

HONK, JR.

AUDITION PACKET

Welcome to the duck yard!

We're so glad that you're interested in being in Wild Horse Children's Theater's production of HONK, JR.!

Some of you may already be familiar with the audition process. Some of you might be experiencing your first audition. Either way, we're here to help you prepare.

On the following pages, you'll find everything that you need to know about auditioning for this great show, such as:

Vocal Audition Tips	2
Character Breakdown	3
Introduction to "Sides"	5
Readings... ..	6
Song Lyrics	9
Dance Audition Hints	14
Casting	15
Junior Theater Festival.....	16

VOCAL AUDITION TIPS

- 1) A musical theater vocal audition is NOT "American Idol". This is an audition, not a "sing-off". It's all about storytelling. The directors aren't so much listening to voices as looking for who can tell a story with their voice, face, and body.
- 2) The directors have a problem. They need to put together a big puzzle and find just the right pieces to put it together best. They are not there to "judge" you – they are really hoping that you'll be the right fit for one of the puzzle pieces. Your job is to help the directors solve their problem. So, there's no need for you to be nervous!
- 3) If you're nervous anyway, "hide" behind the character. Remember that it's not "you" up there; it's your character. Tell your character's story the entire time when you audition. Get involved in telling the story and don't spend time thinking about how your voice sounds when you sing. Make a strong, active choice for your character, and play it fully. We can't tell anything about your character if you don't show us an active personality.
- 4) Try to be aware of what your face and body are doing when you sing. Regardless of how your song sounds, if your face doesn't tell the story of the song, the audience isn't going to understand the story. Our brains process pictures before they process words, so if your hands are busy doing something unrelated to the song (for instance: tugging at the bottom of your shirt) the audience is going to think your song is about something else (a shirt), no matter what words you're singing!
- 5) Use clear diction. We need to understand every word that you sing. Stand in the center of the stage and sing loudly enough to be heard from way across the room, but don't scream.
- 7) When you are singing, you shouldn't look at anyone in the room -- especially not the director. You should look past the director at a spot on the wall that is at your eye level. Pretend that spot is a close friend to whom you are telling your story.
- 8) The directors may give you advice about how to read a certain line, or how to read the whole scene. If that happens, try to incorporate the suggestions into your performance, even if it seems odd or wrong. Everyone will notice how well you take direction, and that has a huge impact on whether

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

UGLY is the ugly duckling and the main character. Innocent, easily confused and very impressionable, Ugly rightly doesn't understand why it is wrong being different. He is the heart and soul of the show. Ugly can be played by a male or a female. **AUDITION SONG: "Different"**

IDA is Ugly's mom. She is extremely protective of her son and committed to his safety. She is sweet but feisty, and she knows how to handle her husband, Drake. **AUDITION SONG: "The Joy of Motherhood"**

DRAKE is Ida's husband. He is a sarcastic character. He is the stereotypical sitcom father -- often shirking his parental duties. He should have good comic timing. Drake can be played by a male or a female. **AUDITION SONG: "A Poultry Tale"**

THE DUCKLINGS (BEAKY, FLUFF, BILLY, DOWNY) are Ugly's siblings -- cute little kid types. They are among the "popular" ones in the duck yard who enjoy making Ugly feel left out. **AUDITION SONG: "Wqrts and All"**

MAUREEN is Ida's best friend. Maureen genuinely loves Ida, but she can't resist a bit of good gossip. **AUDITION SONG: "The Joy of Motherhood"**

THE CAT is the sly, cunning villain of the show. He is manipulative, witty, and above all hungry. The role can be played by a male or a female. The actor playing the cat should bring a sense of fun to the character and have a good sense of comic timing. **AUDITION SONG: "Play With Your Food"**

THE BULLFROG is a laid back, self confident frog with whom Ugly comes into contact in the second half of the show. Optimistic and funny, he/she is a stand-up comedian type of character well suited to someone with good improvisational skills and comic timing. This role can be played by a male or female. **AUDITION SONG: "Warts and All"**

The following characters, or if you are unsure of what you want to audition for, can choose their audition song from the list provided.

GREYLAG is a somewhat pompous goose. A washed-up British military type, Greylag tends to turn every daily action into a military operation. A British accent is preferred. Can be played by a male or a female.

DOT is Greylag's wife. A motherly type, Dot doesn't think that Greylag is an entirely capable leader, but she kindly humors his "over the top" actions.

BARNACLES, SNOWY, PINKFOOT are some of the geese in Greylag's squad.

PENNY is a young, beautiful swan who is able to see beyond Ugly's looks.

FATHER SWAN, MOTHER SWAN, & BEWICK are Penny's family. They are kind and wise.

GRACE is the most distinguished duck on the lake. Very aristocratic, she is considered the queen of the duck yard. She is quite aware of this and is therefore a little bit haughty.

THE TURKEY is the headmaster of the ducklings' school The turkey is a bit snobbish and joins in the "fun" of teasing Ugly.

HENRIETTA is a hen who is another of Maureen's friends. Henrietta and Maureen gossip about the goings on in the duck yard. She takes great pleasure in making fun of Ugly.

JAY BIRD is an investigative reporter. A very "in your face" bird, all he/she cares about is getting a good story. He/she is the typical TV news personality one would find on an exploitative reality news TV show.

THE FARMER, BOY, & GIRL are the only humans in the show. They are never seen by the audience. Only their voices are heard. These voices may be pre-recorded or said live from backstage during the show.

ENSEMBLE the other actors in the company play a number of different roles.

Actors cast in most of the roles named above will also be in the ensemble.

Throughout the action of the play, they take on roles as barn yard animals, geese, froglets, and snow.

INTRODUCTION TO “SIDES”

On the next pages you'll find audition reading cuts (or "sides"). Please be familiar with them, as you may be asked to read during the audition process or callbacks..

The words in “*italics*” are "stage directions". They describe how the show will look to your audience, including the physical appearance of the stage and any important physical actions performed by the characters. Sometimes stage directions also help the actors understand why characters say and do certain things. Stage directions are not spoken aloud.

The number one mistake in cold reading is speaking too softly. If we can't hear you, it doesn't matter how great your reading is. Also, speak clearly and not too quickly. Another common error is "singsong" or repetitive speech patterns -- using the same vocal pitch patterns for every line. Often, new actors begin lines on a higher vocal pitch and end on a lower vocal pitch (or place the ending words of a line in the back of the throat and speak them with a croaking sound). This is called "dropping the line", especially if the end of the line is harder to hear than the beginning. Avoid "dropping the line" at all costs.

BULLFROG

Who am I to call you ugly? Look at me. There, see. I mean, connect the dots. If we're talking "ugly" they don't come much more aesthetically challenged than me. I know what your trouble is. You've been preening yourself too much. You've got down in the mouth. Woo ha, ha, ha.

(to audience)

Oh, I'm getting nothing here, nothing...Hang on...

(he clears his throat)

I've got a human in my throat.

(Again the BULLFROG goes into hysterics, but soon realizes that he is laughing alone).

(note: the word "aesthetically" is pronounced "As-tet-ick-lee", and means "having to do with appearance".)

IDA and DRAKE

(IDA spots DRAKE offstage.)

IDA: Drake! Drake! It's no good paddling away. I've seen you.

(DRAKE enters sheepishly.) And it doesn't do for a duck to look sheepish. It confuses the other animals.

DRAKE

How's it going, Ida. You still sitting? I dunno. It's alright for some.

IDA

Well if you like the sound of it so much, why don't you take a turn on the nest? And wipe your webs! I just did the floor this morning.

DRAKE

Oh Ida, I'd love to have a crack at sitting on the eggs for a bit, but you look so comfortable up there, it seems a shame to disturb you.

IDA

Ha! And what about that extension you promised to build on the nest? It's going to be very cramped when the little ones arrive -- especially with that one big egg in the clutch. Goodness knows what size that chick is going to be.

DRAKE

You know, I reckon that might be a turkey's egg.

IDA

Oh, Drake! How would a turkey egg get to be in my nest? Must be your side of the family.

DRAKE

We'll just have to wait and see who he takes after, won't we dear?

IDA

(Acidly)

Yes, dear.

READING 3: UGLY & CAT

CAT

Hello, Ducky!

UGLY

Who are you?

CAT

I'm your friend.

UGLY

I haven't got any friends. Everyone hates me because I'm ugly.

CAT

Oh they are to, to, too-too cruel. I think you look delicious

UGLY

What did you say?

CAT

I said poultry can be so malicious. Look at them guzzling all that bread.

UGLY

It's supposed to be really nice, it's French.

CAT

M...A l'orange. Do you mean to say that they didn't let you have any?

UGLY

Not a crumb

CAT

Well that settles it then. Lunch is in...on me.

SONG LYRICS

You should prepare one of the following songs for the audition. You will sing individually (a solo). Choose the song noted on the character breakdown for the part you are auditioning for or just prepare “Warts and All” or any song that suits you if you are uncertain as to what character you want to audition for.

We've posted these song cuts on dropbox. Each cut has two versions: Vocal and Instrumental. The vocal versions are there for learning purposes, but you will be singing along to the instrumental version, so **MAKE SURE THAT YOU PRACTICE WITH THE INSTRUMENTAL VERSION**. Pay particular attention to tempo (how fast/slow the song goes) and "entrances" (knowing when in the music you should begin singing).

Don't try to imitate the vocal quality of the person singing on the vocal version!!
Sing the way you think the character would express him/herself!

NOTE: These cuts may run longer than 1 minute. Prepare the cut as written, but we may stop you at the 1 minute mark.

DIFFERENT (Ugly)

Ugly: If they knew, just how dearly I would love to qu- HONK!
But it's true, I'm just a bird who seems to lack the knack

I'm just different
I'm just different from the rest
And who can blame them wanting me to find another nest?
But different isn't naughty
Different isn't bad
So why should being different make me sad?

I'm just different
They're like peas from the same pod
No wonder they make fun of me
Life's harder when you're odd.
But, different isn't scary
Different is no threat,
And though I'm still their brother,
They forget

I didn't choose to look this way
I didn't want to be unique

I don't like these grubby feathers
And I hate my stubby beak!
There's a runt in every litter,
One black sheep in every flock,
But when you know it's you somehow your ego takes a knock.

I'm just different,
But I have a sense of pride.
My looks may, well, be funny
But I hurt the same inside.
Different isn't spiteful,
Different isn't wrong!
So, why is it so hard to get along?
I only want to get along!

Different isn't hateful,
Different could be swell.
Different, is just...
Well...
Different.

THE JOY OF MOTHERHOOD (Ida)

AS A DUCK
WHEN YOU'RE STUCK
SAT SITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR NEST
THEN AT BEST
YOU GET BORED...
THERE GOES DRAKE
ON THE LAKE
I CAN SEE HIM THROUGH THE RUSHES
ALL THE TIME
FEELING I'M
JUST IGNORED
I DON'T PRETEND THAT THIS IS ALL HIS DOING
I'M A SUCKER FOR THE BILLING
AND THE COOING
BUT WHEN YOU HEAR THAT PITTER PATT
OF TINY FEET IT DOESN'T MATTER
HOW LONG I'VE HAD TO SIT HERE

MINDING MY BROOD
THOSE LITTLE HEADS SO SOFT AND DOWNY
THEIR BABY BODS ALL GOLDEN DOWNY
THEIR BEAKS CONSTANLY OPEN
WAITING FOR FOOD
IT'S THE JOY OF MOTHERHOOD
THOSE LITTLE DUCKLINGS
WALKING ROUND IN A LINE
I'LL DO WHAT ANY OTHER MOTHER WOULD
TO TRY TO DO MY BEST AT BRINGING UP MINE
IT'S THE JOY OF MOTHERHOOD
THOSE LITTLE PERKS
THAT MAKE IT ALL SEEM WORTHWHILE
I'LL DO WHAT ANY OTHER MOTHER WOULD
TO GET MY DUCKS DECKED OUT
AND LIVING IN STLYE

A POULTRY TALE (Drake)

IN OUR PATCH BEHIND THE FARMHOUSE
WHERE THE PACE OF LIFE IS SLOW
AND THE LILIES ON THE LAKE
ARE BROAD AND LUSH
WE'RE ALL LIVING HERE IN CLOVER
AND THE MATING SEASON'S OVER
SO THERE WON'T BE CAUSE
FOR ANYONE TO BLUSH

IN OUR LAND BOTH GREEN AND PLEASANT
EVERY BANTAM, DUCK AND PHEASANT
IF THEY HAD THEM,
WOULD BE WALKING ARM IN ARM
FOR OUR LIFE IS GOOD AND STEADY
TIL WE'RE PLUCKED AND OVEN READY
IT'S A POULTRY TALE
OF FOLK DOWN ON THE FARM

THERE'S A TURKY WITH A GOBBLE

(Turkey enters)

WATCH HIS WATTLE START TO WOBBLE

WHEN THE ROOSTER COCK-A-DOODLES

THE ALARM

WE'VE GOT PULLETS, WE'VE GOT CHICKENS

(Henrietta enters, doing her morning aerobics,
with Maureen, who brings gifts for the 'baby shower')

WE'VE GOT QUAIL,

AND WHAT THE di*kENS

IT'S A POULTRY TALE

OF FOLK DOWN ON THE FARM

(Ida enters)

WHAT A GORGEOUS VISION THIS IS

IT'S IDA, SHE'S MY MISSUS

SO FORGIVE ME IF I'M LAYING ON THE SMARM

SHE GOES IN FOR HEATED QUACKING

TO POINT OUT THE SKILLS I'M LACKING

All: IT'S A POULTRY TALE

OF FOLK DOWN ON THE FARM

COME ON DOWN AND DON'T BE STRANGERS

IN OUR DUCKYARD OF FREE-RANGERS

IT'S A POULTRY TALE

OF FOLK DOWN ON THE FARM

WARTS AND ALL (Bullfrog)

You Mark My Words, Feathers, One day Ugly We'll be in

IF YOU JUST SIT TIGHT ON YOUR LILYPAD

EACH SILLY FAD WILL PASS

THEN THOSE WHO SPORT THIS SEASONS LOOK

WILL FALL FLAT ON THEIR (Ask your mother what its called)

FOR FASHION IS A FICKLE THING

BUT JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN WE'RE IN STYLE

AND THEN I GUARANTEE

OUT THERE SOMEONES GONNA LOVE YA
SOMEONES GONNA LOVE YA
WARTS AND ALL

OUT THERE JUST AROUND THE CORNER
IN AMONGST THE FAUNA
SOMEONES GONNA FALL FOR YOU
THOUGH IM TYRANNASAURUS- REXY
SOME WILL FIND ME SEXY
IN MY WAY
THOUGH IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO FIND EM
WHEN YOU DO YOU'LL HAVE A BALL
CAUSE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE SOMEONES GONNA LOVE YA
WARTS AND ALL!

YOU CAN PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD (Cat)

You Can Scratch the Antique Furniture
To Sharpen Up Your Claws
You Can Lacerate the Cushions
If Your Ever Stuck Indoors
You Can Dig Up All the Flowers
From the Freshly Planted Beds
And With Articles of Clothing
Its Okay to Pull Some Threads
But I Remember As A Kindergarten Kitten
One Phrase That Left Me Singularly Smitten

Chorus:

You Can Play With Your Food Before You Eat It
You Can Chivvy Your Chow Before You Chew
You Can Play With Your Food You Can't Beat It
So Ducky Let Me Play With You
You Can Play With Your Food Before You Bite It
You Can Toy With Your Tuck Before the Crunch
You Can Play With Your Food Why Fight It
It's A Crazy Little Game Called Lunch

DANCE AUDITION TIPS

The choreographer will teach you a small routine that you will learn in groups.

Do your best with the dance steps, but ultimately choreographers are most interested in who looks energized and exciting while moving in time with music.

Don't panic if you mess up the steps, put your feet in the wrong place, or forget what to do with your hands. Even very polished dancers mess up sometimes. No one expects you to be perfect. However, when you miss something, it is important that you keep smiling and keep going (again -- staying in character is vital in an audition)! A big smile and an air of confidence can hide a multitude of mistakes with your feet. Even if you do the steps perfectly, if you are not expressive, or if you look like you're really concentrating hard instead of portraying the mood of the character, the role might go to someone with slightly less dancing ability, who dances as a believable character.

As a general note, make sure that you are standing in a place where you can see when the choreographer is teaching the steps. Frequently, people uncomfortable with dance try to hide in the back. It doesn't work. The point is not to hide, but to show what you can do!

CASTING

We selected HONK! Jr. because it includes many characters AND because there is a LOT for the ENSEMBLE to do. There are solos and acting "bits" that we will cast from the ENSEMBLE as we enter the rehearsal process.

As mentioned on p.2, casting a show is like assembling a large jigsaw puzzle. If you are not cast in the part that you wanted in this show, that DOES NOT mean that your audition performance was not of a good quality. It simply means that that character wasn't a good fit for you in this particular show. The "fit" decision usually has little to do with anything under your control. You may be too tall, too short, too old, too young, too high voice, too low voice, etc. etc. -- you get the picture!

Similarly, if you auditioned hoping to be given a certain role and you are cast with a different role, that means that the directors needed you most in the role in which you were cast. Again, remember that the ENSEMBLE is considered a role. Being in a show is being on a team. Every single player on the team is vital to the success of the whole piece. NO ONE ACTOR is more important than any other actor onstage. "There are no small parts...only small actors!"

REMEMBER! We are looking for CHARACTERS in this production!!! We are personifying animals. That means we are giving human characteristics to animals. Costuming will be human clothing with little touches to "suggest" the animal.

JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL

We will be taking Honk, Jr. to the Junior Theater Festival in Sacramento, CA in February 2018. Our Junior Theater Festival Performance Troupe is an elite group of 22 triple-threat performers who performed Beauty & the Beast, Jr. at JTF 2017 and won many awards. We will be adding additional members to this elite performance troupe by hand picking actors from this production of Honk, Jr. and they will be able to attend JTF with our group.

More information will be provided on your audition forms and during the rehearsal process.

For more information on JTF, go to our website at www.wildhorsetheater.com.