

STAGE ARTZ  
PROUDLY PRESENTS...

# HONK!

**- AN UGLY DUCKLING OF A MUSICAL -****SEEN BY OVER 6 MILLION PEOPLE, HONK! HAS WON MULTIPLE AWARDS INCLUDING THE 2000 OLIVIER AWARD FOR BEST MUSICAL, BEATING THE LION KING AND MAMMA MIA!**

## STAGE ARTZ IS EXTREMELY PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ITS 2017 CHARITY FAMILY MUSICAL...

### HONK!

**“HONK! is one of a kind... it may be the greatest musical you’ve never heard of!”**

**“A heart-warming tale and a quackingly good time, HONK! is a deeply moving, creatively masterful adaptation of one of the most beloved fables of all time.”**

Each year, the Stage Artz Theatre Company and the Stage Artz Performing Arts School combine to produce a family musical production to raise money for The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. Currently, Stage Artz Charity Musicals have raised \$213,000 for the kids at Westmead and Stage Artz has been awarded as a Lifetime Partner of The Children’s Hospital.

This year, Stage Artz will be producing the high-energy musical comedy, HONK!. This light-hearted and charming twist on Hans Christian Andersen’s The Ugly Duckling is a story of acceptance. There’s a brood of newly hatched ducklings on the farm, but one – “Ugly” – is an odd-looking duck. Failing to fit in, he leaves home and along the way meets a whole flock of unique characters, outwits a hungry Cat, and discovers that being different is not so bad. With its sparkling wit, rollicking music and steady stream of hilarious characters, HONK! captivates audiences of all ages.

## KEY PRODUCTION INFORMATION

HONK! will be performed at **Glen Street Theatre, 22nd to 30th September.**

Final rehearsals will be held at Glen Street Theatre from 18th to 21st September.

The performance schedule will include one weekday of matinee performances.

## ADULT AUDITIONS

**Wednesday 10th & Sunday 14th May  
Mackellar Performance Space,  
Campbell Pde, Manly Vale  
Open auditions, anyone  
aged 17yrs and over is eligible  
to audition.**

*Auditions for children and teenagers (4yrs-16yrs) will be held on Sunday 7th May.*

*Kids/Teens must be students of Stage Artz Performing Arts School to be eligible to audition.*

*For more information on student auditions, go to [stageartz.com.au](http://stageartz.com.au).*

*Please see over for full audition information...*



**lifetime partner** 2015  
Proudly donated over \$150,000  
the children’s hospital at Westmead

# HONK!

- AN UGLY DUCKLING OF A MUSICAL -

STAGE ARTZ

STAGE  
ARTZ  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

## ADULT AUDITIONS:

Wednesday 10th & Sunday 14th May  
from 6.30pm (one hour time slots)

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

## CALL BACK AUDITIONS:

Auditionees may be asked  
to attend a Call Back Audition.

CALL BACK DATES/TIMES TO BE ADVISED.

TO BOOK AN AUDITION TIME, PLEASE EMAIL THE DIRECTOR, SAM – [sam@stageartz.com.au](mailto:sam@stageartz.com.au)  
Auditions will be held at Mackellar Performance Space, Campbell Parade, Manly Vale

### AUDITION INFO:

Adults are required to book an audition time. At the audition, performers will be required to sing a short piece from a contemporary musical (16-32 bars is adequate). Please bring sheet music or a recorded backing (an audition pianist and ipod/MP3 player are both available). Auditionees will also be asked to read from the script (scripts will be available in foyer for auditionees look at before their audition) and learn a simple dance routine.

**Anyone who would like to audition but cannot make the above times should contact Sam ([sam@stageartz.com.au](mailto:sam@stageartz.com.au)) for a possible alternative**

### IMPORTANT AUDITION INFO:

- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to audition time to fill in the audition form.
- It is important to list on the audition form any unavailable rehearsal dates/times.
- Please bring a small photo (and, if possible, a CV) to attach to the audition form.
- Auditions timeslots are one hour. Auditionees will be invited into the audition room individually for audition songs and script readings. At the end of the hour, all performers from that timeslot will be called back into the audition room for a group dance audition.

### HONK! REHEARSALS:

**SUNDAY AFTERNOONS**  
(all ages)

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**  
(adults/senior cast members and principals only)

**SATURDAY AFTERNOONS**  
all ages/roles – Saturday rehearsals begin in August)

**Rehearsals will be held at:**  
Manly Vale & Dee Why.

Final rehearsals will be held at Glen Street Theatre from 18th to 22nd September.

**Detailed rehearsal schedules will be sent out to every cast member via email.**

### HONK! FUNDRAISERS:

We have some fundraising events lined up to help with production costs. We ask all HONK! cast members and families to assist with these fundraisers.

A \$100 production fee will be charged to each cast member to help with costumes, rehearsal hall & theatre hire, technical costs, copyright fees, insurance, set & props etc. This fee will include a HONK! promotional T-Shirt. Profits raised from HONK! will be donated to **The Children's Hospital at Westmead.**

## HONK! CHARACTER OVERVIEW:

'HONK!' works best when the characters are played with real truth and conviction rather than as cartoons or caricatures.

Despite the fact that the characters are animals and birds, there will be no fur or feathers; no wings or tails, so please don't try to portray these characters in the audition by using animal sounds or speaking with cartoon voices.

Most importantly, the audience needs to believe in, identify with, and care about the characters in a human way. The animal quality can still be 'suggested' in your character however – for example, a hen might be fussy, a cat might be superior/ predatory/prowling, a goose might be pompous and a frog overblown/hearty.

Performances need to be at times comedic and other times very poignant and moving. The feeling should be of local people in a small town or village, where everyone knows each other's business and who chat and gossip in an overly familiar way.

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**PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE  
FOR A FULL CHARACTER SYNOPSIS...**

*"I think the reason Honk! has enjoyed such success and been seen in so many productions around the world is that everyone can relate to the plight of an outsider trying to fit in – we have all felt it at some point in our lives. We wanted to write a musical about acceptance – a celebration of being different, where diversity is welcomed and embraced, and where everyone plays their own part in a multicultural community, albeit on a duck pond."*

**Anthony Drewe (writer of HONK!)**

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## MALE ROLES

### UGLY: (Tenor)

The ugly duckling and the main character of Honk! Innocent, gawky, easily confused, very impressionable yet endearing. He doesn't understand why being different seems to be wrong. However, his insecurities melt away as his character gradually changes from being innocent and gullible to wise and confident. He is the heart and soul of the show, using comedy and pathos. A good singer and actor who can build a strong relationship with the audience, and make them love him.

### THE CAT: (Baritone)

The sly (slimy even) cunning villain of the show. Suave, crafty and a great comic role. All of the other animals are deathly afraid of him. He is manipulative, cunning, witty and above all, HUNGRY. The Cat pretends to be Ugly's friend so he can eat him. The actor playing this role should bring a real sense of fun to the character and have a good sense of comic timing.

### DRAKE: (Baritone)

Ida's husband and a somewhat childish and irresponsible father. He's a bit 'flash', cocky, unmindful of his husbandly duties and rather fond of the ladies. Drake is a sarcastic character. He is the stereotypical sitcom father, often shirking his husbandly/parental duties. Drake finds Ugly quite repulsive and isn't afraid to say it to anyone, including his wife. He should have good comic timing and a strong singing voice. Drake opens the show singing "A Poultry Tale".

### GREYLAG: (Bass)

A pompous, blustery goose, based on a stereotypical WWII Air Force commander. Absent-minded, full of himself, and as British as you can make him. (Think Col Hathi of the 'elephant' squadron in 'Jungle Book'!) Graylag tends to over glorify his mundane activities (i.e. migrating South) to the level of military operation status. Only his wife, Dot, truly knows how to handle him. He sings a solo in "Wild Goose Chase".

### THE BULLFROG: (Bass/Baritone)

A laidback, self-confident frog with whom Ugly comes into contact in the second half of the show. Flash, friendly, huge, loveable character with a BIG personality - a sort of music hall comedian of the frog world. Needs an actor who loves to get out there and sell himself to the audience. The frog cheers Ugly up with his song, "Warts and All." Optimistic and funny, he is a stand up comedian type of character suited to someone with good improvisational skills and comic timing.

### THE TURKEY: (Baritone)

Stereotypical, 'headmaster' of the ducklings' school. A bit of a bully, he is snobbish and joins in the fun of teasing Ugly. There is of course one word that sends shivers down his spine - CHRISTMAS!

## FEMALE ROLES

### IDA: (Alto)

Ugly's Mum. She is sweet, very maternal but feisty and independent. She knows how to handle her irresponsible husband, Drake. Ida is extremely protective of her son and committed to his safety. Ida and Ugly's relationship is a key ingredient of the show. She is the one who teaches him that it is OK to be different. Ida sings several solos. Strong actor who needs to bring both comedy and pathos to the role.

### MAUREEN: (Alto)

A moorhen and Ida's best friend. She's lively, well meaning, but a busybody. Maureen genuinely loves Ida, but she can't resist a bit of good gossip. To the little ducklings, she's the typical overly affectionate but rather annoying, "aunt." A lively comic role, Maureen sings "The Joy of Motherhood" with Ida, so she should also be a strong singer.

### QUEENIE: (Mezzo)

A very domesticated cat with a saucy streak, as becomes evident when the Cat appears looking for Ugly. Haughty, superior, disdains the great outdoors. Queenie and Lowbutt are basically two single ladies living a very cozy life in what they consider to be a most select neighbourhood - out of which they are determined to keep any riff-raff. However, Queenie is willing to dump her best friend as soon as a member of the opposite sex makes an appearance. Starting off haughty and aloof, she turns into a bit of a sex siren. Solo and duets with the Cat and Lowbutt.

### LOWBUTT: (Mezzo/Alto)

Queenie's BFF, a domesticated chicken. A little nervous of disposition and a bit of a worrier. She and Queenie are both rather superior characters and 'disdain' the great outdoors. Lowbutt is very jealous when the Cat comes calling and she sees that Queenie's attentions have clearly been redirected to him. Solo and duet with Queenie.

### DOT: (Mezzo/Soprano)

Graylag's gentle, understanding wife and second-in-command. A sort of air hostess-cum-lieutenant. She keeps Greylag in order and organises the squadron when he muffs everything and forgets what he is supposed to do. It is clear that she holds a senior rank in the squadron. A motherly type, she is genuinely concerned with helping Ugly find his mother. Dot doesn't think that Graylag, her husband, is an entirely capable leader, but she kindly humours his "over the top" actions. She sings solo as well as with Graylag in "Wild Goose Chase."

### GRACE: (Alto or Soprano)

"The most distinguished duck on the lake." Very aristocratic, she is considered the queen of the duck yard. All of the other animals look up to Grace and respect her. She, of course, is quite aware of this and is therefore a little bit haughty.

### HENRIETTA: (Mezzo)

A hen and another of Maureen's friends. Another busybody in the neighbourhood. Henrietta and Maureen gossip about the goings on in the duck yard. She takes great pleasure in making fun of Ugly.

### PENNY: (Mezzo)

The young, beautiful swan that Ugly saves from a tangled fishing net. She is able to see beyond Ugly's looks and she loves him for who he is.

## MALE/FEMALE ROLES

### THE DUCKLINGS (UGLY'S SIBLINGS)

Billy, Beaky, Downy, and Fluff: Generally portrayed as trendy, but also rather bratty kids. Gender and vocally negotiable.

### BARNACLES, SNOWY, PINKFOOT + OTHER GEESE:

Members of Graylag's Goose Squadron and little bit, er, dim. Can be any gender. Goofy, comic. They join in singing "Wild Goose Chase." Various vocal ranges.

### FATHER SWAN, MOTHER SWAN + BEWICK:

Penny's family. They help to console Ida when she thinks her son has died, and they offer to take Ugly with them when they migrate. They do not sing solos.

### JACK DAW/MAGGIE PIE

An investigative reporter. A very "in your face" bird, all she/he cares about is getting a good story. She/he is the typical TV news personality who one would find on a reality TV show. She/he reports a story about Ugly's disappearance.

### ENSEMBLE:

The remaining actors in the company play a number of different ensemble roles as barnyard animals, geese, fish, frogs, and other characters who help move the story along.