



'THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS'

AUDITION PACK SOUTH HILL PARK EASTER PRODUCTION 2026

This is a community production, performers featuring in this production take part for recreation and will not be paid or reimbursed for any expenses incurred by taking part in this production.

WIND IN THE WILLOWS - AUDITION BRIEF

DIRECTOR

KEIR BUIST

CHOREOGRAPHER

BETHAN ALEY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

TIM CUMPER

SET DESIGNER

VICTORIA SPEARING

SYNOPSIS

Based on Kenneth Grahame's best-selling classic of children's literature, and with a book by Oscar-winning screenwriter and 'Downton Abbey' creator Julian Fellowes and songs by Olivier Award-winning composers and lyricists George Stiles and Anthony Drewe (*Mary Poppins*, *Just So*, *Honk!*), **'THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS'** is a wild, thrill-seeking tale.

This riotous comedy follows Mole, Rat, Badger, and the impulsive Mr. Toad, whose insatiable need for speed lands him in serious trouble. With his beloved home under threat from the notorious Chief Weasel and his gang of sinister Wild Wooders, Toad must attempt a daring escape leading to a series of misadventures and a heroic battle to recapture Toad Hall. Full of humour, wit, a gorgeous, soaring score, and heartwarming lessons of friendship.

With a professional creative team, designed by award-winning set designer Victoria Spearing, *'The Wind In The Willows'* promises to be another smash hit South Hill Park Easter Production!

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

ACTING: PLEASE CAN ALL AUDITIONEES PREPARE ONE OF THE PIECES OF TEXT AT THE END. (Please note the accent requirements for some roles.)

SINGING: PLEASE PREPARE ONE MINUTE OF A MUSICAL THEATRE SONG IN THE STYLE OF THE SHOW (SUNG IN A BRITISH ACCENT). PLEASE BRING A DEVICE TO CONNECT TO OUR SPEAKER.

DANCING: ALL AUDITIONEES WILL BE TAUGHT A SHORT DANCE ROUTINE IN THE AUDITION. YOU WILL DANCE IN A GROUP.

Principal Roles

Toad (Male Identifying, Lead Role)

Modest, reserved and humble are the three words Toad would use to describe himself...unfortunately no one else would! Loud, opinionated and (*admittedly*) very funny, Toad nevertheless endears himself to his loyal friends through his generosity of spirit. Great role for a strong comic actor with a strong singing voice.

Rat (Any Gender, Lead Role)

A loyal, dependable and fiercely protective rodent resident of the Riverbank. Rat's friends come first, he'd run a mile in tight shoes for them! A strong actor with a strong singing voice and comic timing. Cockney accent.

Mole (Any Gender, Lead Role)

Bravery is not his middle name, although he wishes it was. Mole longs for acceptance and grows in stature with the help of his companions. At times quiet and reflective. A lovely, sweet role for a performer with a strong singing voice. West Country accent.

Badger (Any Gender, Lead)

Brave, militate to their core. Badger upholds friendship and respect in such high regard. Badger holds a high status amongst the animals and he has a strong sense of justice. A great role for a performer with a strong stage presence as well as a strong singing voice.

Mrs Otter (Female Identifying, Lead-Supporting)

Ideally a Geordie or a Northern accent. Originally Mr Otter, she is warm, caring and motherly with a tough shell. She loves her daughter and her friends and would do anything to protect them! A lovely, fun role for an actress with some fabulous comedic timing!

Chief Weasel (Any Gender, Lead-Supporting)

The head of the Wild Wooders. He carries himself with an incredibly high status and swagger. Chief is obsessed with being in charge and bossing around his gang. We are looking for a great physical actor with a strong dance ability and vocal skills as it is a high sing. Cockney Accent

Portia (Female, Lead-Supporting, *Potentially U16*)

Mrs Otters daughter. Curious, adventurous and headstrong. Portia is keen to explore and see all she can of the world as quick as she can. Requires a strong actress with a strong singing voice. We will be considering under 16's for this role as well as adults.

Lead Supporting Roles

Lesser weasel (Any Gender, Supporting role)

The second in command. Desperate to impress and prove that they have worth to the chief. Looking for strong physical skills as well as vocal and dance ability.

Sheryl Stoa (Female Identifying, Supporting role, good singer, good dancer)

The third in command. Sassy, flirty and independent. Looking for strong physical skills as well as vocal and dance ability.

Gaolers Daughter /Mrs Hedgehog (Female Identifying, Featured Supporting Role, Strong singer, strong dancer, Double as Ensemble)

Mrs Hedgehog is a great character role with plenty of scenes and some featured singing. Gaolers daughter features in Act 2 and has a big duet with Toad.

Featured Roles

Horse (Female Identifying, Strong tap required, big singing feature, Double as Ensemble)

Strong tap skills required. Has a big featured solo in 'The Open Road'.

Car driver / Mr Hedgehog (Male Identifying, Cameo Role, Double as Ensemble)

Mr Hedgehog is a lovely, comedic cameo role with plenty of scenes and some featured singing. Car driver has some solo singing and is a key role in the end of act one and then again in Act Two.

Gaolers Daughter /Mrs Hedgehog (Female Identifying , Featured Supporting Role, Strong singer, strong dancer, Double as Ensemble) Mrs Hedgehog is a great character role with plenty of scenes and some featured singing. Gaolers daughter features in act 2 and has a big duet with Toad.

Magistrate / Mr Squirrel (Male Identifying, Chorus Role, Solo singing, Double as Ensemble)

The Magistrate conducts the end of act one. He is authoritative and direct. We are looking for over the top and a little bit camp. Mr Squirrel, features in the opening and throughout.

Swallows (Female Identifying, Ensemble role. Featured song, Double as Ensemble)

Three strong singers who also have strong dance ability. Reminiscent of the Andrew Sisters. Must be strong harmony singers as their song is in close, tight, three part harmony.

Young Performer Roles (9+)

We are looking **16** young performers to join our cast. They will be split into two teams of 8. There will be lots for our junior ensemble to do in this show.

We are looking for lots of strong performances, strong singers and dancers. Junior roles include: Hedgehog children, Field Mice, Young Toad, Foxes and Stoats, Synchronised Otter Swimmers,

IN ADDITION TO THESE VARIOUS ENSEMBLE ROLES INCLUDING - Please note we are looking seven ensemble members.

Acting Pieces

With wonder and excitement

Do you ever feel it? That tingling in your whiskers when adventure is just around the bend? I didn't mean to leave my cozy burrow this morning—not really—but the sunlight called me, and the river... oh, the river sang! It sang of rippling water, drifting boats, and days filled with nothing but the scent of reeds and the hum of dragonflies. I was supposed to be cleaning. But what's a bit of dust compared to the wide, wide world? I think... I think today might be the start of something marvellous.

Dramatic and a bit indignant, but still full of charm

Poop-poop! The road was calling, the engine was purring, and there I was—*flying* along, alive like never before! I wasn't *breaking* rules, I was... testing them. But now? Locked up. Me. Toad of Toad Hall! Can you imagine? Stripped of my scarf, my goggles, my freedom! But this won't be the end. Oh no. I've been thinking—quietly, cleverly. There's still plenty of mischief left in me. And when I get out of here... the world had better be ready.

Bright, enthusiastic, full of motion

You *have* to come out on the river! It's the best thing in the world—honestly! One minute you're gliding past sleepy willows, the next you're racing ducks just for fun. There's always something new to see: a frog leaping, a fish splashing, the breeze pushing the boat just a little faster. People think adventure means danger or going far away—but they don't get it. The river *is* the adventure! And the best part? You never know what's waiting around the next bend.

KEY DATES

AUDITIONS: SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER

REHEARSALS: THURSDAY EVENINGS AND SUNDAY DAYTIMES FROM JANUARY 8th

TECHNICAL REHEARSALS: SATURDAY 4TH AND SUNDAY 5TH, 10AM-10PM

DRESS REHEARSALS: MONDAY 6TH APRIL

PERFORMANCES: TUESDAY 7TH APRIL - SUNDAY 12TH APRIL