

Your Family Arts Center
DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER

Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

SYNOPSIS

Act I (40 minutes)

Living in a beautiful castle, a young and selfish Prince has everything he could possibly want. But, despite his overabundance of wealth, the spoiled Prince turns an old beggar woman away when she asks for respite from the cold in exchange for a rose. After he rejects her a second time, she reveals herself as an enchantress and casts a spell over the castle. He is turned into a Beast and his servants become household objects. He keeps the rose safely locked away, because once the last petal falls from it the spell will be permanent unless he can learn to truly love another. As time passes and the petals fall, the Beast begins to lose hope.

In a small village, a young woman named Belle goes about her day. She's different from the other villagers. While they shop for goods from the market and gossip amongst themselves, she reads and dreams of adventures far away from her little village. But, someone in town hopes to keep her right where she is: Gaston! Because her beauty matches his, he thinks it's just a matter of time before they are married (although Belle feels quite the opposite).

Belle's father, Maurice is preparing his invention for a fair. It's finally working and he's ready to leave, promising that once he wins at the fair he will take her to the places she reads about in her books. Belle gives him a scarf she made for good luck and he sets off into the forest. Before long, he loses his way and encounters wolves. Desperate, Maurice sees a castle and runs to it for safety. But, this is no ordinary castle. He quickly discovers that the servants who approach him, Lumiere and Cogsworth, aren't humans but a candelabra and a clock. Soon, Mrs. Potts, a teapot, and Chip, a cup, welcome him with tea and Babette, the feather duster, offers him a blanket. The Beast, angry to learn about Maurice's intrusion, throws him into the dungeon.

Back at Belle's home, Gaston tries to ask Belle for her hand in marriage, but she promptly rejects him. When Gaston's friend, Lefou, walks by looking for Gaston, Belle notices he's wearing the scarf she gave her father. He says he found it in the forest and Belle knows that something awful has befallen her father. She runs off into the forest to find him.

Belle, too, discovers the enchanted castle. She enters and finds Maurice sick and cold in the dungeon. The Beast approaches and, when he refuses to release her father, Belle agrees to take his place as the Beast's prisoner. Maurice is whisked away and the Beast, softening a bit with his servants' encouragement, shows Belle to her room. But, he demands that she never

enter the west wing of the castle (where he keeps the rose). In her room Belle sadly dreams of being back home and Mrs. Potts and Madame Bouche, the wardrobe, attempt to cheer her up.

At the village pub, Gaston is the envy of all the villagers (according to Gaston and Lefou). Maurice stumbles into the pub and asks the villagers to help him save his daughter from the Beast. They laugh at him and call him crazy. Inspired, Gaston hatches a plot with Lefou involving using Maurice to force Belle to marry him.

In the castle, the servants are encouraging the Beast to control his anger around Belle. But, when he finds out she's refusing to join him for dinner, he forbids her to have any food unless she eats dinner with him. When Belle asks the servants for food, everyone, including a reluctant Cogsworth, take pity on her. They happily present their guest with a feast. After dinner, Lumier and Cogsworth take Belle on a tour of the castle. She wanders into the west wing and almost touches the rose. But the Beast storms in and protects the rose. Frightened of him, Belle decides to run away from the castle.

Intermission (15 minutes)

Act II (25 minutes)

Belle escapes into the forest, but before long she's surrounded by wolves. Fortunately, the Beast has followed her and fights off the wolves, but not before being injured himself. Knowing the Beast saved her life at great risk to his own, Belle goes to him and helps him back to the castle. She cares for his wounds and, as time passes, their relationship evolves. The Beast even gives Belle access to his library and, in return, she teaches him to read. They both realize how similar they are in their lonely situations, the Beast trapped in his curse and Belle trapped in her village. The servants notice that something is beginning to blossom between Belle and the Beast, and they start to hope that they will be human again soon.

Gaston and Lefou meet secretly with Monsieur D'Arque, the proprietor of the lunatic asylum. He doesn't normally leave the asylum, but was promised money in return for his help. Gaston shares how he plans to persuade Belle to marry him as the three walk into the shadows.

Lumiere helps the Beast prepare for a dinner with Belle. The Beast is nervous to confess his love to Belle, but Lumier reassures him that he can find the courage within himself to do it. Belle enters and requests that the Beast dance with her. After they dance, the Beast asks Belle if she's happy in the castle. Although she is, she wishes to see her father again. The beast reveals he has a magical mirror that can show Belle her father. But, when Belle sees him, she's distraught that Maurice appears to be lost in the forest. The Beast encourages her to go to her father and take the mirror to remember him by. When the servants discover that the Beast has let Belle go, they know that he has learned to love another. But, the curse can only be broken if she loves him in return.

Belle finds Maurice and helps him back to their home. When he asks her about the Beast, she tries to explain that the Beast is not what they imagined him to be. Monsieur D'Arque approaches them and says he is going to take Maurice to the asylum. The villagers agree he is crazy, talking about a Beast and enchanted castle, despite Belle's protests. When she asks Gaston for help, he tells her he will help her in exchange for her hand. Refusing, Belle uses the magical mirror to show them her father tells the truth. The villagers, scared and outraged at the news, follow Gaston into the forest to go kill the Beast. Belle and Maurice follow, determined to help save the Beast and his servants.

At the castle, the villagers are surprised to discover they must battle household objects. Gaston finds the Beast in the west wing and stabs him in the back. But, when Belle enters, Gaston runs away realizing he's the one who truly lost. Belle proclaims her love for the Beast as he lies dying. Suddenly, the Beast magically turns back into the Prince. The servants are elated that they are humans again, too. The spell has been broken!

Notes:

- This is a high-energy musical filled with singing (both familiar and new songs) and dancing.
- There are some moments that are foreboding or threatening in nature (including the scenes with wolves, when the village mob is going to find the Beast while carrying weapons, Gaston stabbing the Beast, etc.)
- The Beast's voice is altered to be more true to the character (sounds like a low rumble).
- There are many instances when the actors run or walk through the audience (including in the middle of section B).
- During the Beast's transformation back into a Prince, there is a dramatic lighting effect to signify the change.