

NEW VIC THEATRE

THE LITTLE MERMAID



Welcome to the New Vic Theatre!

We want all our audience members to feel comfortable in the theatre.

We know that some audiences prefer to know what to expect in the show before they arrive. This visual information pack will inform you about the lights, sounds and dramatic moments in *The Little Mermaid*.

We also hold Relaxed Performances at the New Vic. These performances are for anyone who might prefer a less formal environment where it is easy and accepted that they may need to move around or communicate with those around them during the show. They also include a brief pre-show introduction to make audiences aware of some of the dramatic moments in the performance. For more information about when our Relaxed Performances are, or our audio described and captioned performances, visit here:

<https://www.newvictheatre.org.uk/productions/the-little-mermaid/>

NEW VIC THEATRE



About the Performance

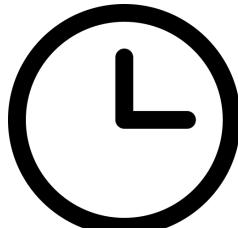
This is a performance at the New Vic Theatre. It is performed in-the-round which means the audience sit in a circle around the actors.



This performance is a play. It tells the story of Coralie, a Little Mermaid who is curious about the human world Up Above beyond the surface of the sea. In our production, the mermaids perform circus routines on different equipment, sometimes high up in the air.



This performance is suitable for everyone of all ages.



The play is split into two parts called 'Acts'. Act 1 is about 40 minutes long. After Act 1 there is a 20-minute break called an interval. Act 2 is about 40 minutes long.

About the Performance



There are often lots of people watching the performance. When you arrive at the theatre, it can feel quite busy. There will be members of staff on hand to direct you to your seat.



You can spot members of the Front of House team because they will be wearing New Vic lanyards like these. If you are in trouble or need help, they will be able to assist you.



There will be an announcement Front of House to let you know that the performance will be starting soon. It plays over the loudspeaker. This is when you should start making your way into the auditorium to your seats.

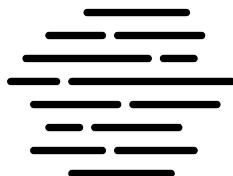
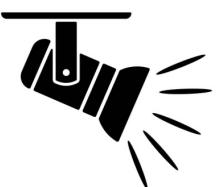


When the performance starts, the lights in the theatre will fade down. It gets quite dark at moments during the play, but our members of staff will assist you with torches if you need to leave at any point.

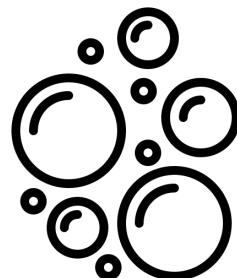
About the Performance



There is a live band who play throughout the performance. Sometimes it can feel quite loud, like you're at a concert! You are welcome to bring ear defenders if you are worried.



There are moments in the show where we use video projection on stage, for example to create a moving watery effect. We also use haze occasionally to help create atmosphere - it can look like smoke, but it is perfectly safe.

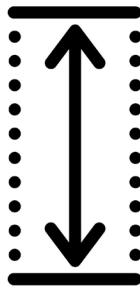


There are a couple of moments where we use bubble machines. They're located up on the balcony so might drop bubbles down on top of you which can be a little surprising!



There are some moments where performers make surprise entrances. They might enter through trap doors secretly located on the stage. They might enter down the audience aisles, so it can feel as though they are coming from behind you. Or they might be lowered from above the stage, a bit like if they were abseiling!

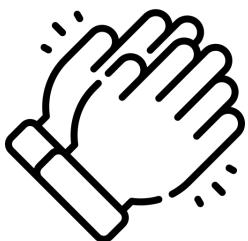
About the Performance



There is a piece of scenery above the stage that represents the surface of the water. There are two moments in the show where this piece of set descends to stage level. There are actors underneath it while this happens, but the piece of scenery has been carefully designed with spaces for them to fit through. It's being carefully lowered by special winches, operated by a member of our technical team.



If you need to leave the theatre and find a quiet space, we support you. If you ask a member of staff, they will assist you in finding a quiet location.



The performers love to hear you are enjoying the performance! Often, there is clapping at the end of a song or at the end of the play. If you are enjoying yourself, please do show your appreciation during the performance.

Aerial Equipment

Our production is theatre-circus fusion, which means that throughout the show you will see aerialists performing routines on different kinds of equipment. Sometimes they will be performing at height.



Aerial Silks: these are big blue pieces of fabric that are dropped onto stage from up above. Aerialists then climb them to perform.



Wire Work: during the performance one of the characters is lowered down from above on a wire as if swimming underwater to catch pearls.

Aerial Equipment



Straps: These are firm loops that slot under the aerialist's armpits. Straps allow performers to swing on stage dramatically. They also allow them to spin at speed.



Aerial Spirals: blue metal spirals that look a bit like a spring. They are lowered down to the stage from above. Once performers are secure, they sometimes are lifted above to height.



Multicord: these are lots of strands of rope attached to a metal plate. It looks a bit like lots of strands of spaghetti! It gets lifted out of this trap door centre stage and carries the Sea Witch.

Plot Summary: Act 1

The play begins under the ocean waves where the water is deepest and no sunlight reaches. The Sea Urchins, an under the sea band, introduce us to life in the deep blue deep. We see luminous sea creatures that are puppeteered by actors. Red Whip Coral, who is the band's singer and narrator of the play, introduces us to mermaids, who are powerful creatures that use their siren songs to lure humans to their deaths.

We meet Coralie, who is the Little Mermaid. She is desperate to see above the surface of the sea, but until she is old enough to receive her siren song, she must wait down below while her siblings swim to sing with the stars. The Sea Urchins tell Coralie the legends they've heard about the Up Above, including these magical creatures called humans.

Coralie's siblings return, and her sister Delphie pretends she's forgotten it's almost Coralie's birthday. Suddenly, the mermaids and Sea Urchins sense something coming. They hide and watch with wonder as a human boy swims down from the surface and begins collecting pearls from oysters.

Coralie realises that humans are real, not just fairy tales. She's fascinated by the boy and watches every day as he dives for pearls. Until one day when a swarm of Jellyfish sting the boy and, unable to swim to the surface, he begins to drown. The Urchins tell Coralie that he will die, and his skull will be a trophy for the Sea Witch.



Plot Summary: Act 1

Coralie decides to defy her elders who have all warned her that humans are dangerous and have a reputation for trapping and killing mermaids. Instead, she saves the boy's life by blowing him an air bubble. He spots her before swimming to the safety of the surface. Red warns Coralie that she has deprived the Sea Witch a trophy. But Coralie is mesmerised by the human she's just seen.

Time passes and it's Coralie's birthday. Delphie and the siblings throw her a birthday party and gift her a tidal locket, containing her siren song. She is now old enough to visit the Up Above, and the mermaids swim to the surface. Coralie learns the dark truth behind her siren song – that it can be used to lure humans to their death. She is so curious about human life, she decides to visit the Sea Witch.

The Sea Witch is one of the more wicked characters in the play. She is sneaky and not to be trusted. She has a dramatic entrance where she is lifted out of a trap door in a tangle of ropes as ominous music plays. She welcomes Coralie to her cave and offers Coralie a potion that will give her legs. Coralie learns how to trade and exchanges her siren song for the magic potion.

At the end of Act 1, Coralie transforms from a mermaid into a human. There is a loud 'whoosh' sound effect, followed by a blackout.



Plot Summary: Act 2

Act 2 begins with Coralie waking on the beach. She discovers she has legs, but she doesn't know how to use them. After several attempts to stand, the boy Coralie saw diving runs over. Coralie discovers that his name is Caspian, and that he and his friends are hanging-out on the beach. Caspian recognises Coralie, but can't work out where from. He doesn't realise she was the mermaid that saved his life. His friends Aura and Xav arrive and Caspian invites Coralie to their beach party.

At the beach party, Coralie learns how to dance, and enjoys all the fun things that humans do in the world above. Caspian also confides in Coralie that he isn't a poor pearl hunter but is a rich prince. He wasn't taking pearls to trade for food, but just because he can. He goes back to his yacht, a birthday present from his dad, the King, and leaves Coralie on the beach.

Coralie's sister Delphie appears and reveals to Coralie that the potion she drank is irreversible. Because Coralie deprived her of a human skull trophy, the Sea Witch tricked Coralie and now she can never be a mermaid again. Delphie swims away, and Coralie realises what she has sacrificed.

The next day, Caspian invites Coralie to go diving with him. He is convinced he saw a mermaid when diving and is determined to find one again. To distract Caspian from hunting mermaids, Coralie says she will show him a cave with lots of treasure. She has decided to go and retrieve her siren song from the Sea Witch who tricked her.



Plot Summary: Act 2

Coralie and Caspian swim to the cave, and Coralie manages to find her siren song hidden amongst the piles of treasures. She tries to encourage Caspian to leave before the Sea Witch appears, but Caspian thinks he has discovered a mermaid cave. He tells Coralie about his business plan to trade mermaids to humans. Coralie realises that humans are as dangerous as her siblings warned. She uses her siren song to possess Caspian

Suddenly, the Sea Witch reappears. She offers Coralie another deal – she will let her keep her siren song if Coralie gives her Caspian. Coralie is almost persuaded, but at the last second realises the Sea Witch can't be trusted. She releases Caspian from her spell and they try to flee. The Sea Witch summons her sea snakes who attack Coralie and Caspian. Delphie and the mermaid siblings appear and rescue Coralie, but Caspian gets caught by the Sea Witch.

Poseidon appears suddenly – he is a very grumpy character who is angry at having been woken from his sleep. His entrance is very dramatic – a thunderous sound effect plays, and the lights on stage turn red. We use a special projection effect that makes it look as though cracks are appearing on the stage. It only lasts for a moment.

Poseidon threatens to vaporise Coralie for causing all the trouble. Caspian sacrifices himself in her place, but Coralie appeals to Poseidon. He allows her to live and seek a way for mermaids and humans to co-exist. Coralie persuades her siblings to use their siren songs to sing humans home to the ones they love, and Caspian offers to turn this ocean into a mermaid sanctuary. The play finishes with humans and mermaids swimming together.



Cast – The Sea Urchins



Alexander Bean plays Snakelocks, the drummer. He wears a sparkly green jacket. He also plays Poseidon.



Arun Ghosh plays Pacific Purple, the clarinettist. He wears a purple leather jacket with silver spikes. He also composed the show's music.



Niamh Hine plays Honey Jewel, the keyboardist. She wears an orange costume with sequins and round sunglasses.

Cast – The Sea Urchins



Hazel Monaghan plays Rosy Feather Star, the bass guitarist. She wears a feathery pink jacket and sparkly pink trainers.

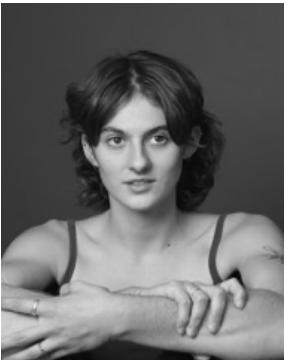


Inês Sampaio plays Red Whip Coral, the singer. She wears a bright red fluffy coat and has red platform boots. She also voices the Sea Witch.

Cast – The Mermaids



Ruby Buchanan plays
Halcyon (a mermaid sibling).

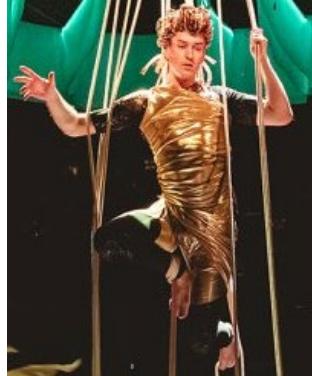


Maisie Mo Harrison plays
Luna (a mermaid sibling).



Rhiannon Skerritt plays
Coralie (the Little Mermaid).

Cast – The Mermaids



Harrison Sweeney plays Vega (a mermaid sibling). He also performs as the Sea Witch.



Caoife Turner plays Delphie (a mermaid sibling).



Holly Downey is the understudy for the mermaids. She performs in the show as ensemble.

Cast - Humans



Darcy Braimoh plays Caspian. He is also a puppeteer.



Elliot Goodhill plays Xav. He is also a puppeteer.



Melaina Pecorini plays Aura. She is also a puppeteer.

What to Expect at the Theatre



The entrance to the theatre car park looks like this.



There are accessible parking spaces in the car park. You can pre-book these in advance by calling box office.



This is the main entrance into the theatre building.



You can collect your tickets from box office. It looks like this!



This is the gift shop where you can buy cards and Christmas treats!

What to Expect at the Theatre



These are the stairs that take you up to the theatre bar and café.



This is the café area where people gather before the show.



There is also a lift to the left of the stairs.



This is the lounge where you can sit if you need to leave the performance.



At the interval, you can buy snacks from this snack station.

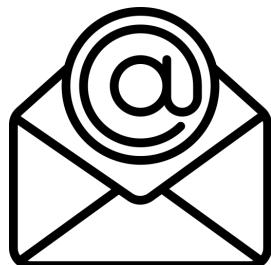
For More Information contact us at Box Office:



01782 717 962



10:00am – 6:00pm
Monday – Saturday



tickets@newvictheatre.org.uk