Choreographer) and *American Idiot* (Choreographer/Heather). It has been such a treat to work with this wonderful cast and crew. It's been EXTRA special to work with her talented siblings and alongside her amazing, lovely, marvelous boyfriend Josh! Enjoy the show :) @Samantha.Roche

**JOSHUA STARCZEWSKI (Director)** is thrilled to have a hand in putting this incredible production together. Josh would like to thank his wonderful girlfriend Sam for making each and every rehearsal a joy. He would also like to thank the rest of the team for their support, as well as James for the amount of time and effort he put into making this show a reality. Josh hopes you all enjoy the show and come back to see more productions here at Footlighters!

**HELENA VANNATTER (Stage Manager)** is a 2022 graduate of Lafayette College, where she earned a bachelor's in English literature and women's, gender and sexuality studies. Prior Footlighters credits include *Disaster!* (Stage Manager, Props), *Once Upon A Mattress* (Stage Manager, Props), the 2024 24 Hour Theatre Festival (Stage Manager), and *Green Day's American Idiot* (Stage Manager, Props). Additionally, Helena has worked on productions at Steel River Playhouse, including *Little Shop of Horrors* (Assistant Stage Manager), *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Properties Designer), and *Steel Magnolias* (Stage Manager). Outside of the theater, Helena is an administrative assistant at the Chester County DAO.

**AUGUST W. WALKER (Music Director)** is over the moon to make his Footlighters debut! A proud graduate of Muhlenberg College, he has performed and music directed from the greater Philadelphia/Camden area to Breckenridge, Colorado! Previous music directing credits: *Mary Poppins*, *Addams Family*, *Matilda*, *Firebringer*. Regional: *The SpongeBob Musical* (Larry, Gary, Skate 1), *A Christmas Carol* (Charity Man, Ensemble), *A Christmas Without Santa Claus* (Snow Miser). @augustwilliamwalker (he/him)

**JAMES WIER (Director)** is delighted to once again return to Footlighters in a whole new way. Favorite past credits include *Disaster!* (Professor Ted Scheider), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Set Designer/Master Builder) at Footlighters Theater; *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey II Puppeteer) at Steel River Playhouse; *Mamma Mia!* (Eddie), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Jehan, St. Aphrodisius), *Newsies* (Jack Kelly u/s, Oscar Delancey, Darcy, Seitz) at SALT Performing Arts; and *The Producers* (Franz Liebkind) at Milburn Stone Theatre. Outside of the theater, James is always busy traveling with family and friends, creating all kinds of artwork, and being a funicle to his niece. A huge thank you to Josh, Sam, August, and Helena for being the best production team anyone could ask for. Couldn't do it without you! "To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world." – Dr. Seuss.

# 2024-2025 SEASON



SEPTEMBER 6 - 22



NOVEMBER 1 - 10



DECEMBER 6 - 15



FEBRUARY 14 - 23



APRIL 4 - 13



MAY 2 - 4



MAY 31 - JUNE 15

Keep an eye on  
**FootlightersTheater.com**  
and our social media for  
more information on  
purchasing tickets and how  
to get involved!

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