

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, an international sensation that has been produced in 37 countries worldwide. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version includes all of the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice. The original Broadway production ran for over thirteen years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

FULL SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

Once upon a time in a faraway land, an Enchantress turns a self and spoiled young Prince into a hideous beast. To break the spell, the Beast must learn to love another and earn their love in return before the last petal falls from an enchanted rose. If he cannot, he will be doomed to remain a beast for all time.

*Meanwhile, Belle, a young woman in a provincial French village, arises to greet the morning. The villagers bustle about their daily business as Belle makes her way through the town, engrossed in a book. While the villagers gossip about how odd they find her introversion and love of reading, the boorish Gaston plots to marry her solely on account of her looks (**Belle**).*

*Belle arrives home to find her father, Maurice, struggling to stabilize his newest invention. Belle confides in him her worries that people think she is odd. Maurice reassures her, and once he finally fixes his machine, sets out to showcase his brilliant work at the fair. Soon, however, Maurice loses his way in the woods and encounters a pack of wolves (**Maurice Travels**). Fleeing for his safety, Maurice stumbles upon a castle and pleads for shelter. Once inside, he encounters the enchanted staff – Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts, Chip, and Babette – who were also transformed by the Enchantress's spell. After Maurice's initial shock, they try to make him feel comfortable, but the Beast appears and imprisons the intruder.*

*Back in the village, Gaston proposes to Belle (Me), much to the dismay of the twittering Filles de la Ville. Belle refuses him and expresses her longing for adventure outside the mundanity of village life (**Belle – Reprise**). Belle notices Lefou wearing her father's scarf which he says he found in the woods. Concerned for her father, she runs off in search of Maurice.*

*As the castle staff transforms more completely into objects each day, Lumiere and Cogsworth lose hope that the spell will ever be broken; however, their hope returns when Belle enters the castle in search of her father. Belle finds Maurice in the dungeon, but the Beast appears and prevents their escape. She offers herself in exchange for Maurice's freedom; the Beast agrees, sending Maurice back to the village and Belle to her new room where she reflects on her choice (**Home**). Mrs. Potts and the enchanted*

wardrobe, Madame de la Grande Bouche, encourage Belle not to lose hope (Home – Reprise).

At the village tavern, Gaston mopes about his rejection while his cronies try to boost his spirits (Gaston). When Maurice barges in claiming that a monstrous beast is holding Belle captive, Gaston devises a plan to trick Belle into marrying him (Gaston – Reprise).

Meanwhile, the castle staff tries to teach the Beast to act like a gentleman, but when Belle refuses to join him for dinner, he loses his temper (How Long Must This Go On?). Meanwhile, the enchanted staff serves a hungry Belle an extravagant meal, despite their master's orders (Be Our Guest). Afterward, Cogsworth and Lumiere lead Belle on a tour of the castle, but when Belle sneaks into the west wing, the Beast discovers her and once again loses his temper. A frightened Belle flees the castle, leaving the Beast alone with his remorse (If I Can't Love Her)

ACT TWO

As Belle dashes through the forest, a pack of wolves advances on her, but the Beast leaps in and saves her. Having a change of heart, Belle accompanies the Beast back to the castle and tends to his wounded arm. The sta# – as well as Belle and the Beast – notice that there is a change between them (**Something There**). Belle and the Beast bond, giving the sta# hope that the spell soon might be broken (**Human Again**). Belle asks the Beast to have dinner with her, and the two share a wonderful evening that concludes with a dance (**Beauty and the Beast**).

Despite her feelings for the Beast, Belle longs to see her father. Using the Beast's magic mirror, Belle sees that Maurice is in trouble, and the Beast lets her go in order for her to save her father from Gaston and a frightened and angry mob. Though the Beast has "nally learned to love, he fears he has lost his "nal chance to regain his humanity before the last rose petal falls (**If I Can't Love Her – Reprise**).

Belle " sends her father in the woods and, upon returning to the village, confesses that the Beast has changed the way she sees the world (**A Change in Me**). Gaston, accompanied by Monsieur D'Arque, the asylum proprietor, arrives with plans to send Maurice to the asylum if Belle refuses his marriage proposal. To prove her father's words are true, Belle uses the Beast's magic mirror to show him to the villagers. Jealous of Belle's kind words for such a "monster," Gaston emboldens the villagers to set o# on a quest to storm the castle and kill the Beast, while Belle vows to return to the castle to warn him (**The Mob Song**).

Once he's in" ltrated the castle, Gaston confronts the Beast in the west wing and stabs him before stumbling and falling o# the turret to his death. Belle arrives and holds the dying Beast in her arms, telling him that she loves him (**Home – Reprise**), thereby breaking the spell. The Beast transforms back into the Prince, the sta# becomes human again, and they all live happily ever after (**Transformation/Finale**).