



## Character Breakdown

**BANZAI** A slick yet childish hyena who works for Scar. He would be the leader of the group if hyenas weren't so lazy. Look for an outgoing and confident actor who can portray nastiness and gruffness. As Banzai is always featured with Shenzi and Ed, consider auditioning the hyenas in trios.  
Male or Female, Any Age

**ED** The third member of Scar's trio of lackeys. He has a loud, cackling laugh that is his only form of communication. Ed should be played by an actor who can laugh unabashedly and communicate through physicality and facial expressions rather than words. This role can be played by a boy or girl. Male or Female, Any Age

**ENSEMBLE** The ensemble plays various inhabitants of the Pridelands, such as giraffes, elephants, antelopes, wildebeest, and other creatures you choose to include. This group can have as few or as many performers as your production permits. There are also several moments to showcase individual dancers in "The Lioness Hunt" and "I Just Can't Wait to Be King."

**HYENAS** Scar's army, helping carry out his evil plot to take over the Pridelands. Hyenas are mangy, mindless creatures who sing in "Be Prepared." Male or Female, Any Age

**LIONESSES** The fierce hunters of the Pridelands and featured in "The Lioness Hunt," "The Mourning," and "Shadowland." Female, Any Age

**MUFASA** The strong, honorable, and wise lion who leads the Pridelands. Mufasa should command respect onstage and also show tenderness with his son, Simba. Male, Any Age

**NALA** Grows from a cub to a lioness before she confronts Scar, so cast a more mature actress to play the character beginning in Scene 10. As with older Simba and Young Simba, ensure that this switch in actors performing a single role is clear. Direct the actors to share a mask or costume piece that distinctly represents Nala, as well as a movement vocabulary. Female, Any Age

**PUMBAA** A kindhearted, sensitive warthog who enjoys his simple life of grubs and relaxation. Cast a boy or girl who can portray this loveable and loyal friend to Timon and Simba with deadpan humor. Male or Female, Any Age

**RAFIKI** A wise mandrill who acts as healer of the Pridelands and guides Simba on his journey home. She is an omniscient character, evincing an air of mystery. Rafiki has significant solos in "Circle of Life" and "He Lives in You," and leads the African chants throughout the show.  
Female, Any Age

**SARABI** A featured lioness, Mufasa's mate, and Simba's mother. Sarabi has a few key speaking lines for an actor who can deliver the care and command of a queen. Female, Any Age

**SARAFINA** A featured lioness and Nala's mother. Female, Any Age

**SCAR** The antagonist of the show, overcome with jealousy of his brother, Mufasa, and nephew, Simba. Coldhearted and wickedly intelligent, he will stop at nothing to become king of the Pridelands. Male, Any Age

**SHENZI** One of Scar's hyenas who plot to take over the Pridelands. She is the sassy one of the trio and is always looking out for herself. With Banzai and Ed, she should be able to laugh loudly and long, as well as be menacing to Young Simba and Young Nala.  
Female, Any Age

**SIMBA** Grows from a cub to lion in "Hakuna Matata." Older Simba has more complex moments as he reunites with Nala, mourns his father, and returns to confront Scar. Be sure that the change in actors is clear: Try having Young Simba hand-off a costume piece, such as a medallion, to older Simba. Male, Any Age

**TIMON** An outcast meerkat who lives in the jungle with Pumbaa. He is afraid of his own shadow, but pretends to be the confident, relaxed leader of the duo. This part can be played by a boy or a girl. Male or Female, Any Age

**YOUNG NALA** A courageous lion and Young Simba's best friend. She is not afraid to speak her mind. Female, Any Age

**YOUNG SIMBA** The protagonist of the story, is an adventurous and endearing cub who can't wait to be king of the Pridelands. Simba is playful, energetic, and naive, but after his father Mufasa's death, Simba struggles with shame and his destiny. Male, Any Age

**ZAZU** The anxious yet loyal assistant to Mufasa who is always busy trying to do his duty. Zazu's can be played by a boy or girl.  
Male or Female, Any Age