

Character Descriptions

Grand Rapids Civic Theatre's School of Theatre Arts programs join together to present Disney's *Finding Nemo JR!*

Grand Rapids Civic Theatre is seeking 60-90 volunteer actors, currently enrolled in 2nd-12th grade for their Centennial Season School of Theatre Arts production of ***Finding Nemo Jr****. We are looking for a company of performers who love theatre and storytelling, are strong singers and movers, and who are ready to take on the responsibility that comes with being part of a Civic Mainstage Production!*

This unique, pilot program is a co-production between our School of Theatre Arts and our Mainstage Production Department, and as such, auditions for *Finding Nemo, Jr* are ONLY open to Students in Grades 2-12, who are actively enrolled in the **Young Artist Studio** cohort, enrolled in the **City Wide Drama Club Program**, OR who have independently completed the following required **Prerequisites in the School of Theatre Arts**:

- Any CORE Acting OR CORE Musical Theatre course in the 25/26 or 26/27 School Year,

  PLUS one additional choice between:

- One week of Summer Camp (26) OR any other GRCT School of Theatre Arts class (25/26 or 26/27).

A NOTE ON CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS
We've purposely left ages and genders off of the character descriptions below so that actors don't feel limited by those factors. These characters are all ocean creatures - not humans - and so we are more interested in the essence that you bring to the role. Could Dory be played by a younger actor, even though the character is an adult in the script? Absolutely! Could Nemo be played by someone of any gender? Yes! So don't limit yourself!

A NOTE ON CAST FOR FINDING NEMO JR:
We are planning to cast up to 30 Primary Characters who will perform at every show and be at most rehearsals. Those characters are indicated on the cast list with an asterisk (*). Some characters will be performed with a puppet manipulated by the actor, who will still be in costume. Those characters are indicated on the cast list with a plus sign (+).

We will also have TWO Ensembles - A “Blue” Ensemble and a “Yellow” Ensemble.
The Blue Ensemble will perform on the following days: Tuesday 3/23 10am show; Wednesday 3/24 12:30pm Show; Friday 3/26 6pm show; Saturday 3/27 2pm Show; Sunday, 3/28 6pm Show.

The Yellow Ensemble will perform on the following days: Tuesday, 3/23 12:30pm show; Wednesday 3/24 12:30pm show; Thursday 3/25 6pm show; Saturday, 3/27 6pm show; Sunday 3/28 2pm show.

Please see the Tentative Rehearsal/Performance Calendar for more detailed information.

CHARACTERS IN *FINDING NEMO JR*:

NEMO*+

A curious young clownfish who brims with excitement to explore the wonders that lie beyond the Great Barrier Reef. Born with a “lucky fin” – or what humans would call a limb difference. Nemo quickly learns that the world possesses incredible dangers in addition to the promise of big adventures. By making new friends, finding strength within, and practicing teamwork, Nemo transforms into a capable and brave leader, able to self-advocate and take on challenges big and small.

Looking for: an energetic performer who can capture Nemo’s innocence and sense of wonder.

MARLIN*+

An anxious clownfish and Nemo’s overprotective father, who, after the tragic death of his wife Coral, prefers the safety of his anemone to the frightening unknowns of the open ocean. Forced to travel across the sea in search of Nemo, Marlin develops the courage to face the unpredictable ocean and the wisdom to trust others – including his own kid.

Looking for: an older, mature actor to play this helicopter parent who eventually learns to lighten up and embrace the clown in “clownfish.”

DORY*+

An optimistic and bubbly blue tang, experiences frequent short-term memory loss and finds herself wandering through the ocean with no place to call home. Sparking friendships with whomever she meets, Dory immediately offers to help Marlin find his lost child, and the two set out on an adventurous journey through the ocean. Along the way, Dory’s kindness and bright spirit ease Marlin’s fears, and the unlikely duo finds comfort and family in each other.

Looking for: a performer with great charisma and a stage presence that can light up a room.

NEMO'S CLASSMATES: PEARL*, SHELDON*, and TAD*

Pearl: a friendly flapjack octopus who is quick to befriend Nemo.

Sheldon: an H2O-intolerant seahorse with an appetite for trouble who taunts Nemo to swim beyond the reef.

Tad: a self-admittedly obnoxious butterflyfish who joins Sheldon in encouraging Nemo to swim past the Drop-Off.

Looking for: Character actors with strong voices who can show the different personalities in this friend group through their physicality and vocal performances.

PROFESSOR RAY*+

A stingray and Nemo's enthusiastic teacher, takes pride in sharing the curiosities and marvels of the world with the class and encourages every student to be a brave explorer.

Looking for: a performer with excellent diction to handle the large scientific words in this professor's advanced vocabulary.

THE SHARKS: BRUCE*, CHUM*, and ANCHOR*

Bruce: An intimidating great white shark, is the sharks' ringleader. Despite Bruce's best efforts to adopt a vegetarian diet, Bruce loses control and is sent into a frenzy, threatening to devour every fish in sight.

Looking for: A strong character actor with a confident singing voice who can be BOTH intimidating and empathetic.

Chum and Anchor: Two of Bruce's shark friends who are trying to live vegetarian lifestyles but are eventually forced to restrain an out-of- control Bruce from eating innocent fish.

Looking for: Comedic actors who have strong physicality and storytelling skills.

THE "TANK GANG": BUBBLES*, BLOAT*, PEACH*, GILL* and NIGEL*

Bubbles: A yellow tang who is captivated by bubbles, is the first to welcome Nemo to the tank. This friendly fish exclusively uses the word "bubbles" to communicate.

Looking for: An expressive actor who can say a LOT with their face, body, and vocal inflection.

Bloat: An open-minded and supportive blowfish who is proud to be part of the Tank Gang family and helps keep everyone's spirits up, even when things seem bleak.

Looking for: An actor with charisma and comedic timing!

Gurgle: Frightened of strangers and the germs they carry with them, is a bundle of nerves who enjoys the safety and regulated cleanliness of the tank.

Looking for: An actor with strong physical acting skills and comedic timing!

Peach: A mature and down-to-earth starfish, offers guidance and reassurance to all those who need it.

Looking for: An actor who exudes confidence and calm, and has a very clear and commanding speaking voice.

Gill: A relentless and inspiring leader who will stop at nothing to return to the freedom of the ocean. This Moorish idol fish believes in the Tank Gang and concocts countless plans to bust them out of the aquarium. Gill is the first fish Nemo has ever met with a similar "fin difference," quickly becoming a mentor and inspiration for the young clownfish.

Looking for: An actor who is grounded, strong, a little intimidating, with an aura of a fish who has lived a lot of life already.

Nigel: A sharp-eyed pelican, Nigel is the Tank Gang's feathered friend and only connection to the outside world. This bird is someone you can count on to know all the latest news on the happenings of Sydney Harbour.

Looking for: An actor with a lot of enthusiasm, maybe a little chaotic energy, and excellent comedic timing.

THE TURTLES: CRUSH* and SQUIRT*

Crush: a 150-year-old sea turtle who knows how to hang loose, teaches Marlin a thing or two about being a good parent. Look for a strong singer who can confidently belt "Go With the Flow" to make it a truly radical jam.

Squirt: offspring of Crush, fearlessly twirls through turbulent waters of the ocean and enjoys trying out cool new moves in the high-speed EAC.

Looking for: Two actors who have a totally tubular parent/child dynamic and will bring some much needed joy and chill to Marlin and Dorey's journey!

SCUBA MASK DANCER*

The Scuba Mask Dancer will appear throughout the show, bringing props and puppets into the storyline (and also serving as an Ensemble member in certain songs).

Looking for: This is an excellent role to feature someone with dance training and the ability to tell a physical story!

CORAL*

A loving mother-to-be clownfish, married to Marlin, who will stop at nothing to protect her eggs. This actor will join the Ensemble after their big opening scene.

Looking for: An actor who is both soft AND fierce - we should love her immediately, be proud of her for protecting her kids, and then remember how much we wish she had stayed in Nemo's life until the final curtain call.

PRIMARY ENSEMBLE*

These 5-9 Actors will split the other featured roles with lines, solos, and featured moments as well as being part of the overall ensemble throughout the show. Those featured roles include: Angelfish, Damselfish, Tad/Pearl/Sheldon Parents, Lead Seagull, Lead Jelly Fish, "Fish Friends", Breeze, Kai, Lead Sea Turtles, Lead Moonfish, and more!

Looking for: Strong singers and movers who are also able to portray many different types of characters! Primary Ensemble members will also serve as the LEADERS for the Blue and Yellow Ensemble, helping them stay consistent with blocking and choreography, and encouraging them to shine!

BLUE AND YELLOW ENSEMBLE

The Blue and Yellow Ensembles will be split into two tracks, with each track appearing in 3-5 numbers throughout the show. Both Ensembles will have the opportunity to do some puppet work, as well (indicated by a + sign below). Please see the note above for which days each Ensemble will perform!

Track 1: Reef Kids, Seagulls, Moonfish+

Track 2: Sea Chorus, Sharks, Jelly Fish+, Sea Turtles

Looking for: Strong singers and movers who work together as a team, are focused in rehearsal, and are ready for the big responsibility that comes with a Mainstage performance!