



## Synopsis

Based on the hit 1994 Walt Disney animated film of the same name, The Lion King Jr. musical is set in the African Pridelands and tells the coming of age story of lion cub Simba. Introduced to the animal kingdom as the heir to Pride Rock by his father Mufasa, Simba's birth has unsettled his Uncle Scar who finds himself relegated down the line of succession, and he plots along with his hyenas to kill both Mufasa and Simba in order for him to become King.

As Simba grows up and begins to test the boundaries, Mufasa teaches him about the circle of life and their place within the ecosystem. Tricked by Scar, Simba watches helplessly as his father is killed in a stampede. He is persuaded that the accident is his fault, and to run away leaving his friends and family behind. As Scar becomes King of Pride Rock, Simba grows up in the jungle, but his past soon catches up with him and he's finally forced to face his destiny.

## Character Breakdown

**Cast Size:** 75

**Cast type:** Ensemble Cast

**Dance Requirement:** Standard

### Rafiki

A wise mandrill who acts as healer of the Pridelands and guides Simba on his journey home. She is an omniscient character, evincing an air of mystery. Rafiki has significant solos in "Circle of Life" and "He Lives in You," and leads the African chants throughout the show, so this performer must be confident with a strong singing voice. Gender: Both

### Mufasa

The strong, honorable, and wise lion who leads the Pridelands. Mufasa should command respect onstage and also show tenderness with his son, Simba. Gender: Male

### Sarabi

A featured lioness, Mufasa's mate, and Simba's mother. Must be able to deliver her lines with the care and command of a queen. Gender: Female

### Zazu

The anxious yet loyal assistant to Mufasa who is always busy trying to do his duty. Zazu's lyrics are spoken rather than sung. Gender: Both

## **Scar**

The antagonist of the show, overcome with jealousy of his brother, Mufasa, and nephew, Simba. Coldhearted and wickedly intelligent, he will stop at nothing to become king of the Pridelands. Must be able to bring out this villain's dark side while handling Scar's sarcastic sense of humor. Gender: Male

## **Young Simba**

The protagonist of the story, is an adventurous and endearing cub who can't wait to be king of the Pridelands. Simba is playful, energetic, and naive, but after his father Mufasa's death, Simba struggles with shame and his destiny. Must be a strong singer and dynamic performer. Gender: Both (Likely Male)

## **Simba**

Grows from a cub to lion in "Hakuna Matata." Older Simba has more complex moments as he reunites with Nala, mourns his father, and returns to confront Scar. Gender: Male

## **Lionesses**

The fierce hunters of the Pridelands and featured in "The Lioness Hunt," "The Mourning," and "Shadowland." The lionesses must be strong singers and dancers. Gender: Female

## **Young Nala**

A courageous lion and Young Simba's best friend. She is not afraid to speak her mind. Must be a strong performer who can portray this confident cub. Gender: Female

## **Nala**

Grows from a cub to a lioness before she confronts Scar. Gender: Female

## **Sarafina**

A featured lioness and Nala's mother. Gender: Female

## **Shenzi**

One of Scar's hyenas who plot to take over the Pridelands. She is the sassy one of the trio and is always looking out for herself. With Banzai and Ed, she should be able to laugh loudly and long, as well as be menacing to Young Simba and Young Nala. Gender: Female

## **Banzai**

A slick yet childish hyena who works for Scar. Banzai would be the leader of the group if hyenas weren't so lazy. Must be an outgoing and confident actor who can portray nastiness and gruffness. Gender: Both

## **Ed**

The third member of Scar's trio of lackeys. Ed has a loud, cackling laugh that is his only form of communication. Ed should be played by an actor who can laugh unabashedly and communicate through physicality and facial expressions rather than words. Gender: Both

## Hyenas

Scar's army, helping carry out his evil plot to take over the Pridelands. Hyenas are mangy, mindless creatures who sing in "Be Prepared." Must be able to play a loud and raucous character. Gender: Both

## Timon

An outcast meerkat who lives in the jungle with Pumbaa. Timon is afraid of his own shadow, but pretends to be the confident, relaxed leader of the duo. Timon is one of the funniest characters in the show and should be played by a charismatic actor who understands comic timing. Gender: Both

## Pumbaa

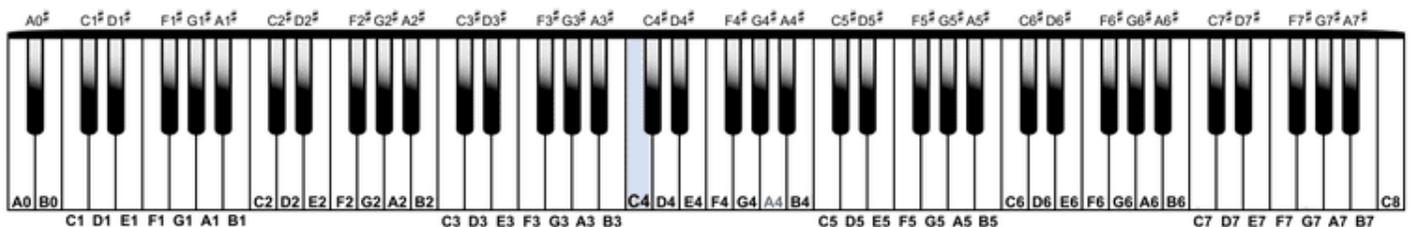
A kindhearted, sensitive warthog who enjoys his simple life of grubs and relaxation. Must be able to portray this loveable and loyal friend to Timon and Simba with deadpan humor. Gender: Both

## Ensemble

The ensemble includes the "Grasslands" as well as various inhabitants of the Pridelands, such as giraffes, elephants, antelopes, wildebeests, birds, and other creatures. The ensemble will do lots of singing and dancing in this show! Gender: Both

# Show Song List

- Circle of Life
- Grasslands Chant
- The Lioness Hunt
- I Just Can't Wait To Be King
- Be Prepared
- They Live In You
- The Stampede
- The Mourning
- Hakuna Matata
- Shadowland
- Can You Feel the Love Tonight?
- He Lives In You
- Luau Hawaiian Treat
- Finale





## Auditions: What to Expect

### AUDITION LOCATION:

First Presbyterian Church  
621 College Ave, Wooster

### AUDITION DATES:

Monday, April 1

Ages 8-12 6:00 pm –7:30 pm

Ages 13-18 7:30 pm –9:00 pm

Thursday, April 4

Ages 8-12 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Ages 13-18 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday, April 6

Ages 8-12 9:30 am –11:00 am

Ages 13-18 11:00 am –12:30 pm

- What do I do when I arrive?
  1. Pick up and completely fill out an audition form. **INCLUDE ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS!** If you filled out an audition form online (<http://www.wacpac.org/the-lion-king-jr-audition-form/>), you will need to have a printed hard copy or re-fill it out when you arrive. Present this to us when you enter the room for auditions.

2. Wait patiently until you are called into the audition area. Feel free to bring quiet activities or enjoy time with the other actors auditioning! You only need to come to ONE audition date, not all of them.

- What will the audition be like?

First, we want you to relax and have FUN! Take this opportunity to show us your personality and skills. The more confident and energetic you are, the more we can see your capabilities.

Your audition will involve two components.

You must participate in both: Vocal & Reading

## 1. VOCAL:

As part of your audition, you'll be asked to sing. For this show, we'd like auditioners to choose and prepare a song from our "Audition Song List". Go to our website at <http://www.wacpac.org/the-lion-king-jr-audition-song-list/> to choose your audition song. Please provide an instrument/karaoke track (check YouTube).

- Why is there a song list? There's never been one for the summer auditions! Many times, auditioners sing a song that the directors are not familiar with, so it is difficult to gauge whether or not they are singing on pitch. The directors then ask the auditioner to sing another song, like "Happy Birthday" or "Twinkle Twinkle" in order to assess for pitch. Having auditioners sing not one but TWO songs, only adds to the length of auditions. We prefer you provide accompaniment music, as opposed to singing a cappella.
- What if I don't get to sing my whole song?  
Don't worry if you are interrupted and don't get to finish your song. This will happen with everyone and only means that we have heard enough of your voice to give us a good idea of your sound. You may also be asked to sing some scales to give us an idea of your vocal range.

## 2. READING:

You will also be asked to read lines from the script along with other auditioners. If you are interested in reading for a particular character, let us know at this time. You do not have to read a certain part in order to get that same part in the play! By just reading any character you can give us a good idea of your abilities.

Remember to speak loudly, clearly and put as much expressive energy into your reading as you can.

- **When am I done with auditions?**

You are finished when you have completed the singing and acting portions of the audition.

- **Can I come back and audition for the same thing twice?**

This is not encouraged. If you feel a need to do so, speak with the director.

- **What if I get “called back”?**

Callback auditions mean that we would like to see you audition again for some reason. It does not necessarily mean that you are guaranteed a part. We just need to find out more before we make our casting decisions. Callbacks are Monday April 8th 6:30 pm – 8:30pm and chosen auditioners will be notified by directors.

- **What if I am not “called-back”?**

It does not necessarily mean you haven't been cast. You could not be called back and still be cast in the show. Please do not contact the directors to inquire if you've been cast or called back.

- **When will I know if I have been cast in the show?**

1. The cast list will be posted on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> on the WaCPAC Facebook site and at [wacpac.org](http://wacpac.org). YOU MUST CONFIRM THAT YOU ACCEPT YOUR ROLE, by sending an email to [wacpacattendance@gmail.com](mailto:wacpacattendance@gmail.com) by Sunday, April 14th. Once you accept, you are committed and we will be counting on you!
2. If you are not cast in the show, you will likely be disappointed. Please consider becoming involved in the production in some other way. No production is successful without the work of the crew! We will need help with lights, sound, props, make-up, publicity, tickets, set-building, etc. We hope that Disney's The Lion King Jr. will be a fun and meaningful experience for everyone involved, in whatever capacity they participate.
3. If you are cast, but not in the role you wanted, please continue with the production. Unfortunately, some people take these decisions very personally and leave the production entirely. The directors must always do what is best for the success of the show and although we wish we

could give everyone a speaking role, it's just not possible! Chorus members are integral to a show and still have an AWESOME theatre experience. We hope that cast members will support each other and choose to be happy and supportive of their castmates.

### Special notes:

Attendance is mandatory for all of Tech Week (June 10-13) and all performances (June 14-15, 21-23). **If you have a conflict during those dates, you will not be cast.** If you are unaware of a conflict and it arises after the show has been cast, you may be asked to leave the production. This is not to be mean, but it is ESSENTIAL to have the full cast present for tech week and performances!

If you accept your role as an actor in the cast, you will be asked to put in a minimum of four hours working backstage, with set building, painting, costumes, or wherever you are needed most. We will need this commitment from every actor. If you are not willing to put in this extra time, please do not audition. Parent volunteers are also an essential part of our productions' success.

- When will the first meeting be held?  
All PARENTS, CAST and CREW members will be expected to attend the first organizational meeting at First Presbyterian Church 621 College Ave, Wooster 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22nd. If you have a conflict and cannot attend, contact Jenny Karger at [jenettekarger@gmail.com](mailto:jenettekarger@gmail.com) or 818-298-7308.
- When will I receive a complete rehearsal schedule?  
A finalized rehearsal schedule will be posted once the director has had time to take all scheduling conflicts into account. We will be holding most rehearsals from 6:30-8:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; and on Saturdays from 10am-12pm. It depends on the role which days/dates you'll be required to attend. You may have some conflicts along the way, but starting June 10th at the latest, everyone must be at every rehearsal through the run of the shows, which are scheduled for June 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 2019.

Thank you for sharing your talents with WaCPAC! Break a Leg!