

# Des Moines Community Playhouse

## Character Breakdown



### **Ella**

Female, Age 16-25

Ella is the young heroine of the story. She has a kind heart, a zest for adventure, and an independent spirit that conflicts with the curse of obedience that she is forced to adhere to. An earnest, Cinderella figure, Ella must have the range to show how a young girl weathers trials and tragedies and emerges an exuberant, strong woman.

### **Prince Charmont**

Male, Age 16-25

Prince Charmont has the bravery, kindness, and “charm” of a typical prince, but he is also a great friend to Ella. No matter where his royal adventures take him, he is a loyal supporter of Ella and falls in love with his best friend rather than portraying the typical prince-pursues-princess story.

### **Mother / Dame Olga / Giant**

Female, Age 30-60

This actress must portray a wide range of characters. Ella’s Mother is a kind, strong woman who tries to help Ella learn to break her curse of obedience. She is always patient and supportive of her daughter. Dame Olga is the antithesis! She is the mother of two horrible girls and marries Ella’s father because she thinks he is rich. She mistreats Ella and is always lying and scheming to better herself.

### **Lucinda / Bird / Mistress Manners**

Female, Age 25-60

Lucinda is Ella’s oddball fairy god mother. She is known for being volatile and unpredictable, which led to her granting Ella the “gift” of obedience when she was a baby. This actress must make strong character choices and not be afraid to get a little zany. Mistress Manners is very different from Lucinda. Manners is the prim, proper, teacher at Ella’s finishing school.

### **Hattie / Ogre 2 / Giant**

Female, Age: 16-30

One of the evil stepsisters of the story, Hattie is greedy and cruel and determined to marry Prince Char. She discovers Ella’s curse and uses it to make Ella do mean things to Prince Char and even to her own sister, Olive. She is the evil stepsister who comes up with their cruel schemes. This actress also plays an Ogre and a Giant.

**Olive / Ogre 3 / Giant**

Female, Age: 16-30

The nasty stepsister of Hattie, Olive tends to be more of a follower when it comes to their evil schemes. While Hattie wants to marry Prince Char, Olive wants to “spend all of his money”. She is dim-witted and always follows along with Hattie’s plans. This actress also plays an Ogre and a Giant.

**Sir Peter / Ogre 1 / Giant / Squire**

Male, Age: 30-60

This must be played by a versatile actor who can create distinguishable characters between and Ogre and a Giant and between Sir Peter and the Squire. Sir Peter is Ella’s father but does not have the same understanding of Ella as her mother. He has conventional expectations of how Ella should live her life and complies with whatever Dame Olga says, even when it’s not what Ella wishes.

