



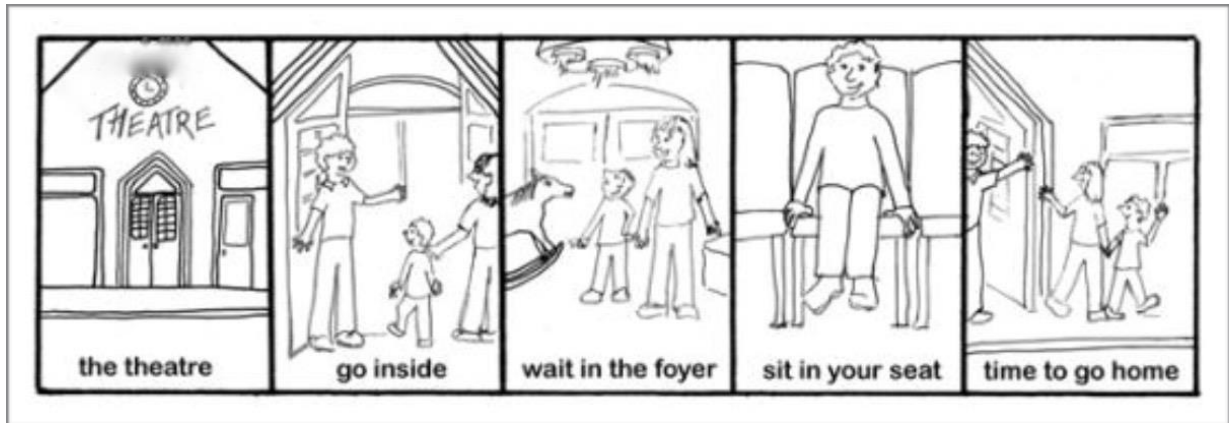
RELAXED PERFORMANCE PACK

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WHAT TO EXPECT: ARRIVING AT THE THEATRE



When you arrive at our venue, the first thing you will do is enter the building! After that, you will have a little wait in the foyer before the doors open to the auditorium. When you are let in, you can find your seat and get comfy! If you need any help finding your seat, or if you have any questions at all, just ask one of the stewards! They're there to help.

You can then sit in your seat until the performance starts! The music won't start until the performance does, so it won't be too loud when you arrive. We'll tell you more about the music in the actual show in the next section!

Before the performance, the lights will go down. That's when you know it's going to start! There also might be an announcement telling you to switch your phone off - this just so that any texts and calls don't interrupt the performance. From this point on, people will stop talking so that everyone can hear the performance.

WHAT TO EXPECT: OUR SHOW

From the moment the show begins, there will be a lot going on! We'll tell you about this in more detail in a moment, but we just want to give you an overall idea of what to expect.

It's a hip hop musical, so there'll be lots of music and dancing. It will probably be quite loud throughout, but especially the bigger dance numbers. We'll highlight these in the more detailed synopsis below. Feel free to cover your ears for these if you don't like loud noises, no one will mind!

There will be bright lights too, though they won't be flashing too much. We will also let you know below when those moments will be.

WHAT TO EXPECT: OUR CAST

BADGER, played by Clive Rowe

The well-loved and respected school teacher. He's stern, and makes sure the kids stay in line, but they tend to know it's only because he cares. He goes above and beyond his expected role to give the students the help, guidance and self-belief that they need.



MOLE, played by Victoria Boyce

Mole is an anxious, awkward teenager who struggles to fit in. Dressed always in black, she hides in the shadows and stays quiet. She is haunted by a past, traumatic event, for which she blames herself.



RATTIE, played by Zara Mackintosh

Rattie is cool and popular, with a rep to protect. She is also hard-working and caring, though. She dreams of a place at Cambridge, to give her the boost in life to leave the Willows and change the world. She speaks sign-language, usually to her boyfriend Otter, and is great at messing around with beats.



OTTER, played by Chris Fonseca

Otter is easy-going, affable, supportive and strong-spirited. He's deaf, and learnt to dance by feeling the beat when his aunt would play him music. He's Rattie's boyfriend.



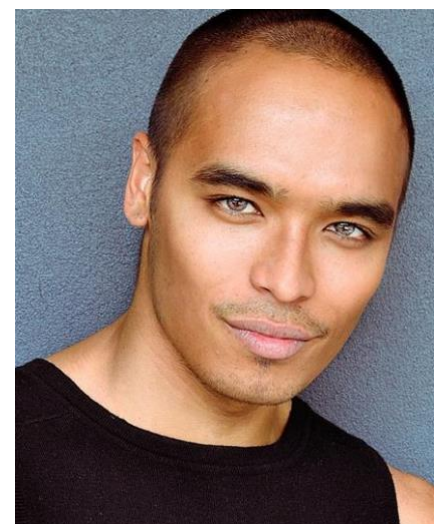
TOAD, played by Harry Jardine

Toad is an extroverted, cheeky, bling-laden rapper. He's a rich kid, spoilt and greedy because he knows he can afford whatever he wants. There's a sadness underlying his character though: his dad is in prison and his goldfish, Alan, is his only real friend.



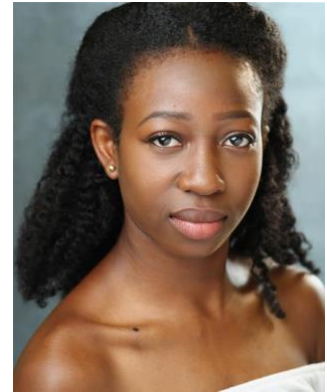
DUCK, played by Seann Miley Moore

Duck is an extravagant, flamboyant, bold character in the class. They're gender non-conforming and a great performer with an unshakeable air of confidence and sass.



OWL, played by Abiola Efunshile

Motor-bike riding, cool girl in class. She has dance-battle-winning kind of talent. She's kind-hearted and forgiving.



CHIEF WEASEL, played by Matt Knight

Troubled, harsh chief of the thieving, violent gang of weasels. The Chief is a grime-rapper: relentless, a bully, but has suffered a difficult upbringing.



RABBITS, played by Katherine Picar and Treasure Imayu

The mean, shallow kids of the school playground. They'll pick on anyone who stands out.



Some of the actors will also play Rabbits and Weasels at points! But they will be wearing a different costume when they are, so that's how you can tell.

WHAT TO EXPECT: THE PLOT

We're about to go through everything that happens in the show in summary. We'll put all the songs in brackets and in green, so you know when to expect a musical number! We'll also let you know briefly what each song is like.

ACT ONE

It's Mole's first day at 'The Willows' comprehensive school. She is anxious and awkward, and so their teacher Badger, asks the confident and popular Rattie, her boyfriend Otter and the mischievous chatterbox Toad to look out for her.

[Song: **In The Willows** - big, loud, whole cast dance number telling everyone about the Willows].

Rattie invites Mole to come clubbing at 'The Riverbank' but Mole says she can't, because she has to do a cleaning job to pay her rent. Mole wonders whether she should have said yes. Meanwhile, Toad has seen a motorbike and loves it. [Song: **This is It** - duet between Mole and Toad, Mole sings about making friends, and Toad about his bike]. Mole decides she will go clubbing.

At the club, Mole tries to 'dip her toe in' and get involved, [Song: **Row The Boat** - big dance number in the Riverbank club, involves rapping, singing and a dance battle!], but she's out of her depth and runs away.

She ends up in the Wild Woods Estate where she remembers her twin brother, now dead, who used to help her in difficult social situations [Song: **Coming Up For Air** - emotional ballad, sung by Mole]. Rattie overhears her and explains that they're not so different [Song: **You're Not Alone** - Rattie sings an emotional ballad to Mole, letting her know that she is not alone].

Mole and Rattie stumble upon the Weasels who have captured Otter [Song: **Animal** - angry, aggressive rap by Chief Weasel, it's quite scary]. Mole distracts Chief Weasel by reminding him they grew up together, so that Otter can escape. They knock on a nearby door seeking sanctuary. It's Badger's house - he welcomes them in.

Moments later the doorbell rings again - the Rabbits arrive, drunk and singing. Time passes with the Christmas carol morphing into a spring tune, ending

back in the classroom, the last choir practice of term. [Song: **Seasons Change** - a mix of beat box and chorus singing, sung mainly by Badger].

As they leave Mole tries to speak to Otter in sign language but loses confidence.

He signs/dances to her [Song: **What Do You Wanna Say?** - sung by Rattie, who's translating Otter's sign to Mole, the whole class sings along too at some points!], encouraging her to sign.

Meanwhile Toad has bought himself a brand new motorbike - but when he runs over a Rabbit's foot at the school gates Badger confiscates the bike and puts him in detention, with Mole sent to watch over him... Toad persuades Mole to help him escape [Song: **Easy Life** - a rap and song performed by Toad, with a lot of fun upbeat dancing by the rest of the cast]. They shimmy down the drainpipe and once they're out, Toad steals his classmate Owl's motorbike and the two go for a joy ride ending in a police chase [Song: **Police Torch Dance** - very dark stage, bright torch lights and loud music and sirens] and dramatic crash.

In the dock, Mole is let off with a warning but Toad is sent to prison. [Song: **Confess** - slow, dramatic song sung by Badger] He gives Mole the key-code to Toad Hall so that she can look after things. In prison, Toad is lost, alone and falling apart. Chief Weasel threatens Mole with a secret from her past and succeeds in weaselling the code out of her to get into Toad Hall. [Song: **In A Hole** - Toad and Mole both sing together, Mole feels alone and misses her brother, Toad is in prison, Badger continues singing **Confess** at the same time, and the chorus joins in too.]

End of Act One. There will be an interval now.

In the interval, you can: stay in your seat, get something to eat or drink, go to the toilet, and then get back in your seat at the end for the start of Act Two!

ACT TWO

The Weasels have taken over Toad Hall. [Song: **Livin' it up** - a raucous mixture of rap and song as the weasels make a mess of Toad Hall].

Back in school, Rattie is feeling stressed about her university ambitions [Song: **I Don't Know If I Can Do This** - emotional song and rap by Rattie]. Meanwhile rumours are circulating that it was Mole who gave the weasels the code. Rattie defends Mole. Mole can't bring herself to reveal why she gave them the code. Rattie is horrified and furious and says she can never forgive Mole. Mole runs off and almost gets run over - triggering the memory of when her brother died. She finds herself at Badger's door once more, he consoles her and tells her she mustn't blame herself for the death of her brother. [Song: **Oh Child** - ballad sung by Badger, telling Mole she cannot blame herself for her brother's death].

Exhausted and traumatised, Mole starts having visions of her friends as fairytale characters and makes a plan to rescue Toad [Song: **Make It Right** - frantic, fun dance number where Duck, and the other classmates sing and dance in fancy dress]. The plan becomes a reality and she wheels him out of prison hidden in a washing machine [Song: **Reprisey Life** - Mole and members the ensemble sing a version of Toad's earlier song 'Easy Life']. But the Weasels discover them and steal it with Toad still inside.

Mole sneaks away to find Otter. He tells her she needs to tell Rattie the truth. Rattie appears and Mole confesses about her brother and how he died [Song: **You're Not Alone Reprise** - Rattie and Mole sing a version of the same emotional ballad from the first act]. They make up and head off to rescue Toad, through a secret entrance in his wardrobe.

In Toad Hall, Toad is appalled by the carnage and heartbroken that the weasels have even killed his goldfish, Alan. [Song: **What Have They Done?** - emotional ballad sung by Toad, saddened and horrified by the destruction of his home, behind him there is a frantic and melodramatic ensemble dance]. Just as Mole, Rattie and Otter discover and un-tie Toad they are surrounded by the Weasels. Mole challenges Weasel to a dance battle. Badger appears

through the wardrobe in time to be the judge. [They dance battle.] Against all the odds, the Willows win.

They hear the police coming and Badger says Toad must hand himself in. Rattie defends Toad. Badger agrees to turn a blind eye to the break out until after exams. Rattie's outburst inspires Mole who runs out to find Chief Weasel - but she catches up with him in time to see him stripped of his mask and leadership by a junior weasel. She reaches out to him [Song: I See You - slow ballad sung by Mole].

Back at school, the students, including a reformed Chief Weasel, are celebrating their relative exam successes at the Graduation Ball. Suddenly police sirens are heard. Toad realises his life on the run from the police must end, but Owl reveals that she had a change of heart and dropped the charges. Mole has finally found somewhere to belong. And then they dance. [Song: In The Willows Reprise - big finale dance number. There will be bows.]

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW!