

POCAHONTAS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

PRINCIPALS:

POCAHONTAS.....A dignified young Algonkian woman of eighteen or nineteen. She has intelligence and charm and the capacity for love and commitment to her father, her husband, her child and her people. She also has the courage to confront and censure John Smith and the presence to command respect from the English aristocracy and the English king. Lyric soprano.

YOUNG POCAHONTAS.....A lively Algonkian girl of eleven or twelve. She has a rare combination of energy and intelligence and the ability to charm, amuse and impress adults all at the same time. It is no wonder that she was Powhatan's emissary and his favorite child. Soprano: childlike, pure, lyrical.

POWHATAN.....A powerful Algonkian king in his forties or fifties. He has a distinctly royal presence and a sense of both his privilege and his responsibility as the great leader of vast lands and many peoples. He should be tall and imposing if possible. Baritone.

UTTAMATOMAKIN.....An imposing Algonkian priest in his forties or fifties. There is a mystery and sanctity about him that sets him apart. He has a distinct connection with another dimension that is more than human. He also plays **IOPPASUS**, who has exactly the opposite persona – conniving, fawning and a traitor to his people. Bass baritone.

JOHN SMITH.....A forceful, sometime pompous, sometimes foolish Englishman in his forties. He can be wiry and arrogant, but he must be commanding enough to impress Powhatan. Furthermore, he has the perspicacity to recognize the remarkable nature of the Young Pocahontas. He should be shorter than Powhatan if possible. He also plays **CAPTAIN ARGALL**, who is not unlike him in personality and **REVEREND WHITAKER**, who is his opposite – a polite, cultured, caring young man of the cloth. Tenor, lyrical.

JOHN ROLFE.....A kind and gentle Englishman in his late twenties. He is committed to his agricultural mission in the colony, and he has the vulnerability of one who has suffered the loss of his first wife and their child. He genuinely loves Pocahontas, and he has

both mind and heart enough to win her affection. Bass baritone, lyrical.

POCAHONTAS' MOTHER.....A vital Algonkian woman in her forties. She must have some of Pocahontas' intelligence, and she takes great pride in her child and her people. Mezzo soprano.

SUPPORTING:

MRS. SIZEMORE.....A plain working class English woman in her forties. She considers herself a guardian of morality and a purveyor of proper behavior to a poor "savage" girl. She also plays **LADY DE LA WARR**, a rather arrogant aristocratic lady who is enchanted with the Indian "princess," Pocahontas and **YAPPASUS' WIFE**, a slightly whiny, insistent woman who wants and gets her way. Soprano.

INDIAN WOMAN.....An important member of the ensemble who assists Young Pocahontas at Powhatan's reception of **JOHN SMITH** and recounts the atrocities against the Indians in a later scene.

ALL THE CHARACTERS HAVE SPEAKING AND WELL AS SINGING PARTS.

TIME

1607 – 1617

PLACE

Various sites in Virginia and in England