

Queensland Ballet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LI CUNXIN AO



The Little Mermaid

RELAXED PERFORMANCE GUIDE

The Little Mermaid

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

This resource provides information for audience members attending the **Relaxed Performance** to ensure a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all.

We are proud to schedule Relaxed Performances so that families with young children and people living with autism and other sensory needs can enjoy the magic of the ballet in a safe and accepting environment.

What is a Relaxed Performance?

These tailored performances have relaxed theatre rules to accommodate for all audience members of various abilities, including autism spectrum disorder and other sensory needs as well as young families.

During the performance, the following adaptations ensure a welcoming and safe theatre environment:

- House lights will remain on, but dimmed to ensure patrons can see family members who are seated beside and to allow safe movement into and out of theatre.
- Patrons are welcome to exit and re-enter the theatre at any time as required and ushers will be available to assist.
- Audience members are welcome to bring into the theatre earphones/ear plugs, fidget toys, appropriate muted electronic devices, etc. as required to enjoy the performance.

For further information please contact Queensland Ballet on 07 3013 6666 or community@queenslandballet.com.au

Meet the characters



The Little Mermaid



The Prince



Spirit of the Sea

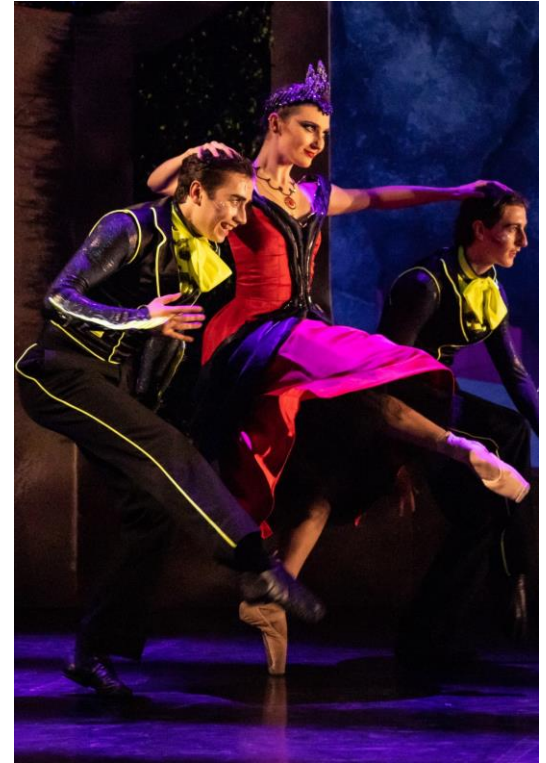
Meet the characters



Eels



Sea Witch



Temptress and her valets

The characters up close

You will notice that some of the characters in this story are a little spooky, sinister and mysterious. Please don't be alarmed! The characters are all played by Queensland Ballet Jette Parker Young Artists who, while they enjoy play such wicked characters, are truly kind and friendly people.



Jette Parker Young Artist, Sean Ferenczi said, "I love the characters of the Eels as although they might look intimidating at first, they are a pair of buffoons that will do anything to please their master the Sea Witch. When she's not watching they get up to all sorts of mischief!"



As you enter the theatre...

When you walk into the theatre you will notice the space is filled with light. As our performance starts, the lights will stay on but dim to be less bright and distracting.

Once you've found your seat, if you listen carefully, you might notice the sound of the ocean's crashing waves in the distance.

If you look closely, you might see rippling lights on the stage curtain that remind you of light on water.

Remember if you want a break from the performance, our ushers can help guide you to a quiet zone where you can sit and relax. You can then rejoin the performance at any time.



Underwater garden

Our story begins in the Little Mermaid's underwater garden, surrounded by her treasures that have been collected from wrecked ships.

You will see that the Little Mermaid is fascinated by one treasure in particular, a statue of a young and handsome prince.

Her family begs her to return to her father's sea palace but the Little Mermaid refuses and chooses to stay playing her garden and dreaming of her prince.

Suddenly, a boat appears overhead, and the Little Mermaid decides to follow the boat to the surface...

Above the waves

Upon reaching the water's surface, the Little Mermaid sees a handsome Prince relaxing in a boat lit with lanterns. The Little Mermaid is captivated by the Prince, who closely resembles her beloved statue.

Listen out for these noises!

Suddenly a storm takes shape in the sky, the sea becomes rough, and the boat is torn apart!

Keep an eye on the background here. If you don't like loud noises, **cover your ears when you see the wind swirling and a giant wave forming!**

The Prince begins to sink beneath the waves. Will the Little Mermaid be able to save the Prince?



The Cave of the Sea Witch

After saving the Prince, the Little Mermaid is guided by two wicked Eels who take her to the Cave of the Sea Witch.

Listen out for these noises!

The Sea Witch emerges from the darkness and unfurls her giant purple tentacles! Letting out a wicked cackle, she loudly snarls and smashes her tentacles on the ocean floor. If you don't like loud noises, **cover your ears when you first spot her tentacles appear.**



A bargain...



The Sea Witch explains to the Little Mermaid that if she wishes to get closer to the Prince, she must give up her Mermaid's tail for human legs so that she can walk on land.

Of course, there is a price to pay, and the Little Mermaid must sacrifice her voice for her land legs, a transformation that will never allow her to return to the sea again.

Should the Prince wish to kiss the Little Mermaid, he has until sunset on the day she arrives, otherwise the Little Mermaid's voice will remain the property of the Sea Witch!

Journey to the Prince

The Little Mermaid agrees to this bargain and so the Sea Witch, with the help of the Eels, creates a potion which will grant the Little Mermaid land legs.

The Little Mermaid bids farewell to her sister and the underwater life she has always known. Making her way to dry land, the Little Mermaid drinks the potion and falls asleep as it takes effect.

When she awakens with the land legs that she so desired, the Little Mermaid begins the uncomfortable experience of discovering how to walk. The Prince happens upon her and is fascinated by her but confused that she has no voice.



The Prince's Castle Garden

The Prince invites the Little Mermaid to his Castle Garden, where the Prince shares stories of his life and his fascination for the Little Mermaid grows. Upon gifting the Little Mermaid a dress fit for a princess, the two dance together, falling more in love.

Listen out for these noises!

Back under the sea, the Sea Witch is spying on the Little Mermaid and the Prince through a magic crystal ball. She watches the love developing between the two and lets out a terrible scream of rage! If you don't like loud noises, **cover your ears when the crystal ball appears.**



The Prince's Castle Garden

With encouragement from the Eels, the Sea Witch brews a potion to transform herself into the Temptress, a character designed to lure the Prince away from the Little Mermaid.

The Temptress and the Eels (disguised as her valets) magically arrive at the castle garden and place the Prince under a spell, who cannot take his eyes away from this mysterious visitor!

Without her voice, the Little Mermaid is helpless to warn the Prince and to tell him of her love. As the Little Mermaid's heart begins to break, the Temptress and her mischievous valets begin to taunt and tease her. The Prince notices their cruel behaviour which breaks the wicked enchantment! Confronting the Temptress, the Prince banishes her and the valets from the castle garden. In a whirlwind of fury, the Temptress transforms back into the Sea Witch and upon witnessing the Prince kiss the Little Mermaid is destroyed along with her slimy servants into oblivion.



The Prince's Castle Garden

After having being kissed by the Prince, the Little Mermaid discovers that her voice has returned and can now speak of her love to her Prince.

The Prince swears his love and devotion to the Little Mermaid by gifting her a ring. The Prince and the Little Mermaid celebrate their love through a great celebration dance.





What do think happens next
in our story?

If you were the Little
Mermaid, would you give up
your sea tail for land legs?

Who was your favourite
character?

We hope you enjoy the show!

Interested in finding out more about Queensland Ballet's Community and Education Programs?

We offer year-round events with QB Youth Memberships, inclusive dance classes, school workshops, holiday dance camps and more.

To learn more visit queenslandballet.com.au/community
or get in touch via community@queenslandballet.com.au

