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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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## Random Farms Kids' Theater Set to Perform Disney Classic

By Sam Barron

It's not every day that a musical has to navigate characters who go from under water to above water throughout a production.

Random Farms Kids' Theater has been given the opportunity to produce a pilot of a junior version of Disney's "The Little Mermaid." The show is currently not available for license and Random Farms is one of only two places in the country performing this production.

"It's a special adaptation for young people to act in and see," producer Anya Williams said. "This is a really special opportunity for our group. It's definitely been a challenge in making it into a musical."

Random Farms likes to get as many kids as possible into its productions. "The Little Mermaid" is divided into four different casts with more than 120 kids involved. Rehearsal will take place over three weeks.

"It's a way to give more young people an opportunity to perform," Williams said. "They each get to do two performances. It's eight different shows spread over two weekends."

Alexis Grausz is the director, in charge of the logistics of working with four different casts and with the show's different settings.

"We've put a lot of energy and thought into creating the set," Grausz said. "It moves up and down. Some of the show is done underwater, some is done surface on the water, and some is done on land. It's an interesting process to make it work on stage without a million-dollar budget. We're having fun."

Grausz said the show can be challenging, but she is glad that Westchester has such talented child actors. While some directors would turn white at the thought of putting together the same production four times, Grausz embraces the challenge.

"It's really interesting the four different shows that you can create with the kids," Grausz said. "I try to not make the shows



Random Farms Kids Theater plans to put on four different productions of "The Little Mermaid" with over 120 kids.

identical. I see what the kids can bring to it and the characteristics they have. It does get a little exhausting, but I really enjoy it."

Grausz said she is also embracing the challenge of directing a show that she has never seen before.

"It's always good when I've seen the show a million times, but it can also limit you," Grausz said. "There are pluses and minuses to both."

Sarah Ann Duffy will be playing Ariel in one of the productions. This will be her first production at Random Farms. Duffy, a Cortlandt resident, said she has wanted

to play Ariel since she was young.

"She's really excited and full of energy," said Duffy, who will be going into her sophomore year of high school. "She wants to get out and be on land. I can relate to her. I've been wanting to play this character for so long."

Duffy said she has a lot of responsibility, having to know her lines and be in character at all times. She said she has enjoyed dealing with the challenges of turning "The Little Mermaid" into a play.

"I was thinking that it'd be really hard to do, but it's not as difficult," Duffy said. "We really work it out. We kind of play it as a cartoon. She is a person and has gills and we make sure it makes sense."

Charlotte Asnascity, another Cortlandt resident, plays Andrina, one of Ariel's sisters. She said she has enjoyed the role, as her character gets to sing and help move the story along.

"It's a new thing," Asnascity said. "I have to figure out how a mermaid would walk and the voice they would use. The entire cast is fun to work with."

Asnascity, who is entering seventh grade at Copper Beech Middle School, has appeared in previous productions at

Random Farms. She said she loves acting and being in productions. She said her favorite song to perform is "She's In Love."

"It's not as scary as some big Broadway theater would be," Asnascity said. "You have a lot of friends; everyone is on your side. When you have a problem they work it out with you, it's a very open atmosphere."

Anna Carbone, an 11-year-old Yorktown resident, is a member of the dance crew who works on the dancing and choreography in the show.

"It's really great," Carbone said. "All of us are passionate about dance and to be able to do it with our friends is really good."

Carbone, who trains at the Westchester Ballet Center in Yorktown, said that she loves classic Disney moves and that "The Little Mermaid" is a fun play. She says "Under the Sea" is her favorite song to perform and she said that she hopes the audience enjoys the show.

"I want the audience to leave really energized and pepped up," Carbone said. "I hope they're blown away; everyone is working really hard."

For more information on the show, visit [www.randomfarms.com](http://www.randomfarms.com)

## Have You Seen This Building?

The Yorktown Museum needs your help. The museum is looking for the identity, as well as the possible address, of the building pictured here. Any area resident with information should contact the museum at (914) 962-2970 or e-mail [museum@yorktownny.org](mailto:museum@yorktownny.org).

