

CASTING BRIEF

A TALL & SHORT THEATRE CO PRODUCTION



**January
2027**

Engadine Community Centre

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)

ABOUT TALL & SHORT THEATRE CO

Tall & Short Theatre Co Incorporated is a not-for-profit community theatre organisation that commenced producing high-quality community productions in 2024. We are driven by a vision to build a resilient, inclusive and thriving performing arts community through accessible, high-quality theatre and meaningful development opportunities.

Our mission is to create space for performers, whether they have completed formal training, are emerging artists or simply love to perform. We provide a platform where individuals can learn through creative development and collaboration, connect with a vibrant community of artists and audiences, and grow in confidence as they take steps towards industry pathways. Operating throughout the Sutherland Shire, we bring local stories and talent to life across stages and rehearsal rooms at the Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, the Sutherland Arts Theatre and, now, the Engadine Community Centre.

Our previous productions include ***Legally Blonde***, ***MAMMA MIA!***, and the sold-out seasons of ***Grease*** and ***Chicago***, further strengthening our commitment to delivering bold, high-calibre theatre within the community.

Tall & Short Theatre Co is grounded in the values of collaboration, creativity and inclusion. We are proud to champion diversity both on and off the stage, actively embedding anti-racism and accessibility practices into our work. Where practical, we maintain a minimum of 25% representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC), gender-diverse, neurodiverse, disabled and body-diverse artists across our productions.

We believe theatre should be a space where everyone feels welcome and valued. For us, success is measured not only by applause or sold-out houses, but by the opportunities we create, the stories we tell, and the people we bring together.

THE LITTLE MERMAID

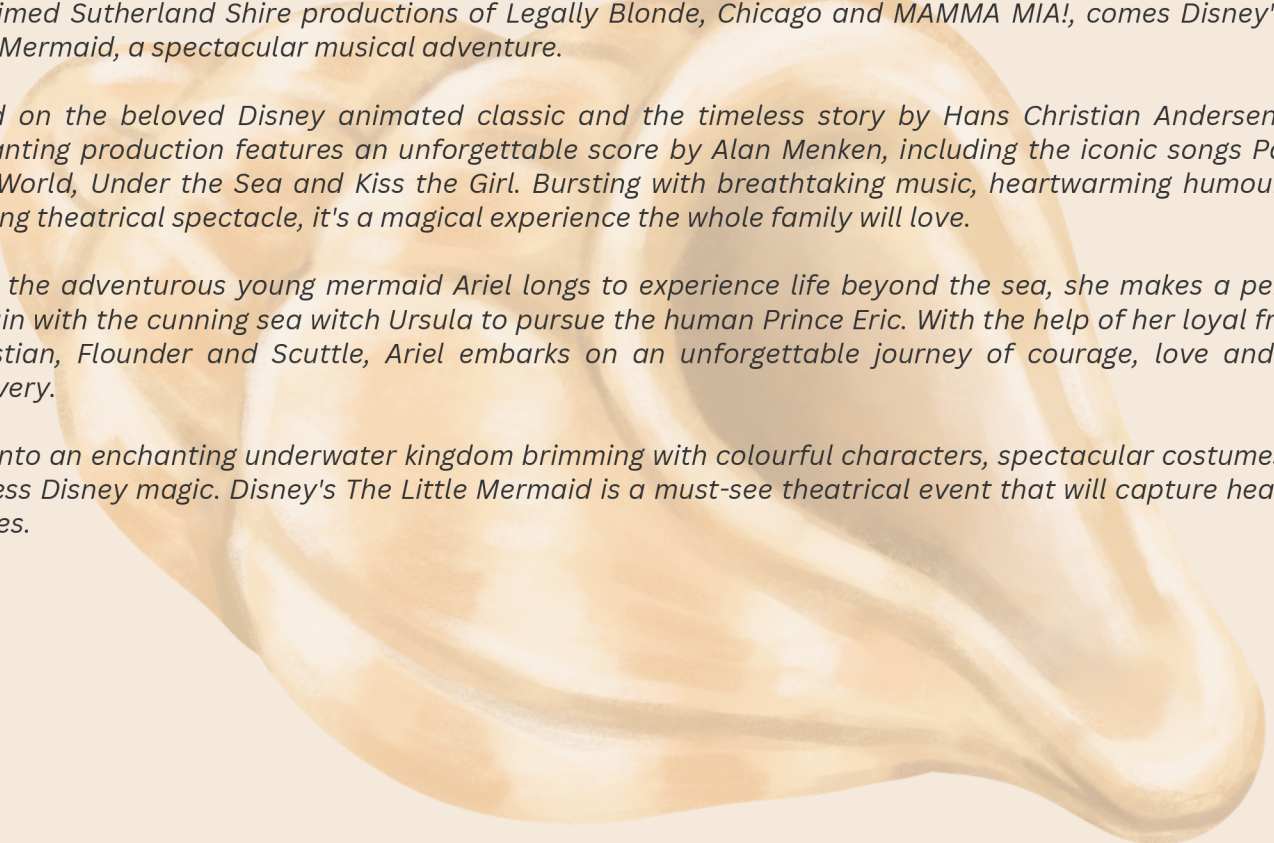
Journey beneath the waves and discover a world where dreams are worth risking everything.

*From Tall & Short Theatre Co, the award-nominated community theatre company behind the highly acclaimed Sutherland Shire productions of *Legally Blonde*, *Chicago* and *MAMMA MIA!*, comes Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, a spectacular musical adventure.*

*Based on the beloved Disney animated classic and the timeless story by Hans Christian Andersen, this enchanting production features an unforgettable score by Alan Menken, including the iconic songs *Part of Your World*, *Under the Sea* and *Kiss the Girl*. Bursting with breathtaking music, heartwarming humour and dazzling theatrical spectacle, it's a magical experience the whole family will love.*

When the adventurous young mermaid Ariel longs to experience life beyond the sea, she makes a perilous bargain with the cunning sea witch Ursula to pursue the human Prince Eric. With the help of her loyal friends Sebastian, Flounder and Scuttle, Ariel embarks on an unforgettable journey of courage, love and self-discovery.

*Dive into an enchanting underwater kingdom brimming with colourful characters, spectacular costumes and timeless Disney magic. Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is a must-see theatrical event that will capture hearts of all ages.*



CREATIVE TEAM



LUKE DERRICK

DIRECTOR

Luke is excited to make his production team debut with Tall & Short Theatre Co as Director of *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. Having worked across New Zealand and Australia as a performer, director and producer, Luke is passionate about creating imaginative theatre that challenges performers and delights audiences.

His recent credits include Barry Mann in *Beautiful: The Carole* (MustSee Theatre, 2026), an Apostle in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (RMS, 2026), Directing *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (HMTc, 2025) and Mike in *Freaky Friday* (HMTc, 2025).



RACHAEL ADAIR

CHOREOGRAPHER

Rachael is delighted to join Tall & Short Theatre Co as Choreographer for *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. After completing her diploma at Ev & Bow and training across Europe, she is excited to bring her passion for dance and storytelling to this beloved Disney classic.

Her recent credits include *Overture* at the Adelaide Fringe Festival, *Asteroids* at Berlin's B12 Festival and performing as a backup dancer for recording artist PENELOPE.



KAYLA HALL

VOCAL DIRECTOR

Kayla is excited to join the production team for *Disney's The Little Mermaid* as Vocal Director. A passionate performer and musical director, she loves helping performers grow in confidence while bringing memorable musical storytelling to the stage.

Her recent credits include Musical Director for *Alice in Wonderland JR.*, Assistant Musical Director for *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Ellie Blake in *Freaky Friday*.



HELEN HOWE

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

Helen is delighted to return to Tall & Short Theatre Co as Orchestra Director for *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, following her work on *Chicago*. An accomplished Musical Director and Conductor, Helen has conducted more than 40 productions over several decades.

Her credits include *Funny Girl*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Secret Garden*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Hello, Dolly!* and *My Fair Lady*. A career highlight was conducting the play-out of the Broadway production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in New York. Helen looks forward to bringing this timeless Disney score to life with the orchestra.



BRODIE FRASER

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Brodie is excited to join the production team for *Disney's The Little Mermaid* as Assistant Director, continuing her journey with Tall & Short Theatre Co on and off the stage. She has loved musical theatre from a young age and enjoys collaborating with performers to create memorable productions.

Her recent credits include Sophie Sheridan in *MAMMA MIA!*, Veronica Sawyer in *Heathers*, and Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde*. She has also worked behind the scenes as a Vocal Director and backing vocalist. Outside of theatre, Brodie is studying and working in midwifery.

Production Schedule

Audition Dates:

Saturday 29th August 2026 | Auditions + Dance Call

Sunday 30th August 2026 | Auditions + Dance Call

Rehearsals & Key Dates:

Saturday, September 5th

Saturday, September 12th

Saturday, September 19th

Saturday, September 26th

Saturday, October 3rd

Saturday, October 10th

Saturday, October 17th

Saturday, October 24th

Saturday, October 31st

Saturday, November 7th

Sunday, November 8th

Saturday, November 14th

Saturday, November 21st

Saturday, November 28th

Saturday, December 5th

Saturday, December 12th

Saturday, December 19th

Sunday, January 3rd

All rehearsals take place in Sutherland, NSW.

Production Week:

Saturday, January 9th

Sunday, January 10th

Monday, January 11th

Tuesday, January 12th

Wednesday, January 13th

Thursday, January 14th

Performances:

Friday, January 15th | Evening Performance

Saturday, January 16th | Evening Performance

Sunday, January 17th | Matinee Performance

Thursday, January 21st | Matinee & Evening Performance

Friday, January 22nd | Evening Performance

Saturday, January 23rd | Matinee & Evening Performance

Audition Requirements

All Auditionees are required to attend an individual vocal/acting audition and a dance call.

Each individual audition will involve a prepared vocal section and an acting cold read section. This cold read will involve a small monologue provided to you on the day which we will ask you to act out in the audition.

There will be a dance call on both days of auditions. When booking your audition you are welcome to book either of the dance calls, regardless of when your individual audition booking is occurring.

Please Note: All auditionees are required to complete the dance call. *The Little Mermaid* is a big production and has many dance numbers. We would love to see how you are able to move regardless of skill or training.

REGISTRATION

All auditionees are required to complete the online audition registration form. Please upload your current headshot and performance CV as part of the submission.

The registration form will open on Monday 10th August here: www.tstheatrecos.com/auditions

NOTE: Those seeking to be apart of our dance ensemble are only required to complete the dance ensemble registration form and attend in person for auditions for the Dance Call.

If you are unable to attend in person auditions, video auditions will be accepted. These must include vocal, character and dance submissions and be submitted via email as a private/unlisted YouTube link by 4:00pm on Wednesday 26th August.

During your audition, you will have the chance to have a brief chat with the creative team about your availability, experience, and interest in the production.

VOCAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th August, by appointment.

Applicants are required to prepare and perform:

Song 1 - Preferred character

- A 90-second (1½ minute) excerpt of a musical theatre song in the style of the character you are auditioning for.
- Your selection should showcase the vocal qualities, acting ability, and personality of the role.

Song 2 - Alternate character

- A 90-second (1½ minute) excerpt of a musical theatre song in the style of another character you would be happy to play if not cast in your first preference.

During your audition, you will have the chance to have a brief chat with the creative team about your availability, experience, and interest in the production.

Please Note:

- Songs from Disney's *The Little Mermaid* may NOT be used.
- Choose songs from other musicals that best demonstrate the style, vocal range, and personality of your chosen character(s) while showing us the best of yourself.
- A backing track must be provided to the production team before your audition. (Please email to shows@tstc.org.au) there will be no accompanist and no accapella.
- If you are auditioning for the ensemble, please select two songs sections which provide a different style or feeling from each other. These songs should be selected to best show off your voice and vocal ability.

DANCE CALL REQUIREMENTS

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th August, by appointment.

All auditionees will be required to attend a group dance call. This session will focus on musical theatre and jazz, with some additional elements of commercial or character-driven movement.

This production calls for energetic and crisp group dance numbers. Performers should be enthusiastic storytellers who are willing to take risks, and embrace the under the sea characters and their movement qualities. We strongly encourage you to explore the physicality of the creatures and characters you wish to be considered for and bring this to the dance combination.

This musical also calls for **tap dancing** in some songs, if you would like to showcase this skill please also learn the tap combination included in the audition materials. Regardless of what character you are auditioning for, if you can tap we want to see it!

- You will be sent a short dance combination to learn prior to the day and perform at auditions in small groups.
- On the day, you will also learn, and then perform in groups, a second short dance combination.
- Please wear black dance or activewear.
- Footwear: for female-identifying roles/ensemble, comfortable sneakers you can dance in; for male-identifying roles/ensemble, please bring sneakers you can dance in.

Material to prepare for the Dance Call will be available via www.tstheatreco.com.au/auditions on Monday 10th August 2025.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Tall & Short Theatre Co celebrate the rich diversity of the Australian performing arts community and are committed to fostering authentic and creative representation on our stages.

For our production of *The Little Mermaid*, we strongly encourage performers of all backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to apply. This includes individuals from diverse cultural, linguistic, and religious communities, as well as those representing varied sexual and gender identities or expressions, political viewpoints, abilities, and neurodiversity.



Character Breakdown

All roles in this production are available for audition and are unpaid.

ARIEL

Ariel is a strong-willed teenage mermaid who longs to be human. She possesses a keen curiosity for the world both under and above the sea – much to the chagrin of her father, King Triton. Big-hearted, she's more accepting of and delighted by others' differences than most of her fellow merfolk, but she also has a rebellious streak that can get her into trouble. This role requires a warm, lyrical mezzo-soprano with a secure upper register, excellent breath control and the ability to tell a story through song. We're looking for a singer who can move effortlessly between intimate, reflective moments and soaring musical climaxes while maintaining clarity, sincerity and emotional connection.

Range: Mezzo-Soprano, Ab3-E5 **Accent:** American **Gender:** Female Identifying

PRINCE ERIC

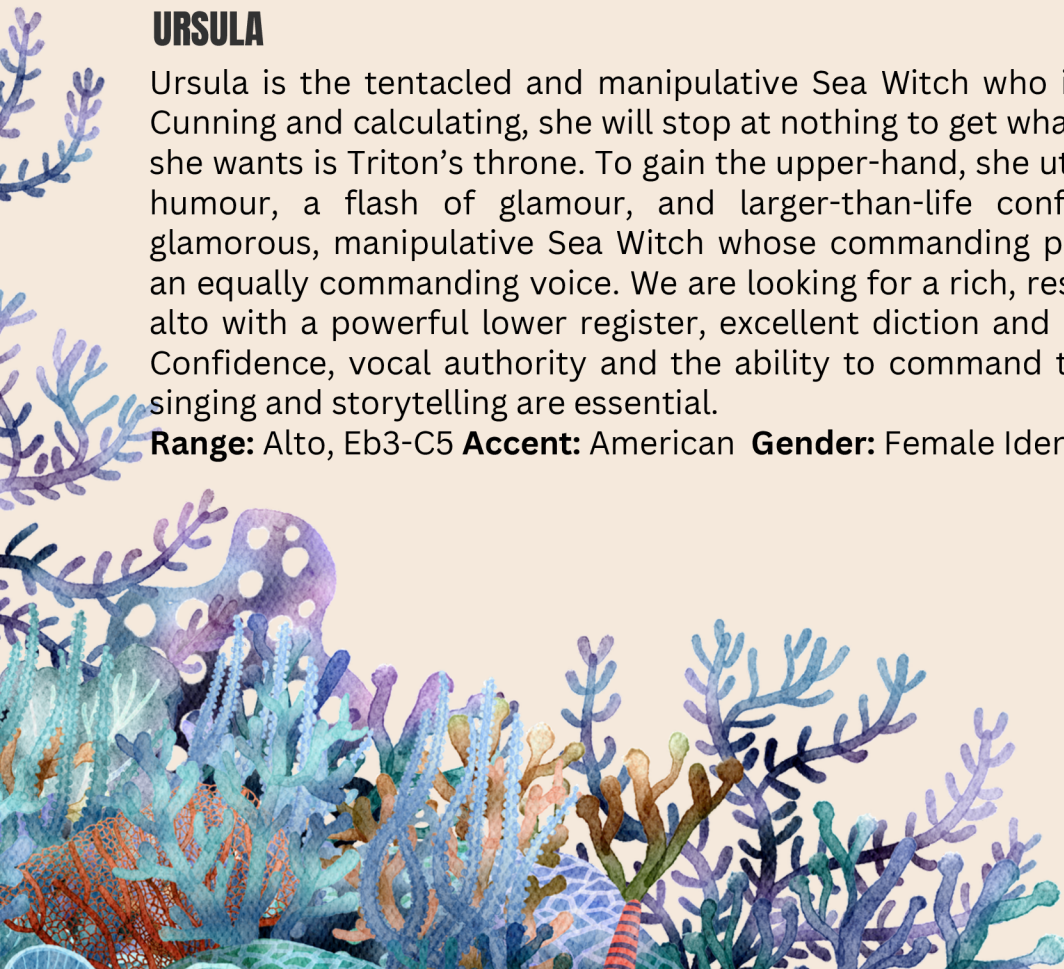
Prince Eric is the adventurous human monarch who captures Ariel's heart. Charming and sensitive in nature, he has a warm voice and demeanor that evoke his flair for romance. There is also a stubborn side to the Prince, who is determined to do whatever it takes to get what he wants – including the girl with the mysterious voice. We are looking for a confident lyric tenor with a warm, expressive tone, strong musicianship and effortless phrasing. The ideal performer should be able to communicate genuine emotion while maintaining a relaxed, romantic vocal quality.

Range: Tenor, B2-F#4 **Accent:** American **Gender:** Male Identifying

URSULA

Ursula is the tentacled and manipulative Sea Witch who is sister to King Triton. Cunning and calculating, she will stop at nothing to get what she wants – and what she wants is Triton's throne. To gain the upper-hand, she utilises her slick sense of humour, a flash of glamour, and larger-than-life confidence. Ursula is the glamorous, manipulative Sea Witch whose commanding presence is matched by an equally commanding voice. We are looking for a rich, resonant contralto or low alto with a powerful lower register, excellent diction and dynamic vocal control. Confidence, vocal authority and the ability to command the stage through both singing and storytelling are essential.

Range: Alto, Eb3-C5 **Accent:** American **Gender:** Female Identifying



Character Breakdown

All roles in this production are available for audition and are unpaid.

SEBASTIAN

Sebastian is the choirmaster of King Triton's court who has a flair for the dramatic. A meticulous and uptight crab, Sebastian is ever-anxious, whether he's conducting a concert premiere or protecting Ariel from Ursula. When he's performing – which is almost always – he's undeniably charismatic. His movement should be more fidgety than fluid, and he should be able to perform a broad send-up of a Caribbean accent (rather than an authentic Jamaican one). We are looking for a charismatic tenor with strong rhythmic precision, excellent diction and an engaging performance style. The ideal singer should be comfortable delivering energetic, character-driven musical numbers with confidence, personality and plenty of humour. The role of Sebastian also requires strong movement and dance ability.

Range: Tenor, Bb2-C5 **Accent:** Caribbean

KING TRITON

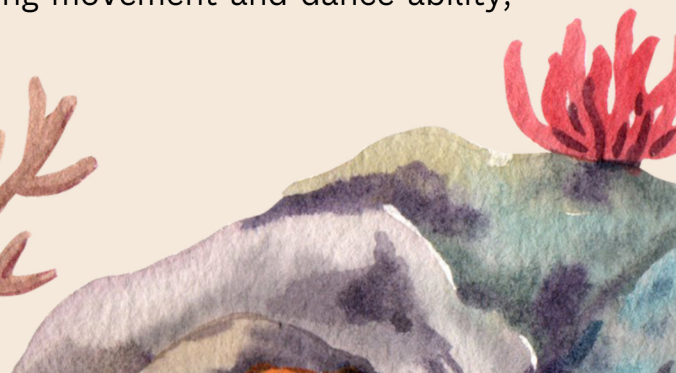
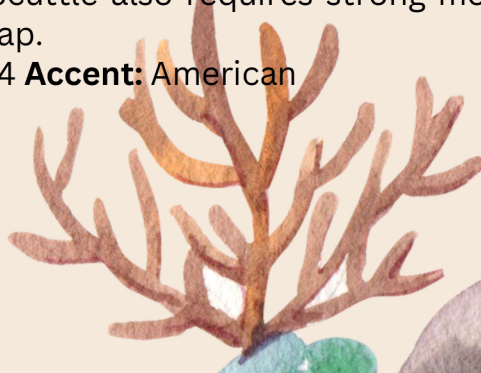
King Triton, King of the Sea and a harried single father to seven girls, struggles to balance his political and paternal powers. A widower, Triton is as fond of his daughters as he is frustrated with their teenage angst. Even when unsure of his parenting technique, he is a tender patriarch who becomes a royal force to be reckoned with when Ariel's safety and happiness is threatened by his sister, the Sea Witch Ursula. King Triton is a powerful ruler and devoted father. This role requires a warm, resonant baritone with vocal maturity, strength and emotional depth. We are looking for a singer who can balance authority with tenderness while maintaining clear storytelling and strong vocal presence.

Range: Baritone, Ab2-F4 **Accent:** American **Gender:** Male Identifying

SCUTTLE

Scuttle is the know-it-all seagull who serves as Ariel's expert on all things human. Garrulous and off-beat, Scuttle's eccentricities are more endearing than aggravating. Even as he makes up ridiculous names and functions for common human objects, his intentions are friendly and his enthusiasm is infectious. Scuttle is an eccentric and enthusiastic seagull who believes he knows everything about the human world. We are looking for a confident singer with excellent comic timing, clear diction and a bright, characterful vocal quality. Strong storytelling and the ability to maintain vocal energy throughout fast-paced songs are important. The role of Scuttle also requires strong movement and dance ability, including the ability to Tap.

Range: Alto/Tenor, C3-G4 **Accent:** American



Character Breakdown

All roles in this production are available for audition and are unpaid.

FLOUNDER

Flounder is Ariel's sincere and sensitive best friend who rarely leaves her side. A spunky fish with a sweet sense of humour, they can be awkward and anxious around their unrequited crush. This role suits a light lyric tenor with a youthful, bright tone and natural warmth. We are looking for a singer who communicates sincerity and optimism while maintaining strong musical accuracy and expressive storytelling. The role of Flounder also requires strong movement and dance ability.

Range: Alto/Tenor A2-G4 **Accent:** American

GRIMSBY

Grimsby is Prince Eric's prim and proper valet. Rigid in bearing and personality, he is constantly trying to guide Prince Eric toward the throne and a suitable bride fit for a royal marriage. Under his stern demeanor, Grimsby truly is fond of Eric, whom he worries about and attends to as though his own son. While the role contains limited solo singing, we are looking for a performer with a pleasant, secure singing voice, clear diction and confident vocal delivery. Strong characterisation and storytelling are more important than vocal virtuosity.

Range: Baritone B2-G4 **Accent:** British

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Flotsam and Jetsam are Ursula's sinister lackeys. With devious charm, these electric eels convince Ariel to visit the Sea Witch. Tricky and menacing, they are always lurking about, ready to take advantage of sea inhabitants at their most vulnerable moments. We are looking for singers with strong harmony skills, confident musicianship and the ability to blend seamlessly while maintaining individual character. Precision, rhythmic accuracy and expressive vocal storytelling are essential.

Flotsam: **Range:** Alto/Tenor E3-C5 **Accent:** American

Jetsam: **Range:** Alto/Tenor E3-C5 **Accent:** American



Character Breakdown

All roles in this production are available for audition and are unpaid.

MERSISTERS

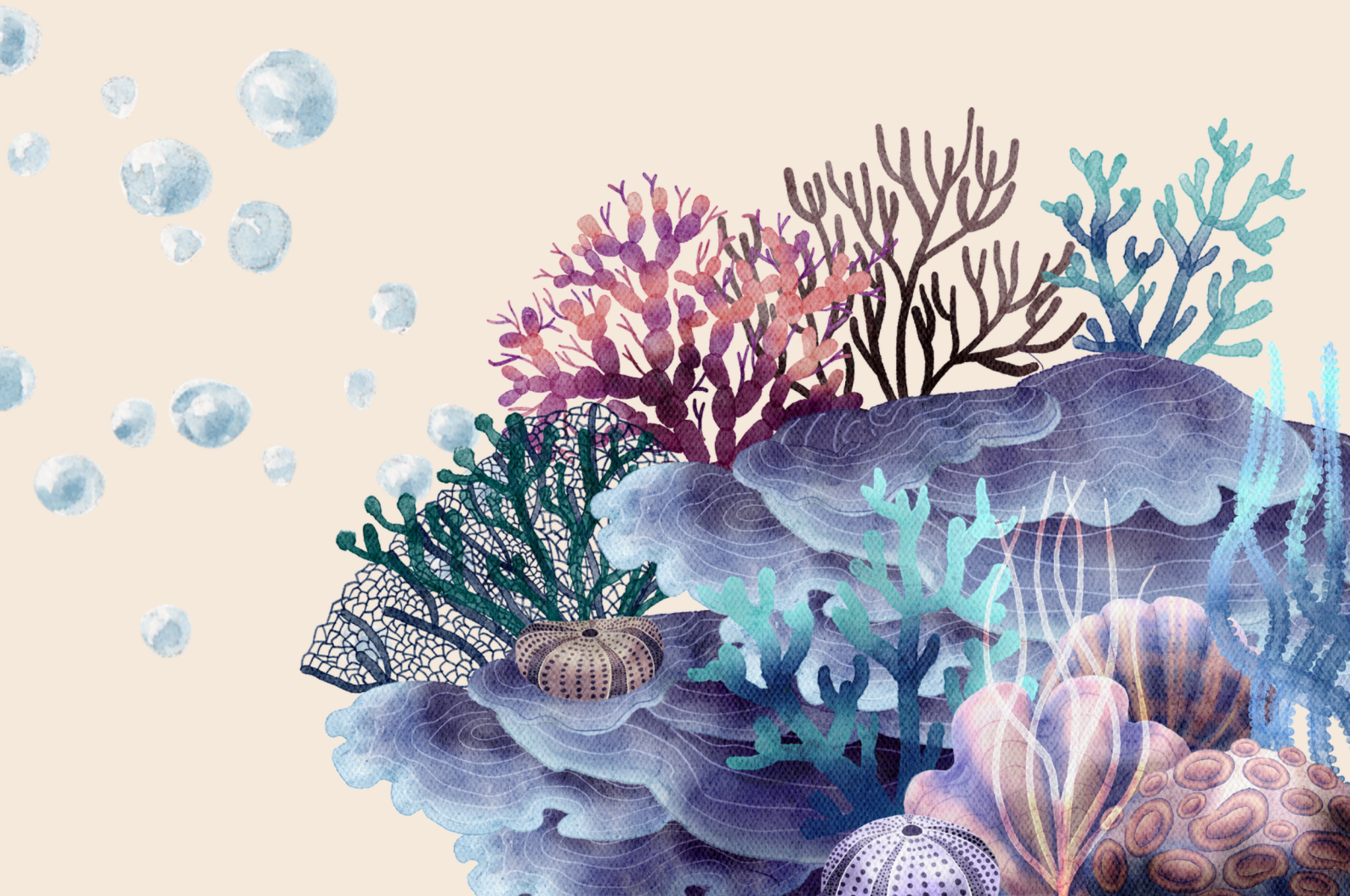
Aquata, Andrina, Arista, Atina, Adella, and Allana are the daughters of King Triton and sisters to Ariel. Full of personality and sass, each should be distinct in character. The Mersisters are vibrant, energetic and full of personality. We are looking for confident ensemble singers with strong harmony skills, excellent blend and the ability to maintain vocal independence within a group. Each performer should bring an individual vocal colour while contributing to a polished ensemble sound.

Range: Soprano/Mezzo **Accent:** American **Gender:** Female Identifying

CHEF LOUIS

Chef Louis is the melodramatic head chef in the palace. Wild and frenetic, he becomes physically and vocally flustered by Sebastian, who always manages to escape his grasp. He is an outrageously theatrical chef whose musical numbers are full of energy and comedy. We are looking for a strong character tenor with excellent diction, rhythmic confidence and the stamina to deliver energetic, fast-paced songs while maintaining vocal clarity and personality.

Range: Tenor Bb2-A4 **Accent:** French **Gender:** Male Identifying



Character Breakdown

All roles in this production are available for audition and are unpaid.

Throughout the show the Ensemble takes on the roles of sailors, sea creatures, gulls, maids, chefs and other royal figures in the household. To fill these roles we are looking for enthusiastic performers who enjoy singing, acting and dancing as part of a group and are willing to have fun creating the world of the show. You don't need to be a perfect singer or performer, we're looking for people with a good sense of pitch, a willingness to learn harmonies, and the confidence to perform as part of an ensemble. Energy, commitment, a positive attitude and the ability to work well as part of a team are just as important as ability. Whether this is your first show or your fiftieth, we'd love to see you audition!

FEMALE IDENTIFYING ENSEMBLE

(Aged 18+, all ethnicities): Will portray mermaids, sea creatures, princesses, maids, lagoon animals, and featured court characters. This ensemble forms the heart of both the underwater and human worlds, requiring strong movement, vocal blend, and character versatility. Roles may include:

- Sailors
- Chefs
- Princesses
- Maids
- Sea Creatures/Lagoon Animals
- Winard & Leeward

MALE IDENTIFYING ENSEMBLE

(Aged 18+, all ethnicities): Will portray sailors, chefs, sea creatures, palace staff, and featured character roles across both worlds. Requires strong physicality, character work, and vocal ability. Roles may include:

- Pilot/Sailors
- Chefs
- Palace Staff
- Sea Creatures/Lagoon Animals
- Winward & Leeward

DANCE ENSEMBLE

High-energy dancers who will feature prominently in large-scale musical numbers and movement-driven storytelling. Strong technical ability, precision, and stamina required.

Dance Ensemble performers may not be required to sing but will be fully integrated into the production, appearing as sea creatures, lagoon animals, and stylised movement elements throughout the show. They will play a key role in creating the visual spectacle of numbers such as *Positoovity*, *Under the Sea* and *She's In Love*.

FAQS



Is this a paid production?

No. All costs associated with attending auditions and rehearsals are the sole responsibility of the cast member.

Is there a production fee?

Yes. A production fee of \$185 (non-refundable) applies to all cast members. The production fee assists with operational costs such as rehearsal materials, consumables, and insurances. The fee must be paid in full prior to the first rehearsal. This is not a costume fee and cast members may be required to provide elements of their costume as guided by the creative team at the cast members own cost.

Who can audition?

All applicants must be 18 years of age or older at the time of audition.

Am I required to become a member of Tall & Short Theatre Co?

Yes. All successful candidates are required to become a Performance Members of Tall & Short Theatre Co, which is active for the duration of the production. The fee associated with membership is included in the production fee.

What is expected of cast members?

All cast are required to:

- Attend all scheduled rehearsals
- Participate in promotional activities and fundraising events
- Abide by Tall & Short Theatre Co's Policies and Procedures
- Actively demonstrate and uphold the values of Tall & Short Theatre Co
- Contribute to an environment where every member feels respected, supported, and included.

What if I have a schedule conflict?

Any potential conflicts must be disclosed on your audition form. Regular non-attendance, lack of transparency, or failure to provide adequate notice may result in your role being reconsidered.

Will auditions be recorded?

Yes. In person auditions and the dance call will be filmed for casting purposes.

Who decides the casting?

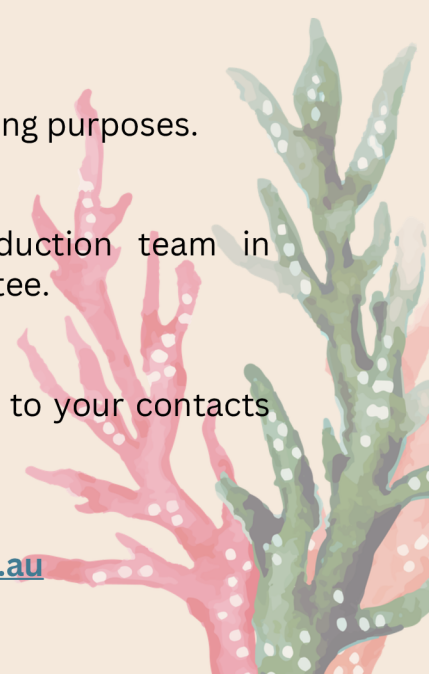
Casting decisions are made at the discretion of the production team in consultation with Tall & Short Theatre Co's Management Committee.

How will I know the outcome of my audition?

Casting offers are sent via email. Please add shows@tstc.org.au to your contacts to ensure your offer does not go to spam mail.

Who can I contact with additional questions?

The production team can be contacted via email shows@tstc.org.au



PRODUCTION HISTORY



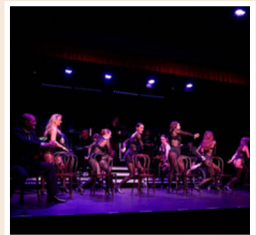
LEGALLY BLONDE



Engadine Community Centre, Engadine

February 2026

CHICAGO



Sutherland Arts Theatre, Sutherland

May 2025

GREASE THE MUSICAL



Sutherland Arts Theatre, Sutherland

February 2025

MAMMA MIA!



The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland

October 2024

CRUEL INTENTIONS: THE '90s MUSICAL



The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland

February 2024

TALL & SHORT THEATRE CO

production of

Disney **THE LITTLE
MERMAID**

15-24 JANUARY

ENGADINE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Music by
**ALAN
MENKEN**

Lyrics by
**HOWARD ASHMAN &
GLENN SLATER**

Book by
**DOUG
WRIGHT**

Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film
produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker
and written & directed by John Musker and Ron Clements

**Originally Produced by
Disney Theatrical Productions**

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

TICKETS ON SALE

WWW.TSTHEATRECO.COM