

AUDITION INFORMATION PACK

The Midnite Youth Theatre Company
Year 7 and 8 Production for 2021

Title: *The Wind in the Willows*

Author: Kenneth Grahame

Playwright (Adapted for the stage by) : Alan Bennett

Director: Nicky Garside

Genre: Adventure (Classic children's literature)

The Wind in the Willows is set in on the riverbank in the British countryside and follows the adventures of the creatures who call this place home. The riverbank provides safety, shelter and community but their adventures lead them beyond this protected place and take them to the dark, foreboding Wild Wood and into the big wide world beyond.

We follow the life of Mole, a quiet animal who begins the show by being fed up of spring cleaning. He meets Ratty, who opens his eyes to the magic of the river. Through his new friendship Mole meets Toad and Badger. Badger, the sensible sort and Toad, who is quite the opposite. Toad leads the group away from their quiet lives as they try to keep him out of trouble whilst he discovers horses, cars and the world of humans. Throughout all of this, the Weasels of the Wild Wood are waiting for the right moment to strike and take over Toad Hall – Toad is so distracted by what life has to offer he gives them the perfect opportunity. Can he rely on his friends to help reclaim his family home?

Rehearsals: Rehearsals will be held on Monday, Thursday and Sunday afternoons from February to May 2021. You will not be required to attend all three weekly rehearsals for

the full rehearsal period, however, all cast members **must be available for** the first read through on Sunday, 14th February, for all rehearsals in Term 2 and all performance dates. There will not be any rehearsals during the Term 1 mid-term break or the Term 1/2 holidays.

Performances: 12th – 15th of May, 2021 at 7:00pm

AUDITION INFORMATION

Who can audition?

Auditions are open to boys and girls who are in Year 7 or 8 in 2021.

Please read through the rehearsal days and performance dates above carefully and make sure you are available before auditioning.

When and where are the auditions?

Where: Christ Church Grammar School – Drama Centre Foyer

When: Week 1, Term 1, 2021

Wednesday 3rd or Thursday 4th February from 3:30pm

You may be asked to a Call Back on either Friday 5th or Sunday 7th February

What should I do if I want to audition?

1. Collect an audition pack from the Christ Church Grammar School Drama Department or download one from the Midnite Youth Theatre Company website.
2. Choose a partner to work with and select ONE of the audition scenes. Prepare the piece you feel you can perform the best.
If you cannot work with a partner due to COVID-19 restrictions (or the like), please prepare ONE of the two monologues.
3. Work on your selected audition scene/monologue. Make big creative and clear choices that showcase your best work and your ability.
4. Come to ONE of either the Wednesday or Thursday audition afternoons listed above. Bring your completed audition form and wear comfortable clothing so you can move freely.

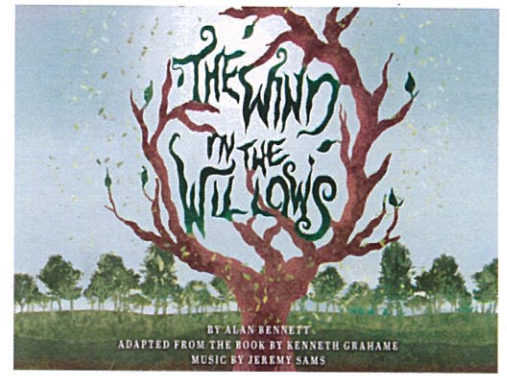
How will I know if I am in the show?

- You will receive an email informing you whether you have been cast in the show or not.
- If you have not received an email by Sunday, 14th February, please email Mrs Garside at ngarside@ccgs.wa.edu.au

For further queries, please email Mrs Garside at ngarside@ccgs.wa.edu.au

The Wind in the Willows

Character List



The River Bank

Mole

Rat

Toad

Badger

Otter

Portly

Albert

Rabbits

Including

Robert Rabbit

Rose Rabbit

Ronald Rabbit

Hedgehogs

Including

Herbert Hedgehog

Harold Hedgehog

Squirrels

Including

Samuel Squirrel

Shirley Squirrel

The Wild Wood

Chief Weasel

Weasel Norman

Gerald Ferret

Sergeant Fred Ferret

Stoat Ian

Weasel Wilfred

Stoat Stuart

Fox

The Wide World

Parkinson (The salesman)

Rupert (The Motorist)

Monica (The Motorist)

Magistrate

Clerk of the Court

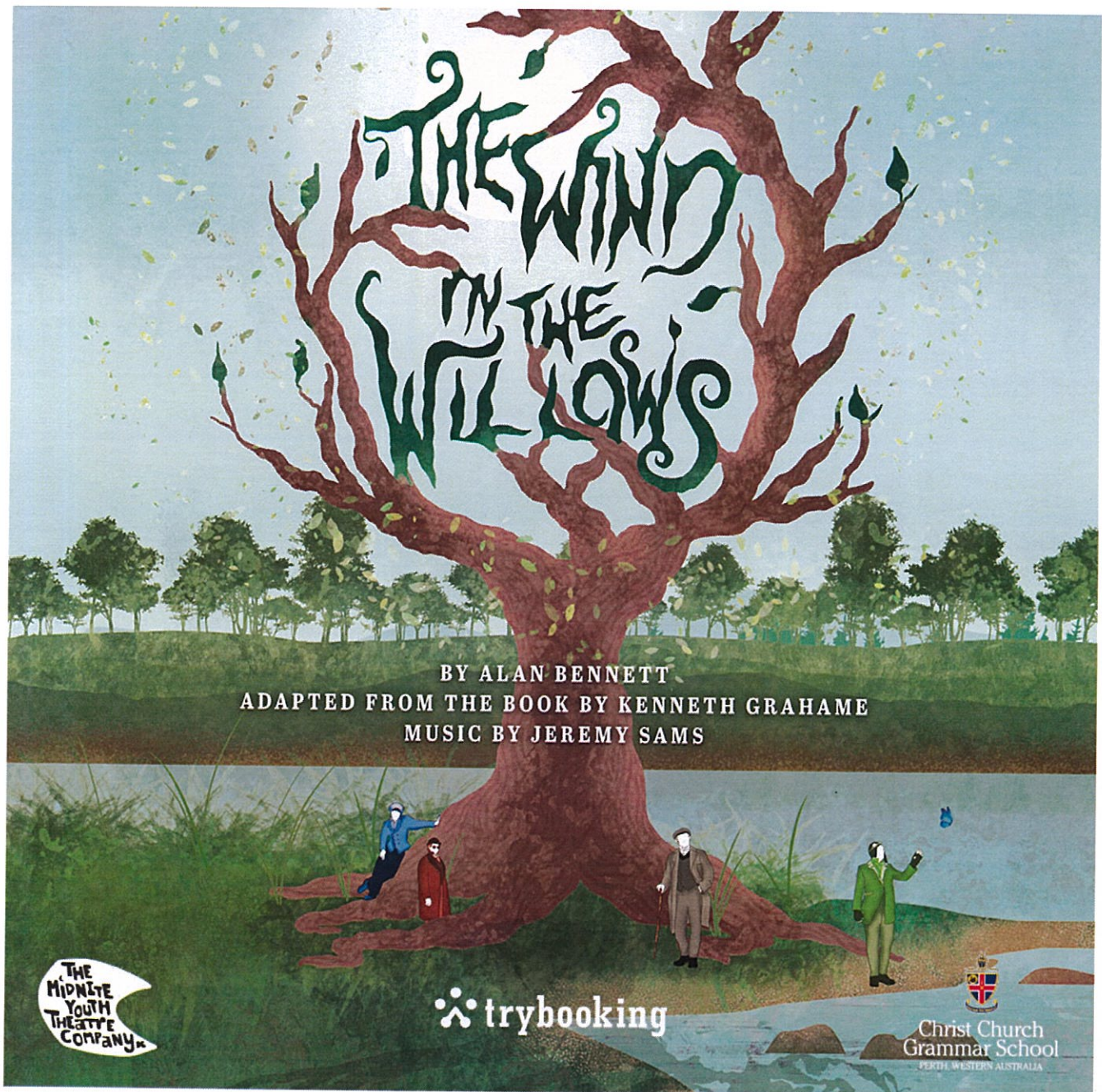
The Gaoler's daughter

Washer Woman

Train Driver

Barge woman

AUDITION SCENES FOR *THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS*



CHARACTERS in AUDITION SCENES/MONOLOGUES

□

Rat	A mature character with energy and life! Extremely proper and well bred, places great importance on manners. The first to befriend Mole.
Mole	A younger and naïve character (late teens maybe?). He is bright, enthusiastic and excited by life. He has been 'taken in' by Rat & Badger.
Toad	A vibrant, dramatic character. Full of life and energy. He is a loud, show-off. He is frivolous and reckless and always gets in trouble. His friends Rat, Badger & Mole try to protect him and keep him in order.
Badger	The older character who still has lots of life and fight left in him! He is wise and kind but cares for his friends with a firm hand.
Mr Robert Rabbit Mrs Rose Rabbit	A couple of territorial rabbits who want to charge Mole for being on their land. A comedy married couple.

Monologue 1

Mole is still fascinated with the distant wood.

RAT: What is it, old chap?
All right.. I'll tell you what it is. Its called the Wild Wood... and its just that we River Bankers don't go there very much.
It's the people you see... The squirrels are all right. And the rabbits I suppose. Then there's Badger, of course. He's all right. He lives bang in the middle of it, and wouldn't live anywhere else. Dear old Badger. Nobody takes any liberties with him.
It's the others you see... the ferrets, the stoats and, worst of all, the weasels. And yet they're all right most of the time. One passes the time of day, 'Morning Rat' "Morning Weasel"... but... just occasionally... they... break out.

Another sausage roll?

Monologue 2

Toad is in prison and finds himself in a solitary dungeon.

TOAD: Poor Toad. Poor little Toady. All alonely. On his owny. Nobody wants him. Nobody cares. I had a big house once. Servants. Friends. Wise old Badger. Clever intelligent Rat. Sensible little Mole. Why did I not listen to you? Oh foolish, foolish Toad. It's the end of everything. At least it's the end of Toad, which comes to the same thing. Thrust into this dark, damp dungeon, despised by the world, deserted by his friends, whom he entertained entirely at his own expense. Ungrateful Badger, Sanctimonious Rat. Silly Mole. Where are they when I need them? All nice and snug at home while I'm stuck here for twenty years. Twenty years! Oh, it's not fair. *(He goes into a paroxysm of grief, kicking his legs and banging his fists on the ground.)* I can't bear it.

Part One

[illegible]

Mole has close-cropped black hair, a blazer and sandals. He wears NHS spectacles and though he is a mole he could also be an old-fashioned northern schoolboy.

Mole Hang spring cleaning! And hang whitewashing! Oh the light! The air! The *freedom*.

Rabbit Robert Where do you think you're going? You can't come through here.

Mole Why? You don't own the place.

Rabbit Robert I do actually. It'll cost you sixpence.

Mole Onion sauce!

Rabbit Robert Don't you onion sauce me. This is private property.

Rabbit Rose That's right. You have to pay a toll.

Rabbit Robert At least if you're a mole.

Rabbit Rose And haven't stayed in your hole.

Mole Well I won't pay.

Rabbit Robert He won't pay.

Rabbit Rose Why won't he pay?

Rabbit Robert Why won't you pay?

Mole I've no money . . . bunny.

Rabbit Robert He's no money.

Rabbit Rose Oh well . . . we'll overlook it just this once.

Rabbit Robert Yes, particularly since you're new round here . . . But remember, it is private property. Some people. Honestly.

Mole Hey, Flopsy.

Rabbit Robert Are you speaking to us?

Mole What's this?

Rabbit Rose What's what?

Mole This. This long . . . sliding . . . gurgling thing?

Rabbit Rose What is it? Well it's a river.

Rabbit Robert Never come across one before, have you?

Mole No.

Rabbit Robert So much for onion sauce. The ignorance of some people.

Mole But . . . it's . . . it's wonderful.

Rabbit Rose Is it? I've always thought it a bit ordinary.

Mole is still gazing wonderingly at the river when Rat

Rat

Mole

Mole Can I row on the way back?

Rat Not yet old chap. Have a few lessons first. I tell you, it's not as easy as it looks. Anyway the current's with us, so I'll just let her drift. No rush on the river, you see.

They drift back down the river, Rat resting on the oars and Mole in the prow.

I've never told anyone this before, Mole, but I'm a bit of a poet.

Mole Well I wouldn't worry about it. It's probably just a stage. I once had a shot at the trombone.

Rat I feel there's a poem waiting to be written about ducks.

Mole Ducks?

Rat
All along the backwater
Through the rushes tall
Ducks are a-dabbling

Mole They're what?

Rat Dabbling.

Mole Oh, I thought you said gabbling. It could be gabbling, couldn't it?

Rat Yes. But I think dabbling's better. Now I've lost my thread.

All along the backwater
Through the rushes tall
Ducks are a-dabbling . . .
Up tails all.

Here we are. Home.

Mole starts to step out of the boat.

Watch out . . . !

Mole gets one foot on the bank and one foot in the boat, and the boat moves or the bank moves, but either way he ends up getting his feet wet.

Oh, you silly creature. Are you wet?

Mole Only my foot.

Rat Well, come inside and dry off . . . and since it's getting late would it be a good idea if you stopped with me for a bit? Would you like that?

Mole Like it? Oh, Rat. I'd love it.

Rat Jolly good.

Rat's house, like his clothes, has a distinctly nautical flavour. It's as much a cabin as a room, with portholes and lots of brass and polished wood; on the wall are a barometer and some ceremonial oars and the seating accommodation is two folding steamer chairs with neat blue cushions. Mole is bowled over.

Rat It's not exactly luxury's lap, I'm afraid.

Mole I've never seen such a nice house.

Rat Yes, well, to tell you the truth, I am rather proud of it. Now here's a towel . . . and don't forget between the toes.

Mole Yes, Rat.

Rat And Mole.

Mole Yes?

Rat There's no need to keep calling me Rat. It's a bit . . . well . . . formal. My friends call me Ratty. Could you manage that, do you think?

Mole Oh yes . . . Ratty . . .

Rat What about you? Do you have a pet name?

Mole I've never had a friend before. My brothers used to call me Moley.

Rat Moley. I like that. 

Scene 3

Badger

Rat

Mole

Badger You shouldn't be out on a night like this, little chaps like you. But I've got a grand fire going . . . your little friend's shivering, Ratty.

Rat Well, we both are.

Badger But look at his face. I bet your little toes are like ice.

Mole Oh, thank you, Mr Badger.

Rat It was his own fault.

Badger No, Ratty. None of that. You've had a narrow

escape. What's this, have you hurt yourself? Ratty, your little friend's hurt himself.

Rat I know.

It's fairly plain by now that most of Badger's attention is concentrated on Mole and this makes Rat somewhat tetchy.

Badger How did you come to do that?

Mole On the doorscraper.

Badger On *my* doorscraper? Oh dear. How come you let him do that, Ratty?

Rat The truth is, Badger, Mr Mole has been a bit of a scamp.

Mole I have, yes.

Badger Well he's young, you see, Rat. They get ideas into their heads. Look at that face. So cold. Here we are. (*He binds up Mole's leg.*)

Rat He would go off on his own. Wouldn't be told.

Badger Sense of adventure was it? I understand that, I'm the same. Rat's more cautious, you see. But you won't do it again, will you Master Mole?

Mole No. Never.

Badger Do you hear that, Ratty? He won't do it again. Now what's wanted is a bowl of piping hot soup. And I've got just the thing on the hob. (*He gets Mole a bowl.*)

Badger A bowl for Mole. Poetry, eh Rat, your province.

Rat Shall I get my own?

Badger Oh yes, you help yourself. Feeling better now, are

we? Warmth coming back into those little toes of yours?

Mole Yes thank you, Mr Badger.

Badger Goodness me, *you* mustn't call me *Mr* Badger. No, no. My friends call me . . . Badger.

Mole My friends call me Moley.

Badger Do they?

Rat Badger's too old for nicknames. He'd probably be happier calling you Mole.

Badger Rat knows best, as always. Anyway, tell me what's been happening in your part of the world. How's friend Toad getting on?

Rat Another smash up last week and this time a bad one. He will insist on driving himself and he can't do it for toffee.

Badger What he wants is a chauffeur.

Rat Exactly. I said to him 'Get a steady well-trained animal . . . a hedgehog for instance; they're very good on the road.'

Scene 4

Rat

Toad

Rat Of course I'll watch Toad. I wasn't born yesterday.



Rat Watch Toad! Honestly. How are you feeling today, old chap?



Toad So kind of you to ask. Kindness itself. But never mind me. How are you? And how's your little friend Mole?

Rat Oh, little friend Mole's all right. Little friend Mole's on top of the world.

Toad You've been so good to him, Ratty.

Rat I have.

Toad Taught him everything you know.

Rat Quite.

Toad And now he's gone off with Badger.

Rat Only for the afternoon.

Toad Oh, of course.

Toad you see, though a fool in all sorts of ways, still knows more about the heart than Rat does.

Mole's not ungrateful, Ratty . . . just young.

Rat If you bucked up, Toady, we could take a little stroll ourselves.

Toad Dear Rat. How little you realise my condition. 'Take a little stroll.' If only I could. How I hate being a burden to my friends, but I shan't be one much longer now.

Rat I'm glad to hear it. We could go up the river.

Toad Dear, simple Ratty. I shall be going up the river all too soon.

Rat That's good news!

Toad Ratty, I just wondered . . . it's probably too late already, but could you fetch me . . . a doctor?

Rat Why? You're not ill, old chap.

Toad Ill? Not really. I just know, as we animals do know, that I have come to the end of some kind of road.

Rat Nonsense, Toady. I'll fetch a doctor if you want one, but I'm sure he'd just say you needed a tonic.

Toad A tonic. If it were only that. Is it getting dark? Has the sun gone in?

Rat No.

Toad It seems dark to me. Ratty . . .

Rat Toady, let go of my arm . . .

Toad Listen, Ratty. Forget the doctor. Fetch me a lawyer.

Rat A lawyer?

Toad Quickly, Ratty. I have many responsibilities.

Rat Yes, yes, of course. But Toady, let go of my arm. Badger should have told me how bad it was, Mole too. But they don't care. I'm the only one who cares. Toady. Toady. Can you hear me?

Toad Are you the lawyer? Take this down. This is the Last Will and Testament of Toad . . .

Rat No, Toady, it's still me, Ratty.


Toad Haven't you gone yet? It's so dark . . . I want the sun. Give me the sun, Ratty, give me the sun!

Rat Toady . . . Toady.

Toad What?

Rat Hang on. Please hang on.

He rushes away and there is silence for a minute before from the huddled heap in the chair we hear:

Toad I could have been an actor, I suppose, though it's no job for someone of my intelligence. 'Is it getting dark?' Brilliant. I was quite moved. 

AUDITION FORM



The Midnite Youth Theatre Company

Wind in the Willows

YOUR NAME: _____ Year: _____

MOBILE _____

SCHOOL: _____

email: _____

Parent email: _____

Parent mobile: _____

REHEARSALS

- MONDAY 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- THURSDAY 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- SUNDAY 1pm to 4pm

All rehearsals will take place at Christ Church Grammar School.

4 PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE AS PART OF THE 2021 SEASON:

Wednesday 12th May, 7.00pm

Thursday 13th May, 7.00pm

Friday 14th May, 7.00pm

Saturday 15th May, 7.00pm

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

Drama Centre, Christ Church Grammar School

THE MIDNITE YOUTH THEATRE COMPANY understands that unexpected commitments may arise during the production and will make every effort to accommodate them but the company expects a high level of commitment from all cast members.

Please list all dates you are unavailable:

YOUR DRAMA/ THEATRE/ MUSIC/ DANCE/ PERFORMING EXPERIENCE:
(Or Attach)

OTHER SKILLS/ TALENTS/ INTERESTS
(E.g. Dancer, Instrument, Gymnastics, etc):

ROLE I AM AUDITIONING FOR/ INTERESTED IN:

I am willing to be cast in another role:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No