



The
WIND
~ in the ~
WILLOWS

MOLE AUDITION PACK

The Mole is a timid, nervous, and easily excitable character. Despite being a small, underground dweller with little knowledge of life along the river or in the meadow and its hedges, the Mole is a kind, thoughtful, and generous friend.

Firstly, thank you for the interest in being part of our production of *The Wind In The Willows*.

The venues:

Rehearsals are at Pelsall Village Centre, High Street, Pelsall, WS3 4LX

Show week is at The Lamp, Brownhills Community Centre, Walsall, WS8 7JS

The **key dates** for the production are:

- ★ Group & Solo Auditions: Thursday 7th March 2024 (6.30-7.30pm)
- ★ Call backs: Thursday 14th March 2024 (6.30-7.30pm)
- ★ Casting confirmed: By Wednesday 20th March 2024, via email

★ Show week:

Wednesday 6th November 2024 @ The Lamp - *Tech & Dress Rehearsal*
Cast Arrive at 6pm, finish at 8:30pm

Thursday 7th November 2024 @ The Lamp - *Tech & Dress Rehearsal*
Cast Arrive at 6pm, finish at 8:30pm

Friday 8th November 2024 @ The Lamp - *Tech & Dress Rehearsal*
Cast Arrive at 6pm, finish at 8:30pm

Saturday 9th November 2024 @ The Lamp - *Performance 1* -
Cast Arrive at 5:45pm, doors open at 6:30pm, show commences at 7:00pm

(If tickets sell well, we may add a matinee performance to the Saturday, this would start at 1pm. We will let you know closer to the time if this is the case.)

Sunday 10th November 2024 - @ The Lamp - *Performance 2* -
Cast Arrive at 11:45am, doors open at 12:30pm, show commences at 1:00pm

Fees: Membership fees do apply. Rehearsals are £5 each, which covers the hire of rehearsal and performance venue, staffing, props and set, and a selection of costumes. We may ask for your support with sourcing some costumes. There is a £15 show week fee which covers all rehearsals and shows during that week.

You can contact the production team at any time by emailing thespianartsmembers@gmail.com

The **production team** are:

Director: Sophie Fletcher

Drama Tutor & Producer: Alishea Campbell-Drummond

Performing Arts Tutor: Mai-Lin Tsang

Producer: Owen Allen

Set Build Manager: Jacob Barrett

Tech: Elliott Pike

Our expectations

We expect the cast to be dedicated to the production, and as such to be able to meet the expectations below:

- ★ **Attendance:** Members are expected to attend all rehearsals they are scheduled for. If you are unable to make a week, that is fine, but we need at least 2 hours notice if you aren't able to attend, otherwise the session fee will still need to be paid. Frequent failure to give notice can result in dismissal from the show, as it will hinder our progress and disrupt the plans. You will receive a rehearsal schedule every month. Some weeks your child may not be required so it's important you take note of this. We aim to not have children out of rehearsals for longer than a week at a time. Regardless of session length, if they attend, it is £5.
- ★ **Rehearsals:** Students should bring their scripts and wear appropriate shoes and clothes. Bringing a pencil case and wearing hair tied up is also advised! They also need to wear their Thespian Arts T-Shirt for every session to abide by our uniform policy.
- ★ **Homework:** Students will need to work outside of sessions to memorise lines and actions, research their character, practice choreography, and learn lyrics. Work with your child to help them perform their best!
- ★ **Attitude:** The rehearsal room and theatre space are safe spaces where young people can take positive risks and be themselves without the fear of being laughed at or alienated. This principle is essential to artistic growth and exploration. Participants are expected to respect these ideas and are encouraged to remember it themselves when trying new things. We need to have well behaved, disciplined members who respect their fellow members and their staff. Frequent failure to meet our expectations can result in dismissal from the show, as it will hinder our progress and disrupt the plans.
- ★ **Volunteering:** If any parents, guardians, or over 16s want to volunteer additional time or resources to the production, simply drop us a message, and we will contact you when assistance is needed. We are still in the process of compiling a list of everything that needs to be done, but don't worry, when we have tasks that need to be done, we will let you know.

Finally, please remember that a play is a living, breathing entity. Things don't always go exactly as planned, so changes to the plan will most likely be made throughout the rehearsal process. We promise to give you as much advance notice as possible on all changes that arise.

ACTING RESOURCE

MOLE. Toad Hall.

TOAD. This is where it all started

MOLE. Not for me. Oh no. That was in my hole, my little home.

He begins to create the picture. The others join in. We're establishing style here. The rest of the cast create the physical environment, and they also establish the emotional environment. It's almost as if they become the essence of MOLE till required to be something else. Spring.

Spring!

I'd been working very hard all morning, spring cleaning my little home.

With brooms and dusters. On ladders and steps and chairs. With a brush and a pail of whitewash.

Dust and paint was everywhere.

All morning with aching back and weary arms and then it caught me.

Spring. (*smells it.*) something – life – was moving up above.

And it filled me – with longing.

He flings his brush and bucket on the floor.

Bother!

And blow!

Hang spring-cleaning! I'm sick of it!

And I bolted.

Out of the house.

A WILD WOODER holds out a coat...

A WILD WOODER holds out a coat...

Oh, I didn't wait for that.

... and a hat.

Or that.

Something – life was calling me.

So, I scarped and scratched

And then I scooged again

And scabbled and scratched

And scraped.

Up we go!

Up we go!

Until

Until

Out!

Out in a big green meadow, under a blue, blue sky, with a warm yellow sun shining down.

Oh, the joy of living!

Oh, the delight of spring!

Without the cleaning.

Run for the hedge.

Everyone's running.

Run. Run.

A RABBIT steps out.

MOLE comes to a halt.

Rabbit!

LYRICS FOR DUCK'S DITTY

All along the backwater,
Through the rushes tall,
Ducks are a-dabbling,
Up tails all!

Ducks' tails, drakes' tails,
Yellow feet a-quiver,
Yellow bills all out of sight
Busy in the river!

Slushy green undergrowth
Where the roach swim—
Here we keep our larder,
Cool and full and dim.
Everyone for what he likes!

We like to be
Heads down, tails up,
Dabbling free!

High in the blue above
Swifts whirl and call—
We are down a-dabbling
Up tails all!