**Character Breakdown**

**Narrators**: The Narrators provide great opportunities to involve students who are more comfortable speaking than singing. Be sure the students you choose for these roles can enunciate and project, as they guide the focus and pace of this beautiful tale. These roles are non-singing, but the actors can also be a part of your ensemble

**Belle** is a smart, confident young woman from a small village. You will want a strong singer and actress who is able to stand up to Gaston while showing compassion for Maurice, the Servants and eventually the Beast

 **Maurice** is an aging and eccentric inventor, but more importantly, the adoring and protective father of Belle. This non-solo singing role is perfect for the student who can have fun interpreting this crazy old man while conveying some very strong emotions: fear and fatherly love.

 **The Beast** is a young prince who was hideously transformed by the Enchantress’s spell. Casting for size is not as important as choosing a student who can handle this complex character: a dictator, a hurt child, a hero, a defender and a smitten prince. Cast an actor who can deliver a range of conflicting emotional states. Although the Beast does sing a small bit during Something There and the Finale, this is truly an acting role (and his lyrics can be spoken if you cast a non-singer).

**Gaston** is pompous and dim-witted and will do whatever it takes to win Belle’s hand. Gaston has all the confidence in the world but lacks the humility to balance it. Finding a strong singer and actor is more important than physical size and stature for this role. He has to be able to sell his big eponymous number with gusto and arrogance as well as lead the Villagers in The Mob Song. Biceps can be added to the costume, but the bravura needs to come from within.

 **Lefou** is Gaston’s equally dim-witted lackey. This character needs to be Gaston’s foil and should double the laughs for them both. Consider auditioning Lefou and Gaston in pairs to find the right chemistry. Lefou should be able to sing, act and dance. If he can perform some gymnastics and tumbles all the better!

 **The Silly Girls** are in love with Gaston and will do almost anything just to be near him. Look for three girls who can portray the comic nature of these roles and enjoy playing off each other. The Silly Girls sing together in three numbers and their sound should mix well.

**Lumiere** is a confident, charming French mâitre d who (underthe enchantress’s spell)is becoming a candelabra. He has an incessant bickering rapport with Cogsworth, so consider auditioning in pairs to find a good fit. Lumiere should be a strong singer who can light up the stage in Be Our Guest. If you have a student who can handle the French accent, fantastic! This role covers a range of emotions (from charming entertainer to brave soldier) and requires prominent song and dance, so try to cast a strong, versatile performer .

**Cogsworth** is the British major-domo of the castle who is becoming a clock. Like all of the castle’s servants, he shows a fatherly compassion for Belle yet is perfectly submissive to the master,the Beast. Cogsworth enjoys feeling like the boss and has no problem getting into it with Lumiere. Cast a strong actor and singer who can act in charge.

**Mrs. Potts** is the castle’s endearing cook who is becoming a teapot. The actor you cast needs a strong, sweet voice and should be able to convey comforting, maternal qualities amidst the chaos that is breaking out in the castle. Look for a student who can play a loving mother figure to all the characters.

**Babette** is the maid of the castle who is turning into a feather duster. She misses the finer things in life. Babette is happy to be at Belle’s service at a moment’s notice, but her true heart comes through in Human Again. Look for a good actor with solid vocal skills to handle Babette’s harmonies.

**Madame De La Grande Bouche** is an opera singer who is becoming a wardrobe. Madame is larger-than-life in everything she does, including her singing and dancing. Look for that student who can portray the ultimate diva with a heart, with an outsized personality and voice. Madame has some harmony lines with Mrs. Potts and Babette, so cast a singer who can hold her own but knows when to pull back in order to sound good with the others.

**Chip** is Mrs. Potts’s son who is becoming a teacup. You may cast a younger student for this role, but it is not imperative. Chip has a wonderful naïveté that endears him to all of the Servants. Cast an actor who can portray the honesty and spirit of a child and is comfortable trying to sing Chip s few solo lines.

**The Old Beggar Woman/Enchantress** should be portrayed by an actor with a flair for the visually dramatic as this is a non-speaking role. Her transformation in the Prologue needs to entice the audience into the story. After the Prologue,this student may join the ensemble as a Villager or castle Servant.

**Monsieur D'Arque** is the proprietor of the lunatic asylum. Cast an actor who can believably exude his sinister personality. Although Monsieur D’Arque has few lines of solo singing in The Mob Song, this is primarily a non-singing role, so look for a solid actor first. Monsieur D’ Arque can double as a Servant in the rest of the show.