



Media Release
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STEPVA Announces New Musical

FREDERICKSBURG, VA— STEPVA executive director Jan Monroe, program director and music therapist Sarah Garner, and adult participant Noah Finch were the first to announce the next musical to be performed by the local theater organization: a production of Disney’s “The Lion King KIDS”! STEPVA is a local 501(c) that “empowers people with special needs through artistic expression & sensory exploration.”

The show, based on the 1994 animated film of the same name, as well as the 1997 Broadway production, is set to be performed at Fredericksburg Christian School from April 30-May 1. It was first announced during a Christmas party held by STEPVA in December, followed by closed auditions in January and the official start of rehearsals earlier this month. It comes a year after Finch’s successful performance of his show “A Special COVID-19 Musical” in April 2021.

“We looked at the Disney musicals available and what the cast composition was. We looked at the level of difficulty, complexity of music, and theme of the show...Lion King was selected because it has name recognition (most know the show), is more easily adapted for those that don't want to be recognized on stage (animal costumes) and those that have greater difficulty speaking/communicating (not all animals talk). This show makes room for more creative input from the cast too,” says Monroe.

“We also chose this show as it has many...character options or roles that could be played by either a girl or boy. It’s easy to adapt characters for anyone with a lead or ensemble, because the ensemble is just as important. It’s great to do this with all levels of experience performing, because you can adapt based on a person’s need or goals and comfort level onstage,” says Sarah Garner, program director and music therapist.

“The Lion King KIDS!” will be performed at Fredericksburg Christian School (9400 Thornton Rolling Rd; Fredericksburg, Va.) from April 31st-May 1st. For more information or to donate, please visit www.stepva.org.

STEP VA, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides sensory-based theater and arts programs for individuals with disabilities. Its vision is to transform the world by offering each individual the opportunity to flourish in the community.