

NEW VICTORY® Autism-Friendly Performance
CHARACTER AND STORY GUIDE



Resources: New International Encounter (NIE)
Photos: Mark Dawson

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THE NEW VICTORY® THEATER



Theater can sometimes be a little scary!
If you're feeling scared, you can always:



Cover or close your eyes.



Hold your grown-up's hand.



Cover your ears with your hands or put on headphones.



Use a fidget tool.



Take a break from the show in the Jack and Lew Rudin Lobby.

There are six actors in the show and they each play a different character. Some of them dance and play music too.

Let's introduce you to them.

This is Sara, she plays Isabella.



This is Martin, he plays the Beast.



This is Elliot, he plays Anastasia.



Sam plays the evil witch and Latrice.



**Greg plays the cello and the ukulele.
He also plays the postman.**



This is Ben, he plays Maurice



The show *Beauty and the Beast* is an adaptation of the classic fairy tale, but it will not be exactly the same. There will be many things that seem familiar, but many parts of this show will be different.

This **Story Guide** will help you follow along!

The play begins with the story of a rich and handsome man who lives in a large castle and holds lots of parties. He is having a party when a witch arrives at his house and casts a spell on him that turns him into an ugly beast! She says he will stay a beast until he finds true love. All his guests run away and he is left alone. We hear a song about the Beast.

When the spell is cast, there are lots of different colored lights to create the effect.



Many years pass and we meet a family—a father named Maurice and his three daughters, Isabella and the twins Latrice and Anastasia. Maurice was once a rich merchant, but all his ships sunk to the bottom of the ocean so the family is now poor. They had to leave their house in Paris to live in a small cottage in the French countryside. Isabella thinks the cottage is beautiful, but her two spoiled twin sisters disagree and think the cottage is too small.



One day, Maurice receives a letter saying that his ship has been found. He leaves the countryside to find his lost fortune. Before he leaves, Maurice asks his daughters what presents they would like him to bring back. The twin daughters ask him to bring expensive presents, but all Isabella asks for is a single red rose, saying it is the “thought that counts” and not the price.



With their father gone, the three sisters are left alone and the twins are mean to Isabella. She stands up for herself and chases them out of the house with a broom. Isabella feels sad and misses her mother, who died before the story began.



Meanwhile, Maurice journeys to the coast through the wind and the rain where he learns that his ships have indeed sunk and he has lost all of his money. Sad and alone, he walks back through the forest but gets lost in a storm. He takes shelter at a large house.



Maurice can't find anyone at home, but the Beast left a chair out with food for his guest. Maurice eats, then falls asleep in front of the fire. As Maurice leaves the next morning, he sees a red rose in the garden and picks it for Isabella. The Beast is angry that he took the flower without permission. The Beast wants to kill Maurice but offers to let him go if he gives the Beast one of his daughters. Maurice refuses and asks to go home and see his daughters one last time before the Beast kills him. The Beast agrees.



Maurice returns home to the cottage, and tells his daughters about the Beast. The twin sisters blame Isabella and say that she should be the one to face the Beast. Isabella runs away to find the Beast and save her father.



Now, there will be a break. This break is called an intermission. The intermission will last 15 minutes. During the intermission, you can use the bathroom and have a drink or a snack.

If you need any help finding the toilets, getting food or drink or anything else, you can ask one of our Ushers. They are wearing black T-shirts with “New Victory” on the front and will be in the lobbies and the theater.



After the intermission, everyone will come back and sit down in their seats. It will get darker and quieter again just like at the beginning of the show.

Isabella journeys to the big house. She is frightened and wonders what she will find. Then out of the darkness, we hear the voice of the Beast.



The Beast takes Isabella prisoner. He makes her promise never to leave and to have dinner with him every week at 8pm. He wants her to fall in love with him so the spell over him will be broken.

At their first dinner, the Beast makes chocolate mousse and asks Isabella to love him. She explains that she can't love someone who keeps her prisoner and who threatened her father. She does not want to wear the dress he selects for her and wants to choose her own clothes.



Now, the Beast talks to the audience to ask them for some advice. He is funny and not scary!

For their second dinner, the Beast buys Isabella a pearl necklace and asks her to love him. She explains that you cannot buy someone's love. Eventually, the Beast and Isabella become friends—sometimes they argue and sometimes they laugh.



For their third dinner, the Beast sings Isabella a song, but she still doesn't love him, although she says she likes him. The Beast says he loves her and knows she is not happy in the castle. He gives her a magic mirror so she can see her family whom she misses.



In the mirror, Isabella sees that her father is ill and is not being taken care of by her sisters. The Beast sets her free so that she can go home to save her father. Isabella walks through the forest and finds her family. The twins had thought that their father was imagining the Beast but Isabella confirms that everything he says is true. Isabella realizes that she does love the Beast after all and returns to the castle with her father.



The twin sisters are jealous that Isabella has a pretty dress and a necklace and that she has met someone who owns a big castle. They follow after her with plans to kill the Beast.



When they arrive at the castle, Isabella confesses her love for the Beast and kisses him. The kiss breaks the witch's spell and the Beast changes into the handsome man he was before, but now he is not proud or vain. Isabella's love transformed the Beast, but Anastasia and Latrice's hate turns the sisters into stone statues. The story finishes with Isabella, the Beast and her father all living together in the castle.



THE END

If you need any help with finding your way out of the theater, just ask one of the Front of House staff.