



photos by EMILY WEAVER

Sophia Kellstrom claims the spotlight in her portrayal of "Ursula" as Ariel (Sarah Fox) looks on in the upcoming production of "Disney's The Little Mermaid JR", which opens Friday.

CLT: presents 'Disney's The Little Mermaid JR' opening Friday

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steals the spotlight as Ursula in the upcoming production. Matt Brown will win the heart of the audience as Ariel's trusty sidekick, Flounder. Andrew Childers plays the role of the helpful scavenger Scuttle. And Kings Mountain High students Madison Ramsey and Linsey Wagner will shine in multiple roles as Mersisters, chefs and princesses.

Twenty-five students who range from age 10 to 18 from Belmont, Grover, Gastonia, Kings Mountain, Shelby and Cherryville are in the cast.

Other performances are on Saturday, Aug. 4, Friday, Aug. 10 and Saturday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. with a 3 p.m. matinee performance on Sunday, Aug. 5.

Director Connie Fox said theatre-goers will be excited to learn that the theater's goal is to present one or two shows a year. She said due to budget cutbacks Cherryville schools are unable to offer drama or theatre classes, and local

community theatre is the only opportunity some of the students have to participate in a stage production.

Cherryville Little Theatre hopes to start an improved drama class after school once per month on Monday for two different age ranges: 5 to 10 years, then a class for ages 11 to 15 in September. Those interested should e-mail conniefox@carolina.rr.com or phone 704-445-0892.

Fox said that Broadway Junior shows are abridged versions of Broadway hits with shorter songs and run an hour or an hour and a-half, rather than a full two hours.

Along with the hit songs "Part of Your World" and "She's in Love", and the Oscar-winning "Under the Sea" from the animated classic, three new songs from the Broadway version will be sung.

The cast list includes Shelby's Carver Thompson as Sebastian; Cherryville's Sarah Fox as Ariel; Ely Thompson and Jordan Grimes as gulls and sea crea-

tures; Andrew Childers as Scuttle; Boiling Springs' Molly Smith as Mersister, Chef, Princess; Cherryville's Caleb Grisdale as Sailor, gull, sea creature; Linsey Wagner as Mersister, Chef, princess; Cherryville's Laurie Ricardo as princess and sea creature; Cherryville's Darden Rice as Prince Eric; Sophia Kellstrom as Ursula; Madison Ramsey as Mersister, Chef Louis, princess; Matt Brown as Flounder; Shelby's Cydney Wallace as Mersister, Chef, princess; Cherryville's Cheyenne Hoffman as Carlotta, Mersister, sea creature; Lincolnton's Josiah Beman as pilot, sea creature; Lincolnton's Jennifer Beman as sea creature; Cherryville's John Randall as Grimsby and sea creature; Gastonia's Claire Hicks as Mersister, Chef, princess; Cherryville's Kobe Caldwell as Jetsam; Cherryville's Kenan Caldwell as Flotsam and sailor; Belmont's Kyra Howard as sea-horse; and Cherryville's Kaleb Caldwell as King Triton.

McDANIEL: finds new lease on life after transplant to ease pain of chronic pancreatitis

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Digestive Disease Center of the Southeast. There she had weeks of consultations, evaluations and endoscopies to finally get a diagnosis. In March of 2007 doctors at the Medical University of South Carolina told her that she had chronic pancreatitis for which there was no cure. They recommended she go home and find a pain management doctor as she would need pain medicine for the rest of her life and they told her to eat a low fat diet.

After months of eating as little as four grams of fat a day, Jada's enzyme level continued to rise, sending her back to the hospital for 6-9 day visits at least twice a month to allow the inflamed pancreas to heal. The pain became more frequent and more severe.

A support group online that MUSC recommended she contact a doctor, at the University of Minnesota, who had pioneered a surgery to remove the pancreas entirely and transplant the islets into the liver. She did. In June 2007 she went to Minneapolis for consultation with world-renowned Dr. David Sutherland for evaluation and genetic testing to be sure Jada was a good candidate for this procedure.

Jada was told she carried a mutated gene that is one of four markers linked to pancreatic cancer and that if the pancreas was not removed she would likely develop pancreatic cancer by the age of 35. Pancreatic cancer is the second deadliest cancer.

Jada came home in 2007 with a near death sentence. It was an easy decision to have the surgery and she and her husband quickly started the steps of getting insurance authorization.

In October of 2007 Jada learned that her surgery had been approved and planned the transplant for February of 2008. That same week, Jada also learned she was unexpectedly pregnant with her third child, causing her to

cancel her transplant and leaving her with fear of her future. Her obstetrician warned her that her pancreas could become inflamed and out of control, leaving her life in jeopardy.

The first doctor she saw boldly said, "You need to abort this baby or you will leave your boys without a mother." Jada and Cale left the doctors office in fear and in tears.

"I didn't want to leave my boys without a mother and I didn't want to lose my baby [girl]," said Jada. Struggling to make the right decision for her family she relied on the recommendation of her doctor, David Sutherland, in Minnesota as well as her faith.

Dr. Sutherland reasoned that she had this genetic defect when she was pregnant with her boys, but they just didn't know that. Because this was a surprise pregnancy, Jada believed that God knew she was sick and still gave her this baby and that was all she needed to know. She continued to see a specialist and was monitored every single week of her entire pregnancy, experiencing only two pancreatic attacks. She was hospitalized only once.

Her gracious Dad, Mike Brown, added on a special suite onto their home for his only granddaughter out of seven grandchildren.

"I am still Daddy's girl, and he would have done anything to help us through this stressful time. Having a place to bring our baby home helped me to believe that everything was going to be okay," Jada said.

On June 16, 2008 baby Lucy was born a week early, weighing in a healthy 7 lbs. and 5 oz. Then on September 29, 2008 Jada and her family and parents flew to the University of Minnesota for her transplant. The surgery resulted in the removal of her pancreas, gall bladder, appendix, spleen, and duodenum. After the islets were removed from the pancreas,

they were then infused back into the liver duct to produce insulin.

"We live one day at a

time, enjoy our family, and put our faith in God," said her husband, son of Ann and Larry McDaniel of the Bethlehem Community. He represents the third generation in his family to work at what was formerly Foote Mineral Company, following his father and grandfather, Dennis McDaniel. Cale has been with Rockwood Lithium 17 years.

Jada worked as a youth minister at Central United Methodist Church and Patterson Grove Baptist Church for 10 years before her illness.

Jada, daughter of Mike and Cindy Brown, likes to play the piano, sing, sew, decorate, photograph her kids, and spend time in the mountains where she feels she really can relax. The music room of her home is a favorite spot for her and her husband who also sings, plays the drums and guitars. The children and friends enjoy the drums and other instruments in the music room as well.

Jada is a graduate of Queen's University with a BA in Music. Jada also enjoys painting as a hobby. She began painting city fire hydrants in the historic district of KM last fall at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. Seven have already been completed and at least 10 more are to be painted as the weather permits.

"They really don't take too long to paint, its just finding the right weather," Jada says. Her creativity is also evident in the beautiful murals she has painted in her children's bedrooms and in the decor of her home.

The McDaniels are members of Patterson Grove Baptist Church and also often attend 5 p.m. Sunday services at Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia. Jada and Cale McDaniel were married Feb. 21, 1998 at

First Wesleyan Church in Kings Mountain on the 6th anniversary of their first date. Both are 1994 graduates of Kings Mountain High and have been together since high school.

Family and church are priorities for the McDaniels. Jada was in and out of hospitals about every three weeks for several years before she had the successful transplant. Thankfully, no hospitalizations have occurred since the transplant.

She is not well nor ever will be with half her digestive system missing and her islets trying to produce in-

sulin from the liver. The islets will eventually fail and she will be insulin-dependent and have to deal with all the side effects of a brittle diabetic. Until then, the family takes each day as it comes and have learned to be very flexible with each day as they don't know how well Jada will feel.

"We are thankful every day for the direction God led us to save my life," Jada said, adding that hope is out there and just because one opinion seems to carry a death sentence, it doesn't mean all opinions will.

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KMLT: presents 'Foxfire' opening Friday at Joy

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still singing the music which used to infuriate his father, has an exuberant scene in which the audience becomes his public at a fairground concert.

Can Dillard woo his mother away from the recalcitrant ghost?

Will development swallow up the family farm?

Only Annie can decide. KMLT's cast also includes David Baez as the country doctor and Brenna Burgess as Holly Burrell. Members of local bluegrass group the Blue Band are featured with Dillard as the Stony Lone-

some Band. Band members include Pete Sutton (guitar), Aaron Clark (banjo), Junior Costner (base guitar), and Jimmy Ferrill (mandolin).

"Foxfire" is a play by Susan Cooper and Hume Cronyn based on the Foxfire books, about Appalachian culture and traditions in north Georgia. The 1982 Broadway production starred Jessica Tandy as Annie Nations and Cronyn as Hector.

KMLT is supported in part by a Grassroots grant from the North Carolina Arts Council and is a funded affiliate of the Cleveland County Arts Council.

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CITY: invites you to a 'Night Out'

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joined by the Kings Mountain Fire Department, Kings Mountain Rescue and the Cleveland County Emergency Services.

A concert by Scoot Pittman will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Gazebo. Target, a national sponsor, will have drawings for gift cards with additional giveaways.

This annual event is designed to strengthen communities by encouraging

neighborhoods to engage in stronger relationships with

each other and with the local law enforcement partners.

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Kings Mountain Pedestrian Plan

Open House

Thursday, August 2nd 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Kings Mountain YMCA
211 Cleveland Avenue

The City of Kings Mountain is exploring ways to improve walkability throughout the community, and invites all residents to attend this event. Come contribute your thoughts and ideas in a highly interactive work session and learn more about the issues involved in planning for pedestrian needs. Many recommendations in the plan are the direct result of comments and suggestions received at the previous workshop held on April 26, 2012. Your input in this second workshop will help to set priorities for building projects in the months an years ahead.

The meeting will be facilitated by Centralina Council of Governments, a regional planning organization committed to vital, prosperous and sustainable environment. Centralina is working with City staff, a steering committee, and various focus groups made up of a variety of Kings Mountain community members.

For more information please contact Blair Israel, Centralina Council of Governments at 704-372-2416, or e-mail at bisrael@centralina.org, or contact the City of Kings Mountain Planning Department at 704-734-4595.