



Information Pack

Saturday 26 July 2025 – Sunday 3 August 2025

**For more information visit www.odysseytheatre.co.uk
or contact admin@odysseytheatre.co.uk**



Odyssey Theatrical Productions was formed in 2010 by a small group of like-minded individuals whose sole purpose was to stage high quality musical theatre productions. Over the past fourteen years, we have produced over thirty shows for children, young people and adults.

The course this year will run from Saturday 26 July 2025 to Sunday 3 August 2025, with performances on Friday 1 August and Saturday 2 August at 7.30pm, and on Saturday 2 August at 2.30pm.

The course is open to participants in school years 7 to 13 (or equivalent). In addition, previous Odyssey participants who wish to take part in the year following this are welcome to do so.

Our group is made up of volunteers, and we rely upon the support of parents and friends of Odyssey. We therefore ask for your help with set, costumes and ticket sales, in order to make the shows happen. If you can help support us in any of these areas, please let us know.

To apply for the course, please complete the online application form on www.odysseytheatre.co.uk

and make payment of £170 via bank transfer to:

Account number: 53412385, Sort-code: 20-03-84
Account name: Odyssey Theatrical Productions Limited

All applications must be made before auditioning, along with a minimum payment of £85. The balance must be paid by 1 July 2025.

Important Information

If you cannot attend the auditions on Sunday 18th May, please contact us in advance and we will advise you on whether we can make alternative arrangements. The cast list for the show will be emailed to all registered participants after the auditions. All participants are required to be fully registered and paid up before the auditions. Any applications after this time will not be guaranteed, but will be considered by the production team.

Workshop weekend

We will be holding a read-through workshop on 6 July 2025, and a workshop weekend on 19, 20 July 2025, all from 2pm – 6pm, at St Mary's Primary School, Banbury. These workshops are an important part of the course and all should expect to be there for the both days. If you cannot attend one of them, we need to know in advance so that we can plan the workshops appropriately.

Summer Course

This year the Summer Course and performances will take place in the theatre at **Sibford School**. The course will start at 10am each day and the venue will be open from 9.45am so please arrive then ready for a prompt start. Participants should use entrance A to go to the main school building, where sign-in will be done.

On Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we will finish at 6pm. Everyone will be needed on Thursday until 10pm. Friday will start at 10am, and run through to the evening performance. We will confirm the precise time for the cast to arrive on Saturday 2nd August during the week (expected to be around 12.30pm). On the Sunday, we will be clearing the hall from 10am and this will be followed by a BBQ (collection by 2pm).

Tickets

Tickets for the performances will be on sale nearer the time, and we will need your help advertising and selling the tickets. We will provide more details on how to secure your tickets for the show as soon as we can.

For up-to-date information, always keep an eye on our Facebook page or our website.

Synopsis

Based on the 1964 book by Roald Dahl, the show has had several iterations. Our version is the latest Music Theatre International version, which includes many of the well-known songs from the popular film "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory".

The show starts with Willy Wonka, the world-renowned chocolatier ("The Candy Man"). Realising that he needs to reconnect with the world, Wonka transforms himself into the world-weary owner of a candy shop, where he makes the acquaintance of young Charlie Bucket, who idolises the legendary Willy Wonka. When the shop owner tells Charlie that Wonka is about to make a comeback, the boy is thrilled but exasperated that the shop owner does not seem to know just who Willy Wonka is ("Willy Wonka! Willy Wonka!").

Charlie comes from a poor, fatherless family that scrounges for food, and he lives for his birthday each year when he receives as a gift a single Willy Wonka Chocolate Bar. The shop owner tells him that Willy Wonka is going to open the mysteries of his chocolate factory - but only to the five lucky possessors of a golden ticket to be found in a Wonka Bar. Charlie buys vegetables to feed his family from the local "vintage" food seller, Mrs Green, then rushes home to tell his mother and bed-bound grandparents about the competition. However, Charlie learns that times are so hard for his family that he will not get his birthday Wonka Bar this year - so no chance at the golden ticket. Charlie's Grandpa Joe consoles him though, encouraging him to dream big ("Charlie, You & I"), whilst his mother encourages Charlie to write a letter to Willy Wonka ("A Letter from Charlie Bucket"), in which he expresses his wonder and admiration (as well as some ideas) for the candy maker.

Newsreaders Cherry and Jerry announce to the world the news that the first winner of a golden ticket is a food-loving German boy, adored by his mother and named Augustus Gloop ("More of Him to Love"). The second is Veruca Salt, the spoiled-rotten daughter of a Russian oligarch ("When Veruca Says"). The winner of the third ticket is Violet Beauregarde, whose publicity hound of a father is turning her pursuit of a world record for chewing gum into a media event ("The Queen of Pop"). The fourth ticket goes to Mike Teavee, a computer-savvy brat who is mesmerised by social media, and a constant challenge to his long-suffering mother ("That Little Man of Mine").

As we learn about these ticket winners, we see Charlie gradually lose hope of getting his golden ticket. He appears to be out of luck, leaving his mother wistful for what she is unable to provide ("If Your Father Were Here"), when fate intervenes. He finds some money on the ground and buys a Wonka bar from Mrs Green's cart, discovering a golden ticket, making him the fifth winner.

Charlie and his whole family celebrate the news that he is headed to Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, where Grandpa Joe will join him, getting out of bed for the first time in decades ("I've Got a Golden Ticket" / "Grandpa Joe").

At long last, Willy Wonka welcomes the five winners and their adult companions into his factory, teasing them about what lies ahead for them ("It Must Be Believed to Be Seen").

Inside the factory, Wonka introduces the winners to the wonders they are about to encounter - some things they need to remember and a contract to be signed ("Strike That, Reverse It").

Charlie and Grandpa Joe are in awe of Wonka and what the magical experience has to offer as he leads the ticket winners and their parents deep into his fantastic factory ("Pure Imagination"/ "Grandpa Joe (Reprise)").

Augustus Gloop's insatiable hunger for the chocolate waterfall makes him the first victim, and the mystery of how Wonka makes his chocolates is revealed ("The Oompa Loompa Song" / "Auf Wiedersehen Augustus Gloop"). The Oompa Loompas lead away Augustus and his mother, and Wonka continues the tour.

Arriving at the mixing room, Violet ignores Wonka's warnings and helps herself to an experimental new bubble gum, that contains a whole meal. Unfortunately on reaching dessert, Violet realises why it's still experimental, transforming into a giant Blueberry ("You Got Watcha Want").

Moving on, Veruca chases a squirrel to a nutcracking room, where Wonka's trained animals sort out the good nuts from the bad nuts. Unfortunately, the squirrels realised that Veruca is a bad nut, and take her away ("Veruca's Nutcracker Sweet").

Finally, the now very small group make it to a room with Wonka's latest invention: Wonkavision. Mike Teavee is suspicious at first, but when he sees Charlie eat a chocolate bar shrunk by the invention and transported into the screen, he puts himself through the process, only to find himself stuck in the TV ("Vidiots").

Ultimately, this leaves only Charlie, in whom Willy Wonka sees an heir to his magical mission. He welcomes Charlie into a magical glass elevator that takes them up, up, up, so the boy can see everything that will be his ("The View from Here") - a happy home and limitless future, thanks to the Candy Man.

The characters

We cast gender blind – choosing the right participant to play each character. In line with the requirements of the rights-holders, the gender of the character needs to be as shown, except those that are unspecified (for example Charlie).

Willy Wonka (Male)

The sly, charming star of the show. Lithe, eccentric. His larger-than-life persona can go from charming and comical, to magically mysterious and dark on a dime.

Charlie Bucket (Unspecified)

Sweet, smart, hopeful and loving. A child with wonderful innocence and vulnerability.

Grandpa Joe (Male)

Impish. He is Charlie's imaginative, fun, kind and loving grandfather. After many years being confined to a bed, his childish energy returns when Charlie finds the Golden Ticket. Needs physical presence and humour.

Mrs Bucket (Female)

Charlie's warm and kind-hearted mother. She's generous, loving, practical and strongly grounded in the reality of her life. She should be a strong singer.

Grandma Josephine (Female), Grandma Georgina (Female) and Grandpa George (Male)

Charlie's other grandparents, each with their own personality. They do not leave bed, but have some very funny scenes to play and should be strong character actors.

Mrs Gloop (Female)

Augustus's German, moronic mother. Off-the-chart happy – smiling all the time.

Augustus Gloop (Male)

Augustus is a greedy child who is obsessed with food and loves to eat.

Mr Salt (Male)

Veruca's affluent, haughty father. Finds it impossible to say no, giving in to every ridiculous demand his daughter makes.

Veruca Salt (Female)

Vicious and determined, Veruca is completely self-involved because her parents always acquiesce to her wishes. She does not sing much, but should be a confident ballet performer.

Mr Beauregarde (Male)

Violet's promoter father. He is obsessed with his daughter's success and is eager to capitalize on her newfound fame..

Violet Beauregarde (Female)

Confident, forward, and full of attitude. She is self-centred, competitive, and completely obsessed with chewing gum. She should be a strong pop-vocalist with attitude.

Mike Teavee (Male)

A technology-obsessed boy who secures who is obsessed with television, video games, and gadgets.

Mrs Teavee (Female)

Living a delusional life worshiping her son, she uses prescription medication, and her home-made rinks to get through the day and deal with her outrageous son. Tense, extreme, and hilarious.

Mrs Green (Female)

The poor, second-hand vegetable salesman whose priority is making a living. A character part for a comedic performer.

Jerry Jubilee (Unspecified) and Cherry Sundae (Female)

The studio reporter who announces the winners of the Golden Tickets. They are full of wacky energy while doing so.

The Oompa Loompas (all genders)

Wonka's factory workers. A bizarre group of individuals who work with Wonka to produce the chocolate, and deal with the antics of the visitors. There are multiple large-ensemble numbers, and some solo lines.

The Squirrels (Unspecified)

Wonka's nut sorters who ultimately judge Veruca. They will need to be confident ballet performers.

Audition Information

- 1) Make sure you understand the information in this pack.**
- 2) Ask questions before the audition day to make sure you know everything you need to know. Don't be afraid to ask – it demonstrates a desire to do well.**
- 3) Practise the audition pieces & study the part.**
- 4) Understand the plot – it is essential to be able to portray the character and make the most of your audition.**
- 5) Understand the character's role in the production.**
- 6) Identify the character's relationships with others and develop reactions.**
- 7) Identify any physical characteristics that the character has, and portray them.**
- 8) Learn the words of the audition piece(s) – it allows you to act more freely and will always earn you bonus marks.**
- 9) Accent– demonstrate your ability to speak in character. This show is based in a general American town, there could be a range of American accents – but also German for the Gloops and Russian for the Salts.**
- 10) Emotion – prepare any deep emotions of the character (joy, rage, sadness, warmth etc) and demonstrate them.**
- 11) No props will be required for the audition, so please do not bring unnecessary items with you.**
- 12) Deliver lines and act with confidence to demonstrate your understanding of the part – be it speaking or singing.**
- 13) Stay in character throughout the entire audition (even when not speaking).**
- 14) Learn the audition song(s) in the key as written (if you are uncertain which key a track may be in, ask). Be well rehearsed before the audition.**
- 15) Good preparation reduces the nervous stress at audition.**

You do not have a long time to prove your suitability to the audition panel, so our advice is to Prepare, Prepare, Prepare! If you know your audition pieces, you will be most able to perform them and we will be able to see the characters that we are looking for.

Auditions

You may be asked to Act, Sing or Dance as part of the auditions, as set out below:

Character	Song	Scene	Dance
Charlie	1. Willy Wonka! Willy Wonka! From bar 138	1, 3, 4	Movement
Willy Wonka	2. Must be believed to be seen From bar 78	3, 5	Dance
Grandpa Joe	3. I've got a Golden Ticket bb 44- 78	1, 3	Movement
Grandma Josephine, Grandpa George, Grandma Georgina	3. I've got a Golden Ticket bb 62-78	1	N/A
Mrs Bucket	4. If your Father were Here bb 13-30	1	N/A
Augustus Gloop	5. More of Him to Love bb 44 – end	2	Movement
Mrs Gloop	5. More of Him to Love bb 44 – end	2	Movement
Veruca Salt	6. When Veruca Says bb 36 to end (just the interjections and final phrase)	2	Dance
Mr Salt	6. When Veruca Says bb 36 to end	2	Movement
Violet Beauregarde	7. Queen of Pop bb 13 to 35	2	Dance
Mr Beauregarde	7. Queen of Pop bb 13 to 35	2	Movement
Mrs Teavee	8.1 The Little Man of Mine bb 77 to end	2	Movement
Mike Teavee	8.2 The Little Man of Mine bb 52 to 69	2	Movement
Cherry and Jerry	N/A	2	N/A
Mrs Green	N/A	4	N/A
Solo Oompa Loompas	Any song of your choice	N/A	N/A