



The Little Red Hen Theatre Presents

AESOP'S Greatest Hits

School Performances: September 25 & 26 @ 10 AM & 1 PM

Public Performances: September 27 @ 2 & 5 PM,
September 28 @ 2 PM

Thank you for your interest in participating in our upcoming production of AESOP'S GREATEST HITS. We are thrilled to be producing the Little Red Hen Theatre's second mainstage play that is exclusively meant for younger audiences. AESOP'S GREATEST HITS was written for Jason Cannon for young audiences and is intended to be performed by three actors, or "Fableers". It is a quick paced (60 – 70 minutes!) interactive show that is played directly to its audience filled with humor and theatrical retellings of some of Aesop's most well-known fables; *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, *Androcles and the Lion*, *The Lion and the Mouse*, *The Lion*, *The Fox*, and *the Deer*, *The Fox and the Grapes*, and *The Tortoise and the Hare*. Melissa Derechailo will serve as our guest stage director.

We are looking for a minimum of 3 actors of all types, ages 16+, to be a part of this show. While the script calls for only 3 performers, we are considering expanding the casting of the show depending upon interest. Rehearsals are currently scheduled to take place in the evenings, but the schedule may adjust to accommodate actor availability. Auditions are being held on Thursday, August 14 and Friday, August 15 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. You only need to sign up for ONE audition time but should plan to be there for the entire session. **If you have not already signed up for a slot, please do so using our [ONLINE AUDITION FORM](#).**

The audition process will be run as a workshop, with all participants participating in various warm-ups, games, activities, acting exercises, movement exercises as well as readings from the script. The show requires actors to create multiple distinct and engaging characters, often "trading roles", as well as being comfortable with light improvisation and interaction with a live audience. We encourage you to read excerpt provided in this packet prior to coming to auditions. **Be sure to check out the draft rehearsal and production schedule for the show!**

In addition to performers and stage crew, we are seeking some dedicated and detail-oriented volunteers who can attend regular rehearsals to do the following:

- **Stage Manager/Assistant Director** – Track Blocking & Tech Needs, help run rehearsals.
- **Sound Designer/Operator** – Design and operate sound for the show.
- **Lighting Design/Operator** – Assist in lighting design & install, operate the board for the show.
- **Scenery & Prop Build** – Assist in building the scenery and props.
- **Backstage Crew** – Help with "running" the show backstage.
- **Front of House Help** – Volunteers who help usher, run box office, and handle concessions.

At The Little Red Hen, we pride ourselves on creating a safe and fun environment in which you can explore your creativity, learn new skills, and put together a fantastic performance. We work hard to create a fantastic show, but we work just as hard to make sure we have a great time doing it! If you have any questions about the process, the commitment, or any other aspect of volunteering just reach out to us at the theatre!

We can't wait to play with you!

T. Adam Goos, Managing Director
The Little Red Hen Theatre
(402) 287-2818
contact@littleredhentheatre.com



DRAFT REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Auditions: August 14 & 15 @ 6:30 – 8:00PM

Rehearsals: August 20 – September 26

Performances:

September 25 @ 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Performances TBD

September 26 @ 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Performances TBD

September 27 @ 2:00 & 5:00 PM Public Performances #1 & #2

September 28 @ 2:00 PM Public Performances #3

WEEK 1: Readthrough and Staging +Costume Measurements/Fittings

8/20	Wednesday	6:30- 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #1	Read Through
8/21	Thursday	6:30- 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #2	Staging
8/22	Friday	6:30- 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #3	Staging

WEEK 2: Staging

8/25	Monday	6:30 - 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #4	Staging
8/26	Tuesday	6:30- 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #5	Staging
8/27	Wednesday	6:30- 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #6	Staging

WEEK 3: Staging

9/2	Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #7	Staging
9/3	Thursday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #8	Staging
9/4	Friday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #9	Staging

WEEK 4: Staging

9/8	Monday	6:30– 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #10	Staging
9/9	Tuesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #11	Staging
9/10	Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #12	Staging
9/11	Thursday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #13	Staging

WEEK 5: Rehearse

9/15	Monday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #14	Run/Work
9/16	Tuesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #15	Run/Work
9/17	Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #16	Run/Work
9/18	Thursday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #17	Run/Work

WEEK 6: Rehearse & Perform +Costumes/Lights/Sound

9/22	Monday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #18	Run/Work
9/23	Tuesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #19	Run/Work
9/24	Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Rehearsal #20	Run/Work
9/25	Thursday	10 AM & 1 PM	*School Performances 1 & 2	
9/26	Friday	10 AM & 1 PM	*School Performances 3 & 4	
9/27	Saturday	2 PM & 5 PM	Public Performances 1 & 2	
9/28	Sunday	2 PM	Public Performances 3	

**School performances will take place at the theatre.*

PLEASE NOTE:

- The above calendar is a DRAFT only and subject to change with advance notice.
- This show will only require 3 – 4 actors and we will most likely change and customize this schedule to cast availability.
- A detailed schedule breakdown will be provided prior to rehearsals starting.
- We understand that you might not be able to commit to ALL the scheduled rehearsals, and that some conflicts are unavoidable. We just ask that you communicate conflicts in advance!

Have questions or concerns about the commitment? Reach out to Adam at the theatre!

LIST OF CHARACTERS!

AESOP’S GREATEST HITS!

By JASON CANNON

CAST OF CHARACTERS

		<i># of lines</i>
PHIL	Captain of the Aesop Fableers. Driven and intelligent, logical and practical, Phil is a planner with a short fuse who’s easy to wind up.	123
MIA	Long-time member of the Aesop Fableers. Mia is energetic and unflappable, but with a wily streak. She has much more patience with Ryan than Phil does.	124
RYAN.....	New member of the Aesop Fableers. It’s a dream job that Ryan has gotten pretty much on passion and spit. Little intelligence and all heart, Ryan tries so hard in this, his (always) first performance with the Fableers.	98

NOTE: Character names are simply placeholders for the purpose of this script. Actors can be any gender and ethnicity and are encouraged to use their own names.

- 1 **MIA:** *(Desperately trying to keep the peace and stay on script.)* Hey, Fableers, why don't we give them an example?
- RYAN:** *(As he hides behind MIA from PHIL.)* You mean, like a practice fable?
- 5 **MIA:** *(Blocks PHIL from reaching RYAN.)* Yeah, just like that! Hey, Captain Phil, which fable should we do to practice the moral of the story for this wonderful audience?
- PHIL:** *(Regains his professionalism.)* How about... "The Boy Who Cried Wolf"?
- 10 **MIA/RYAN:** Yeah!
- PHIL:** *(Orders.)* Ryan! Go get in wolf costume!
- RYAN:** Yessir! *(Gets wolf costume pieces. PHIL grabs a hat, shepherd's crook, and/or sheep puppets to become the boy. MIA grabs a pitchfork or dons a straw hat to become a farmer.)*
- 15 **PHIL:** Mia! You be ready with that moral of the story!
- MIA:** *(Salutes.)* Yes, sir, Captain Phil, sir!
- RYAN:** *(To PHIL, as he finishes putting on the wolf costume.)* Fableer Ryan, all wolfed up, sir!
- PHIL:** Very good, Ryan. *(Looks to MIA and RYAN.)* Ready, Fableers?
- 20 Three, two, one... fable! *(NOTE: This countdown to "fable" is recurring, so see about coaching the AUDIENCE and getting them in on the countdown and "fable" shout-out with PHIL. Flex those improv muscles! RYAN "hides" behind the trunk or just to the side of the stage.)*
- 25 **MIA:** *(To AUDIENCE.)* There once was a boy whose job was to tend the sheep.
- PHIL:** Man, I sure get bored tending all these sheep... I know! I'm going to go to the top of that hill and yell out, "Help, there's a wolf!" That'll be crazy cool! And funny!
- 30 **MIA:** And so, the boy did just that. He went to the top of the hill and yelled—
- PHIL:** Help! There's a wolf!
- MIA:** And all the farmers and village folk came running, only to find the boy laughing at them!
- 35 **PHIL:** *(To AUDIENCE.)* Ha, ha, ha! Stupid farmers and village folk! There's not really a wolf. I was just bored tending all these woolly sheep! Woolly, woolly, woolly! *(Laughs.)* Ha, ha, ha!
- MIA:** The boy did this several times...
- PHIL:** Help! There's a wolf! There's a wolf! *(Laughs some more.)*
- 40 **MIA:** Until finally...
- PHIL:** Help! There's a wolf! *(Laughs for a moment and then stops.)*

- 1 **MIA:** The farmers and village folk stopped believing him and refused to come running anymore.
- PHIL:** *(Tries again, more desperate.)* Help! There's a wolf! *(Laughs uncertainly.)* Ha, ha, ha! Woolly, woolly, woolly!
- 5 **MIA:** Then, one day, a real live wolf actually did show up!
- RYAN:** *(Jumps ON and runs to PHIL.)* Roar! I'm a wolf, and I'm going to eat all your sheep, you silly boy!
- MIA:** *(Breaks character.)* Do wolves roar?
- PHIL:** They howl! But keep going!
- 10 **MIA:** *(Stammers.)* So-so-so... the boy ran to the top of the hill and yelled—
- PHIL:** Help! There's a wolf!
- MIA:** *(To RYAN, as a "farmer.")* Yeah, right!
- PHIL:** No, really, there's really a wolf this time!
- 15 **MIA:** How stupid do you think we are, kid?
- PHIL:** I'm not lying! There's a wolf!
- RYAN:** Roar!
- PHIL:** *(Rolls his eyes.)* A wolf that roars.
- MIA:** *(To AUDIENCE.)* But the farmers and village folk didn't believe him
- 20 anymore, so no one came running to help the boy.
- PHIL:** Aw, man, that wolf is going to eat all the sheep! I'm going to get grounded forever!
- RYAN:** Yummy, yummy! I love eating sheep! Roar!
- PHIL:** And the moral of the story is...
- 25 **MIA:** *(Picks up and sounds the Moral Boop.)* If you keep telling lies...
- PHIL:** Then people won't believe you even when you do tell the truth!
- ALL:** *(Bow.)* Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! *(MIA sets down the Moral Boop and ALL remove their costumes and return them to the trunk.)*
- 30 **RYAN:** Yeah! That was awesome! That was my first fable ever! I can't believe it! I'm a real live Aesop Fableer! *(Picks up and sounds the Moral Boop around the stage.)*
- PHIL:** *(Reaches his limit.)* Ryan! *(RYAN stops.)* Calm down, buddy. We've got lots of fables to go. *(RYAN returns the Moral Boop to its spot.)*
- 35 **MIA:** Friends, I hope the morals of these stories will be clear to you. I think our practice fable went well, so buckle your seat belts and hold on, because next up is... "Androcles and the Lion"!
- RYAN:** *(PHIL dresses as a lion and hides a pencil on his person as MIA gets into the shepherd costume—possibly the one PHIL was just wearing. RYAN, who serves as the narrator for "Androcles," engages*
- 40