THE LITTLE MERMAID

Adapted by R. Eugene Jackson
Music by Carl Alette

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Hans Christian Andersen's  
THE LITTLE MERMAID  
Adapted by R. Eugene Jackson  
Music by Carl Alette  
CHARACTERS

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*Many roles may be double cast. For example, the various sea plants and animals appear only in Scene One. Those actors may play other roles in later scenes.

Time: About 1805-1815

Place: Under the sea; on a ship; in the Sea-Witch's abode; in a palace garden
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THE LITTLE MERMAID


Scene One
All the scenery may be simplified. The following is a description of the ideal. Under the sea; about 1805-1815. There is a large castle built of coral and having tall spires reaching upward. Amber lights shine through the windows, and bubbles trickle upward through the use of a bubble machine. At one side is a marble statue of a teenage boy set at an awkward angle as if it had partly settled in the sandy bottom. It may be a cardboard cutout painted to resemble a three-dimensional statue. Various colored flowers and plants--actors in costumes or puppets--rise and drift in the underwater currents. The opening may be played behind a bluish scrim curtain to further suggest an underwater scene.

MUSIC: #1-B. Segue to DEEP DOWN Ballet as the curtain rises.
AT RISE: FISH of all sizes, shapes, and kinds swim about, chasing each other, frolicking, and generally having a good time. Little fish might flutter away from larger fish. Underwater PLANTS might also open their eyes and flutter in the currents. See NOTES at the end of the script for suggestions on the FISH and PLANTS. Later, five happy MERMAIDS--SHELLEY, PEARLY, MISTY, SANDY, and BUBBLY--from the oldest to the youngest--ENTER and swim about in graceful, fluid motions. Each wears a crown of flowers from their respective flower gardens.

MUSIC: #1-C. DEEP DOWN.
MERMAIDS: (They sing.) We live down deep under the sea
    Where there are many wonders to see.
    We live down deep under the sea
    Where we are always eager to be.
    Just look at the sights,
    A million delights,
    Deep down.

FISH/PLANTS: (The FISH and PLANTS either pop up or face the AUDIENCE for their lines and then disappear or turn away until their next lines. Sing.) Deep down,

ALL: (Sing.) Deep down under the sea.
SOME MERMAIDS: (Sing.) There are fish of ev’ry color,
OTHER MERMAIDS: (Sing.) And fish who couldn’t be duller.
SOME MERMAIDS: (Sing.) There are eels with 'lectric power,
OTHER MERMAIDS: (Sing.) And worms that hide and cower.
MERMAIDS/ALL: (Sing.) All kinds of sea things,
      Giants and wee things,
      Living on the bottom of the sea.
MERMAIDS: (Sing.)          FISH/PLANTS: (Sing.)
      We live down deep under the sea        AHHH. . .
      Where there are many wonders to see    AHHH. . .
      We live down deep under the sea        AHHH. . .
      Where we are always eager to be.        AHHH. . .
MERMAIDS/ALL: (Sing.) Just look at the view,
      An undersea zoo,
MERMAIDS: (Sing.) Deep down,
FISH/PLANTS: (They pop up and down as before. Sing.) Deep
down,
MERMAIDS: (Sing.) Deep down,
FISH/PLANTS: (Sing.) Deep down,
ALL: (Sing.) Deep down under the sea.
      Deep down under the sea.
(The FISH and PLANTS EXIT. If a scrim was used, it rises here.)
ANEMONE: (Pronounced uh-NEM-uh-nee. The youngest of the
MERMAIDS, she SCREAMS OFFSTAGE LEFT and then ENTERS
with CLEM CLAM, a clam. She is not wearing a crown.) Did
you see those terrifying sharks out there?
CLEM: (See NOTES at the end of the script for directions on the
clam. He is hiding behind ANEMONE.) They scared me to
pieces.
SHELLEY: (The oldest, she always speaks with authority.) That
      means the Sea-Witch is near by. (The MERMAIDS react in fear.)
CLEM: She scares me to pieces, too.
PEARLY: Clem Clam, why are you hiding behind Anemone?
CLEM: Hiding behind Anemone? I'm not hiding behind Anemone.
      She's hiding in front of me.
SANDY: Oh, don't worry about those sharks. They won't harm us
      here in Father's undersea kingdom.
CLEM: Thank goodness for Father.
ANEMONE: Clem Clam, he's OUR father, not yours.
CLEM: He is now. I just adopted him. (Except for MISTY, who
gathers some brownish flowers, the MERMAIDS laugh.)
MISTY: (In a whimpering voice.) You sisters can laugh, but I have a
      serious problem.
BUBBLY: (Bubbly, of course.) What is it, Misty?
MISTY: Well, Bubbly, it’s my undersea garden. Something’s wrong with it. Everything seems to be dying. Do you think I need to water it more often?
ANEMONE: Misty, we live under the sea. Water is not the problem.
MISTY: Then what?
ANEMONE: Perhaps you should sing to your garden.
MISTY: Sing to my garden?
ANEMONE: Sure—the way I do.
PEARLY: Anemone, your garden thrives when you sing because you have the most beautiful voice in the sea-doom.
MISTY: But if I sang to mine, it would probably wilt. (She whimpers.)
SANDY: (Brushing or stroking hair.) At least we have beautiful, long hair.
BUBBLY: The prettiest anywhere.
SANDY: Our most treasured possession.
CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) Bah, who needs hair?
SHELLEY: Girls, girls. Today is Anemone’s fifteenth birthday—a very special day for her. (The OTHERS ad-lib agreement and gather around ANEMONE.) After a brief ceremony, she will be allowed to make her first trip to the surface of the sea. (They cheer again.)
ANEMONE: I’m so excited. I can hardly wait for Grandmother to crown me and for Father to send me on my way!
CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) I’ve never been up there. Clams usually stay on the bottom of the sea.
SHELLEY: I remember my first trip to the surface. I sat on a sand bank in the moonlight and watched and listened to a small town nearby. There were lights everywhere, sparkling like the stars in the sky. I heard bells ringing and people singing. It was delightful.
ANEMONE: I can’t wait. What about you, Misty? What did you see on your fifteenth birthday?
CLEM: On my fifteenth birthday, I... 
ANEMONE: Clem Clam, I was talking to Misty.
MISTY: Oh. I didn’t see much.
ANEMONE: Why not?
MISTY: I was too frightened.
ANEMONE: But you must have seen something. Oh, please, tell me. I have to know.
MISTY: Well, I swam up into a lake where it was cold and everything was covered with a fine white powder. Frozen water sticks hung from the trees.
ANEMONE: But what frightened you?
MISTY: This big black animal with a long tail and four legs raced toward me, yelling. . . (She barks like a dog.)
ANEMONE: What did you do?
BUBBLY: Well, I said. . . (She barks.), and then I swam away as fast as I could. (They laugh.)
ANEMONE: There is so much to see, so much to learn.
PEARLY: When you go to the surface, Anemone, where will you go? What do you most want to see?
ANEMONE: (She points dreamily to the statue.) That.
SHELLEY: My, my. A statue of a boy falls from a wrecked ship above and sinks to the bottom of the sea, and Anemone falls in love with it.
BUBBLY: With the statue?
ANEMONE: No, silly--the boy.
BUBBLY: Well, he is rather handsome.
ANEMONE: He's absolutely gorgeous!
CLEM: Gorgeous, Humph! Now, CLAMS are gorgeous. (He preens.)
SANDY: Well, mermaids can't fall in love with human boys. (Afterthought.) Can we?
SHELLEY: We can fall in love with whomever we please.
PEARLY: But we can never have a boy in marriage.
MISTY: Why not?
SHELLEY: Misty, you are so silly. Boys live on land; we live in the sea.
PEARLY: They walk on two feet. We swim with our fins.
CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) Feet? What's feet?
SANDY: They can only breathe air. We can only breathe under water.
PEARLY: So, you see, loving a boy is. . . is pointless. (She glances at ANEMONE.) Isn't it, Anemone?
ANEMONE: (As she sighs.) Yes. I guess so.
PEARLY: (To MISTY.) There. You see?
ANEMONE: (With yet another sigh.) But he is so handsome!
ALL (But BUBBLY.): Anemone!
ANEMONE: (Brought back to reality.) Pointless, yes.
FISH: (ENTERS and calls as if playing a fanfare on a trumpet.) Ta-ta-ta-ta-taal
SHELLEY: Oh! It's time for the ceremony to begin.
FISH: An announcement, a grand announcement! (He unrolls a scroll and reads grandly from it.) Mermaids and mermen; all fish, and undersea plants: presenting the ruler of all underwater as far as fish can swim in any direction, the holder of the greatest power in sea-dom, and the noblest of all
mermen, King Neptune--and his gracious mother! (The 
MERMAIDS line up to bow as they ENTER.)

MUSIC: #2. DEEP DOWN MARCH. 
(Various kinds of FISH formally march IN to preset positions as 
GRANDMOTHER and KING NEPTUNE ENTER from STAGE LEFT. 
She wears a pearl tiara; he carries a trident and also wears a 
crown. They move to a prominent position or to their throne 
chairs, which are clam shells or shaped coral and are located 
at STAGE RIGHT. After they arrive, the MUSIC ends.)

NEPTUNE: (Standing.) We have come together on this joyful 
occasion to witness the coming of age of my sixth lovely 
daughter, Anemone. She is fifteen years old today, and today 
she becomes a woman. (There is cheering as ANEMONE with 
a bowed head is led to, or approaches, the KING and bows.)

NEPTUNE: (To ANEMONE.) You have weathered many a good 
season under the briny deep, Anemone. You have been taught 
the ways of an adult mermaid by my wise mother. And now, 
as a sign of your maturity, she will make a presentation to you. 

GRANDMOTHER: Come here, my dear. (ANEMONE moves to her. 
GRANDMOTHER raises a crown of various blossoms.) Each of 
your sisters--Shelley, Pearly, Misty, Sandy, and Bubbly--received 
a crown of flowers from their own gardens on this happy day. 
Today, it is your turn. (She places one on her head and kisses 
her.)

ANEMONE: Oh, thank you, grandmother. I will treasure it always. 
GRANDMOTHER: May you wear it in peace and love forever. And 
now, for our delight, raise your lovely voice in song, my dear. 
Charm the undersea world with your greatest treasure--your 
golden voice.

ANEMONE: It would be my pleasure, Grandmother. (Sings.)

MUSIC: #3. THE SONGS I SING. 
Sometimes the bottom of the sea 
Seems a gloomy place to be. 
Sometimes the shifting of the tide 
Makes me want to run and hide. 
But something makes me stop, 
Sit down here, ker-plop, 
And shows me how to turn that gloominess around. 
It's the songs I sing

CHORUS: (Sings.) The songs I sing.
ANEMONE: (Sings.) It's the songs I sing
CHORUS: (Sings.) The songs I sing.
ANEMONE: (Sings.) It’s the songs I sing
CHORUS: (Sings.) The songs I sing.
ANEMONE: (Sings.) That bring me happiness.
CHORUS: (Sings.) Happiness.
ANEMONE: (Sings.) Now it’s the surface of the sea
   Seems a scary place to be.
   Sometimes the fear of the unknown
   Makes me want to stay at home.
   But something makes me stop,
CLEM: (Sings.) Sit down here, ker-plop,
ANEMONE/CLEM: (Sings.) And shows me how to turn that
   scariness around.
CLEM: (Sings.) It’s the songs I sing
ANEMONE: (Sings. Ad-lib melody.) The songs I sing.
CHORUS: (Sings.) It’s the songs I sing
ANEMONE: (Sings. Ad-lib.) The songs I sing.
CHORUS: (Sings.) It’s the songs I sing
CLEM: (Sings. Ad-lib.) The songs I sing.
ANEMONE: (Sings.) That bring me happiness.
CLEM: (Sings.) Happiness.
CHORUS: (Sings.) That bring me happiness.
CLEM: (Sings.) Happiness.
ALL: (Sing.) That bring me happiness.
NEPTUNE: (After end of song.) Without doubt, yours is the loveliest
   voice in all the under-sea, Anemone. And now, MY
   gift—permission to rise to the surface of the sea and take in the
   beauties of that other world. (The SEA-WITCH, a mature, ugly,
   and vicious mermaid, ENTERS from STAGE LEFT. She carries a
   bag tied to a rope around her waist.)
SEA-WITCH: (Loudly, in a growling voice.) Beauties? Ha!
   (Frightened, the OTHERS move away from her. NEPTUNE steps
   backward.)
NEPTUNE: The Sea-Witch!
SEA-WITCH: It won’t be beauty, but terror and pain, that she will
   find on the surface. (The OTHERS express shock.)
NEPTUNE: (To his people.) Hush, everyone. Quiet. There is no
   danger. Not from her.
CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) I think I’ll hide anyway. (He gets
   behind ANEMONE.)
SEA-WITCH: You think not, King Neptune? You should fear me—as
   you fear—them! (She points OFF LEFT. Two SHARKS, RIP-TIDE
   and ZIP-TIDE, ENTER from LEFT and sneer.)
CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) I'm glad I hid.

SEA-WITCH: In case you've forgotten my sharks' names, meet Rip-Tide. . .

RIP-TIDE: (Menacingly.) The terror of the deep.

SEA-WITCH: And Zip-Tide.

ZIP-TIDE: The menace of the seas.

SEA-WITCH: My very best. . . friends.

CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) She calls them friends. I call them foes with fins.

NEPTUNE: What are you doing in my sea-dom? You should be in your own abode far from here.

SEA-WITCH: Why, Neppy, old boy, I grew tired of that place, so I decided to go for a little. . . swim. Besides, I have a gift for Princess Anemone, the birthday mermaid. (She starts to stroke ANEMONE'S hair, but ANEMONE pulls back.)

ANEMONE: Don't touch me.

SEA-WITCH: (Insulted.) Don't touch you? I've come to offer you your fondest wish as a present, and you insult me? Why?

ANEMONE: I just meant. . .

NEPTUNE: We all know of your treachery, Sea-Witch. We know how you tried to disrupt the sea-dom by your wickedness and evil ways.

SEA-WITCH: I only meant to claim what is mine.

NEPTUNE: This sea-dom is my realm. It is not yours.

SEA-WITCH: It could have been. It almost was. But you, you had me thrown out, had me banished to an abode on the dark side of the sea.

CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) It was a better punishment than she deserved.

SEA-WITCH: (To ANEMONE.) Mark my words, sweetie. Without my gift, you have much heartache in store for you.

ANEMONE: Heartache?

GRANDMOTHER: (Puts her hands on ANEMONE'S shoulders from behind.) Pay no attention to this old hag, Anemone.

CLEM: That's right, Princess Anemone. Pay no attention to this old hag. (The SEA-WITCH snarls at him.) Yipes! (He hides again.)

GRANDMOTHER: (To ANEMONE.) She is jealous of your happiness, and she would do anything to make you as sad as she is evil.

NEPTUNE: Go back to your dark place, Sea-Witch. And take these demons of the deep with you.

RIP-TIDE: Is he talking about us?

ZIP-TIDE: Did he call us demons of the deep?
RIP-TIDE: We’re not demons.
ZIP-TIDE: We’re devils!
SEA-WITCH: I have developed many strong powers since you had me exiled, Neppy. You shouldn’t challenge me now. You might lose.
NEPTUNE: Back, I say. (He steps toward her, raising his trident.)
SEA-WITCH: (Strongly.) Don’t threaten me, Neptune! (She takes a vial from her waist bag, uncorks it, and tosses a powdery substance into the air, causing a loud RUMBLING NOISE, FLASHING LIGHTS, and a swift current. Perhaps an offstage fan could help in this effect. She laughs. The OTHERS have to grab onto things or each other to prevent their being swept away.) I have powers! I have powers great and strong! (She tosses another pinch of the substance, creating another blast of THUNDER. Then she lowers her arms. The sounds and the current stop.) Right here in my bag (She pats it.) are my greatest possessions, Neppy, powers too great for you to overcome. Powers too great for you to defeat. You will learn. The entire under-sea world will soon be mine.
CLEM: (To the AUDIENCE.) If that’s so, I’m moving to Mars.
GRANDMOTHER: Away, you witch!
SEA-WITCH: Yes. Yes, I’m leaving for now. But I will have my revenge! (To ANEMONE.) As for you, sweetie, because you are still young and innocent, I can make your greatest, your grandest wish come true.
RIP-TIDE: Your greatest...
ZIP-TIDE: Your grandest...
SHARKS: Wish come true.
SEA-WITCH: All you have to do... is ask. If you need me, you know where I abide. (She throws some more powder upward, causing a terribly LOUD NOISE. She swims around the MERMAIDS, followed by the two SHARKS, and then heads OFF STAGE RIGHT cackling loudly.)
CLEM: (Pretending bravery.) Why, that ugly, old witch! If I could only get my hands on her... 
ANEMONE: Clem, clams don’t have hands.
CLEM: (Looks at himself.) Yikes! I’m glad you reminded me before I did something brave.
ANEMONE: Grandmother, does she really have that kind of magical power—the kind that can make any wish come true?
GRANDMOTHER: We don’t know what she can do, Anemone. But beware the Sea-Witch. She carries a grudge against your father, King Neptune, and all his family.
MISTY: Oh, Anemone, I wouldn’t get close enough to ask her to grant me a wish. She’s too scary.

ANEMONE: Not even your greatest, grandest wish?

MISTY: I don’t have a wish THAT great or grand.

SANDY: My greatest, grandest wish is to stay as far from her as I can. And I don’t need her help to do that.

NEPTUNE: Enough talk of that crazy old hag. Today is Anemone’s birthday. I declare that all conversation for the rest of the day be of happiness and peace. I have spoken. (He prepares to leave.)

FISH: (As a fanfare.) Ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta! (He bellows.) An announcement. A grand announcement. King Neptune and his gracious mother take their leave.

MUSIC: #4. DEEP DOWN MARCH Reprise. (NEPTUNE and GRANDMOTHER EXIT grandly STAGE LEFT. OTHERS may follow them.)

SHELLEY: (As the MERMAIDS gather around ANEMONE.) How do you feel now, Anemone?

ANEMONE: (Excitedly.) Feel? I’m going to the surface! After all this time of waiting and wishing and hoping, I can’t believe my time is here. What will I see? And hear? What will delight my fancy? What will it be like?

PEARLY: When will you leave?

ANEMONE: Oh, Pearly, this very minute. I can’t hold myself back any longer. Wish me well, sisters. (They ad-lib their congratulations. She starts to move OFF STAGE RIGHT.)

CLEM: Princess, wait.

ANEMONE: What is it, Clem Clam?

CLEM: I’m going with you.

ANEMONE: To the surface?

CLEM: Yes.

ANEMONE: But how can you? Clams can’t swim.

CLEM: Most can’t. But I am a most extraordinary clam, in case you hadn’t noticed. And you might need protection.

ANEMONE: But without arms, how could you protect me?

CLEM: (Thinks.) Well, I don’t know. I still have a head, don’t I? I’d think of a way. Besides, I’m very good company.

ANEMONE: (Pause. She smiles.) You’re right, Clem Clam. You’re a fine companion. Come. Swim with me to the surface of the sea. (They swim OFF STAGE RIGHT.)

MISTY: (As she sniffs.) I hope they don’t run into a storm or a hurricane that tosses them onto some craggy rocks.
SANDY: I hope they don't run into a ship of ugly, mean pirates who take them captive.
PEARLY: I hope they don't run into an iceberg and get cold gills.
SHELLEY: (Pause. The OTHERS look at her expectantly. Darkly.) I hope she doesn't run into the Sea-Witch and her terrible magic.
BLACKOUT

MUSIC: #5. SCENE CHANGE MUSIC.

Scene Two
Aboard a sailing ship about RIGHT CENTER heading LEFT; a short time later. At LEFT are rocks showing above the water line. Long stretches of cloth of various blue and green hues may be stretched across the stage to represent water; later they may be waved by offstage technicians holding each end to represent the churning sea. AT RISE: SAILORS gather at a cannon, one holding a torch. (A stick the size of a flashlight with a red-painted tip. The cannon may be a cardboard cutout.) THEODORE, a handsome, young prince, stands high on the ship.

THEODORE: 'Men, the winds have been good to us, filling our sails and moving us swiftly from one kingdom to another. Now, we have traded goods with our friends, and we'll soon be in our home waters. We must fire a cannon to let my father know we are near. Ready at cannon number one?
FIRST MATE: Sir, we only have one cannon.
THEODORE: Then fire it, First Mate.
FIRST MATE: Uh, yes, sir. Ready, aim, fire! (A SAILOR puts the torch to the cannon. It fires with a loud boom and a big puff of smoke. See NOTES on the cannon at the end of the script. LIGHTS DIM on the ship and FADE UP on the rocks at STAGE LEFT where ANEMONE appears from STAGE LEFT, having just arrived from under the sea. She looks about.)
ANEMONE: We're here, Clem Clam. We're. . . (She does not see him.) Clem Clam? Clem Clam! (She reaches down and pulls him up onto the rock. His shell is closed. [See NOTES on CLAM at the end of the script.]) You can open your shell now, Clem Clam.
CLEM: (Barely opening his shell enough to speak.) I. . . I'm afraid, princess.
ANEMONE: Afraid of what?
CLEM: Afraid of what I might see.
PROPERTY LIST

Scene One
A variety of fish and undersea plants (See NOTES.)
A few wilted flowers (For MISTY.)
Statue of a boy (Resembles Theodore. May be offstage. May be a
two-dimensional cardboard cutout.)
SHELLEY: (All of these flowers optional.) a crown of flowers
PEARLY: a crown of flowers
MISTY: a crown of flowers
SANDY: a crown of flowers
BUBBLY: a crown of flowers
ANEMONE: a bracelet of shells
GRANDMOTHER: a crown of flowers for ANEMONE
ANNOUNCER FISH: a scroll
NEPTURE: a trident, a crown
SEA-WITCH: hanging around her waist is a bag that contains a powder in a corked vial

Scene Two
A cannon (May be a cardboard cutout.)
SAILOR: a pipe (flute.), a fake torch to light the cannon
SEA-WITCH: another vial of powder from her bag
PIERRE: a birthday cake piled high with shaving cream (NOTE: Whipped cream sours and stains; shaving cream works better.)

Scene Three
A boiling cauldron and ladle
SEA-WITCH: some miscellaneous items to be dropped into the cauldron, an empty vial, a small red bag that fits into her waist bag
SHARKS: possibly some percussion instruments

Scene Four
GEORGINA: a wedding bouquet
BORGY: a piece of straw in his mouth
SEA-WITCH: the bag around her waist, another vial, the red bag, a dagger
MINISTER: Bible
PIERRE: a wedding cake piled high with shaving cream (See birthday cake above.)
THE TIME PERIOD OF THE PLAY:
The date 1805-1815 was selected for this show primarily because of the lovely costumes of the period. The director may set it in almost any other time as long as sailing ships were still in use.

THE MERMAID COSTUMES:
Many children's picture books have excellent drawings of mermaids and their costumes. They may be used as guides. Suggested here are long narrow skirts with scales that are painted or sewn on. At the feet, the skirt flares open in front to allow for some freedom of the feet. In the back is a short train painted to look like their fins. The mermaids take small, shuffling but flowing steps and move their arms in fluid motions to give the appearance of moving under water. Males (mermen) wear loose slacks of fish colors and shuffle when they move. Neptune and Grandmother may wear robes that cover their legs.

Since the SEA-WITCH is also a mermaid, her costume would be similar to the others, except that she would have a cape that resembled a big expanse of seaweed and, of course, covered her feet. In scene four, her dress hem might be pinned up so that her legs are clearly in view.

THE FISH:
There are at least two ways to represent the wide variety of FISH seen in the opening number of the play. First, actors may simply dress and apply makeup to look like the fish. Second, actors dressed totally in a dark color—including their faces, perhaps hidden behind a fencing mask painted black—carry long poles with one or more paper fish cutouts suspended from them. They can move across the stage and maneuver the poles in such a way as to make the fish appear to be swimming. A combination of these two systems is also possible. A creative director or designer may discover other methods as well.

THE SHARKS:
Paper mache shark heads with the large top fin slip over the actors' heads. Their torsos and lower bodies are treated in the same way as the mermen and other fish. They should look dark and scary. In the final scene, their slack legs might be rolled up to reveal their human-like legs.
THE PLANTS:
Likewise, the PLANTS may be actors dressed to represent them, or a combination of puppets and actors.

CLEM CLAM:
He should be a puppet large enough to be seen throughout the theatre. His shell opens and closes to represent his speaking. Eyes may be mounted inside the shell or on top of it. As with the PLANTS and FISH above, he is operated by an actor dressed totally in black so that no part of his body is exposed. Even his face should be covered with a black cloth or black fencing mask. The same actor speaks for him. It is important that the actor appear to fade into the background so that the audience's attention is on the clam. If he is played by a female, all pronouns should be changed accordingly.

THE CANNON FIRE:
At the word, "Fire!" a bass drum is hit hard to provide the boom sound. Or a balloon might be popped offstage for that sound.
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