

Upper School Musical
Audition Packet
for the
Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy

Wolf Performing Arts Center is thrilled to partner with Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy for a fun, fabulous 2022-2023 production season!

This packet includes important information for the upper school musical, including auditions, the rehearsal process, and a list of important dates. Please look for the following:

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SYNOPSIS: This is a musical based on the children’s novel of the same name, written by Natalie Babbitt. Winnie, a child living in Treegap, New Hampshire with her mother and Nana, longs for a life of adventure beyond her home and picket fence. Venturing into the Treegap Wood, Winnie becomes entwined with the Tuck family, learning they have become immortal by drinking water from the spring. The Tucks explain their secret must be protected from people like the Man in the Yellow Suit who are in search of immortality for themselves. Winnie grows close with the Tucks; they care for and befriend her as she stays with them in the woods. Betsy Foster, Nana, Constable Joe and Hugo tirelessly look to find and bring Winnie home safely. Ultimately, Winnie is faced with a life-changing decision: return to her community and normal life as she knows it, or drink from the spring and live forever with the Tucks.

ABOUT THE PROCESS: This production will be ensemble-based and rehearses after school from 3:45-5:45pm. Every student who auditions is guaranteed a role in the production.

****All rehearsals and performances will take place in Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy’s auditorium. The process begins on February 13th with performances May 9-11th.**

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

All characters will be portrayed by performers in grades 9-12 with gender-flexible casting. We reserve the right to change and update roles throughout the rehearsal process and depending on the number of students who audition.

Winnie Foster: A little girl who is obedient yet independent; curious and longing for adventure. She is innocent but embarks in a coming of age throughout her journey. Winnie recently lost her father and lives with her loving yet strict mother and Nana. In her time with the Tucks, Winnie encounters self-discovery and courage.

Betsy Foster: A kind woman and loving mother. The death of her husband has left her stricken with grief and fear. She now lives a closed off and strict life, as showing joy could cause the community to judge the family. She has become brave, yet feels the burden of needing to protect Winnie on her own.

Nana: A funny and loving Grandmother to Winnie and Mother to Betsy. Seemingly losing her mind. Always supports Winnie and Betsy. She loves to hear the distant sound of the music box from the yard, reminiscing over hearing it in her childhood.

Jesse Tuck: Optimistic with a youthful spirit. He loves his immortality, though it makes him lonely. He is always searching for adventure and struggles to settle down. The youngest of the Tucks, son to Mae and Angus and brother to Miles.

Mae Tuck: A wise and devoted mother to Jesse and Miles, Wife to Angus. She exudes a youthful playfulness. She worries what immortality has done to her children, and will do anything to protect them. She loves Angus greatly, but fears that after all of these years his feelings for her have changed.

Angus Tuck: Once a vibrant man with a kind soul. Immortality has left him with a sense of hopelessness. The return of his sons Jesse and Miles, as well as meeting Winnie allows his spirit to revive. He rediscovers his will to live and rekindles his relationship with his wife Mae.

Miles Tuck: Once a sweet man, now burned-out and bitter. He resents his immortality, as it caused him to lose his wife and child. Aggressively willing to protect their secret of immortality. Jealous of his younger brother Jesse's light spirit and believes Jesse has had a seemingly easier time with immortality. Son of Mae and Angus.

Man in the Yellow Suit: An obsessive man who runs on ambition, greed and the need for power. He fears death and wishes to cope with this fear by uncovering the Tuck's secret to immortality, as well as capitalize on selling the spring water. He will stop at nothing to accomplish his goal, including violence.

Constable Joe: The deputy of Treegap and father of Hugo. Seemingly silly and buffoonish, but wise and sharp. Takes his job seriously and cares about his community. He has a big heart.

Hugo: Junior deputy of Treegap and son of Constable Joe. He is training to take over as deputy and is very eager to do a good job. He is loveable and insightful, often giving Constable Joe great ideas in the search for Winnie.

Featured roles (to be announced, explored and created after casting!): Carny, Mile's son, Mile's wife, Teenage Winnie, middle-aged Winnie, middle-aged Hugo, Winnie & Hugo's young son, Winnie & Hugo's teenage son, Winnie & Hugo's teenage son's partner, Old Winnie, Old Hugo, community members

Audition Information

All actors must audition in order to participate in this show. Actors will audition for two Wolf PAC Teaching Artists: a Director/Choreographer and a Music Director. They are excited to get to know Barrack students, and then determine the proper place for each of you!

Audition Details

Auditions will be held in the Dining Commons on Monday, February 6th from 3:45-5:45pm.

Everyone auditioning will be asked to stay the entire time. Each performer will sing individually for the Directors and then will learn a low-key, short dance as a group.

NOTE: Since there is no formal acting piece at the initial audition, it is really important that we see **acting choices** in the performance of your song.

Please use [this link](#) to sign up for your audition!!

Callback Details

Acting & singing callbacks will be held in the Dining Commons on **Wednesday, February 8th** from **3:45-5:45pm**

If you are needed for a callback, we will notify you via email during the day on Tuesday, February 7th. Not every actor will be needed at callbacks. However, *this does not mean you have not been cast in a production*. It simply means we saw everything we needed to at the first auditions!

Casting and Rehearsal Information

Casting is based on **three main criteria**: talent, commitment, and availability. Once the production staff has had the chance to assess the criteria for every actor who auditions, we will assign roles based on what is the best fit for the actor and the overall production.

Cast lists will be sent out via email no later than **Sunday, February 12th**.

Audition Material

For your audition, choose and prepare one of the vocal selections from the options below. A few noteworthy hints and helpful ideas:

- When choosing audition material, pick the one that most excites you and shows off the best of your performance abilities. *All song choices are suited for any gender.* Casting in general will be gender flexible!
- Since there is no monologue to prepare for your initial audition, infusing acting into your song choice is crucial. Decide what the song means, who the character is, etc. and add some personality to the song.
- You may be asked to make some changes/adjustments to your song after you perform it once. It means the Directors are excited to see what *else* you can do since you are already stellar!

Song Options:

All song selections are listed below. You can find these on the original Broadway recording to familiarize yourself with them AND we have provided a link below so you can hear the specific sections. You will be accompanied on piano at your initial audition, so please use the tracks provided to rehearse.

Please use [this link](#) to access the tracks and practice at home before your audition!

Hugo's First Case (full song):

Big day, first case, girl's gone, no trace,
Small town, no crime, now tree gap's hit the big time!
What's this? Fresh tracks. Who's there? Relax.
Foot prints, size nine, a clue, ya hoo! No, those are mine.
"No dirty deed goes exactly as planned,"
Look, that's what it says, in my deputy handbook:
"Even the best crooks leaves you a clue."
Big day, first case, girl's gone, no trace,
Hugo, you know what to do.

Everlasting (m.26 to m.51):

There are two ways home down one long road.
One clear path to two conclusions.
Does the story end or never end?
Does the secret fade, or is it everlasting?
Or I put the Tucks behind me and pull up the anchor.
Ride the wheel plenty for all that it's worth.
Turn seventeen, then eighteen, then twenty!
For a life is the greatest wonder on earth.
Can I, should I, do I, drink?
Can I? Should? Will I drink?

Time (start to m.39):

I had a farmhouse with a grandfather clock where I would teach time to my son.
Our lessons began at twelve o'clock sharp when the hands would come in as one.
I'd say, "The big hand counts minutes.
It's so tightly wound, it chases the small hand, to make hours go round."
I taught Thomas constellations in the sky,
To tell a silver maple from a cotton wood.
I taught Thomas to divide and multiply,
But what he never understood was,
Time, as I watched him grow,
Time, he would never know,
Time, where my regret resides.
Time, if I only knew the what, and how, and who, that time truly divides.

Important Dates

Please check all dates below for rehearsals, tech, and performances. You are expected at rehearsal on the dates listed *unless* otherwise communicated by your Directors.

AUDITION & CALL BACK DATES:

Monday, Feb. 6 & *Wednesday, Feb. 8th (callbacks)

REHEARSAL DATES (rehearsals are on Mon, Tues, & Weds):

Feb – **13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28**

March – **1, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29**

April – **17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26**

TECH DATES (add in all technical elements like lights, sound, etc.):

May – **1, 2, 3 from 3:45-6:45PM**

DRESS REHEARSAL:

May 4th from 3:45-6:45PM

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Sunday, May 7th at 2PM (*call time at 12:30PM*)

Monday, May 8th at 7PM (*call time at 5:30PM*)

Tuesday, May 9th at 7PM (*call time at 5:30PM*)