

## ONCE UPON A MATTRES Audition Information

Auditions for ONCE UPON A MATTRESS will be **Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> and Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup>** in the Choir room after school. Auditions sign-ups will be in 15-minute time slots per group (3-4 students in a group) and will be posted on **Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup>** outside of the Choir room on the bulletin board. Students wishing to audition need to sign up for a time slot on either day and prepare a script reading and appropriate music selection based on the role they are auditioning for. There is also a stage crew and design team sign up sheet for interested students. Performances will be **November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. Please see Mrs. McDevitt for additional information.

- Any students wishing to try out for a named, lead singing character (denoted with an asterisk below) should prepare 1-2 minutes of a **Broadway-type selection** and a script reading. Be prepared to demonstrate vocal range and flexibility. We want to see a polished audition with emotion portrayed.
- All students wishing to audition for the chorus or other minor role should prepare 1-2 minutes of a **Broadway-type selection** and script reading.

-Students wishing to audition with an accompaniment must provide their own. CD player and speakers are available for students to use, or a cappella auditions are welcome ☺

\*\*\*All students should come to their audition well prepared to show their best musical and acting talents.

**Please fill out the attached audition information sheet and bring it with you to auditions.**

Character	Songs/Dance/Other Skills	Character	Songs/Dance/Other Skills
<b>*Queen Aggravain Lead</b>  A3- B4 Alto/Mezzo	She is an overbearing woman in full control of the kingdom. She is lively and domineering, yet comical. She is very protective of her most prized possession, her only son, Dauntless and does not want him to get married. Heavy speaking requirements.  <i>- Shy; Sensitivity;</i>	<b>*Prince Dauntless Lead</b>  A2-Eb4 Baritone	A nice everyday type of Prince who desperately wants to get married and is held back by his mother. He is child-like, naïve, with a likeable sense of innocence. He adores "Fred" and is in awe of her every step.  <i>-Opening for a Princess; Shy; The Swamps of Home; Song of Love; Man to Man Talk;</i>
<b>*Princess Winnifred "Fred" Lead</b>  A3-F4 Mezzo-with strong belt	She is not the "classical" princess in any sense of the word. Spirited and fun, gracious and friendly, and perhaps a bit quirky, she can swim moats, lift weights and prefers the swamps of home to a fancy castle.  <i>-Shy; The Swamps of Home; Song of Love; Happily Ever After;</i>	<b>*Sir Harry Lead</b>  C3-F4 Baritone	He is a manly knight, the most influential in the kingdom, but also a bit of an egotist. He is desperate to find Dauntless a wife so he and Lady Larken can marry. He is chivalrous, brave, determined and a bit taken with himself.  <i>-Opening for a Princess; In A Little While; Shy; Yesterday I Loved You</i>
<b>*Lady Larken Lead</b>  Eb4-G#5 Soprano	The queen's lady-in-waiting. She is graceful, charming and in love with Sir Harry. She is very eager for Dauntless to marry so she can wed Harry before her little bundle arrives. She is eager to please and would never cause embarrassment to her	<b>* Minstrel Lead</b>  D3-B4 Tenor	The narrator of the story who also blends into the scenes. He has an air of confidence and enjoys telling the real story to the audience. A very likeable character and cunning when need be. He plots to spoil the Queen's plan of preventing her son to marry "Fred".

	love, Sir Harry.  <i>-Opening for a Princess; In A Little While; The Swamps of Home; Normandy; Yesterday I Loved You</i>		<i>-Many Moons Ago; The Minstrel, The Jester And I; Normandy</i>
*Jester <b>Lead</b>  Tenor/ soprano	An energetic and peppy man/woman who is the King's right-hand and assists him with every endeavor. He has a hidden passion for show business and the “good old days” The Jester also plots with the Minstrel to spoil the Queen's plans.  <i>-The Minstrel, The Jester And I; Normandy; Very Soft Shoes; chorus too</i>	Wizard <b>Lead</b> (only a few lines of singing)  Female/Male	An egotistical, ex-performer who directly serves as the Queen’s Loyal Confidante. He/she prides himself/herself in this position and basically obeys all of the Queen’s orders. Moderate speaking requirements.  <i>- Sensitivity; all chorus numbers</i>
Sir Studley	A member of the court who dances, few speaking lines, also in chorus  <i>-Opening for a Princess; Shy;</i>	King Sextimus the Silent <b>Lead</b>  (Mute)	A kind, expressive, playful, and comedic character who is silent due to a curse placed upon him by a witch before the birth of Dauntless. He likes to chase girls through the corridors of the castle. Needs good improve skills.  <i>The Minstrel, The Jester And I; Man to Man Talk; present for chorus numbers as well</i>
Lady Mabelle	She’s a French Lady and doesn’t understand English well. She just tends to say “Yes” a lot.  <i>-all chorus numbers, may be featured in ladies songs as well</i>		
Nightengale of Smakand  male or female	A royal pet that sings a lullaby to put Winnifred to sleep.  <i>-Participates in chorus when not playing the nightengale</i>	Queen’s Ladies in Waiting	Lady Rowena, Lady Merrill, Lady Lucille, Lady Helena, Lady Sarah - Sing and have small speaking lines throughout  <i>-Opening for a Princess; Shy; The Swamps of Home; all chorus numbers</i>
Princess Number 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. Speaking lines.  <i>-Part of the chorus</i>	Knights	Sir Luce, Sir Russell, Sir Michael, Sir Humphrey: Part of Chorus and have a few speaking lines. <i>-Opening for a Princess; Shy; all chorus numbers</i>
		Kitchen Wench	A woman chased around the castle by King Sextimus. Sings with chorus.
		Emily	A chambermaid, part of the chorus
<b>Chorus</b>	Consists of Knights, Ladies in Waiting, Soldiers, Servants, and Musicians. All will sing and dance in full chorus numbers. Some speaking parts and solo/duet singing parts needed. <i>-Featured for Dancing Spanish Panic and throughout other numbers as chorus</i>		

DAUNTLESS: Well, you're a better swimmer. *(As they exit DOWN RIGHT. KING and LARKEN enter UP LEFT)*

LARKEN *(Excitedly)*: Oh your Majesty, I'm so excited. Sir Harry is back! KING *(Because the KING does not speak, what he wishes to communicate is indicated in parentheses)*: *(Embrace)*

LARKEN: Yes, he is and he's brought us a sweet princess. Have you seen her?

KING: *(No)*

LARKEN: Neither have I, but I'm sure she's as delicate as an orange blossom! And I'm to be her lady-in-Waiting. Sir Harry arranged it. Isn't he thoughtful? He arranges everything. *(KING agrees. LARKEN exits happily DOWN RIGHT. Now KING, worried, paces back and forth. JESTER and MINSTREL enter UP RIGHT)*

JESTER: My father expected me to follow in his footsteps but then I landed this jester job and . . . What's wrong?

KING: *(Worried)*

JESTER: You're worried?

KING: *(Yes)*

JESTER: About what?

KING: *(Points OFF RIGHT)*

JESTER: Who?

KING: *(Lady)*

JESTER: Some lady? Which lady?

KING: *(Two syllables)*

JESTER: *(Two syllables)*

KING: *(First syllable)*

JESTER: *(First syllable)*

KING: *(Bird)*

JESTER: Bird . . . some kind of bird.

KING: *(Yes)*

JESTER: Auk, bluebird, catbird, dove, eagle, finch, grouse, hawk, ibis, jay, kiwi, lark, marten . . .

KING: *(Claps hands on "lark")*

JESTER: Lark!

MINSTREL: Lady Larken.

KING: *(Right . . . pantos small word . . . "and")*

JESTER: "And" . . .

KING: *(Pantos: Knight)*

JESTER: A Knight?

MINSTREL: Which Knight?

KING: *(Sir Harry)*

BOTH: Sir Harry!

KING: *(Pantos: "Dust")*

JESTER: Dust . . .

KING: *(Sounds like)*

JESTER: Sounds like dust . . . uh . . . "lust"

KING: *(How could you)*

MINSTREL: "Must." Must what?

KING: *(Erase)*

MINSTREL: You're going to start all over, right?

KING: *(She's in trouble)*

JESTER: She's in trouble.

MINSTREL: What kind of trouble?

KING: *(Big)*

JESTER: Big trouble . . .

MINSTREL: How many syllables?

Scene 2

*(Scene: in one. A castle corridor. QUEEN and DAUNTLESS enter, he tagging behind her at some distance)*

QUEEN: Come along darling, don't dawdle. *(Stops and observes him shuffling along)* Dauntless, pick up your feet for heaven's sake and don't squint! I told you not to look at the sun.

DAUNTLESS *(Adjusting)*: Yes, Mama.

QUEEN: That's better. *(Hugs him. KING runs on chasing WENCH)* SEXTIMUS! I've told you once, I've told you a hundred thousand times, I will not have you playing these foolish games and running around in the halls. It just isn't dignified. We are the rulers of the kingdom and if we don't set a proper example for the rest of the court, I'd like to know who will. I mean what is the point of being a ruler if one isn't going to behave as a ruler should. *(KING exits DOWN LEFT, in pantomime mimicking her. The KING never speaks aloud, but makes what's on his mind very clear by acting it out)*

DAUNTLESS: Mama . . .

QUEEN *(Stopping)*: Now what?

DAUNTLESS: Mama, when am I going to get my Princess?

QUEEN: Dauntless, I don't want to discuss that now. It's time for your

cocoa.

DAUNTLESS: But Mama, sometimes I get the funniest feeling that you don't want me to get married.

QUEEN: Don't want you to get married? Don't want you to get married?

Dauntless — don't you trust me?

DAUNTLESS: Of course, Mama, but . . .

QUEEN: Well, then how can you say such a thing? *(The Mamalogue: spoken as rapidly as is possible to do without sacrificing clarity)* I want you to get

married! How many times have I said to you, "I want you to get married?" Only this morning, I was saying to your father, I said, "Sextimus, I want that boy to get married. It just isn't normal for a boy that age to stay single! And after all, he is the Prince," I said, "Don't forget that. He's next in line to the throne. I mean we're not exactly the oldest people in the world, but on the other hand we're not going to live forever, and I just know that I'd feel much better, much easier and more relaxed in my mind if that boy were married, and settled and set!" And that is absolutely verbatim, *exactly* what I said to your father this morning. Of course, he didn't say anything. He never does. But you know him just as well as I do; I don't have to tell you how impossible he is. But that's my cross of pain, and I don't want you to worry your head one tiny bit about the fact that your father and I don't get along, and never have. If he makes me miserable, and makes me suffer, I just have to put up with it, and I will not allow it to affect my child's attitude toward him or me. He may be a mean, stupid, dreadful, selfish, rotten man, but he is your father and I want you to respect him. There is only one person who really cares about you and really worries about your health and your happiness and your future and that's what I'm talking about right now, your future, and I want to make myself absolutely clear: I want you to get married *but* I don't want you to marry just *anybody*. After all, marriage is a lifetime partnership and I wouldn't want to see my little boy make the same mistake I did and wind up miserable the way I did. You *are* a prince and you must marry someone suitable, someone who's good enough and smart enough, and fine enough for my good, nice, sweet, beautiful baby boy. And of course she has to be a princess. I mean a *real* princess. That's one thing I absolutely insist upon. She has to be a real, genuine, bonafide princess just as I was. That's what you really want, isn't it? Someone like me? Of course you do! Oh, God! If I were only twenty years younger — just remember this — you must trust me . . . (LARKEN and HARRY enter)

LARKEN (*Curtysing*): Your Majesty . . . Your Highness.  
DAUNTLESS (*He admires sir HARRY*): Hello, Harry.

QUEEN (*To DAUNTLESS*): Don't interrupt! (*To LARKEN*) Well?

LARKEN: Sir Harry wishes to speak to you, Madame.

HARRY (*To HARRY*): Well?  
HARRY: Madame, I have the honour to request a Perilous Labor. I wish to search for a true princess, a princess of the Royal Blood: one who will suit both Your Majesty and Prince Dauntless.

QUEEN: No!

DAUNTLESS: Mama!

QUEEN: No, no, no! We've been through all the eligible girls in all the neighboring kingdoms. There are none left. We simply have to wait until their little sisters grow up, and that'll take years.

HARRY: But Madame, I plan to head North, over the mountains.

QUEEN: Over the mountains?

HARRY: . . . across the Badlands.

QUEEN: Across the Badlands?

HARRY: . . . and into the marsh land where the beautiful Swamp Lily grows.

QUEEN: Into the marsh land? Are you out of your mind?

DAUNTLESS (*Excited*): Let him go, Mama, let him go.

QUEEN: You won't find anything there, but frogs and tadpoles and things.

DAUNTLESS: Mama!

QUEEN: Do you know what the weather there is like?

DAUNTLESS: Mama, please!

QUEEN: Do you know how damp and foggy and . . .

DAUNTLESS (*Pleading*): Mama!

QUEEN (*Pushes DAUNTLESS out of the way*): Quiet! . . . and humid and oppressive . . .

DAUNTLESS (*Pleading*): Mama . . . let Sir Harry try! Please. For me, Mama? Please!

QUEEN (*Stops, looks at DAUNTLESS, then at HARRY*): All right, go ahead. It's your sinus.

DAUNTLESS (*Jumping up and down*): Hooray!

QUEEN (*HARRY and LARKEN bow and curtsy as the QUEEN sweeps out*): Come along, Dauntless, you've missed your cocoa.

DAUNTLESS: Good luck, Harry! Good luck! (*He runs off happily*)

HARRY (*Takes LARKEN in his arm*): Don't be afraid, little Larken. I'll bring back a princess who is not only a real princess, but one who will be able to pass the Queen's test.

LARKEN: I believe you! I'm not afraid.

HARRY: And I shan't be away long.

LARKEN: Only fly as fast as you can, my love! We shall be waiting for you.

HARRY: We?

LARKEN (*Blushing*): You know. (*Detaches ribbon from her sleeve*) And wear this—

HARRY: Next to my heart!

(Scene: The Great Hall festooned with garlands)

QUEEN: Come along now! Keep it Venetian. Isn't this fun? (Grand right

and left) Move along now! That's right. Faster! Now slower! That's beautiful. (JESTER and TWO GIRLS break out from the crowd) Oh, Jester!

(The dance proceeds wildly. The QUEEN is injured in the melee, shrieks in pain, and hobbles to DOWN LEFT to be out of the way. At the end of the dance, everyone collapses except WINNIFRED. The QUEEN speaks to her)

Are you feeling a little weary, dear?

WINNIFRED: No, let's do it again! (The QUEEN exits DOWN LEFT and the COUPLES disperse) Maybe you could give me a clue.

DAUNTLESS: A clue?

WINNIFRED: I know it's highly secret, but . . . what sort of test does she usually give?

DAUNTLESS: Well, with *Mamma* thinking up the test, it might be almost anything . . .

WINNIFRED: Like what?

DAUNTLESS: Ohhh . . . sometimes it's history . . .

WINNIFRED: Oh.

DAUNTLESS: Sometimes it's dancing . . . sometimes it's . . . spelling . . .

WINNIFRED: Oh.

DAUNTLESS: . . . but sometimes it's a test of strength and endurance.

WINNIFRED (Now she perks up): Aha!

DAUNTLESS: For instance, one of the girls was supposed to lift this weight. (He goes to a large "medieval" weight) She couldn't. (He tries to lift it, giggles) I can't even lift it . . . But I know you'll pass, you don't have to worry.

WINNIFRED: Do you want me to pass? (He nods) I'll pass. (She goes to weight, tucks her hem into her waist, spits on her palms, and, in professional weight-lifter fashion, succeeds in getting it off the floor, then to her chest, then, with great effort, over her head, and down to floor. Then, lest we forget she's a girl, daintily undoes her skirt, and strikes her most feminine pose)

DAUNTLESS: Hey, I think you're wonderful.

WINNIFRED: By the way, I don't think I've ever told you . . . my full name is Winnifred the Woebegone. But Winnifred's too formal. You can call me by my nickname.

DAUNTLESS: Winnie?

WINNIFRED: Fred.

DAUNTLESS: Fred! What a beautiful name . . . So straight . . . So strong . . . So you!

2nd tent, MINSTREL behind 3rd tent. LARKEN enters from DOWN LEFT. She is loaded with baggage, including a bird-cage. She crosses to RIGHT CENTER and is stopped by JESTER. My lady . . . (She stops) . . . is there something wrong? (KING and MINSTREL peek out. Then move down)

LARKEN: No . . .

JESTER: Well, we're glad of that anyway.

LARKEN: I felt faint, that's all. I was sitting in my room . . . sewing . . . and it got a little stuffy, so I just decided to come out here and get some air.

JESTER: I see you were planning to camp out for a while. (LARKEN bursts into tears and sits on case)

LARKEN: Oh, Your Majesty. You don't know; you just don't know! Do you have any idea what can happen to the relationship between a man and a woman?

KING: (Does he have any idea!!!)

LARKEN: I'm glad I found out when I did; it's better this way. I'm leaving. (All shocked)

MINSTREL: You're leaving?

LARKEN: Yes, I'm leaving the service of the Queen forever.

JESTER: That's a pretty big step to take all alone.

LARKEN: I have no choice.

MINSTREL: You're leaving forever?

LARKEN: Yes.

JESTER: You'll need help.

LARKEN: Who would help me?

MINSTREL: I, my Lady.

KING: (Me too, I'll take her on my horse and ride away)

JESTER: What did you say?

KING: (Pantos)

JESTER: You want to take care of the Lady Larken?

KING: (Yes)

JESTER: Who's going to take care of you?

KING: (You)

MINSTREL: Chivalry demands that we protect a damsel in distress.

KING: (Knights JESTER)

JESTER: If you say so, Your Majesty.

MINSTREL: But she'll have to travel light . . . the way a man does.

JESTER: Yes, she'll go as a boy. We can steal one of Prince Dauntless' suits. (JESTER to her, takes baggage. MINSTREL takes cage, passes around to JESTER. LARKEN follows cage to RIGHT) We'll get those things out of sight — you can wait in your room.

## Audition Information for Once Upon A Mattress

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Read music? Y or N

List any dance experience or vocal lessons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Theatre related experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conflict(s) with rehearsals (vacation, work, sports, etc. ): Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Day and time: \_\_\_\_\_ Day and time: \_\_\_\_\_ Day and time: \_\_\_\_\_

What part(s) are you auditioning for? Major or Minor Please list any roles you are interested in:

\_\_\_\_\_

Will you take another? Yes or No Would you like to be in the dance scenes? Yes or No

**CAST BIO** Please fill out the following biography for the program

\_\_\_\_\_ is the son/daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_. (Previous roles and musicals) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(School clubs and activities) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Other interests/activities) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Seniors only plans after graduation) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_