

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

PROLOGUE

NARRATOR, a voiceover, an offstage voice, or an onstage storyteller delivers the prologue.

OLD BEGGAR WOMAN, a haggard-looking old woman, reveals herself to be a beautiful enchantress.

THE TOWN

BELLE, an intelligent and insightful young woman, longs for a life of adventure and belonging. Willing to sacrifice herself to save her father, she exhibits heroic altruism and selfless love. While kind-hearted and gentle, Belle proves her strength when she stands up to the brutish Gaston. Belle should have a strong mezzo voice

MAURICE, an inventor, is Belle's loving and supportive father. A bit of an eccentric who often gets lost in his own world while tinkering on his contraptions, the villagers incorrectly label him a "crazy old man."

GASTON, the village celebrity, is in love with one person: himself. The epitome of toxic masculinity, Gaston earnestly and unabashedly harasses Belle, whom he values only for her beauty. Charming and manipulative, Gaston is the village's de facto leader whose lack of understanding and compassion ultimately leads to his own downfall. Gaston is a high baritone with a large vocal range.

LEFOU, Gaston's bumbling sidekick, is always there to boost his pal's spirits. Lefou loyally and energetically serves Gaston, but lacking in good judgement, rarely thinks things through. Lefou should have good physical comedy skills.

MONSIEUR D'ARQUE, the scheming proprietor of the local asylum, is a dark and sinister force behind Gaston's scheme to win Belle.

LES FILLES DE LA VILLE, French for "village girls," are a group of Gaston's fanatical female followers who energetically pursue him in the hopes of winning his affections.

CRONIES, frequenters at the tavern, are Gaston's drinking companions. Loud and rowdy, they love a good laugh, even at the expense of innocent and eccentric villagers, like Maurice.

Other **VILLAGERS** create the hustle and bustle of daily life in the small provincial town. They include: the Shepherd, Marie, Tavern Master, Laundry Lady, Baker, Milkmaid, Flower Seller, Sausage Curl Lady, Candlemaker, Hat Seller, and Bookseller.

THE CASTLE

The BEAST, a spoiled prince turned into a terrifying beast, struggles to maintain his humanity as the Enchantress's spell grows stronger. His hot temper can frighten and push people away, but a loving heart is buried beneath his gruff exterior. The actor who

plays the Beast needs to evince a strong physicality to convey intense emotion and animal behavior; he must also be able to sell his agony of loss

COGSWORTH, a tightly-wound and enchanted mantle clock, serves as the head of the Beast's household. Never one to disobey the Beast, he spends most of his time trying to talk Lumiere out of whatever convoluted plan he's devising. Despite his tendency to appear uptight and strict, Cogsworth proves hardworking and loyal.

LUMIERE, a suave and debonair enchanted candelabra, finds the light even in the darkest of places. He loyally serves the Beast and counters his gloomy disposition with an optimistic flare. Though he leads "Be Our Guest," Lumiere can speak-sing through much of it, so cast a strong actor who can first and foremost pull off his flirtatious and funny nature.

BABETTE, an enchanted feather duster, is fun-loving and flirtatious. Bold and brazen, Babette is the embodiment of the vain and enticing French maid.

MRS. POTTS, a warm-hearted enchanted teapot, is the comforting caretaker among the castle staff. A wise and patient maternal figure, she is quick to offer a spot of tea and a dash of advice to anyone in need. Mrs. Potts is an alto who sings the title song.

CHIP, Mrs. Potts's darling child, is a playful and bright-eyed enchanted teacup. Chip's innocence and cheer make sipping tea a delightful experience, winning over even the grumpiest of hearts. Must be under 4'10"

MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE, a former opera diva turned enchanted wardrobe, is a larger-than-life personality who helps lift Belle's spirits when she first arrives at the castle. Without her elaborate and theatrical costuming, Madame finds life difficult, but always manages to retain an air of elegance and refinement.

WOLVES, violent and frightening creatures of the forest, are known to attack innocent wanderers.

Other enchanted **CASTLE STAFF**, including the gargoyle, flatware, napkins, etc., serve the Beast by cooking, cleaning, and carrying