



TOAD AUDITION PACK

Toad is the comical anti-hero. He is simple-minded and obsessed with having the newest, flashiest, and fastest things, progressing from boats to carriages to motor cars. Despite his interests, he lacks practical skills and is unable to properly use the machines that fascinate him. The Toad wrecks everything he touches, but because he is wealthy, he is accustomed to having his own way and being coddled. He even has to go to court for stealing a car!

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

JUDGE. Mr toad. Of Toad Hall, you were here with charged of – one: taking and driving away a motor vehicle without the owner’s permission. To wit, theft.

TOAD. Lies, lies, its all lies.

JUDGE. You mean you didn’t steal the car?

TOAD. No. the car stole me.

JUDGE. How?

TOAD. She whispered to me.

JUDGE. What did she say?

TOAD. Poop-poop.

JUDGE. ‘Poop-poop’?

TOAD. Yes. I couldn’t help myself.

JUDGE. Stuff and nonsense. Clerk of the court. What can we sentence the incorrigible rascal for theft?

CLERK. One year, my lud.

JUDGE. One year.

TOAD. One year!?

JUDGE. Secondly, you are accused of reckless driving on the public highway.

TOAD. Lies again. I wasn’t reckless.

JUDGE. What were you then?

TOAD. I was fast! And I wasn’t on the public highway.

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!