**Midlander Center For The Arts’ Youth Theatre Presents:**

**Director:** Claudia Marsh  
**Choreographer:** Gloria Heye  
**Music Directors:** Erin Whitfield & Jenny Lowe

**Seeking:**  
Students in 3rd through 12th grade

**Auditions:**  
Monday December 12 from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM in Rehearsal Room A  
Tuesday December 13 from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM in Rehearsal Room A

**Callbacks:**  
Thursday Dec. 15 from 5:30–8:30 PM in Rehearsal Room A. By invitation only.

*Please enter through the Rehearsal Entrance door on the side of the Auditorium (use sidewalk around the Center’s south side towards Dow Gardens), and follow signs downstairs to the Rehearsal Room A.*
Thank you for your interest in Youth Theatre's production of *HONK*!

An updated and stylish retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen story The Ugly Duckling, *Honk!* entertains both children and adults with its important message of tolerance. Since it first hatched in 1993, Stiles & Drewe’s musical, *Honk!*, has winged its way around the world in over 8,000 productions and in many different languages. Winner of multiple awards, including the 2000 Olivier Award for Best Musical, this heartwarming celebration of being different is sure to delight audiences of all ages with its sparkling wit and memorable score.

The musical is set in the countryside and features Ugly, a cygnet who is mistaken as an ugly duckling upon falling into his mother’s nest. It soon becomes clear that he is no ordinary duck. Mocked on the farmyard and pursued by the ever-hungry Cat, Ugly finds himself lost on a nearby marsh in the middle of a duck-shoot and embarks on an odyssey through the countryside, meeting a battery of colorful characters and finding himself, and love, along the way. This delightful and award-winning adaptation of one of the world’s most beloved fables is a heartwarming celebration of what makes us special.

**ABOUT YOUTH THEATRE:** Youth Theatre provides a learning experience for those who enjoy performing onstage as well as for those who enjoy working backstage with makeup, props, scenery, and costumes. The *HONK!* rehearsal process is structured to also include education opportunities for youth to develop and build skills in acting, singing, dancing, and technical theatre through special workshops, activities, and exercises.

**HONK! TUITION:** Tuition for those cast in Youth Theatre productions is $75. Included in that fee are 4 complimentary tickets for the production. For those needing financial assistance, please complete a scholarship form for Art From the Heart, which can help defer your costs. This application can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions to School And Public Program Coordinator, Lauren Solinski: solinski@midlandcenter.org
BEGINNING STAGES

BEGINNING STAGES (BeSt) is an exciting educational opportunity for young people to develop theatre skills through experiential learning. This program meets once per week during the rehearsal process of Honk! BeSt participants choose to focus on either the Performance Track or Technical Theatre Track. Anyone can participate in Beginning Stages without auditioning. Participants choose one of the two tracks:

**Performance Track:** The Beginning Stages Performance Track is an opportunity for students to develop and hone their performance skills, working with experienced and engaged mentors to create a final showcase! This creative performance workshop meets weekly to explore various aspects of theatre performance such as improvisation, diction, vocal work, choreography, character work, and more. Students will apply these skills as they work together to create and share an evening of “Fairy Tales Reimagined!” on February 19th.

**Instructors:** Melissa Bornemann & Sarah Smith
**BeSt Performance Track Schedule:**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SkHFtm0TTjXlk9yA5PVhlth4zxpp1ZuB/view?usp=share_link

**Technical Theatre Track:** The Beginning Stages Technical Track is a hands-on experience for young minds looking to step into some of the important technical roles off stage that make a show come to life. Each week, a guest instructor introduces a different focus area, such as: lighting, sound, costumes, hair/makeup, props, scenic design, stage management, and directing. Utilizing a themed mystery as the throughline from week to week, the two primary instructors guide students through each discipline of technical theatre. By the end of the BeSt Technical Track, students will use their new skills as they step into crew roles for the production of Honk.

**Instructors:** Nick Pellegrino & Kennedy Danner
**BeSt Technical Track Schedule:**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IR3IEFAiF5WkLUpnpuKrSb3tvRXRJKO/view?usp=sharing

**TUITION:** The tuition for BeSt participants is $40. For those needing financial assistance, please complete a scholarship form for Art From the Heart, which can help defer your costs. This application can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions to School And Public Program Coordinator, Lauren Solinski: solinski@midlandcenter.org
Before the Audition:

Complete the Audition Form HERE before attending auditions, have a parent or guardian sign it, and submit it online.

*Please look over the Honk! Tentative Rehearsal & Performance Schedule and list ALL conflicts you have with the scheduled rehearsal time (Listing conflicts will not necessarily prohibit a child from being cast, but will help the Creative Team prepare for rehearsals).

At the Audition:

Each audition day will be broken up into 3 sections: Singing, Dancing, & Acting

**SINGING:** During the first hour, you will learn/review a musical selection from the show. We will learn the musical selection all together, then sing in smaller groups. Next, each young person will be asked to sing the musical selection by themselves.

*Choose ONE of the two Audition Songs* to prepare for the audition.

**DANCING:** In the second hour of auditions, everyone auditioning will learn a short, fun dance combination all together. Then, we will practice the dance in smaller groups so there is enough room to spread out and dance full out. Auditionees will then perform the short dance in small groups. Please wear clothing you can move in and closed-toe shoes. This dance component is all about showing your personality, expressing yourself, and having fun!

**ACTING:** During the third hour of auditions, auditionees will read an audition side (short audition scene from the script). You do not need to memorize the cuttings prior to auditions, but you will want to be very familiar with the words. At the audition, the directors will assign each student to read a certain character in the audition side. If time, students will have an opportunity to read another for another character as well.

*Please note:* You may not read for a character that you’d like to be considered for, but that doesn’t mean the Directors aren’t considering you for that character! When reading an audition side, aim to make big, bold choices with your full body and voice.

*Click for the Audition Scenes with which to be familiar (look over and familiarize yourself with both scenes).*

**Callbacks:**

Some auditionees may be asked to attend callbacks on Thursday December 15 from 5:30-8:30pm. Being called back or not being called back does not correlate with being cast; callbacks are simply an opportunity for the Directors to see something more from you that they haven’t yet seen.

**BREAK A LEG!**
**Rehearsals:**

**Rehearsal / Performance schedule:** Weekly rehearsals will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-8:30pm and Saturdays from 12:00-5:00pm. All actors should be available for all rehearsals, but may not end up being called to every rehearsal. A detailed weekly rehearsal schedule will go out prior to each week. As always, the rehearsal schedule is subject to change.

*Honk! Tentative Rehearsal Schedule*

Tentative BeSt Schedules:
- [2023 BeSt Performance Track](#)
- [2023 BeSt Technical Track](#)

**Family and Parent Participation:**

Parental/family participation and support is an integral piece of the preparation and execution of the show. Participation details will be explained at the parent meeting held at the first rehearsal. Typical commitment is approximately six hours per family. Parents are asked to help in one or more of a variety of areas, such as helping with painting, set building, making props, makeup, helping with lighting and sound, organizing show T-shirts and cast parties, and more. We do ask each family to help with chaperoning rehearsals and striking the set after the final performance.

**Vaccination Policy**
All Youth Theatre participants are required to be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination upon the start of each production process.

**Mask Policy**
Masks are encouraged while inside Midland Center For The Arts facilities.

**Costume/Make-up Policies**
Center Stage Theatre asks that the actor provide shoes, dance tights, undergarments, and standard make-up (base, eyeliner, blush, powder, lipstick, etc.).
Characters:

**Ugly** - Our story's youthful protagonist. Gawky and odd-looking, Ugly is shunned for their odd appearance. Innocent, easily confused and very impressionable, Ugly doesn't understand why it is wrong to be different. However, their insecurities melt away as the character gradually changes from a gullible duckling to a wise swan, filled with self-esteem. Possessing a heart of gold, Ugly is the heart and soul of the show.

**Cat** - Our story's antagonist. Sly and cunning, Cat is a very hungry cat who preys on their next meal. They are manipulative, witty and above all, HUNGRY. Must have a good sense of comic timing.

**Ida** - Ugly's loving mother and the only person who is supportive of the outcast child. Extremely protective of her son, she is a sweet, feisty and determined duck.

**Drake** - Ugly's father and Ida's husband. Drake is a sarcastic, often immature character who is the stereotypical sitcom father - often shirking his parental duties. Should have good comic timing.

**Maureen** - A moorhen and Ida's best friend. (Originally found on the moors, a moorhen is a hen that lives near the water.) Maureen genuinely loves Ida, but she can't resist a bit of good gossip. To the little ducklings, she is the typical annoying and overly affectionate "aunt."

**Grace** - The most distinguished duck on the lake and the school governor (overseer of the school). Proud, honest, genuine, and very aristocratic. All of the other animals look up to and respect Grace, and she is therefore a little bit haughty.

**Turkey** - The School Headmaster who is self-basting, self-boasted prime specimen. A bit snobbish, but deathly afraid of Thanksgiving.

**Henrietta** - The school's secretary and a friend of Maureen and Ida's, she is somewhat of a busybody.

**Ducklings** - Billy, Beaky, Downy, and Fluff are Ugly's siblings. Among the "popular" ones in the duck yard, they enjoy making Ugly feel left out.

**Greylag** - A somewhat pompous and washed-up goose, Greylag is the Admiral of the squadron charged with Ugly's safe return. Greylag tends to over-glorify his mundane activities (i.e. migrating South) to the level of military operation status. Greylag's partner, Dot, is the only one who truly knows how to handle them.

**Dot** - Greylag's composed, respectful partner. Genuinely concerned with helping Ugly find their mother. Dot doesn't think that Greylag is an entirely capable leader, but kindly humors Greylag's "over the top" actions.
Barnacles, Snowy, and Pinkfoot - The geese in Greylag's "squad."

Characters Continued:

Jay Bird - An investigative reporter. A very "in your face" bird, all they care about is getting a good story. The typical TV news personality who one would find on a reality TV show like "America's Most Wanted" and reports on Ugly's disappearance. The name can be changed to "Maggie Pie."

Queenie - The Old Woman's very domesticated, humorous, snobby cat who lives the "high life;" friends with Lowbutt.

Lowbutt - The Old Woman's Hen; friends with Queenie.

Penny - A beautiful, young Swan that is kind, compassionate, and caring. Ugly's unlikely love interest and friend.

Father Swan - Penny's loving, protective, and caring father.

Mother Swan - A tender, compassionate, loving, and caring mother to Penny. Bewick - A swan, and Penny's sibling.

Bullfrog - A laid back, self-confident frog who is encouraging, light-hearted, and optimistic. They are a stand up comedian type.

Ensemble - To play barnyard animals, fish, froglets, Floor Manager, Film Cameraman, Offstage Voices (Boy, Girl, Old Woman, Farmer)

*All actors will be considered for all roles, regardless of gender identity/expression, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, age, ability, etc.*