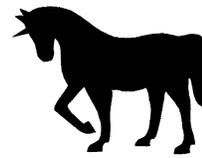


# Unicorn Theatre



486 Conrad's Road, RR#2, Hubbards, NS B0J 1T0 Phone: 857-2121

Theatre location: The Bay Community Centre, 11 Station Road, Head of St. Margaret's Bay.

E-mail: [info@unicorntheatre.ca](mailto:info@unicorntheatre.ca) Website: [www.unicorntheatre.ca](http://www.unicorntheatre.ca) Check out our Facebook page!

July 22, 2018

*Please share this letter with your parents; they should know before you audition that since Unicorn Theatre is a co-operative youth theatre run entirely by volunteers, parental involvement is required from each family where a young person is cast in the show. There will be a Parents' Meeting the first night of rehearsals, and an adult from each family will be asked to sign up to help with costumes, sets, props, publicity or technical. We will also require parental assistance during the run of the show.*

Dear Auditioner,

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS THE SONG TRACKS AND WE WILL GIVE YOU A CD TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION.**

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for our new musical, "Honk! Jr.," **All auditions are by appointment, so please call 902-857-2121 or e-mail [info@unicorntheatre.ca](mailto:info@unicorntheatre.ca) to book your time.** You must be in Grades 2-12 to audition.

We are holding auditions only on **Saturday, September 15, and Sunday, September 16**, during the day at the Bay Community Centre, 11 Station Road, Head of St. Margaret's Bay. For driving directions, please go to our website at [www.unicorntheatre.ca](http://www.unicorntheatre.ca).

The auditions will be 10-15 minutes in length. You will be asked to perform the audition pieces (acting and singing) you have prepared (see next page), do a short musicianship test with the Musical Director, and perhaps read from the script.

If you are cast in the play, you will be rehearsing Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 pm, starting **Thursday, September 20**. Please note that there will be two (and possibly three) extra Saturday afternoon rehearsals during the rehearsal period (dates to be advised) Also please note that the dress rehearsals (the week of the show) will most likely run long. There will also be a Preview at Tantallon Library on Saturday, November 10, at 2 pm. The two performance weekends will be **November 23-25 and November 30-December 2**.

When you come for the audition, you will be asked to complete a "Conflict Calendar". This means we will ask you mark up the calendar with any conflicts you would have for specific evenings during the rehearsal period if you should be cast in the play (e.g. band concert, tickets for Neptune). While everyone would be expected to attend all mandatory rehearsals (e.g. rehearsals the week before the show and the two dress rehearsals), there could be some flexibility in scheduling rehearsals early in the rehearsal period if people have legitimate conflicts for, say, one or two rehearsals. However, to ensure the success of the production, we need everyone to make rehearsals a high priority and do their utmost to attend all the rehearsals for which they are scheduled. **PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING INFORMATION ABOUT ANY CONFLICTS TO THE AUDITION.** The dates of the long rehearsals and of the Preview will be available at that time.

Being in a Unicorn Theatre musical is a lot of fun, but it is also a serious commitment. Before you decide to audition, please ensure that you have time in your schedule for the twice -weekly rehearsals (Tuesday and Thursday, 6-8 pm). We also ask that you assess your priorities if you have classes or other commitments that overlap rehearsal time. We do require all cast members

to be at rehearsal for 6 pm sharp, as our rehearsal time is limited.

One final point: we do need everyone to be available for every performance of the show (unless they are sick). This includes all members of the Ensemble.

Thank you again for your interest in auditioning for “Honk, Jr.”. It should be a really fun show! If you have any questions about the auditions or the show, please call me at 902-857-2121 or e-mail me at [info@unicorntheatre.ca](mailto:info@unicorntheatre.ca).

Yours sincerely,



Iris Elliott  
Artistic Director

## AUDITION PIECES

**The audition is not scary at all! The Director and Musical Director will be the only people at the audition, apart from you! The whole thing takes 10-15 minutes.**

- Acting:**
- 1) **Please choose one of the audition pieces provided. In each case, memorize the lines and be prepared to perform the scene at the audition. Think hard about the character you are portraying and pay close attention to any stage directions! One of the Directors will read any other parts in the scene.**
  - 2) **You may also be asked to read from the script.**
- Singing:**
- 1) ***Song of Own Choice (everyone)***  
**Perform (in character, with choreography, as though you were actually in the show) a song you know well from a musical or any Disney movie (or similar). This will be sung without accompaniment, and can be quite short.     **AND****
  - 2) **ONE of the following songs from the show**
    - 1 “Different”
    - 2 “The Joy of Motherhood”
    - 3 “A Poultry Tale”

**You should perform your chosen song as though you were actually in the show. Try to come up with some simple choreography to accompany the song. You will be given the lyrics and links to the songs. Accompaniment will be provided at the audition.**

*If you cannot access the song you wish to perform for the audition, please let the Directors know and they will provide you with a CD. Sheet music is also available.*

## ACTING

(See Page 13 for Audition Hints from the Director)

Please choose **ONE** of the following pieces to memorize and perform at your audition. Pay close attention to the stage directions!

“Honk! Jr.” is based on the fairy tale “The Ugly Ducking”, by Hans Andersen.

**AUDITION PIECE #1: UGLY.** You need to memorize only Ugly’s lines; the part of Penny will be read by one of the Directors. *Remember to pay attention to the stage directions, which are written in italics, like this.*

**The Character:** Ugly is the main character in “Honk!” The title of the show refers to the sound a swan makes, because Ugly is in fact a young swan (a cygnet) although he doesn’t realize this until almost the end of the play. Everyone in the Duckyard assumes Ugly is a ducking, including Ugly himself, because he hatches out of an egg in Ida’s nest (Ida is a mother duck). But poor Ugly looks very different from his adorable duckling brothers and sisters – he’s much larger and very, well, ugly. Because of this he’s laughed at and rejected by everyone except his mother, Ida, and this makes him very unsure of himself and shy. He desperately wants to fit in and have friends, but this seems to be impossible because he’s “different”.

*Although the character Ugly is male, the part may be played by a boy or a girl.*

**The Scene:** This scene takes place near the end of the play. Ugly has managed to get away from the Cat, who wants to have him for lunch, but he can’t find his way home to the Duckyard and wanders around getting more and more lost. He hears a cry for help and discovers a young female swan who has become tangled up in fishing line and is lying helpless in a ditch. She recognizes him at once as another young swan, but of course she doesn’t know that he thinks he’s a duck!

*Ugly enters. He is hurrying along, looking nervously over his shoulder to check that the Cat is not pursuing him. He stops when he hears a plaintive cry and, turning to where the sound is coming from, discovers a beautiful young female swan, Penny, tangled up in fishing line.*

PENNY

Help me! Please help me! I’m caught.

UGLY

Who...who are you?

PENNY

I'm Penny. Please, do you think you can untangle me?

UGLY

*(Self consciously) I'll... I'll try. (He tries to find an end to the fishing line. He is mesmerized.)*  
Wh...what are you?

PENNY

*(Surprised at the question) A swan.*

UGLY

*(Entranced) A swan.*

PENNY

Typical me. My first migration and what happens...?

UGLY

*(Continuing to untangle the fishing line) Your first what?*

PENNY

Migration. The cold weather is setting in and we are leaving today for the warm lands.

UGLY

Leaving?

PENNY

You're a funny one, all these questions. What's your name?

UGLY

Everyone calls me Ugly.

PENNY

Oh, don't listen to them. It's a stage we all go through.

UGLY

*(Still working away at the fishing line) There. Just one more loop around your leg. (He gets the final loop off, and Penny is free. He helps her up.)*

PENNY

*(Hugging Ugly)* Oh, thank you. I thought I was going to be left behind and this is no place to spend the winter alone. *(Pause)* Where's your flock?

UGLY

I don't know. I'm lost. I was separated from my family and the more I look for them, the further it seems I wander away.

PENNY

That's dreadful. You poor thing, you can't stay here for the winter. You'll freeze.

UGLY

*(Trying to be brave)* No, I'll be all right.

MOTHER SWAN

*(From offstage)* Penny!

PENNY

Come with me! The others won't mind, and then next spring we'll return together and I'll help you find your family.

UGLY

Oh Penny, I'd love to, I'd really love to, but I can't. I have to find my mother. I'm sure she can't be far away. Maybe when you come back in the spring we can meet up again.

PENNY

I'd like that. Are you sure you'll be all right?

MOTHER SWAN

*(From offstage)* Penny, come along darling, we'll be late.

PENNY

I don't like to leave you here like this but I really have to go. Goodbye and thank you. I won't forget you. *(She hugs Ugly. As she leaves, Ugly hears her honk.)* Honk!

*Ugly does a double take and looks confused.*

UGLY

Honk? *(Suddenly the thought dawns on him that someone as beautiful as Penny would not want to have anything to do with someone as ugly as he is.)* She won't remember me. I bet she doesn't even come back. Why would she have anything to do with me?  
*(He falls to his knees and covers his face with his hands.)*

**AUDITION PIECE #2: IDA.** *Please note that you have to memorize only Ida's lines. One of the directors will read the other lines in the scene. Remember to pay attention to the stage directions, which are written in italics, like this.*

**The Character:** Ida is a mother duck who is warm and loving to her ducklings, especially the big one, Ugly, who doesn't look at all like the others. She tries to build up Ugly's self confidence, recognizing that because he isn't little, cute and fluffy like his brothers and sisters, things are going to be hard for him. She encourages him to believe that there's nothing wrong with being different. Ida appears to be very soft and easy-going, but there is a streak of steel in her – especially when dealing with her husband, Drake.

**The Scene:** This scene begins as Ida's big egg hatches and she sees her newest duckling for the first time. In a previous scene, her husband Drake expressed the opinion that the big egg was going to turn out to be a turkey, so the first thing Ida does is to ask the new arrival a couple of important questions. Fortunately, his answers prove to her that he is, in fact, a duckling.

*Ida is in her nest sitting on her one remaining egg when it begins to hatch, knocking her off.*

UGLY

*(Emerging from the egg)* HONK!

IDA

*(Her beak falling open as she looks at the new arrival)* Oh my word!

UGLY

HONK!

IDA

What's wrong with your quack? You're not like your brothers and sisters. You're...different.

UGLY

HONK!

IDA

If I say "Butterball" does that bother you at all? No? What about "water"? How would you like to go for a swim?

UGLY

I'd love to...Mama.

IDA

Thank heavens for that! (*Hugs him*) I knew you were one of mine. Now, your father has taken the others off for their first swimming lesson. So how about you and me doing the same, right here at the water's edge. Nothing too fancy, mind you, just the basics to get you started. (*She dips her foot into the water*) Ooooh...it's a bit nippy, but we'll soon warm up. The important thing is not to be afraid of the water.

UGLY

I'm not afraid, Mama. Can we swim out to that island?

IDA

Good gracious no. It's further than you think. Now, are you ready?

UGLY

I'm ready.

IDA

Just do as I do and you should take to it like a d...(*looks at him*) you should take to it.

*They go into the pond and swim around. After a while, they get really silly and begin to splash each other, having a fun time together*

*Ida and Ugly get out of the water, and she smooths down the feathers on his head, trying to make him look more presentable.*

IDA

There, dear. That looks much better.

UGLY

What did you mean when you said I'm not like my brothers and sisters? What is "different"?

IDA

Well dear...for one thing I'm sure you can swim much better than they can.

UGLY

Do you really think so? And what else?

IDA

*(After a pause while she tries to think what to say)* You must try to remember, it's what's inside that counts, not what we look like on the outside. (*Changing the subject*) Oh my goodness, I think that's Drake now with your brothers and sisters. (*Waves her wing*) Yooohoo! Over here!

**AUDITION PIECE # 3 – DRAKE.** *Please note that you have to memorize only Drake’s lines. One of the directors will read the other lines in the scene. Remember to pay attention to the stage directions, which are written in italics, like this.*

**The Character:** Drake, Ida’s husband and the father of the ducklings, is totally irresponsible. As Ida says, he’s “duck by name and duck by nature – always ducking out of his responsibilities.” She gets mad at him because he’s always off with his buddies or making waves at the local watering hole instead of helping her around the nest or sitting on the eggs. After Ugly is hatched, Drake is the first one to make fun of him, pointing out how “different” Ugly is and expressing the opinion that Ugly is not a duck but a turkey.

**The Scene:** This scene takes place near the beginning of the play, while Ida is still sitting on her eggs.

*Ida is tidying up around the nest, in which we can see four blue eggs and one large brown egg. She 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 all right for some.

IDA

Well, if you like the sound of it so much why shouldn’t you take a turn on the nest?

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

Huh, and what about that extension you promised to build on the nest? It’s going to be very cramped, 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

Okay, Drake! How would a turkey's 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.

DRAKE

Let me see that egg again. *(Ida moves to Drake can see the egg)* Definitely a turkey. You'll never get it to go in the water. Just leave it.

IDA

Since you're here, can you sit on the eggs for a bit? I need to take a break.

DRAKE

*(Glancing up at the sun)*. My goodness, is that the time? I must fly. I promised Rooster I'd help him count his chickens. *(Races off before Ida can say anything)*

## SINGING

Performance tips from the Musical Director:

- Remember that “putting over a song” is the ticket for successful musical theatre auditions!
- Study the character you are portraying.
- Add lots of emotion (through facial expression and body language) when you perform the song
- If a song is in a difficult range you can adapt it to your voice.
- Make sure every word you sing is clearly heard! Have fun!

**Note: #1 and 2 are mandatory (that means you have to do BOTH)**

1. ***Perform a song of your own choice from a musical (for example, “Peter Pan”, “Oliver!”), “The Sound of Music” OR Disney movie or similar (for example, “The Lion King”, “Frozen”, “Moana”).*** This will be sung unaccompanied. Hint: choose something you know well and perform it in character, **with choreography**, as though you were in the show. Your performance can be quite short (one or two verses).

**AND**

2. ***Song from “Honk!”***

Perform ONE of the following songs. Please note that you can choose any of these songs to perform at your audition, not just the one that goes with the character you have chosen for your acting piece.

- a) “Different” (Sung by Ugly)
- b) “The Joy of Motherhood” (Sung by Ida)
- c) “ A Poultry Tale” (Sung by Drake)

Lyrics are given with each selection, as well as vocal and accompaniment tracks. The vocal tracks are useful for learning the song, but since you will be singing the song with the accompaniment at your audition, it’s recommended that you also practise with that track at home. Remember to perform the song as if you were playing the character in the show (with simple choreography).

**IMPORTANT: WHEN PRACTISING, PLEASE USE THE TRACKS FROM THE SHOW THAT WE PROVIDE. THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL BE USING AT YOUR AUDITION.**

*If you cannot access the song you wish to perform for your audition, please let the Directors know and they will provide you with a CD. Sheet music is also available on request.*

- a) **“DIFFERENT” This is sung by Ugly, and really sums up what the show is all about. In it, Ugly is trying to explain what it’s like to be different and to point out that he didn’t choose to be that way. It’s a sad and wistful little song.**

The audio file for this song can be downloaded from the auditions page of our website.  
<https://sites.google.com/site/unicorntheatre1/home/productions/auditions>

**Let us know if you cannot access this song and we will provide you with a CD.**

### **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.

**(b) “THE JOY OF MOTHERHOOD”** This is sung by Ugly’s mother, Ida, quite near the beginning of the show and before the ducklings hatch. At first, she complains that she is really, really fed up with sitting on the eggs, but then she remembers what it’s like when the ducklings arrive and vows to do her best to bring them up properly.

The audio file for this song can be downloaded from the auditions page of our website.  
<https://sites.google.com/site/unicorntheatre1/home/productions/auditions>

**Let us know if you cannot access this song and we will provide you with a CD.**

**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

'CAUSE 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 CONSTANTLY 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 STYLE

**(c) “A POULTRY TALE”. This song is about the part of the farm where the ducks, hens and turkeys live. It’s sung by Drake at the very beginning of the show. Since Drake fancies himself a bit of a comedian, this song is far from serious, and should be performed in a light-hearted way as it introduces the Duckyard residents and offers a bit of information about each one.**

The audio file for this song can be downloaded from the auditions page of our website.  
<https://sites.google.com/site/unicorntheatre1/home/productions/auditions>

**Let us know if you cannot access this song and we will provide you with a CD.**

### **DRAKE:**

IN OUR PATCH BEHIND THE FARMHOUSE WHERE THE PACE OF LIFE IS SLOW  
 THERE'S A WEBSITE WHERE JUST REAL WEBS ARE USED.  
 WE SPEND DAYS THE WAY DUCKS OUGHTA' EATING BREAD THROWN ON THE WATER  
 IN A WAY THAT KEEPS THE YOUNGER KIDS AMUSED.  
 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 TURKEY WITH A GOBBLE WATCH HIS LEGS BEGIN TO WOBBLE  
 CAUSE THANKSGIVING GIVES HIM CAUSE FOR SOME ALARM!  
 WE'VE GOT PULLETS, WE'VE GOT CHICKENS , WE'VE GOT QUAILS  
 AND WHAT THE DICKENS  
 IT'S A POULTRY TALE OF FOLK DOWN ON THE FARM

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

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

## **MUSICIANSHIP**

**a) Ear test b) Vocal range test.**

### **AUDITION HINTS - From the Director**

**GO BIG!** There is no time for nervousness in an audition. (Easier said than done, I know.) It is time to show us what you can do! Don't be afraid to be different; that is what we're looking for. Performing is a risk, - TAKE IT!

Make sure we know what you are saying! This is very important in acting. Make sure you are loud! Practice your audition pieces using the following techniques:

- Open your mouth EXTRA wide when speaking and singing.
- Breathe from your belly! Imagine there is a balloon in your belly that fills with air as you breathe in and pushes out the sound as you speak.
- Speak S-L-O-W-L-Y! and FACE FRONT!

Act with your body as well as your voice! This one is very, very important. So many young actors think about acting with their voice and their face, but they forget all about their hands, feet, head, belly, back, arms, knees and even toes! Think of ways you can use all parts of your body to express what your character feels.

Decide before you begin exactly what you think the character is like. What kind of voice does he/she have? How does he/she walk? Is he/she young...old? Is the scene supposed to be funny, or is it a little more serious? Whether acting or singing, remember to perform as though you were actually playing that part or singing that song in the show. If there are other people in the scene, you will have to work out in your own mind where they are on the stage so that you can talk to them. Make eye contact just like in real life. Oh, and don't forget those stage directions!

Most of all... HAVE FUN! Take the time to enjoy showing us what you can do!

*Remember, a well-prepared audition will impress the directors more than a poorly prepared one! Good luck!*