



Our Mission: Empower people with disabilities and their families through creative expression and sensory exploration.

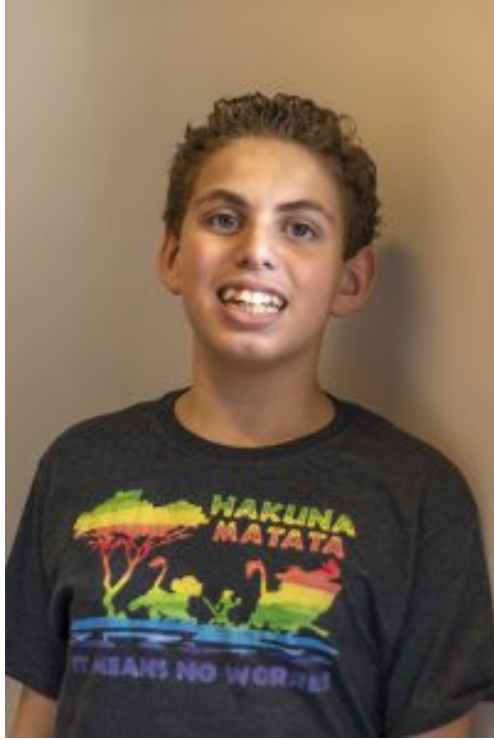
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STEPVA CAST SPOTLIGHT: REEVE WATSON & NOAH KING

April 29, 2022 by Brigid O'Leary



FREDERICKSBURG, VA—There’s only one true king, but in Disney’s “The Lion King, Kids!” it takes two to play Simba. For STEPVA, the local 501(c)3 non-profit that “empower people with disabilities and their families through creative expression and sensory exploration,” it falls to Reeve Watson and Noah King to play the mighty role.



Reeve Watson

Watson takes on the role of Young Simba. A fan of the original 1994 movie, he came to the auditions excited for the opportunity to sing and dance, but also to have more time with friends he's made over the four years he's been with STEPVA.

The role of Simba feels like it was written for Watson, who is growing his hair out for the role and has found similarities with the young prince.

"He's nice, he's funny, and he likes to go on adventures," Watson said, describing the character Simba, though many who know him would say it describes him as well.

Though he, like others on the cast, came into the production as fans of musical theater, some of the choreography—and the amount of it he's had to learn—has proved challenging at times, but Watson is thoroughly enjoying the experience, especially the scenes wherein the cast performs the song "Circle of Life." Watson and King will complete that circle, but while they share a role, they are never overlap. Watson figuratively tags out the role to King during "Hakuna Matata." It happens to be King's favorite scene in the show, and the point at which he takes up the role of the adult Simba.



Noah King

For King, who has been with STEPVA from the beginning of the organization, auditioning for the show was simply something he was going to do, in part just because it's a STEPVA show. That it was a stage adaptation based on a movie of which he was already a fan was bonus. He started the process in January, confident in his audition for the role of Zazu; getting cast as Simba was not what he expected.

"I was a little surprised because I assumed I'd get Zazu straight away," he said. "When I realized that I was going to be Simba, I was unsure if I was worthy of being Simba. That is, until I got a few rehearsals in and I realized I could do this."

After taking on a dual role in last year's "A Special Covid-19," playing both Tim Croakee's father as well as the friend Jeffrey, there was little doubt that King could "do this," but being part of Disney's "The Lion King, Kids!" still has been a whole different ball game.

"This year it's a Disney show and last year Mr. Noah wrote it. Obviously, since Covid-19 isn't as dangerous, we can do things in person and not virtual," King said.

Tickets to see Watson and King take back the Pridelands in person are limited for the show on April 30 at 7pm and completely sold out for the Sunday matinee (May 1 at 3pm). The show is being staged at Fredericksburg Christian School, 9400 Thornton Rolling Road, Fredericksburg, Va., but there is a (virtual) live stream option is available for those who were unable to get tickets for the shows.

To purchase tickets for tomorrow's show, click [HERE](#).

To purchase access to the live stream, click [HERE](#).

For more information or to donate, visit www.stepva.org.

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