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KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
The Yankton Children's Theatre Co. presents "The Little Mermaid" at the Summit Activities Center theatre. It is an adaptation of the hit Disney movie, with minor variations. ABOVE: In this rehearsal photo, several aquatic denizens gather around a statue (Sam Carda) in their undersea home. Pictured are, from left: Amelia Morkve, Tori Cass, Cate Perakslis (seated), Mikayla Trenhaile, Carda, Blake Wiesler, Oliva Hunhoff and Kellie Geigle. RIGHT: Anemone (Trenhaile) is menaced by a pair of evil sharks (Jordan Kuipers and Jacob Smith) in an early scene from "The Little Mermaid."



# 'Mermaid' Makes Splash At SAC

The Yankton Children's Theatre Company Presents The Classic Disney Tale Next Weekend

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE  
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The Yankton Children's Theatre Company (YCTC) will put its own twist on the Disney classic "The Little Mermaid," for its summer musical.

"The Little Mermaid" will be performed July 19-21 at 7 p.m. and July 22 at 2 p.m. at the Summit Activities Center Theatre. Tickets sold on July 19 will be half price.

Director Allison Spak said the story follows the same premise as the classic Disney movie, but is still different.

"Anemone, the little mermaid, falls in love with the statue of Prince Theodore," she said. "For her 15th birthday, she gets to go up above, and then she falls in love with the real prince and wants to become a woman. Of course, she has to talk to the Sea-Witch, who gives her a potion to transform into a human."

Although the story is similar, Spak said Disney is

more flamboyant with its production.

"Disney has a lot more fluff to it," she said. "Most of the characters are pretty much the same in our production, but Disney is Disney — they always make everything great. This is our basic 'Little Mermaid' story."

Mikayla Trenhaile, who will be a freshman in high school this fall, plays Anemone. She said this is her first time performing as a main character.

"I'm enjoying the main character," she said. "It's a really great show. It's a little more challenging with the lead roles, because you have most of the lines and you're in every scene, so you have to get your cues learned, but it's been fun."

This year, YCTC teamed up with the City of Yankton to put together a creative drama program where any children who wanted to be a part of the musical just had to sign up, Spak said.

"They did have to audition for their specific roles after signing up for the program," she said. "We held a seven-week program where we had the kids every

morning — Monday through Thursday — 2 1/2 hours. We'd do our rehearsals and we'd learn some games. We'd do a whole bunch of different things, not just the show, so they could get an idea and get used to all of the aspects of theatre."

Trenhaile said she has really enjoyed the program, especially since the production is a musical.

"Children's theatre is awesome," she said. "You get the triple threat — you get singing, dancing and acting all in one. Most people are so afraid to get up on stage and act for a musical, but you can tell the director you don't want a big, main role, and they'll actually listen to you."

Jacob Smith portrays Rip-Tide, one of the sharks that follows the Sea-Witch. He said playing an evil character has been a lot of fun.

"Rip-Tide and Zip-Tide, the other evil shark, are very



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