

Villa Youth Theater  
Directed by Shea Salyer

*Presents*



**Music by George Stiles**  
**Book and Lyrics by Anthony Drewe**

**Honk Jr.**

We are pleased to announce that the 2009-2010 Musical will be HONK! Jr. The script is from Music Theatre International's Broadway Junior Collection. It offers many solo and choral opportunities for actors/singers/dancers. On the following pages are the plot synopsis provided by MTI, as well as the cast of characters and brief descriptions. We hope to see many of you try out for parts in the play or lend a hand with the set, costumes, lights, sound or props!

**Plot Synopsis:**

**HONK!, Jr.** is the classic Hans Christian Anderson tale of The Ugly Duckling, transformed into a moving, funny and highly entertaining musical. "Written by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, **HONK!** tells the story of Ugly, whose odd, gawky looks instantly incite prejudice from his family and neighbors. Separated from the farm and pursued by a hungry Cat, Ugly must find his way home, while his loving mother, Ida, searches for him. Along his journey he not only discovers his true beauty and glorious destiny, but he also finds love and acceptance."

**Production Info**

The musical is open to students in Grades 3 through 8 who commit to the rehearsal schedule. Special exceptions can be made at the discretion of the director. All students who register will be part of the ensemble. Registration is limited to the first 30 students who return a complete registration form. Lead Roles, which are listed below, will be auditioned on Tuesday, December 1, 3:15-5:30pm with call backs for lead roles on Thursday, December 3, 3:15-5:30pm. These will be held in the Rainbow Theater.

**About the Director**

Shea Salyer is thrilled to accept the role of director of Villa's Youth Theater Program. Shea majored in Theater at Smith College and has been teaching drama and filmmaking to youth since 1996. She has taught at Bush School, International School, Woodland Park Zoo, Northwest School for Hearing-Impaired Children, Morningside Academy, and Madrona Elementary. She loves the collaborative and creative experience of theater and believes in a trusting and fun environment to allow children to flourish. Shea has been acting since she was five and has a strong background in musical theater and improvisation.

### Cast of Characters:

**Ugly:** An ugly duckling and the main character of the play. He is innocent, easily confused and very impressionable. Ugly does not see why it is wrong to be different. During the play, he matures from an ugly duckling to a beautiful swan; from a gullible child to a strong, mature adult filled with self esteem. Strong solo singing required.

**Ida:** Ugly's mother. She is extremely protective of all her children, but especially of Ugly. She is the only one in the barnyard who accepts and loves him unconditionally. Ida and Ugly's relationship is a key ingredient of the show. Ida sings several solos in the soprano range. Strong singing is required.

**Drake:** Ida's husband. Drake is a sarcastic, devil-may-care, comic character. Drake is repulsed by Ugly's appearance and is not afraid to say so. Strong solo singing required.

**Beaky, Fluff, Billy and Downy:** Ida and Drake's four other ducklings. They sing a quartet.

**Maureen:** A moorhen and Ida's best friend. She genuinely loves Ida, but she can't resist a bit of gossip. She sings "The Joy of Motherhood" with Ida, so will need a strong singing voice.

**Cat:** The sly, cunning villain of the show. He is manipulative, cunning, witty and always on the prowl for food. It is a very outgoing role. The actor playing this role can be male or female and must be comfortable moving. This role also requires solo singing.

**Greylag:** A somewhat pompous goose. He is a washed-up military type who tends to glorify mundane activities to the level of a military operation. He sings a solo in "Wild Goose Chase."

**Dot:** Greylag's wife. She is a motherly type who is genuinely concerned with helping Ugly find his mother. She also sings a solo in "Wild Goose Chase."

**Barnacles, Snowy, Pinkfoot:** Three geese in the larger flock who have a line or two apiece. They sing in the chorus of "Wild Goose Chase."

**Bullfrog:** A laid back, self confident frog whom Ugly meets in the second half of the show. This is an optimistic, funny character who plays a bit of the stand-up comedian. Bullfrog has solo singing in the inspirational song, "Warts and All." The role can be played by a male or female.

**Penny:** A young, beautiful swan. Ugly saves Penny from a tangled fishing net. She is able to see beyond his looks and loves him for who he is. She does not sing a solo.

**Father Swan, Mother Swan, & Bewick:** Members of Penny's family. They do not sing solos.

**Grace:** "The most distinguished duck on the lake." She is very aristocratic and is considered the queen of the duck yard. All the other animals look up to Grace and respect her. She sings one solo line in the opening song.

**Turkey:** The headmaster of the ducklings' school. He is a bit snobbish and joins in the fun of teasing Ugly. He does not sing a solo.

**Henrietta:** A hen and another of Ida's friends. She and Maureen gossip about the goings on in the duck yard. She takes great pleasure in making fun of Ugly. She does not sing a solo, but does sing a duet with Maureen (the opening song).

**Jay Bird:** An investigative reporter. He is a very 'in your face' bird who only cares about getting the story. This character can be played by either a male or female. **Singing is not required.**

**Ensemble:** The ensemble/chorus in this show will have many fun singing/dancing numbers to perform. They will take on the roles of: barnyard animals, geese, frogs, and parts of the blizzard scene.