



Hitchin Thespians Present



HONK!

A musical comedy

**30th March - 1st April
2023**

**Evenings 7.30pm.
Saturday matinee 2.30pm**



**The Queen Mother
Theatre, Hitchin**

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Hitchin Thespians is a Registered
charity No: 1005332

Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the Queen Mother Theatre and our production of "Honk!" Staging the show has been an unmissable opportunity to showcase the talents of both Hitchin Thespians and Young Thespians working together and I think you will agree that the result is magical, moving and full of warmth and wit.

The show was hatched in 1993 at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury and was championed by Julia McKenzie who persuaded Alan Ayckbourn to see it fledged in Scarborough in 1997 before it became the first original British musical to be produced at the National Theatre under Sir Trevor Nunn in 1999.

George Stiles and Anthony Drewe (who respectively wrote the music and words for "Honk!") also subsequently collaborated with Julian Fellowes in the creation of "Kipps – the New Half a Sixpence Musical" which premiered at the Chichester Festival in 2016 and which, coincidentally, will be our next musical production in June 2024. Don't miss it!

I hope you enjoy our poultry tale and your time down on the farm.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Ian' followed by a large, sweeping flourish that extends downwards and to the right, ending in a sharp point.

Ian Hamilton, Chair of Hitchin Thespians

Director's Notes

Putting on a combined Hitchin Thespians and Young Thespians production is not without challenges but here we are with Honk!

It was originally written for a cast of 4 men, 4 women and 4 children playing 30 different roles between them, but as suggested by the creators we are performing it with a much larger company making sure everybody has plenty to do. This heart-warming story following Ugly on his journey shows that we all want to be loved and accepted by our community whatever our species!

I would like to dedicate this show to Alan Bailes, my husband, ex-Chairman and Technical Manager for Hitchin Thespians.

Not only is this our first major production since lockdown but our first without his support and encouragement. I like to think that he is behind a spotlight somewhere shining a guiding light on this production and hope we have done him proud.

A large, elegant, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'h'.

Sarah Bailes, Director

About Honk

Ida and Drake, the farmyard ducks, have just had a family: four cute little fluffy ducklings...and Ugly. Ugly is large, and grey, and not at all like anyone else in the farmyard. The other birds in the farmyard are horrified at Ugly, and make fun of him.

Ugly is lured away by the wily Cat who wants to eat Ugly for dinner, he escapes but gets lost trying to make his way back to the farmyard to find his mum.

Escaping from the wily Cat, surviving a blizzard which catches him unawares, and facing all manner of adventures, Ugly finds help in the most unlikely places and learns that, while it might take all sorts to make the world, someone, somewhere will love you - warts and all.

Honk! was written by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, a multi award-winning partnership whose shows include:

- The international smash-hit Cameron Mackintosh/Disney production of *Mary Poppins* and
- The recent West End production of *Kipps - the new Half a Sixpence Musical*

HONK!

Music by George Stiles

Book & lyrics by Anthony Drewe

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Cast



Ugly -
Haydn Mullane



Ida -
Kat Foxworthy



Cat -
Colin Wilson



Queenie -
Melanie Plowman-Cobb



Lowbutt -
Sarah Cunningham



Drake -
Wesley Strahan Hughes



Maureen -
Claire Bailes



Bullfrog -
Mike Roberts



Penny -
Francesca Platten



Greylag -
Michael Bailes



Dot -
Carolyn Roberts



Henrietta -
Charlotte Platten

Cast



Turkey -
Joe Emler



Grace -
Janine Reynolds



Maggie Pie -
Caroline Christofi



Jack Daw -
Gianni Marcantonio



Mother Swan -
Judith Coen



Bewick -
Layton Roblett



Barnacles -
Elodie Le Coze



Pinkfoot -
Ela Gozen



Snowy -
Rita Witham-Holroyd

The Ducklings



Downy -
Chloe Strong



Fluff -
Chloe Richardson



Billy -
Erin Dormer



Beaky
Lauren Joslin

Adult Ensemble

Claire Bailes, Michael Bailes, Holly Bohme, Caroline Christofi,
Judith Coen, Sarah Cunningham, Joe Emler, Joanne Healy, Alison
Hudson, Gianni Marcantonio, Caroline Oliver, Charlotte Platten,
Francesca Platten, Melanie Plowman-Cobb, Sue Rayner,
Janine Reynolds, Carolyn Roberts, Mike Roberts

Young Thespians Ensemble

Amelia Biggs, Philippa Coulthard, Erin Dormer, Cally Fletcher,
Rosie Freeston, Poppy Game, Katelyn Gollop, Summer Gore,
Ela Gozen, Tabitha Haslam, Abigail Hughes, Lauren Joslin,
Elodie Le Coze, Eve Marston, Izzy Marston, Matilda Mead,
Josie Pattison, Lauren Prothero, Chloe Richardson, Layton Roblett,
Chloe Strong, Helena Wilson, Rita Witham-Holroyd



The Production Team

Director

Sarah Bailes

Musical Director

Laura McHugh

Young Thespians Manager

Claire Bailes

The Band

Keys: Martin Goodchild

Guitar: Kester Tunstall

Reeds: Sufia Many

Percussion: Daniel Basford

Bass: Lewis White

Choreographer

Sarah Bailes

Production Manager

Sarah Cunningham

Set Design

Rosemary Bianchi

Stage Manager

Philippa Tadman

Stage Crew

Cliff Gulbis, Isaac Evans, Neil Leggat

Set Building

Mike Roberts

Make Up

Donna Barrett

Sound and Lighting

James Ibbotson

Front of House

The Queen Mother Theatre

Wardrobe

**Alex Evans, Cathy Coulthard,
Sarah Bailes, Members of the cast**

Props

Vivienne Tadman, Mike Roberts

Prompt

Marianne Bond

Publicity and Programme Design

Cathy Coulthard

Chaperones

**Jo Hughes, Debbie Biggs, Kylie Richardson, Elaine Haslam,
Hannah Woodhouse, Marie Marcantonio, Barbara Thomas,
Marie Game, Annette Davis, Alice Pattison, Julia Skinner, Cathy Coulthard**

Act 1

Scene 1: Springtime. Various locations around the duckyard

A Poultry Tale - Drake, Ida, Turkey, Henrietta, Maureen, Cat, Grace & Ensemble

The Joy of Motherhood - Ida, Maureen

Different - Ida

Hold Your Head Up High - Ida, Ugly & Ensemble

Look at Him - Ida, Drake, Ugly, Henrietta, Turkey, Cat, Grace, Ducklings, Maureen

Different - Ugly

Scene 2: The Cat's lair, inside one of the farm buildings

Play With Your Food - Cat, Ugly

Lost - Ugly

Scene 3: The duckyard, later that evening

The Elegy - Ensemble

Every Tear a Mother Cries - Ida

Scene 4: A late Summer morning in the marsh

The Wild Goose Chase - Greylag, Dot, Snowy, Barnacles, Pinkfoot, Ugly, Cat

Act One Flnale - Hold Your Head Up High (Reprise) - Ida, Ugly

INTERVAL

Act 2

Scene 1: Late Summer. The Old Woman's Cottage

It Takes All Sorts - Queenie, Lowbutt

Together - Cat, Queenie, Lowbutt

Scene 2: Late Autumn. The duckyard

The Collage - Drake, Ida, Ensemble

Scene 3: Various locations

Scene 4: Late Autumn. A ditch on the moors

Now I've Seen You - Ugly

Warts and All - Bullfrog, Ugly, Froglets, Ensemble

The Blizzard - Ensemble

Scene 5: Late Winter. The open countryside

Transformation - Ugly, Ida, Penny

Melting Moggy - Cat

Scene 6: Early Spring on the duckyard

Act Two Finale - Look at Him (Reprise) - Ensemble

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Tuesdays 7pm
Hitchin Youth Trust

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Did you know?

NODA was founded in 1899.

Membership of over 2000 amateur groups and 1000 individual members.

Members stage musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes.

Member venues range from professional theatres to village halls.

Supports the needs of youth and adult theatre, on and off stage.

NODA publishes three magazines a year **NODA Today** Read it for free on our website?

Visit our website to join today

noda.org.uk

Hitchin Thespians

Hitchin Thespians offers a unique opportunity to perform in a range of productions

Our membership is friendly, our performance standards are high and our repertoire is varied.

Whatever your musical tastes, we have a production to match.

Young Thespians (ages 8 – 16) meet on Sunday mornings. They perform in Hitchin Thespian shows and concerts, and have their own exciting range of performances too.

As well as performing, there are plenty of backstage roles available. Whether you are a whizz on the lighting board, want to help out in wardrobe or enjoy painting scenery, we want to hear from you!



Dancing, singing, acting. Directing, conducting, managing. Backstage, off stage, on stage.... Whatever stage of the performance, we want you to be part of the action.

For a friendly welcome and a great chance to meet new friends, get in touch secretary@hitchinthespians.org.uk



Hitchin Thespians Present

KIPPS

The new:

Half a Sixpence

Musical



Coming June 2024

More details available soon!

Summer Workshop

Ages 8-16

Disney

FROZEN JR.

21 - 25 August 2023, 10am – 3pm Cost: £60

Performance: 25 August, 7pm

Woodside Hall, Hitchin

SHREK The MUSICAL JR.

DREAMWORKS
THEATRICALS

Ages 8-18

Rehearsals: Sundays 10am – 1pm,
starting September 2023

Performances: 22 - 24 February 2024,
Woodside Hall, Hitchin

For more information, contact Claire at
youngthespians@hitchinthespians.org.uk

YT Young
Thespians



Hitchin Thespians Present

Vivaldi's Gloria

**with music by
Handel & Mozart**

Saturday 24th June

7:30pm

Tilehouse Street Baptist Church, Hitchin, SG5 2EE

Tickets: £12

Book now:

www.hitchinthespians.org.uk or
01462 641575



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