

Cast possibilities

Update, 9/26/2016

Things we learned:

1. Kate is adamant about not playing the Baker. I feel like she fell on her sword like a good soldier for 101 Dalmations and we shouldn't ask her to do it every performance.
2. Kate has been working on her voice but I still wouldn't feel comfortable giving her the Baker's Wife.
3. Jessica, Yoo, Kate and Michelle were more comfortable tonight and I was surprised by Jessica's voice, who sounded awful (completely monotone) as Jack's mother. For Michelle I wrote "might handle Baker's Wife." That would allow us to use Vikram as a prince and switch Keera to the Baker. I think Yoo might work as Cinderella. Actually I wrote that Michelle was "best" as Cinderella but I like having her play the Baker's Wife so she can rehearse with her sister.
4. Vikram was much better as the Baker tonight and I would have no problem casting him there but it means giving up on "Agony." None of the girls wants to play a Prince and the obvious solution is to move Ethan there and let Min play Jack. Ethan can play very big so even though his voice isn't right for Agony, he could probably pull it off as well as any.
5. I think Vikram has to play the older prince. We either live with Ethan being a lot shorter than Rapunzel or cast Kayla as Rapunzel and move Irya somewhere else.
6. I didn't at all like Jessica as Jack's mother tonight. If she simply doesn't want to play that role I think we move her to the step-mother and make Kate Jack's mother. Jessica is more comfortable in the higher vocal range and I think Kate would enjoy complaining about Jack.
7. There is some risk casting Yoo as Cinderella but I think with some basic voice work I could dramatically increase her volume, and she is pretty good at staying on tune and seems to want a larger role. My guess is she would work hard if given the right role. Similarly I think Michelle would work hard on the Baker's Wife and Melanie would likely help her.
8. I don't like wasting Keera's voice but the Baker is actually the largest role and the only two other Bakers (Kate and Vikram) are needed elsewhere.
9. Use Iyar and Simone as the step-sisters.
10. Rob and Isabella are fine where they are
11. That leaves Cinderella's Mother, the Steward, the Narrator, Granny, and Cinderella's Father. Granny can be doubled with Jack's Mother or any of the steps. I think Kate would enjoy it and do it well. The Steward is in scenes with both Jack's Mom and the Steps, so he cannot be doubled with any of them. He could be doubled with the Mysterious Man (Sean). Anyone with a good voice can be Cinderella's Mom and Cinderella's Father could be written out.
12. Unfortunately, this leaves the Narrator. My modest proposal there would be to split the Narrator in half, using Vikram for Scenes 1-17, and Isabella for 18-38. It's a little tight as LRRH is done in 16 and Prince Charming comes on in 18. But there's no law saying they couldn't narrate in costume, and we might add a 3rd narrator to fill the gap.

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	<i>Role</i>	<i>Singing Load?</i>	<i>Difficult songs?</i>	<i>Where Ben leans</i>
1	Witch	heavy	yes	Melanie
2	Baker's Wife	heavy	yes	Michelle
3	<i>Cinderella</i>	heavy	yes	Yoo
f4	Little Red Riding Hood	heavy	no	Isabella
5	Baker	medium	no	Keera
6	Jack	medium	no	Min
7	<i>Cinderella's Prince</i>	Medium	pitch	Vikram
8	<i>Rapunzel's Prince</i>	Medium	pitch	Ethan
9	<i>Step Mother</i>	light	pitch	Jessica
10	Jack's Mother	Light	No	Kate
11	Wolf	Light	No	Rob
12	Cinderella's Mother	quite light	pitch	????
13	Lucinda	Quite light	Easy	Iyar
14	Florinda	Quite light	Easy	Simone
15	<i>Rapunzel</i>	very light	Easy	Kayla
6	Steward	Very light	easy	Sean
17	Narrator	Very light	easy	Vikram (1-12), Jessica (13-25), Isabella (26-38)
18	Granny	None	N/A	Kate
19	Mysterious man	None	N/A	Sean
20	Cinderella's Father	None	N/A	???

After tonight I feel a lot better about Yoo's and Michelle's and Jessica's singing. If Jessica doesn't want to be Jack's Mother and Min and Kate don't want to be men, I'd just as soon not fight that fight. Min looks like she can handle Jack and assuming Vikram and Ethan are both willing to be good soldiers, we can take a crack at making Agony good. I think I would dispense with trying to hit the lower registers as it doesn't really work in the two high school shows I've seen. The lead is

the usually a Tenor in Opera, and I think it's better to sing well than strain to reach too low.