

**Thames Music Theatre's first 2026 production will be HONK!
by George Stiles and Anthony Drew.**

Directed by Kieran Walsh and John Pearson, with choreography by Kieran and musical direction by John, this show should appeal to all performers in our age range of 10 to 18. **To apply for an audition please go to the audition page on our website:** www.thamesmt.org



An exciting, modern adaptation of the beloved fable – The Ugly Duckling – this award-winning musical is a heartwarming celebration of what makes us special.

Since it first hatched in 1993 Stiles & Drewe's musical *Honk!* has winged its way around the world in over 8000 productions and in many different languages. Winner of multiple awards, including the 2000 Olivier Award for Best Musical, this celebration of being different is sure to inspire actors, singers and dancers to showcase their talents. Witty and hilarious, but also deeply moving, and with its memorable score, *Honk!* treats audiences to equal amounts of heart-warming laughter and tears.

UGLY looks quite a bit different from his darling duckling brothers and sisters. The other animals on the farm are quick to notice and point this out, despite his mother IDA's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself, the little fowl finds himself on adventure of self-discovery all the while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry CAT. Along the way UGLY meets a whole flock of unique characters and finds out being different is not a bad thing to be.

There are also great opportunities for singer/dancers who are perhaps less confident with their acting. We are looking for strong performers from all three disciplines to help create an immersive world bursting with innovative storytelling. In particular, we are looking for strong male and female dancers who will be the backbone to this powerful piece of storytelling. Backgrounds in jazz, modern, musical theatre, ballet and contemporary dance are all very welcome, but opportunities for novice dancers will be there too. This exciting production will include on stage live feed filming projected as the action unfolds. Early concept designs include puppets, roller-skates, tap-dancing in flippers, and stunning costumes to bring these unique characters to life.

You might like to listen to some of the songs from the show.

[Honk! The Joy of Motherhood](#) sung by UGLY's mum IDA and her best friend MAUREEN

[Honk! You Can Play With Your Food](#) a duet between UGLY and the CAT

[Honk! The Wild Goose Chase](#) sung by GREYLAG and his wife, DOT, and a chorus of geese

[Honk! Warts and All](#) a duet between BULLFROG and UGLY, with a chorus of froglets

[Honk! Look at Him \(Reprise\) - YouTube](#) the show's Finale



Successful applicants will be asked to pay a £100 participation fee in order to accept a place in the company. This is to help defray production costs including, amongst other aspects, theatre hire, performance royalties, set and costumes. The directors give their services for nothing.

We do not want this fee to put off anyone we would want to cast, however. If it helps, we are able to spread this cost over a number of months and we also have a bursary fund for families in significant financial hardship. Please apply in confidence via email.

The **main characters** are these. Those in **bold** have significant solo or small-group singing.

UGLY (male): the story's youthful protagonist. Gawky and odd-looking, he is shunned for his odd appearance. Possesses a heart of gold. Eventually he becomes a handsome swan.

IDA (female): Ugly's loving mother and the only person who is supportive of the outcast child.

DRAKE (male): Ugly's father who scorns his son. A bit of a comedian, or he likes to think so!

CAT (male): Our story's antagonist. Sly and cunning, he is a very hungry cat who preys on his next meal.

TURKEY (male): The School Headmaster who is a self-basting, self-boasted prime specimen. Deathly afraid of Christmas!

MAUREEN (female): A moorhen. A best friend of Ida's. A great gossip.

HENRIETTA (female): A hen. A friend of Maureen and Ida's, she is somewhat of a busybody.

4 DUCKLINGS (who hatch before UGLY: **BEAKY** (female), **BILLY** (male), **DOWNY** (female) & **FLUFF** (male) [*but could be any gender*] Scornful and hurtful towards Ugly.

GRACE (female): The most distinguished duck on the lake and the school governor. Posh, proud, honest, and genuine.

PENNY (female): A beautiful Swan who is kind, compassionate, and caring. Ugly's unlikely love interest.

MOTHER SWAN (female): Tender, compassionate, loving, and caring. Mother to Penny.

FATHER SWAN (male): Penny's loving, protective, and caring father.

GREYLAG (male): A goose. A very plummy-voiced RAF Wing Commander type. In charge of a flight of geese, including:

BARNACLES, PINKFOOT & SNOWY, amongst other geese.

DOT (female): Greylag's composed, respectful wife.

BULLFROG (male): A laidback, self-confident frog who is encouraging, light-hearted, and optimistic. Needs a strong comedian to play this role. Might have an American accent to mark him out as different.

JACK DAW (male); TV presenter of the crime show "Birdwatch UK"

FLOOR MANAGER (either gender): with Jack Daw (no lines)

TV CAMERA OPERATOR (either gender): with Jack Daw (no lines)

FARMER'S VOICE (Male – broken): unseen character.

CHORUSES:

- Farmyard birds and animals
- Fish
- Additional geese
- Froglets

First round auditions will be held on the following dates at our rehearsal venue in Tolworth, one date should be picked. The Parish Hall (at the rear of) Our Lady Immaculate Church, 401/403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, KT6 7DG. Apply via our website: www.thamesmt.org

- Saturday 30th August
- Sunday 31st August
- Sunday 7th September
- Sunday 14th September

Recall auditions for those invited back will take place on the following dates – only one of these would be used per person.

- Saturday 11th October
- Sunday 12th October
- Saturday 18th October
- Sunday 19th October

Rehearsals will commence on Sunday afternoons in Tolworth.

Sunday 1 st Feb	1330 – 1730 Compulsory
Sunday 8 th Feb	1330 – 1730
Sunday 15 th Feb	1330 – 1730 Compulsory
Monday 16 th Feb	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Tuesday 17 th Feb	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Wednesday 18 th Feb	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Thursday 19 th Feb	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Friday 20 th Feb	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Sunday 1 st Mar	1330 – 1730
Sunday 8 th Mar	1330 – 1730
Sunday 22 nd Mar	1330 – 1730
Sunday 29 th Mar	1330 – 1730
Tuesday 7 th April	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Wednesday 8 th April	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Thursday 9 th April	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Friday 10 th April	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Saturday 11 th April	1000 – 1230; 1330 – 1700 Compulsory
Sunday 19 th April	1330 – 1730
Sunday 26 th April	1330 – 1730 Compulsory

These dates are during the February half term. Please do not audition if you know you wouldn't be able to do them.

These dates are during the second week of the Easter holidays. Please do not audition if you know you wouldn't be able to do them.

Then, in the Hampton Hill Theatre

Sunday 3 rd May	1700 - 2030 Compulsory Tech in theatre
Monday 4 th May (BH)	1400 – 2145 Compulsory. Dress Rehearsal & Performance 1
Tuesday 5 th May	1700 - 2145 Compulsory. Performance 2
Wednesday 6 th May	DAY OFF
Thursday 7 th May	1700 - 2145 Compulsory. Performance 3
Friday 8 th May	1700 - 2145 Compulsory. Performance 4
Saturday 9 th May	1330 – 1700 & 1800 – 2200 Compulsory. Performances 5 & 6

We may also be asked to perform in the FUSE 2026 festival in early July.