MUSICALFARE
BOLDLY ENTERTAINING

SHEA'S
ARTS ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION



Disney

FROZEN

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Study Guide

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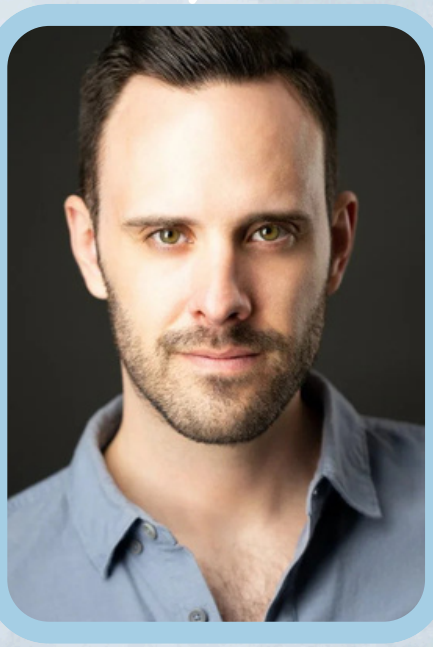
From the Director... Eric Deeb Weaver



"Disney's *Frozen* is widely recognized as a story about identity, courage, and the transformative power of love. At its heart, the musical explores the relationship between two sisters, learning to understand themselves and one another while navigating fear, loss, love, responsibility, and acceptance. Our production will emphasize the emotional journey of Anna and Elsa, celebrating themes of self-discovery, belonging, and unconditional love while remaining faithful to the magical storytelling that has made *Frozen* a beloved Disney classic. Many of my directing and choreography sensibilities have been shaped by Disney musicals and films, as well as by growing up near Disneyland, where I was fortunate to experience many of the park's original theatrical productions. The seamless blend of storytelling, pacing, and theatrical magic found in those productions has stayed with me throughout my career and continues to influence the way I approach musical theatre."





Fun Fact: Eric has previously directed productions of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, and *Newsies*!



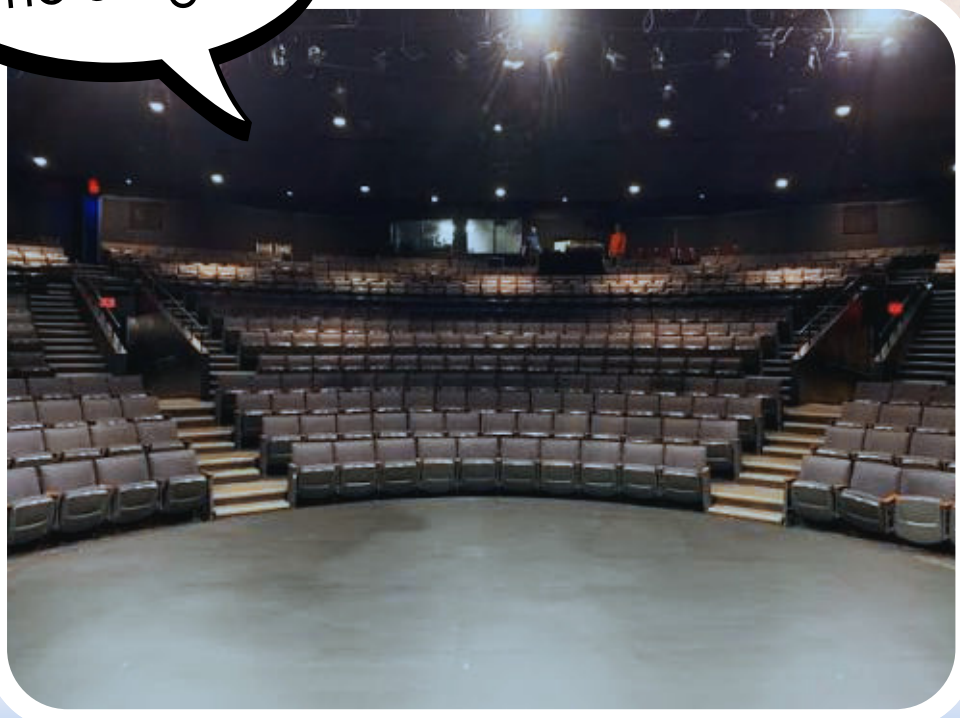
Before you go...

things to know...

Know your theatre etiquette! Stay respectful of your fellow audience members – Save side conversations for intermission! Silence cell phones and keep them stowed away. They can light up your face, which distracts the actors and those around you. Applaud when you feel you should!! The experience of this high energy production is made that much better by a tuned-in audience!

Why Shea's 710? In this 550-seat theater, there are no "bad" seats – Shea's 710 features a thrust stage, allowing every detail of this production to come to life for every audience member. This unique staging approach welcomes the audience into Arendelle, and delivers the spectacle of *Frozen* direct to your seat.

A view from the stage!





All things Arendelle

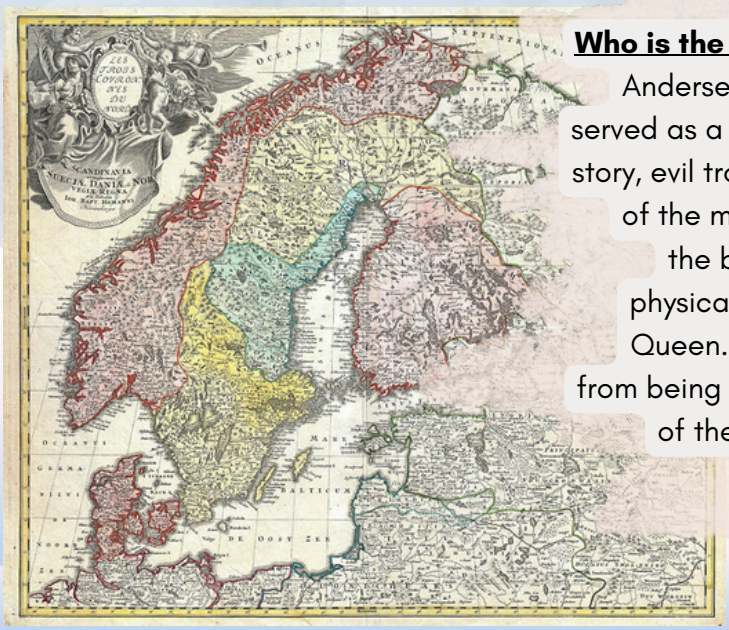


Where does our story unfold? Welcome to Arendelle, a fictional kingdom inspired by Norway, set in the mid 1800's. MusicalFare's production showcases the kingdom of Arendelle in great detail. The director has asked that production designs *"draw inspiration from Scandinavian landscapes, architecture, folk art, and natural elements, all while creating theatrical 'magic.' "*





The Snow Queen



Who is the Snow Queen? Originally published in 1844 by Hans Chrstian Andersen, "The Snow Queen" is a classic "good vs. evil" tale that has served as a sort of inspiration for the story behind Disney's *Frozen*. In this story, evil trolls create a magic mirror which, when it shatters, leaves one of the main characters (Kai) significantly injured. As the magic within the broken shards grows stronger, Kai experiences emotional and physical changes, leading him to flee his home to live with the Snow Queen. His close friend Gerda embarks on an epic quest to stop Kai from being fully overtaken by the mirror's power. This would inform many of the "good vs evil" plot points we discover in *Frozen*'s core story.

Learning to Let It Go...

The animated film *Frozen* premiered in 2013 to massive critical acclaim, becoming the highest-grossing film released that year! It went on to win a multitude of awards, including the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song (Let It Go). Taking inspiration from "The Snow Queen", the original idea for the story of *Frozen* was to feature Anna as the "good" and Elsa as the "evil." It wasn't until the creators wrote the song "Let It Go" and discovered that Elsa was never a villain, but rather someone who was discovering their power and purpose, allowing her differences to become her biggest strengths. This allowed the story to focus on saving the relationship between sisters Anna and Elsa. In other words - "Let It Go" almost never existed!





Activity: If "Let It Go" was never written, pitch your OWN song idea in it's place!

Joe Greenan

Meet Olaf!



How do the beloved characters from the film come to life on stage? The challenge with adapting any animated film is representing it's spirit in the most natural way on stage - obviously our actor's are real people, and not drawn up by artists or recording lines in a voiceover booth. Naturally. this must come with it's own set of challenges - Joe Greenan, better known as Olaf in MusicalFare's *Frozen*, shared with me some behind-the-scenes insight into what makes this adaptation so special...

Most excited for???

I'm most excited for the audiences to see the amazing costumes and wigs made by the Drozd sisters and the amazing custom made puppets! On the first rehearsal during the costume presentation the resemblance to the movie was amazing, but every costume had a splash of their own style which was awesome.

Playing Olaf...

My favorite part about playing Olaf is how similar I am to him, it makes playing him so much more fun! We both obviously like the summer (who doesn't?) but at his core Olaf is childlike wonder and curiosity, and if a child can't relate to that I don't know what will. I'm also a sucker for puppeteering in theatre and the Olaf puppet is going to be so fun to operate in front of the audience!

Biggest challenges?

I think one of the major challenges adapting a character from screen to stage is being a direct carbon copy of the original, but that's also where I think theatre solves the problem. Everyone can add their own spin on a character, because I know I can't be Josh Gad as Olaf, but I can be the best Joe Greenan as Olaf I can be.



Fun fact!!

One fun fact about myself is that much like Olaf, I also enjoy warm hugs!

Pre-Show Brainstorm

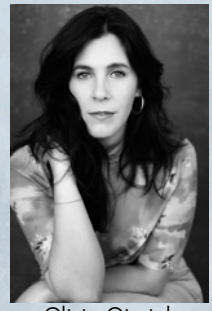
Before you see the show...

Listen to "Let It Go" and "Do You Want To Build A Snowman?"

Lyric: **"Conceal, don't feel, don't let them know. Well, now they know..."** What is this lyric telling us? In this moment, Elsa has just accidentally revealed her ice abilities & finds herself at a crossroads - Will she deny her powers and run from her abilities? Or will she embrace her powers? The song "Let It Go" captures what it means to own your differences & strengths, despite what others may say. It is the ultimate demonstration of self-discovery and pride. **Name a character from another story (TV/Film/Literature) that must overcome an undeniable truth about themselves? How do they use their difference(s) as a strength?**

Song: **"Do You Want To Build A Snowman?"** In this number, we see Anna plead with Elsa through locked door. She longs for the connection her and Elsa once shared, offering to build a snowman together. Anna even states, "It doesn't have to be a snowman..." further informing Anna's desire to connect with her sister. Whether they build a snowman together or something else entirely, it does not really matter. What matters to Anna is her sister's company. Additionally, the "snowman" in this song later informs the importance of Olaf's purpose in the story - Olaf serves as a representation of the love shared between Anna and Elsa. He supplies much of the comic relief in the show, reminding us that, even in some of life's darkest moments, it's okay to laugh. It's okay to smile. It's okay to be different. **What other characters can you think of that represent a deeper meaning? Are they more of a sidekick? Mystery character? Describe them!**

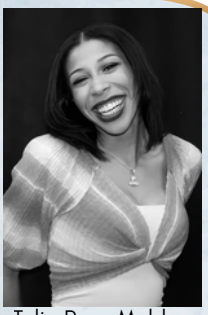
Meet the Cast



Olivia Gjurich
Elsa



Timiyah Love
Anna



Talia Rose Mobley
Bulda/Ensemble



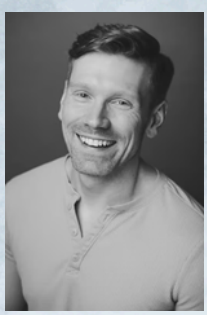
Bobby Cooke
Oaken/Ensemble



Thomas Evans
Pabbie/Ensemble



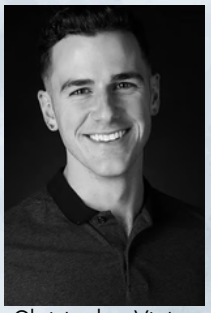
Matt Rittler
Weselton/Ensemble



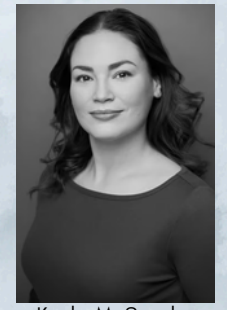
Sean Ryan-Matecki
Hans



Alex Garcia
Kristoff



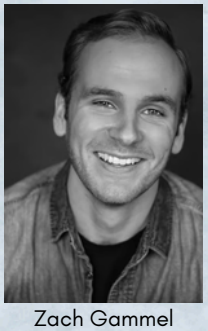
Christopher Victor
King Agnarr/Ensemble



Kayla McSorely
Queen Iduna/Ensemble



Joe Greenan
Olaf



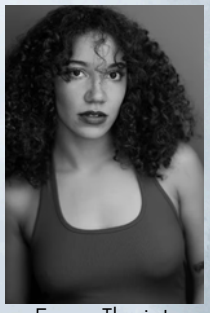
Zach Gammel
Sven



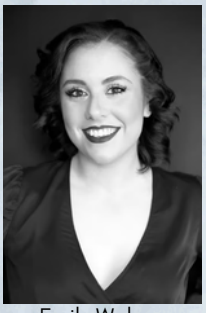
Janet Cole
Young Anna



Adeling Folger
Young Elsa



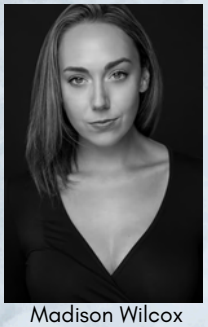
Emma Theriot
Ensemble/ U/S Anna



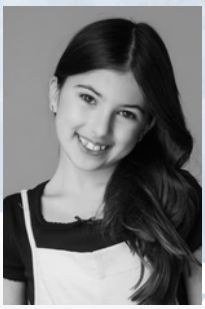
Emily Weber
Dance Captain/Ensemble



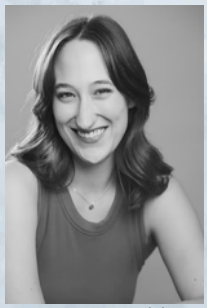
Daniel Bills Warman
Ensemble



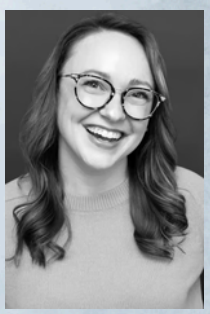
Madison Wilcox
Ensemble



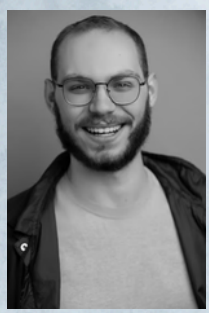
Brynn Eisenman
Swing - Young Anna



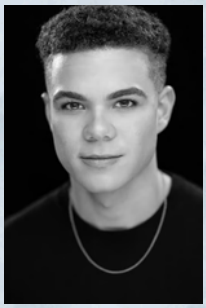
Lizzie Arnold
Ensemble



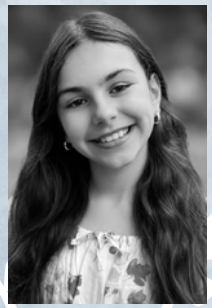
Ashleigh Chrisena
Ensemble/ U/S Elsa



Andrew Giandomenico
Bishop/Ensemble



NJ Wingo IV
Ensemble



Paige Cantone
Swing - Young Elsa

Post-Show Session

Now that you know the story...
Let's CREATE

Identity Exercise – In small groups, each student receives a flash card with a character written on it – that is your assigned character. Players cannot look at their own flash card! In your groups, ask discovery questions to uncover information about characters. Don't give away too much too soon! Allow players to guess and ask questions about their character. Once complete, each group will exchange their sets of cards with other groups, and a new round begins! How many characters can you discover?

Frozen Fractals All Around

Pick a "fork in the road" moment from the show, where the story could only go one of two ways. As a group, work together to recreate this scene or moment in a group tableau. Each group then considers the consequences of this moment – which characters are impacted? How does this moment change the trajectory of the story? Upon answering these questions, each group then showcases an alternate version of the scene, showing us the new consequences of characters' actions!

Use this page for notes / ideas!

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