



THE LITTLE MERMAID

DIY PANTO - GUIDE BOOK

WRITTEN BY PAUL SMITH

NOT FOR COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCE



THE LITTLE MERMAID (2019)

Production Team

Writer and Director - Paul Smith
MD and Composer - James Frewer
Polish Interpreter - Nastazja Somers
Designer - Natalie Young
Production Manager - Emily Anderton
Deputy Stage Manager - Danielle Harris
Stage Manager - Tor Copeland
Asst. Stage Manager - Niamh O'Donoghue
Lighting Designer - Adam Foley
Producer - Rozzy Knox
Audience Dev. Manager - Jamie Potter
Front of House Manager - Josie Davies
Construction Manager - Alex Brook

Cast

Ariel - Alice Beaumont
Steve Prince - Josie Morley
Pattie Breadcake - Marc Graham
Chips Breadcake - Andrew Ross
Flounder - Nigel Taylor
Ursula - Emma Thornett
Herman Hermit - Jack Chamberlain
Musical Mollusc - James Frewer

Photography

Cover - Josh Moore
Other - Sarah Beth

USING THE SCRIPT

We have made the script of our 2019 production of The Little Mermaid available to use however you please (aside from making a commercial performance). Below are a few suggestions, that we've thought of, but be as creative as you like.

PERFORM IT

Form your own family theatre company and spend some time rehearsing the show before a big performance.

A SCENE A DAY

Spend each day working on a different scene - reading it, acting it out, making props and costumes for it, singing songs. Over two weeks you'll have created a whole pantomime!

READ IT ALOUD

You could read this to young ones at storytime, doing all of the voices and explaining the action.

PUPPET PANTO

Short on human actors? Cast your favourite dolls or Lego figures in a show.

WRITE YOUR OWN

Why not use this script as a template to create your own panto, based on your favourite story? We've added a template at the end to help you.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

You might not want to read or perform the story at all. Instead you could use it to draw some silly scenes, make some brilliant props or come up with some dance routines.

Whatever you do, we'd love to hear from you: tag us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook with @middlechildhull and use the hashtag, #DIYpanto

CHECKLIST

Putting on a performance? Here's what you will need:

ENERGY

There can be no going through the motions in panto. It needs to be upbeat, fun and silly.

ENTHUSIASM

You don't have to be the best actor or singer in the world to enjoy panto, you just have to pretend that you are.

FABULOUS COSTUMES

Time to get creative and delve deep into your wardrobes, drawers and make-up kits, to make the most fabulous DIY panto costumes you can conjure. Just don't forget to share with us so we can see your creations.

SILLY PROPS

Let's get crafty! It's the Little Mermaid, so you'll need plenty of fantastic fish and sparkly sea creatures. We've written a full list of props on the next page.

MUSIC

We've put together a Spotify playlist (link: [spoti.fi/2wEyEdn](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2wEyEdn)) of some of the songs in the show for you to sing along to, but why not create your own fish-themed songs from your family's favourite tunes?

AN AUDIENCE

What is a panto without an audience? You could perform to the rest of your family, or your favourite teddies. You might even be brave enough to put the show online and entertain people over the internet. The audience in this panto are known as 'Ladies and gentlefish, mermen and mermaids, cockles, clams, prawns, pilchards and sea bream'. Why not spend some time showing your young ones what each of these fish look like?

PROPS

Here is a list of all of the props mentioned in the script. You don't have to have all (or any) of these props. You may choose to make some, find some around the house or even mime them.

- A shell
- A dolphin
- Lots of random 'human objects' which Ariel has collected over the years, that have probably been thrown in the river by litterbugs
- Someone or something to play Tony the Turtle
- A magical trident for Ursula
- A boat with oars
- A fishing net or bucket
- A mug for clamomile tea
- A book for Ariel to hold
- A mysterious looking magical potion
- Decorations for the beach party: beach towels, drinks with umbrellas in, fancy drinking glasses

Top Tip: Getting stuck making your own props? YouTube will have lots of "How to..." videos, to help you get crafty.

CHARACTERS

Our DIY panto can be performed by any number of people, from one to 1,000. If you have fewer people available than the number of parts listed below, then you could perform multiple roles and get creative with different hats, costumes and voices.



ARIEL

Our hero. A mermaid. Smart, heroic and independent. Wants to find adventure. The perfect role for a little one with big dreams.

Costume includes a mermaid tail. In our version, we used a sparkly dress that tapered out towards the bottom.



STEVE PRINCE

'ull born and bred. The cleaner of the River Humber. Likes to play act at being a Prince. Can be played by anyone with a big heart.

Costume should be something smart, but not too colourful, in contrast to the characters from under the sea. Maybe an adult's work clothes?

CHARACTERS

PATTIE BREADCAKE

The dame (played by a man). Ariel's Mum. Recently appointed Queen of the Ocean, she wants to make peace with the humans. Needs to look good in a dress. A great part for Dad, Grandad, big brothers.

A vibrant dress, or blouse and skirt combo is a good costume. BIG fake boobs. Lots of sparkle - Pattie is a queen, after all.



CHIPS BREADCAKE

Ariel's sister (also played by a man). A constant disappointment to Pattie. Just wants to be loved. The role for the person who really wanted to play Pattie but didn't look good in a dress.

Costume can be similar to Pattie, but not as sparkly, as Chips is not a queen. Big, bold colours are great, as well as a seashell bikini.



CHARACTERS



FLOUNDER

Ariel's fishy friend who is secretly in love with her. The audience's best mate. Can be played by anyone with enthusiasm and a good smile.

Flounder oozes cool. Keep it casual with colourful trousers, t-shirt and a jacket. We made a hat with fin on it for extra fishiness.



URSULA

The baddie, an evil sea witch desperate to be Queen of the Ocean. Give this part to whoever has the most evil laugh!

Ursula may be evil, but she can be cool and evil. Go punk with your costume, with lots of purples and blacks. You could make your own tentacles too, by stuffing tights under a skirt.

CHARACTERS

HERMAN HERMIT

The Queen's crab servant. Think Mr Bean with claws. Can only walk sideways. This is a good part for the most reluctant as they can take themselves very seriously.

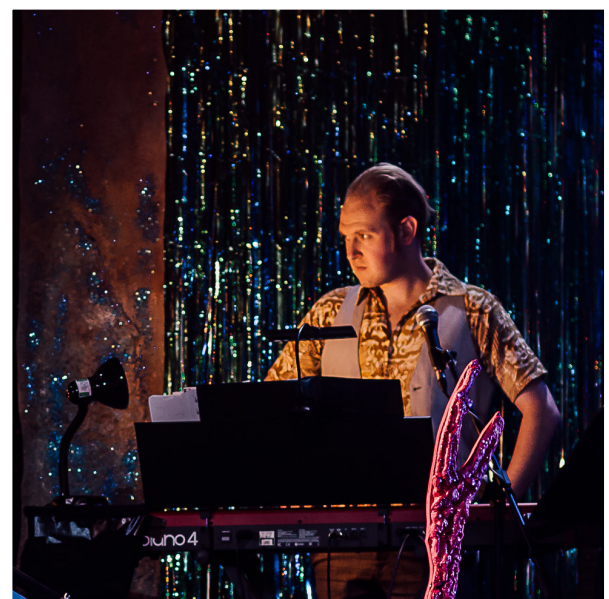
Costume should be bright red, but also smart, like a butler. You could make your own claws using some gloves, or even mittens.



MUSICAL MOLLUSC

This person needs to be able to press play and pause on Spotify or YouTube, or failing that - be a whizz on the piano (or the spoons).

Costume is inspired by pianists tinkling the ivories in a posh bar or restaurant, but nothing too loud that will steal attention from Pattie and the others.



PANTO RULES

Pantomime is an age old tradition with lots of different rules. We've made a list of our top ten tips to help you make your pantomime as fun as possible.

1. The audience must always boo the baddie.
2. We always ask the audience to do things louder a second time.
3. Ariel is our hero and is intelligent and brave.
4. The Dame must wear a dress.
5. Flounder is always upbeat and hopeful.
6. There must be a happy ending.
7. We have to give the audience the chance to shout "It's behind you!", or "Oh no it isn't!"
8. In The Little Mermaid the fishy characters must always swim when underwater.
9. You can never have enough glitter.
10. Nothing is impossible. If something seems impossible, find a creative and fun solution.

WRITE YOUR OWN

Want to write your own pantomime? Use the basic story structure, below, to get started.

CAST LIST

The hero is called...

The villain is called...

The hero's best friend is called...

The dame is called...

THE BEGINNING

Once upon a time there was... (who is the story about?)

Every day... (what does their normal life look like?)

Until one day... (what happens that changes everything?)

THE MIDDLE

Because of that... (what happens next?)

Because of that... (what happens next?)

THE END

Until finally... (what happens at the end?)

THE LITTLE MERMAID

DIY PANTO - GUIDE BOOK

WRITTEN BY PAUL SMITH

This resource was made available in April 2020 as a creative response to the coronavirus pandemic. We hope that it will feed the imaginations of young and old alike, giving people a fun activity to do while staying at home, at the same time as inspiring an interest in theatre and performance.

This resource and the accompanying script is not to be used for commercial performances.



We are a Hull-based company creating gig theatre that brings people together for a good night out with big ideas. We tell untold stories which capture the electrifying moment when the beat drops, mixing original live music with bold new writing. Our events are live and loud, making sense of the modern world.

We are a registered charity and an associate company of Paines Plough and an Arts Council England national portfolio organisation, supported by Absolutely Cultured, Goodwin Development Trust and Hull City Council.

middlechildtheatre.co.uk

