

“Size- A factor in the Arts”

4 years old with a love for princesses,
my introduction to singing and musicals, I was glistening.
Cinderella was top tier,
a go to Halloween costume for years.
Princesses filled my TV with their beauty and magical voices,
could sing like Ariel, but never felt like the right choice.

Growing older opened my eyes,
that there were never any princesses my size.
Would size determine my future?
I would later than see,
I would be pigeon holed in the industry.

Tracy Turnbland and Ursula too,
are some of the roles I am limited to.
Villains, sidekicks and comic relief.
My strengths lie here, but I still feel grief.

I have the voice for ingenue roles too,
can sing and belt any tune.
The industry has made it clear,
that size is a factor, with no change near.

Was told I am cateorfrized by a specific “type”,
and if I wanted to change that, I would have to change my size.
More than just a size,
and capable of much more in my eyes.

I bring to my teaching, and keep advocating for diversity,
to see that representation on stage.
Of bigger size bodies,
taking center stage.
Teaching students to embrace themselves,
that all bodies matter.
That’s right,
say it out loud.

I continue to push boundaires.
I sing what I want.
Even go in for an audition,
that I am not “right” for.
Progress has been made and Inclusivity is spreading.
Hope for future artists, students I teach.
That they continue to pursue and explore what they love,
reagrdles of what the industry has to say.