

PLAYBILL®

The Grand Ritz Theater
John Paul the Great Catholic University
Escondido, CA



BEAUTY
& the *BEAST*

DIRECTOR NOTES

"I chose this piece because I believe it is one of the most Christian stories in musical theater. At its heart, *Beauty and the Beast* is about internal beauty— devotion, self-sacrifice, and placing the good ahead of one's own will.

On a personal note, shortly after joining this production, my father passed away. The love story between a father and daughter depicted in this work speaks to me powerfully, especially these days. The play also highlights the importance of keeping a family united. I am so blessed and honored to be a part of this magnificent and talented JP Catholic family."

– Courtney Moorehead Balaker

Dearest Audience,

Thank you all so much for joining us for the summer musical, *Beauty and the Beast*.

There is so much that could be said about this popular show that is so integrated into many of our childhoods. And while there are so many themes which could be highlighted, I believe one of the essential components of the musical lies in the lyrics of *Be Our Guest*. Lumiere exclaims, "Life is so unnerving for a servant who's not serving; he's not whole without a soul to wait upon. You walked in...*Be Our Guest!*" The triumph and excitement at mission and purpose pour forth with joy and dance and singing.

We are all guests in this world and, as we await the Second Life with hope, we can choose to pour ourselves out with love for each other, delighting in the joy of mutual self-gift.

Thank you for joining us and for telling this story with us.

–Katelyn Slater

John Paul the Great Catholic University

The Grand Ritz Theater

Production of

Disney's

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Music by
Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Howard Ashman
& Tim Rice

Book by
Linda Woolverton

Originally Directed by
Robert Jess Roth

with

Adam Buffini
Nathaniel Jacob

Donovan Bakin
Mary Dalessandro
Matthew Rechen

Bryson Armstrong
Katharine Roach

Directed by
Courtney Moorehead Balaker
and Katelyn Slater

Musical Director
Robert Giracello

Choreographer
Megan Geier

Assistant Director
Therese Boucher

Set Design
Mary Wenner
Sam Barton

**Assistant
Choreographer**
Amanda Hardcastle

Costume Design
Grace Edwards
Margaret Estrada

Sound Design
Carlos Chavez

Stage Manager
Mary Wenner

Technical Director
Bryson Armstrong

Director of Photography
Andrew Koltiniuk

Program Coordinator
Anna Sofía De Orduña

Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.co.uk • www.mtishows.com • www.mtishows.com.au

SONGS

ACT I

Overture	Orchestra
Prologue	Orchestra
Belle	Belle, Gaston, Lefou, Silly Girls, Other Villagers
Belle Playoff	Orchestra
Maurice's Entrance	Orchestra
No Matter What	Maurice, Belle
No Matter What Reprise	Maurice
Wolf Chase #1	Maurice
Maurice and The Beast	Orchestra
Gaston's Crossover	Orchestra
Me	Gaston, Belle
Belle - Reprise	Belle
Then I'll Find Him Myself	Orchestra
Belle In The Castle	Orchestra
Is This Home?	Belle
Is This Home Tag	Mrs. Potts
Gaston	LeFou, Gaston, Silly Girls, Men
Gaston - Reprise	Gaston, Lefou
How Long Must This Go On?	Beast
Be Our Guest	Lumiere, Chip, Mrs. Potts, Ensemble
Belle In The West Wing	Orchestra
If I Can't Love Her	Beast

ACT II

Entr'acte	Orchestra
Wolf Chase #2	Orchestra
Something There	Belle, Beast, Mrs. Potts, Lumiere, Cogsworth
Human Again	Ensemble
Maison des Lunes	Monsieur D'Arque, Gaston, LeFou
Before Beauty and The Beast	Orchestra
Beauty and the Beast	Mrs. Potts
The Beast Lets Belle Go	Orchestra

SONGS

ACT II (continued)

If I Can't Love Her - Reprise	Beast
The Mob Song	Gaston, Ensemble
A Change In Me	Belle
Show Me The Beast	Orchestra
The Battle	Orchestra
Fight On The Tower	Orchestra
Is This Home? Reprise	Belle
Transformation/Finale	Beast, Belle, Ensemble
Bows	All
Exit	Orchestra

There will be one 15 minute Intermission.

CAST

Cast Members

Beast/Prince	Donovan Bakin
Belle	Mary Dalessandro
Gaston	Adam Buffini
Lefou	Bryson Armstrong
Maurice	Nathaniel Jacob
Cogsworth	Anthony Estrada
Lumière	Matthew Rechen
Babette	Grace Taylor
Mrs. Potts	Katharine Roach
Chip	Christopher Parra
Madame De La Grande Bouche	Deonne Trujillo
Monsieur D'Arque	Timothy Battle
Enchantress, Silly Girl (4)	Catherine Koltuniuk
Silly Girl (1)	Emma Schumaker
Silly Girl (2), Wolf	Louisa McCarthy
Silly Girl (3)	Emily Ranschaert
Silly Girl (5), Wolf	Isabella Eagan
Silly Girl (6), Wolf	Taya Bolotte
Silly Girl (7)	Leyna Pham
Milkmaid	Therese Boucher
Baker, Hat Seller	Timothy Flood
Bookseller	Connor Hankel
Sausage Curl Girl, Wolf	Amanda Hardcastle
Mother with Babies	Maria ("Naza") Hernandez
Narrator, Aristocratic Lady	Mary Leskowicz
Lady with Cane	Regine Modina
Fish Man	Francis Ysmael
Candle Man, Crony	David Thomas
Dust Pail	Jayden Reece Alegre

CAST

Cast Members (continued)

Napkins	Maria Mendez
Flatware	Lisa Ruitter
Egg Timer	Amira Sain
Ensemble, Crony	Isabella Baratti
Ensemble, Crony	Ryan Hill
Ensemble	Sarah Carstens
Ensemble	Marisol Juarez

Production / Creative

Director	Courtney Moorehead Balaker
Director	Katelyn Slater
Assistant Director	Therese Boucher
Musical Director	Robert Giracello
Choreographer	Megan Geier
Assistant Choreographer/Dance Captain	Amanda Hardcastle
Costume Design/Coordinator	Grace Edwards
Assistant Costume Design	Margaret Estrada
Lighting Design	Bryson Armstrong
Sound Design	Carlos Chavez
Stage Manager	Mary Wenner
Stage Crew	Anne Rutherford, Paul Bonner
Videography	Andrew Koltuniuk
Program Coordinator	Anna Sofia De Orduña

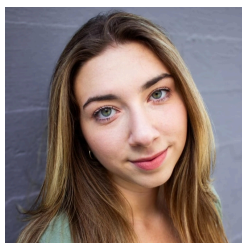
WHO'S WHO



Donovan Bakin

as Beast/Prince

his final performance at JPCU after many roles on the stage and screen, most recently *Romeo and Juliet* and *No Reception*. An actor, writer, and director, he's directed for Master Players and Black Box Youth Playhouse, co-wrote *The Rehearsal Room*, and is director of *The Wack Show*. Graduates with an emphasis in Acting and Screenwriting, minoring in Creative Entrepreneurship.



Mary Dalessandro

as Belle

is a senior Acting major and musical theatre minor and is honored to be fulfilling a dream role in her farewell production at JPCatholic. Her recent theatrical credits include *Uncle Vanya* (Sonya) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Kate). She is also looking forward to the premiere of her senior thesis project, *liv laf luv inc*.



Adam Buffini

as Gaston

an acting and post production senior, Adam Buffini is a film actor who moonlights in stage and musical productions like *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Nobody sings like Gaston and that's a good thing! He's excited to test if he can rip his shirt hitting one of his many just ok poses.



Bryson Armstrong

as Lefou

has been doing musical theater ever since he was a child. He has been in shows like *The Pirates of Penzance* (Pirate King), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *[title of show]* (Jeff) and many more. He is excited for you to see him as Lefou and hope you enjoy the show!



Nathaniel Jacob

as Maurice

is a senior at JPC. He is the school's last Musical Theatre student. After graduation, he plans to go back home and pursue a career on a Broadway stage. He would like to thank his family and all the friends he made at JPC for such a wonderful three years. He hopes you enjoy the show!

WHO'S WHO



Anthony Estrada

as Cogsworth

is a screenwriting major at JPCatholic, though he has never shied away from the opportunity to act. He has been quoting movies since he could talk and has learned much in pursuing the arts. He can't wait to entertain and improve his skill in playing the role of Cogsworth.



Matthew Rechen

as Lumière

is so excited to be taking part in this production of *Beauty and the Beast* playing Lumiere! Some of his recent credits include Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Laurie in *Little Women* and many other productions in recent years. He would like to give a big shout out to the production team of this musical for working so incredibly hard to make this production a reality!



Grace Taylor

as Babette

has performed in roles such as Annie in *Annie* and Miss Sandra in *All Shook Up*. She is a business student specializing in leadership and management at JPCU & has performed at events such as the North County State of the Union and the Del Mar Fair. Grace is so grateful to her family for their loving support and thanks God for the gifts and talents He has given to this wonderful cast.



Katharine Roach

as Mrs. Potts

is a sophomore currently working towards a business degree in Creative Entrepreneurship which she will use to pursue a career in wedding planning. She would like to thank all of her friends (especially her roommates) for encouraging her along the way and her family for driving from Colorado to see her perform. You all have made this experience so special.



Christopher Parra

as Chip

is a student at JPCatholic with an emphasis on acting and directing. Including numerous student projects, he was also a main character in Faustina Ortiz's Senior Project, *Law of the Land* last year. He looks forward to bringing the whimsical and curious nature of Chip the teacup to life, as well as working with his fellow actors and actresses!

WHO'S WHO



Deonne Trujillo

as Madame De La Grande Bouche

is a junior business student at JPCatholic University, thrilled to be playing the role of Wardrobe. Growing up, Deonne performed in local productions of beloved productions such as *The Music Man* and *Singing in the Rain*. She hopes you enjoy the show and is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a performance with such a talented cast!



Timothy Battle

as Monsieur D'Arque

is a multifaceted artist with talents in acting, writing, and dancing, and is of mixed African American and Sri Lankan heritage. He exudes youthful exuberance and maintains a commendable level of hydration. A devout individual, Timothy is deeply committed to his faith, and is set to graduate from John Paul the Great Catholic University within the next day or two.



Catherine Koltuniuk

as Enchantress, Silly Girl (4)

is an actor and screenwriter from JPCU. Recently, she was the Nurse in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and a Maiden in *The Pirates of Penzance*. She loves acting on the stage and screen and working on her craft. Additionally, she loves writing, riding horses, being outside, and hanging out with her friends.



Emma Schumaker

as Silly Girl (1)

is a Junior Acting and Screenwriting Major at JPCU. She was recently cast as Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Ritz Theater). She's excited to play her Silly Girl and is very grateful to work with a wonderful cast & crew. She would like to thank her parents and siblings for their support in her studying in California and is grateful to God for the gift of attending JPCU. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Louisa McCarthy

as Silly Girl (2), Wolf

is currently a sophomore acting student at JPCatholic. She enjoys baking, wearing fun earrings, and singing and dancing her little heart out. She would like to thank the floor for always being there to catch her when she falls.

WHO'S WHO



Emily Ranschaert

as Silly Girl (3)

is a sophomore acting student of JPCatholic. She's been in dozens of shows, but this is her first JPCatholic stage production. In addition to acting, she enjoys writing, random crafty projects that strike out of nowhere, and sitting in the grass in the park. She would like to thank her parents for being so supportive and God for keeping her alive and well.



Isabella Eagan

as Silly Girl (5), Wolf

is an animation major at JPCU but she has been dancing for 12 years so she will take any opportunity to dance again! She is thankful for the friendships that have grown from this experience and the memories that came with it.



Taya Bolotte

as Silly Girl (6), Wolf

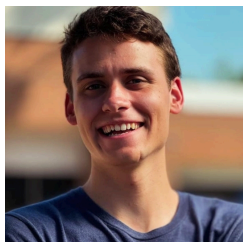
is a senior communications media major with a dual emphasis in directing and screenwriting. This is her first theatrical credit, and she is thankful for the experience. She is looking forward to the production of her senior thesis. Taya would like to thank her friends and family for cheering her on in this new adventure.



Leyna Pham

as Silly Girl (7)

is a Junior at JPCatholic. She studies Humanities with an emphasis on New Evangelization. She's so proud of everyone who's worked hard to make this show come alive and she thanks the Lord for all her friends and family, especially those who flew from out of state to attend the show.



Timothy Flood

as Baker, Hat Seller

is an acting student at JPCU. Along with working alongside talented filmmakers at JPCU, Timothy has worked on commercials and shows such as the Littlest Saints Mini-series. He also does online courses with the University of London and NYU Tisch School of Drama. He would like to thank God, and his family for the support.

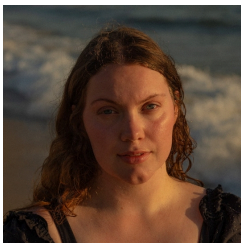
WHO'S WHO



Connor Hankel

as Bookseller

expands his horizons with *Beauty and the Beast*, this being his second musical. Previous roles include Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* with JPCatholic, as well as roles in shows like, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *You Can't Take it with You*, and more. Connor enjoys acting, crafting, storytelling, and infiltrating foreign governments just for the heck of it!



Amanda Hardcastle

*as Sausage Curl Girl,
Wolf*

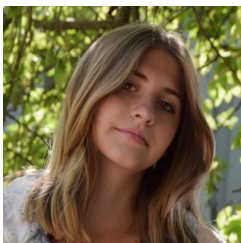
is a senior directing student. Over the past year, she has assistant directed many wonderful productions such as *Uncle Vanya* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She has most recently directed the senior acting practicum *Liv Laf Luv inc.* and is currently the accent and dialect coach for *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Amanda would like to thank her loving family. Enjoy the show!



Maria ("Naza") Hernandez

*as Mother with
Babies*

is a Communications Media major with a deep love for acting, studying under the guidance of Lee Eskey, Kathryn Smith McGlynn, and Katelyn Slater at JPCU. Maria dedicates her first theatrical performance to her family, with a Special tribute to her older brother, Raul Hernandez (12.23.1996–1.22.2024), whose influence greatly inspired her passion for acting and film.



Mary Leskovicz *as Narrator, Aristocratic Lady*

is a musician and sophomore at JPCU. With recent credits in the pit orchestra of *Mary Poppins* and *HONK*, this is her acting debut. Outside of rehearsals, Mary can be found writing music and/or screenplays. She is very excited to be part of this show and looks forward to whatever may come in the future. Mary wants to thank her parents, Paul and Olivia, for encouraging her!



Regine Modina

as Lady with Cane

is a Sophomore in Business, and is excited to be in her first JPCatholic Summer Musical. She's loved musical theater since a young age, acting in shows like *Newsies* and *The Little Mermaid*. She thanks her parents and three crazy siblings, who've supported her along the way— but most importantly, she thanks Jesus and His Blessed Mother. Psalm 28:7.â€œ

WHO'S WHO



Jayden Reece Alegre

as Dust Pail

is a Junior at JPCatholic and this is his very first musical theatre production! Previously majoring from Business who switched to Communications Media, he is passionate for all the different mediums of art, and inspires to use his business background in creating his very own independent media studio.



Therese Boucher

as Milkmaid

is a soon-to-be senior acting student at JPCatholic. Recent credits include Heidi in *[title of show]* and Lady Montague in *Romeo and Juliet*. She is excited for you all to see *Beauty and the Beast* as we have all been working really hard at it. She is also very excited to dive deeper into rehearsal for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which is being shown in the fall.



Maria Mendez

as Napkins

is a Senior studying Film Production, Directing, and Acting. She recently performed in Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet" and the Senior Acting Practicum "My Guardian Dear". When she's not rocking the beloved cargo pants at her Facilities job, Maria enjoys spontaneous ice cream dates, outings, and movie nights with her best friend, Meghan, and her awesome sidekick, Bridget.



Lisa Ruitter

as Flatware

is studying Acting at JPCU. Coming all the way from the Netherlands, she is motivated to grow in her craft and develop a variety of skills, so she can be a beautiful instrument of God to inspire people.



Francis Ysmael

as Fish Man

is a senior at JPCatholic majoring in Screenwriting and Production. This is his first time performing in a musical and he's ready to check this off his bucket list! Francis would like to thank his parents for their never-ending support in his endeavors, and he would like to also thank the family he's found here for a fantastic and eventful three years. He prays (and hopes) that he doesn't fall on his face and that you all have a great time.

WHO'S WHO



David Thomas

as Candle Man, Crony

is an actor in *Beauty and the Beast*. When he's not acting, he spends his time working on new cinematography projects. He will be graduating in 2026 from JPCU with a bachelor's degree in Acting along with a minor in cinematography. If you ever need a funny and charismatic actor, you are more than welcome to stop by and talk to David. David thanks you and wishes you God's blessings.



Amira Sain

as Egg Timer

is a JPCatholic creative writing major who's grateful for the chance to be part of this show! She spent much of high school in and around the theater, with five acting credits under her belt plus stagehand and propmaster experience. When not deep in academics and extracurriculars, she's often engaged in building her copyediting, crafting, and post-production skills.



Ryan Hill

as Ensemble, Crony

is a Senior graduating with an Emphasis in Advertising and a Minor in Digital Marketing. He has a passion for acting and has performed on stage since freshman year of high school for Paul Rugg's production of *The Music Man*. Ryan would love to thank his family, friends, and lovely Fiancée, Liz West, for supporting him through every step of his journey!



Sarah Carstens

as Ensemble

is currently majoring in Communications Media at JPCatholic. She transferred from a different college where she did two plays and is excited to be performing in her first one here. Her favorite clubs are Improv and Swing Dance.



Katelyn Slater

Director

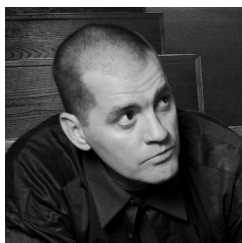
Past directing credits at JPCatholic include *The Misanthrope*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Uncle Vanya*. She has also directed *A Christmas Carol* (Words Players Theatre), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (SkyVault Theatre Company), as well as assistant directed at Open Window Theatre in Saint Paul. She has also taught theatre to children around the San Diego area.

WHO'S WHO



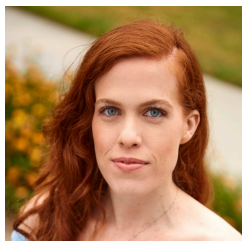
Courtney Moorehead Balaker *Director*

is an award-winning filmmaker, theatre director, and co-founder of Korchula Productions. Courtney spent five years in New York City directing Off-Broadway plays, specializing in contemporary plays with established actors, and her credits include the New York revival of *Austin Pendleton's Uncle Bob* starring George Morfogen and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.



Robert Giracello *Musical Director*

is an award-winning composer, performer, and educator. He received his PhD from the University of California, Riverside. As a performer and composer, Robert has appeared throughout the United States and Europe, most notably in a special audience for Pope John Paul II, at the United Nations UNESCO concert in Paris, and an anniversary celebration in Cologne, Germany.



Megan Geier *Choreographer*

graduated from JPCU in 2018. She spends her time choreographing musicals, teaching dance classes, acting in LA, and running her own small business. She is so grateful for all the opportunities God has granted to her and loves to share her love for the arts with everyone she comes into contact with- especially this talented cast and crew!



Margaret Estrada *Assistant Costume Design*

is a junior acting student here at JPCatholic. Previous productions she was involved in include the feature film *No Reception*, the stage musical *The Pirates of Penzance*, the Shakespeare play *Much Ado About Nothing*, and many student short films.



Mary Wenner *Stage Manager*

is an actor and alum of JPCatholic. When not stage managing the university's theatre productions or TA-ing classes, she spends time auditioning, studying her craft, and overanalyzing Shakespeare's plays. She thanks God for being able to work with spirited actors both at JPCatholic and the West Kortright Centre's Shakespeare in the Valley (NY).



COMING SOON

Fall 2024

The Importance of Being Earnest

Winter 2025

The Comedy of Errors

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THE GREAT**
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY