

Review: The Little Mermaid Jr. has legs

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Judging by the quality of the talent at Globe's Youth Company's production of *The Little Mermaid Jr.* that opened at John Elliott Theatre on Friday night, the future of community theatre is bright.

Directed by Craig Marshall, with musical director Lumena Daniel and choreographer Jennifer Marshall and produced by Leann Playter, *The Little Mermaid Jr.* tells the tale of the mermaid Ariel, who despite her father's warnings, is fascinated by the human world. One day Ariel falls in love with Prince Eric after saving him from drowning. So she makes a deal with Ursula the sea witch— she would become human but only has three days to get Prince Eric to kiss her before she ends up as Ursula's slave— and a mermaid— forever.

A large cast of more than 50 youth, ages 7-18, was on stage most of the time during the hour-long performance, but the youngsters shone in several of the key roles.

Colleen McGuckin, who played the title role, The Little Mermaid Ariel was Ariel— beautiful acting, beautiful singing, and beautiful girl.

Her love interest, Prince Eric, was played by Jordan May, who has the most wonderful sing-

ing voice.

Standout supporting cast members were Sebastien (Brynn Swenarchuk), Flounder (Olivia Doyle) and Scuttle (Rachel Currie): fun, fun, fun.

Shaelyn Girvan played Ursula, the sea witch, and was described in the words of one young attendee, "I don't like her, she's scary," — the highest compliment.

The audience was filled with young theatre-goers and this is a perfect vehicle to introduce your child to live theatre. It is a Disney story most were familiar with, it was short (a hour long) and it was filled with colourful costumes and characters.

There were numerous scene changes, which did prompt another young audience member to ask, 'how come it keeps going dark?' But the action moved quickly, and the props creating special effects and the theatre's fly system (rigging) were used effectively. There were some sound problems on mics used by Flotsam (Scarlett Lowrie) and Jetsam (Gloria Tobin), which was unfortunate but to their credit the duo persevered.

Word of mouth has spread, and all tickets have been sold for this week's performances. But keep Globe in mind for next year's spring show; with its pool of youth talent it will also likely be a must-see show as well.

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- Terri is an amazing resident of Birkdale Place that moved in the Fall of 2014.
- She's an eternal optimist whose positivity is felt throughout Birkdale Place, and can be seen chatting with people she just met.
- Terri was born in a small town in Saskatchewan in 1925, that consisted of 3 grain elevators, her family store and one other family.
- She had the courage to move to Quebec and went to university at McGill achieving her BA and teaching credentials.
- She was married in Quebec and has 3 daughters.
- Once cooking became a chore, she considered a retirement residence
- Surprisingly since moving to Birkdale Place she has lost weight and has cut out junk food. She loves the food so much at Birkdale Place and can now make healthy choices and get her exercise.
- Even if hard-pressed she can't think of one thing she doesn't like at Birkdale Place.

TERRY OFFERS THIS ADVICE FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS:

"Talk to others whenever you can, don't keep things to yourself...but don't belly-ache. You will only make yourself miserable...and make others miserable too."



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