

Once Upon a Mattress Character Descriptions

Princess Winnifred the Woebegone

Female-presenting | Age: 18–30s | Vocal Range: Alto to Soprano (strong belt)

An unconventional princess who is bold, honest, and completely herself. Winnifred is physically fearless, emotionally direct, and unbothered by appearances. She brings warmth, humor, and authenticity to a highly controlled royal court. Requires strong comedic timing, physical confidence, and vocal stamina.

Queen Aggravain

Female-presenting | Age: 35–60s | Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano to Alto

The domineering and image-conscious ruler of the kingdom. Queen Aggravain is polished, controlling, and determined to maintain order at all costs. She must be taken seriously; the comedy comes from her intensity and need for control. Requires strong presence, clear diction, and comic authority.

Prince Dauntless the Drab

Male-presenting | Age: 18–30s | Vocal Range: Baritone

A sheltered and obedient prince who has never been allowed to think for himself. Dauntless is kind, earnest, and quietly curious about the world. His journey is one of growth and self-discovery. Requires sincerity, charm, and gentle comedic instincts.

King Sextimus the Silent

Male-presenting | Age: 40–70s | Non-singing role

The Queen's husband, who has been rendered mute by a witch's curse. Though silent, he is perceptive, expressive, and often the most emotionally grounded character onstage. Requires strong physical acting, expressive movement, and comedic clarity without dialogue.

Lady Larken

Female-presenting | Age: 18–30s | Vocal Range: Soprano

A romantic young woman deeply in love but prevented from marrying due to the Queen's rules. Lady Larken is hopeful, patient, and quietly brave. She must balance sweetness with emotional depth. Requires strong vocal control and sincerity.

Sir Harry

Male-presenting | Age: 20–40s | Vocal Range: Baritone

A loyal knight in love with Lady Larken. Sir Harry is earnest, passionate, and frustrated by the system that keeps them apart. His comedy comes from emotional intensity and commitment. Requires strong acting and vocal presence.

The Minstrel

Any gender | Age: 20–50s | Vocal Range: Tenor/Soprano

The narrator and guide of the story. The Minstrel understands the rules of the court and helps the audience navigate the world of the play. Observant, wry, and grounded. Requires strong storytelling skills and connection with the audience.

The Wizard

Any gender | Age: 30–60s | Vocal Range: Flexible

A clever and opportunistic figure who thrives within the court's power structure. The Wizard is calculating, adaptable, and amused by the chaos around them. Requires sharp comedic instincts and strong character choices.

The Jester

Any gender | Age: 18–50s | Vocal Range: Tenor/Soprano

Quick, reactive, and playful. The Jester provides commentary through physical comedy and timing. Though seemingly foolish, they are highly aware of the court's absurdity. Requires strong physicality and ensemble awareness.

Ladies-in-Waiting and Knights (Court Ensemble)

Any gender | Age: 18+ | Vocal Range: Flexible

Members of the royal court who observe, judge, whisper, and react. The ensemble plays a crucial role in establishing the tone and movement of the kingdom. Strong singers, movers, and actors needed. Ensemble members may have featured moments and solo lines.