



Jack Windschitl (King Triton), left, and Charlie Hoffmann (Sebastian) perform early in the musical. Below, Reese Hoffmann (Ariel), left, and Kylie Pelzel (Flounder) perform early in the musical. On the bottom, Natalie Fischer (Ursula), center, sings next Kiara Murphy (Jetsam) left, and Grace Hoffmann (Flotsam).

Story and photos by Fritz Busch

Diving into a 'dream role'

Take a dive into a perfect underwater kingdom in which *The Little Mermaid* is fascinated by the world above the sea and human beings who wants to explore the world above water.

The musical includes an elaborate hand-made sets and lots of singing and dancing by a variety of characters.

St. Mary's Director Geri Pelzel talked about why the musical was chosen to be performed.

"Some musicals highlight one or two characters, but I knew that with the cast I had coming in, I had so much talent. I needed a musical that would showcase many characters. *The Little Mermaid* does just that," said Pelzel.

"We had such a fun, talented bunch of students. Putting them all on stage together is something you don't want to miss," she said.

Charlie Hoffmann, who plays Sebastian, talked about the musical.

"There's a lot of team work and cooperation with the musical. I like that aspect of it. I really like the part I'm playing. It's a dream role. The musical is one of my favorites. It's difficult, but we're ready for it," he said.

Natalie Fischer, who plays Ursula, commented on the musical.

"I like getting together with everybody and working on it every night. I like the friendship. It'll take a lot of work, but we can do it for sure. It's a very wicked part, a big change from who I played last year. I like being able to change my roles as a character. We started choreography in August," she said.

McCoy Marti, who plays Prince Eric, said the actors and actresses are coming along well.

"I did (backstage) technology for two years. I was Warner in 'Legally Blonde'

St. Mary students enjoying performing in 'The Little Mermaid' musical



last year. Everybody should come to the musical. It'll be a good one," he said.

The plot follows the mermaid princess Ariel, who is fascinated with the human world; after saving Prince Eric from a shipwreck, she makes a deal with the sea witch Ursula to walk on land.

The youngest of King Triton's daughters, Ariel is a beautiful and spirited young mermaid with a thirst for adventure. Longing to find out more about the world beyond the sea, Ariel visits the surface and falls for the dashing Prince Eric. Following her heart, she makes a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, to

experience life on land.

Cast members are Reese Hoffmann as Ariel, Natalie Fischer as Ursula, McCoy Marti as Prince Eric, Jack Windschitl as King Triton, Charlie Hoffmann as Sebastian, Kylie Pelzel as Flounder, Nora Hoffmann as Scuttle, Grace Hoffmann as Flotsam, Kiara Murphy as Jetsam, William Murphy as Grimsby, Ethan Schwartz as Chef Louis, Conner Kyllonen as pilot.

Mersisters are Amelia Schwartz, Millie Lax, Olivia Schieffert, Caroline Currans, Josie Helget and Brynne Ibberson.

Sailors: Amelia Schwartz, Olivia

IF YOU GO

Musical on stage Friday, Nov. 15 and Saturday, Nov. 16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17 in Sleepy Eye St. Mary's Auditorium. Reserved tickets, available Nov. 1-15, are \$11, \$8 and \$7. They must be picked up at St. Mary's High School prior to performances. Box office hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 507-794-4121.

Schieffert, Josie Helget, Millie Lax, Brynne Ibberson, Caroline Currans, Kate Windschitl, Breanna Braulick, Sienna Ibberson, Hayden Zeig, Maria Schwartz, Jack Windschitl, Jose Maria Martinez, Kia Suess, Ethan Schwartz.

Sea creatures under the sea: Hayden and Hannah Zeig, Lucia Martinez, Eva Schweiss, Elizabeth Currans, Aiden Grausam, Scarlett Armbruster, Macy Miller, Ruby Tauer, Clara Currans, Audra Hoffmann, Kia Suess, Jose Maria Martinez, Maria Schwartz, Breanna Braulick, Kate Windschitl, Sierra Ibberson, Amelia Schwartz, Olivia Schieffert, Josie Helget, Millie Lax, Brynne Ibberson, Caroline Currans.

Gulls: Ameila Schwartz, Olivia Schieffert, Jose Helget, Brynne Ibberson. Maids: Hana Zeig, Maria Schwartz. Chefs: Connor Kyllonen, Lucia Martinez, Jose Maria Martinez, Millie Lax, Caroline Currans, Eva Schweiss, Kia Suess.

Princesses: Lucia Martinez, Elizabeth Currans, Maria Schwartz, Breanna Braulick, Katie Windschitl, Sienna Ibberson.

Kiss the Girl Creatures: Audra Hoffmann, Clara Currans, Ruby Tauer, Macy Miller, Aiden Grausam, Hayden, Hannah Zeig, Scarlett Armbruster.

Lights: Tyler Mathiowetz, Ella, Anna Pollard. Sound: Taylor Mathiowetz, Shayna Sellner. Stage hands Brecken Hulke, Santi Martinez.

