



James and the Giant Peach

A play by Roald Dahl - Adapted by David Wood

Directed by Simon Kennedy

(A Youth Theatre production – ages 7-16)

Production dates: Tuesday 8th – Saturday 12th April 2025

Read Through: Tuesday 12th November 7.30pm

Audition dates: Monday 18th November 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th November 7.30pm

Rehearsals:

Monday and Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30 and Sunday 2pm-4.30pm

- Starting in January (Exact Date TBC)

Audition Pieces available from Production Assistants:

Anne Thorn - anne44lane@yahoo.co.uk OR Ian Brown - ian60brown@gmail.com

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Roald Dahl's beloved classic, "James and the Giant Peach," tells the story of young James Henry Trotter, who embarks on a magical adventure inside a giant peach with his insect friends. This heartwarming and whimsical tale is brought to life on stage, filled with music, humour, and the enchantment of Dahl's world.

James is an imaginative and kind-hearted boy who dreams of escaping his cruel aunts. After a mysterious old man gives him a magical gift, James finds himself on a fantastical journey across the ocean inside a giant peach, accompanied by a group of oversized, talking insects. Together, they face challenges, make new friends, and ultimately find a place where they truly belong.

Characters and Audition Pieces:

The play is truly an ensemble piece with important roles not only for the parts listed but also for a group of supporting actors. These supporting actors will not only help to set the scenes, move (or be) the set, but also to take up roles such as: Tour Guide, Old Man, Sharks, Seagulls, Ship Captain and many more.

If you'd like to be considered for one of these parts or the ensemble, please let us know on the audition form. Everyone not auditioning for a listed role will be asked to read one of the insect parts.

James Henry Trotter

Our young hero; from a downtrodden lonely child he develops into a brave leader of the insect band. He acts as narrator too.

Audition Pieces:

- From Pg 28 “Escape! Escape” to Pg 29 “Right!”
- Pg 35 “You know, earthworm, you’re quite a hero” to “Not all of it, a few bites and scoops won’t matter”

Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge

James’ mean and greedy aunts who are always scheming. They are spiky, loud, harsh, and cruel.

Audition Piece for both Aunts:

- From Pg 7: “Ugly little brute” to Pg 9 “aaaaaaah!”

Insects

Old-Green-Grasshopper

Old-green-grasshopper, elderly, genial, courteous, avuncular and musical they play the violin (although actors don’t need to be able to). They are cultured and refined, often providing wisdom to the group. They also narrate some of the story.

Ladybird

Posh though not prissy, pretty though not vain, volatile though level-headed. She is fashionable and kind and cares deeply for James. She is elegant, nurturing, and always optimistic.

Earthworm

Not only blind, but a pessimist, a doom merchant who is often worried and gloomy but has a good heart. Earthworm’s standing in the group and self-esteem improves no end, thanks to James.

Miss Spider

Occasionally sharp, even a little sinister, but ultimately kind. She is practical, maternal, and always ready to help her friends. Her marathon thread spinning to help save the Peach is truly heroic.

Centipede

Boisterous, humorous and cocky, Centipede loves to boast. They are loud, cheerful, and always looking for fun, though they can be a bit reckless.

Audition Pieces for all insect parts:

- From Pg 18 “At last!” to Pg 20 “Hear hear”
- From Pg 28 “Escape! Escape” to Pg 29 “Right!”