



CAST OF CHARACTERS

SIMBA

Like any child, Simba's view of the world and his role in it is rather simplified. To him, growing up to be 'The Lion King' means getting to tell the other animals what to do. Simba's mischievousness is tempered by his adoration of Mufasa, his father. What the little lion cub really wants is to be just like his father. Mufasa's death leaves Simba unsure about whom he really is as he grows into adulthood. Then Rafiki shows Simba his reflection in a pool and the sleek young male begins to understand that his father's courage and wisdom are a part of him, too.

RAFIKI

The baboon shaman Rafiki takes on the task of narrator and spirit guide. Rafiki travels her own road, sings her own songs and knows what she knows. Appearing the first time to anoint newborn Simba, Rafiki wanders on her mystical way. When the time is right, she returns again to guide Simba back to the path he is meant to follow. Rafiki is the teacher in 'The Lion King', based on the Sangoma, the South African herbalist, healer and truth-teller. The Sangoma is almost always a woman and the traditions have been passed down from mother to daughter for generations. A Sangoma's job is to interpret messages from the spirits, use herbs to heal and divine the future.

MUFASA

With a voice as golden as his magnificent mane, Mufasa guides and teaches his son, Simba. As ready to play as to instruct, Mufasa knows when to chide Simba for his mischief and when to chuckle at it. Strong, brave and wise, Mufasa is a true leader whose courage comes from a great, calm certainty about who he is and how he fits into the Circle of Life.

ZAZU

Mufasa's most trusted advisor, Zazu is a prim and proper Hornbill bird with a sense of personal dignity. Although Zazu's feathers can be ruffled, he is dedicated to Mufasa. The honourable hornbill would give his right wing for the 'Lion King', and stays with the pride through good times and bad.

SCAR

Lean, sardonic Scar makes up for his lack of physical prowess with devious cunning. Obsessed with the need to possess the throne, Scar is Simba's and Mufasa's implacable enemy. Scar may leave most of the dirty work to his henchmen hyenas, but he's capable of great cruelty himself. A selfish, greedy ruler, Scar nearly destroys not only the pride, but also the land in which they live.

NALA

Every bit as courageous and inquisitive as Simba, Nala, a lioness cub, is ready to go wherever he goes and do whatever he does. But time changes all things and when Nala and Simba meet again, her lively cuteness has developed into sleek, tawny beauty, her childlike bravado has become true courage and their friendship deepens into love.

TIMON AND PUMBA

Brenda Chapman, the story head for the movie 'The Lion King', first heard the Swahili phrase – Hakuna Matata which means 'no worries' – when she travelled to Kenya in 1991. This became the motto of 'The Lion King's' two clowns, Timon and Pumbaa. Sympathetic and warm-hearted, Pumbaa is ready to trust anyone, even a carnivore like Simba. Pumbaa may have more brawn than brains, but his size includes an oversized heart. And when Simba confronts his destiny, the loyal warthog is the first to follow. The self-proclaimed 'brains of the outfit', Timon is a hyperactive meerkat with a motormouth. Whether he's making good-natured jokes at Pumbaa's expense, drooling over a plate of delicious bugs, or pitching his freewheeling lifestyle to Simba, Timon always has a fast line. But behind the patter is a loyal little guy who'd give his last wisecrack to help a friend.



Mufasa



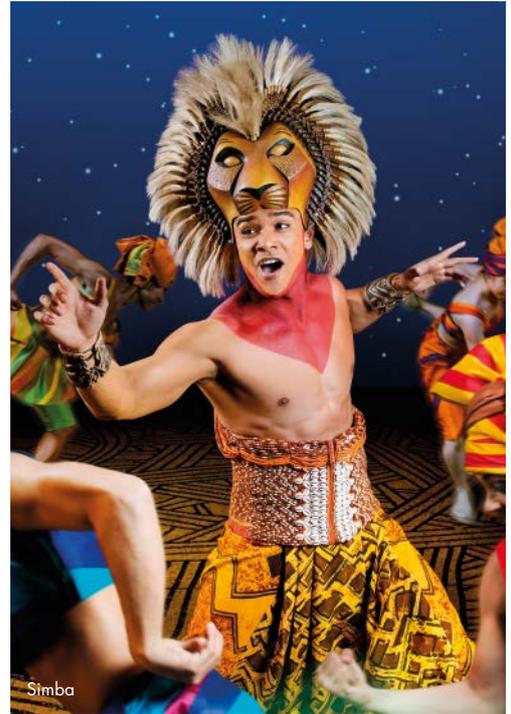
Timon, Young Simba and Pumbaa



Young Nala



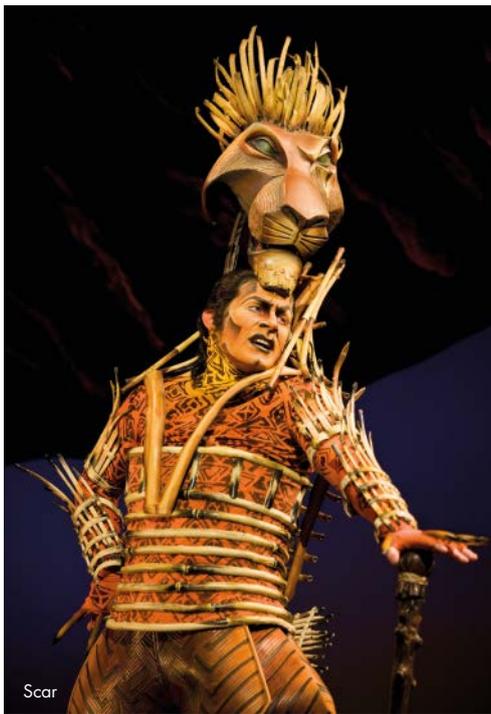
Rafiki



Simba



Zazu



Scar



Nala