

Based on the Broadway production directed by  
**Julie Taymor**



VCHS PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

Disney  
**THE**

**LION KING** ©Disney



MAY 30-31, 2024

Music & Lyrics by  
Elton John & Tim Rice

Additional Music & Lyrics by  
Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and  
Hans Zimmer

Book by  
Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi

Based on the Broadway production directed by  
Julie Taymor



## About The Lion King

The Lion King Jr. is the story of Simba, an adventurous and energetic lion cub, who is next in line to be king of the Pride Lands and Pride Rock in the African Savanna. When Simba's father, Mufasa, is killed by his Uncle Scar, Simba is led to believe that his father's death is his own fault, and he is encouraged to run away forever. Scar seizes power of the Pride Lands, leading to Hyenas being allowed to overhunt, robbing the Pride Lands of its natural resources. With the help of new friends and old, Simba embarks on a dangerous journey to reclaim the throne and his rightful title of King.

## Songs

Circle of Life with Nants' Ingonyama .....	Rafiki, Ensemble
Grasslands Chant .....	Ensemble
The Lioness Hunt .....	Lionesses
I Just Can't Wait to Be King .....	Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Ensemble
Be Prepared .....	Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Hyenas
They Live in You .....	Mufasa, Ensemble
The Stampede .....	Ensemble
The Mourning .....	Sarabi, Young Nala, Rafiki, Lionesses, Hyenas
Hakuna Matata .....	Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Simba, Ensemble
Shadowland .....	Nala, Lionesses
Can You Feel the Love Tonight .....	Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble
He Lives in You .....	Rafiki, Ensemble
Luau Hawaiian Treat .....	Timon, Pumbaa, Ensemble
Finale .....	Company

## **A Note from the Director**

Welcome to Vegreville Composite High School's production of Disney's The Lion King Jr! We are excited to have you attend our performance and support our students as they put on their first ever musical at VCHS!

It has been the joy of my year getting to help bring the Lion King to Vegreville. The sheer amount of hours put into making this performance possible is staggering, especially when considering that all of our students and volunteers offered most of their spare time. It is safe to say that without the involvement of our community, this musical would never happen. What you are about to enjoy today is the accumulation of months, evenings and weekends of work with countless hours put in from our cast and crew.

I want to especially thank my production team, Allison Moroz, Ania Korzeniewski, Jaia Sthankiya, Karissa Sydor, Laura Bruce and Sian Vadnais, for being so incredibly supportive and talented, and dedicating MANY evenings and weekends to this musical. On days when I had doubts, you were there to encourage and uplift, but most importantly, to laugh and have fun. You all showed up with smiles on your faces and reminded me of why we decided to put on this musical in the first place. This production would not be possible without your dedication and love of the arts, especially in these final weeks.

A huge thank you to Tracy Cook and Dana Cook for the hours you put into hand making our Hyena and Lion costumes. Your talent is incredible and helps bring our show to life.

To my students: thank you for making this year so incredible. You are all so hard working, talented and *very* hilarious. Coming to our Lion King Rehearsals was the highlight of every week and filled me with such joy as I saw the hard work you put in, the friendships that you made, the lessons and skills you learned, and the bravery you demonstrated by being willing to step out of your comfort zone to try new things and then try those things in front of a crowd. I want you to know that I am incredibly proud of all of you and I hope that when you look back on this experience, you will be proud of yourself for the incredible hard work you have dedicated yourself to this year.

To you, the reader of this program as well! Performances of any type would never be able to happen without people attending them. Thank you for taking time out of your life to come and be entertained by us and help support the arts in our community! I hope that you enjoy yourself as you watch The Lion King Jr!

Garret Johnson, Director

## THANK YOU

It would be impossible to put on a musical without our community coming together to make this happen. There are so many individuals who gave up their evenings to make this performance happen, and they deserve to be recognized and thanked for all of their behind-the-scenes work.

Kyla Footz - Incredible wife and prop creator

Ania Korzeniewski - Production Team

Allison Moroz - Production Team

Karissa Sydor - Choreographer

Laura Bruce - Set Designer

Jaia Sthankiya - Lighting and Prop Design

Sian Vadnais - Prop Design

Kendall Warawa - Prop Design

Nathan Carothers - prop Design

Holly Warawa - Grant Writer

Tracy Cook - Costume creation and design

Dana Cook - Costume creation and design

Randy Pond - Photography

Doug Johnson - Photography and support

Katelyn Peden - For administrative assistance

Brandon Salyzyn - For making dreams true and mentorship

Francis Poole - For all your shared costumes and set pieces and mentorship

Adrienne Roussel - For all your shared costumes and set pieces, friendship, encouragement and support

Lowen Cave - Poster Designer

Aeryn Blair - Spiky Jungle Bush Maker

Caylee Maiko - Spiky Jungle Bush Maker

Viola Conner - For stealing many of your 3rd block spares to help with various tasks

Lauren Conner - For your Baby Simba, trying on so many hats, and staying so on top of the ball

Michael Labuschagne - For all your help with socks and masks

VALID Group - For putting up posters

Grade 9 Cosmo Class - For rock creation

SCA Secondary and Elementary - For all your shared costumes and set pieces

Long and Mcquade rental team - For all your help with lighting and sound, being so helpful, kind and accommodating

Elsie Shulz - Stage Hand

Damien Quintal - Stage Hand

Kassandra Dalpe - Stage Hand

Caleb Zorniak - Stage Hand

Erin Sawchuck - Stage Hand

Max Taylor - Stage Hand

# Cast

Rafiki ..... Matthew  
Forsyth

Mufasa/ Lion ..... Michael  
Labuschagne

Sarabi ..... Lauren  
Conner

Zazu/ Vulture ..... Florence  
Passay

Scar ..... Nicholas  
Moeller

Young Simba/ Lioness ..... Ada  
Gullekson

Young Nala/ Lioness ..... Alyn  
Zukiwsky

Sarafina/ African Grass/ Flower ..... Emma  
Moore

Shenzi/ African Grass/ Flower ..... Ivy  
Lambert

Banzai/ African Grass/ Flower ..... Aeryn  
Blair

Ed/ African Grass/ Flower ..... Jamie  
Herceg

Timon/African Grass ..... Kristina  
Lopes

Pumbaa ..... Gracie  
 Herceg  
 Simba/Lioness/African Grass ..... Viola  
 Conner  
 Nala/Lioness/African Grass ..... Stella  
 Kocsis  
 Antelope/Jungle/Hyena ..... Emily  
 Kozlow  
 Hyena/Antelope/Jungle ..... Espyn  
 Deacon  
 Antelope/ African Grass/ Jungle ..... Madelyn  
 Gray  
 Lioness/Hyena/ African Grass ..... Haven  
 Walker



My name is Matthew Forsyth! I'm playing Rafiki, the crazy, wise, old, cuckoo, smart, aging Mandrill monkey. To people who know me, you will know this is not the first time I have spent months on end acting like a monkey. I am very excited to attempt to make my fellow cast members break character and I am equally excited to hit Simba with a stick.



My name is Michael Labuschagne, I am in 11th grade, and I am playing the role of Mufasa. I have been in a few stage productions before, but I have never done a musical. I am very much looking forward to acting alongside so many other talented people and also dying onstage.



My name is Lauren Conner and I am In grade 11. This is my first time being in a musical. I have loved the experience of being Sarbai as well as part of the ensemble! I am so excited to be a part of the Circle of Life.



My name is Florence Pasay, I am in grade 12 and am playing the role of Zazu. I am most looking forward to singing in *I Just Can't Wait To Be King!*





My name is Nicholas Moeller! I'm in grade 12, finally free! I'll be playing Scar, and I am happy to finally live out my dream of killing my brother for the throne!



My name is Ada Gullekson! I'm excited to play the role of the bouncy and enthusiastic Young Simba! I'm most excited to give Zazu the slip in *I Just Can't Wait To Be King!*



My name is Alyn Zukiwsky and I am in grade seven! I am playing Young Nala in the Lion King Jr musical. I am really looking forward to pinning Young Simba during the elephant graveyard scene!



Hey! My name is Emma Moore and I play the role of Sarafina/Ensemble in *The Lion King*. I'm excited to dance during all the fun songs we have!



My name is Ivy Lambert, and I play Shenzi in the *Lion King Jr.* I'm excited to perform in front of people, to eat Scar alive, and scare children during *Be Prepared!*



My name is Aeryn Blair! I'm a grade 10 student who is more than excited to be a part of this musical! (*Be Prepared* is my favourite song!)



My name is Jamie! This is my second year at Veg Comp. I play Ed in the musical! I'm excited for the song *Be Prepared!*



My name is Kristina Lopes and I am a bird, African grass, and Timon! I'm super excited to be everyone's favorite comic relief character!



My Name is Gracie Herceg and I play Pumbaa in the Lion King Jr! I'm excited to eat grubs and flowers while serenading the crowd. Hakuna Matata!



My name is Viola Conner, I am a grade 11 student and I am beyond thrilled to play as Simba! The Lion King Jr is my first time performing in a musical and I just can't wait to be king!



My Name is Stella Kocsis. I will be playing Older Nala in the Lion King Jr! I can't wait to do my solo and duet!

My name is Emily Kozlow! I am excited to have so many different roles, but most of all, I'm excited to be a hyena!





I'm Espyn, and I have lots of roles in the Lion King Jr! I'm very excited to be a hyena and keep Zazu in bird jail!



Hi! I'm Madelyn Gray! I get to play many roles in the Lion King, but I think I'm most excited to be an antelope that gets eaten by the lionesses!



My name is Haven Walker! Being in the Lion King has been so much fun! I'm very excited to be a hyena with all my friends!



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