

September 2013

My First Lead Role

I had just finished up the New Play Festival, when I saw what the next show was going to be. It was Aladdin and Camp Rock. Aladdin was for the younger kids, ages 8-13 years old, and Camp Rock was for the older kids, 14-18 years old. I was 13, so I got to be in Aladdin. This meant that I might be able to get a big role, since I'm one of the older ones.

I met with my friend, Alyse, and she helped me with my audition song. I really wanted the part of Jasmine, so my song was A Whole New World. Auditions came around, and I went the first day. I was about the fourth person to go, right after my sister. I sang my audition song, A Whole New World. I'm normally really nervous at auditions, but this time I wasn't at all. I think it's because none of the older kids were there, because for some reason they make me nervous. I thought my audition went really well. I had to stay longer and sing another song with two other girls. Staying longer is kind of like a call back, but on the same day. The next day was the last day of auditions, and that's when Alyse went. When they were over, I called her right away. I asked her how she thought it went and told her about mine. She said that her audition went pretty well and she had to stay and sing the song too, which made me a little nervous.

Two days later the cast list was posted. I scrolled down the page and looked for my name. Alyse's name was before mine, she got Narrator 4, which was a pretty big part. Then I got down to my name, and about screamed when I saw what was next to it. I got the part of Princess Jasmine! I told my mom and she was really happy for me. It was a

huge cast! I called Alyse to see if she saw it, and she said her computer was running slow, so she hadn't seen it yet. I felt so bad for her! I told her she got a good part, but I wasn't going to tell her what it was, so she could find out. When the page loaded she screamed and started saying, "Oh my gosh, Marissa! You got the part of Jasmine!" She also said that she wasn't sure to be happy about her part. But I told her that it was a really good part, because neither one of us have ever had a speaking role before with this theater, and now we both had lines!

We picked up the script a few days later. Then when I got home I read through the script to count how many I had, I came up with about 60 lines! This made me even more excited.

When the first day of practices came around I was super happy! The only problem was we had to wake up at 6:00 o'clock in the morning. But I was still excited! The first two days of practices are of just music, so we all sat around the piano and would sing through the songs. After those two practices were over, we would block. Blocking is where you read through the script and the director places you where you would go during that scene. We did the very first scene first, which I was in. The director said that we were going to have these big towers that we would stand on, but since they weren't there yet, we just stood on chairs. Everyday we would go through a different scene and sing the songs. It was all so fun; it didn't even seem like work. After practices and practices, we had our dress rehearsal, which is where we run through the whole show like it's a real performance. It went pretty well. In two days we would have our opening night! I couldn't wait, but at the same time I was kind of scared.

By the time we went through so many practices, school had started. So, I had to wait all day for school to be over for my first performance. My grandma, grandpa, and aunt all came down from Michigan to see the show. When it was time to go, my mom, aunt, sister, and I all got into the car and drove to the theatre. My mom and aunt dropped me and my sister off, and we went inside. Then we went backstage to get our make-up on. I was really nervous because it was opening night and all my family was coming. But, as nervous as I was, I still went on stage and sang all my songs and said all my lines. I thought the show went really well! It was so much fun. Then I got to do it five more times!

The very last time was so sad, since I wouldn't get to see all the friends I made until the next show, Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory. Then I'll get to do it all over again!

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