

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

AUDITIONS: SATURDAY, MARCH 25

TIME: 11:00 am; Call backs later in the afternoon

PRODUCTION TEAM :

Director: Lori Renna

Assistant Director: Lori Potts

Music Director: Joe Paule

Choreographer: Tim Grumich

AUDITION DETAILS:

- Those auditioning should come prepared to sing a song not from the show. Please bring sheet music in your key and be prepared to sing up to 32 measures. An accompanist will be provided. A cappella auditions are not permitted.
- A dance combination will be taught.
- Auditions will also consist of cold reading from the script.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Due to an unhappy curse, King Sextimus is unable to speak. Meanwhile, his terror-of-a-wife, Queen Aggravain, has taken over control of the kingdom. In an attempt to keep Prince Dauntless single, she has decreed that only the princess that can pass her test may marry her son. Luckily, Sir Harry is able to find an amazing princess who instantly catches the attention of Prince Dauntless. In the end, Winnifred is able to pass the Queen's impossible sensitivity test.

ROLES:

Princess Winnifred - is down-to-earth and without pretensions. Unlike what you might expect from of a princess, Winnifred is just an ordinary, high spirited girl. Having grown up in the swamps, she doesn't conduct herself in the formal way the others in the castle do. It is her natural, ingenuous quality that sets her apart from the other Ladies of the kingdom and makes Dauntless fall in love with her. Soprano – 18-27 years old.

Prince Dauntless - as his name implies, is kind of a sad-sack and somewhat listless. Although his overbearing mother controls his life and he is an obedient son, he still has hopes of someday finding a girl to marry of whom his mother will approve. Like Winnifred, he is honest and sincere. She gives him confidence in himself and within the course of the musical, we see him grow in self-assurance until he is finally able to confront his mother. Baritone – 22-35 years old.

Queen Aggravain - as her name suggests, is extremely vain, believing that her way of doing things is the only way. She is devoted to her son, Dauntless, and has no intention of ever allowing him to leave her or to have another woman in his life. She selfishly dominates everything that happens in the castle, never considering the feelings of others. Alto – 50-65 years old.

King Sextimus the Silent - has been brow-beaten by the Queen and is very passive. He has learned that it is easier just to let the Queen have her own way than to fight her. Because he has not been able to speak for so long, he has learned to communicate through pantomime, or gestures. He loves his son and sympathizes with him but realizes he can do little to help him. Despite his frustrations, he is extremely good natured. Mute-50-65 years old.

Lady Larken - is a sweet girl but, perhaps because she is in love but unable to marry, she tends to be oversensitive. She is extremely frustrated that she can't marry Harry, but also extremely excited at the opportunity to be Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Winnifred. Of all the Ladies, it is Larken who most hopes that Winnifred will pass the test. Soprano – 18-27 years old.

Sir Harry - is a regular guy and, like Larken, is eager for Dauntless to find a bride so that he and Larken can marry. He is brave and dedicated enough to venture on a "perilous journey" in hopes of finding a genuine princess whom the Queen will find suitable as a bride for Dauntless. Tenor – 25-35 years old.

The Minstrel - The handsome narrator of the story, as well as in the musical story line. He becomes smitten with Lady Larken and tries to persuade her to flee to Normandy with him. He and the Jester join forces to stop the Queen's plans. Tenor - 20-35 years old.

The Jester - An energetic and peppy man who is the King's right-hand man and assists him with every endeavor. The Jester also plots with the Minstrel to spoil the Queen's plans. Tenor – 25-40 years old.

The Wizard - is the Queen's confidant, her only friend and therefore the only person she can really talk to. However, he, like everyone else in the kingdom, is apprehensive of the Queen and would never have the courage to contradict her. Baritone – 60-85 years old.

Sir Studley - A member of the court who dances. N/A - 25-45 years old.

Princess No. 12 - She is the first Princess that the audience sees who is performing the rounds of tests. Very eager, smart, thinks well on her feet – of course the Prince wants to marry her. 16-25 years old

Ensemble - The Ladies-in-Waiting and Knights are all waiting for the Prince to get married so that THEY can get married to each other. These are character roles and are not just part of the chorus. Queen's Ladies-in-waiting: Lady Rowena, Lady Merrill, Lady Lucille, Lady Helena, Lady Sarah; Knights: Sir Luce, Sir Russell, Sir Michael, Sir Humphrey; Kitchen Wench: A woman chased around the castle by King Sextimus; Emily (the chambermaid), Soldiers, Servants, Musicians. Various – 15-60 years old.