

Charlotte Performing Arts Center

~ PRESS RELEASE ~

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CHS Drama to present Disney's The Little Mermaid in November

The Charlotte High School Drama Department is hard at work preparing for their fall musical, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. For the 3rd year, the musical is under the direction of Hollie Auten. Mrs. Auten is the Box Office Manager at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, and has extensive directing experience working with The Revue Children's Theatre in Nashville, as well as directing the Summer Musical Theatre Camps in both Charlotte and for The Revue in Nashville. She is also one of 8 Teaching Artists in the state of Michigan through the Disney Musicals in Schools program at Wharton Center. The production team also includes Bethany Zeuch as vocal director, Leah Brzyski as assistant vocal director, Kimberly Rodriguez as choreographer, Jerry Rose as the orchestra director, Sam Sommer as student director, and Alexandra Leppek and Jeffrey Hayes as technical directors. Performances are November 4 at 7pm, and November 5 & 6 at 3:00 pm at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center.

This year's musical is bigger than ever, featuring a cast, pit orchestra, and crew of more than 100 Charlotte Upper Elementary, Middle School, and High School students. Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is a stage musical based on the classic animated film. In a magical underwater kingdom, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel (Claire Kaiser), longs to leave her ocean home – and her fins – behind and live in the world above. But first, she'll have to defy her father, King Triton (Tony Strotheide), make a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula (Anna Rudnitsky), and convince the handsome Prince Eric (Kollin Gonser) that she's the girl whose enchanting voice he's been seeking. The story also features other favorite characters from the movie: Sebastian (Sam Sommer), Scuttle (Parker Auten), Flounder (Isabel Rudy), as well as Ursula's henchmen, the eels Flotsam (Madison Auten) and Jetsam (Lacy Jewell), and Prince Eric's guardian and advisor, Grimsby (Garrett Blocker).

Advance purchase tickets, \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62 & up), and \$6 for students, are available through the Charlotte Performing Arts Center box office at 517-541-5690 or online at www.CharlottePerformingArtsCenter.com. Ticket prices increase to \$15 for all seats if purchased at the door on the day of the performance.

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