



Audience Guide

Ugly Duckling

WELCOME

Welcome to Portland Oventions! I'm so excited to welcome you to Merrill Auditorium to see Tutti Frutti's beautiful adaptation of the Ugly Duckling. With its lively music, movement, and puppetry, this show will leave you feeling uplifted and ready to take on the world. Sometimes, we all need a reminder that, "It's not what you look like, it's what you do that counts," (Mummy Duck).

Audience members like you play a special and important role in the performance. The performers are very aware of the audience while they perform. Sharing their hard work and joy with you is one of the best parts of being a performer. The cast of Ugly Duckling highly encourage clapping, laughing and cheering at the parts of the play that you enjoy.

Thank you so much for joining Portland Oventions to experience live theater today. I hope you have a wonderful time. After the show, don't forget to tell us about your experience! Find us on social media @portlandovations, or email us at offstage@portlandovations.org. I can't wait to hear from you.

Enjoy the show!

Liz Schildkret
Director, School and Family Programming



QUESTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY HOME

After you watch the performance, consider these questions.

- What moments in the play stood out to you?
 - What moments made you feel joyful?
 - What made you feel sad or lonely?
- Who were the characters in the story and what problems did they encounter?
 - How did they solve their problems?
- What do you do when you feel lonely like the Ugly Duckling?
- Where do you feel most at home and comfortable?
 - What does the place look, sound, and smell like?
 - Who are the people you enjoy being with when you're there?



Created and written by Dr. Liz Schildkret
Additional information and images provided by Tutti Frutti
Designed by Katie Day
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ADAPTING THE UGLY DUCKLING

by Playwright Emma Reeves

The process of taking an existing story and turning it into something else, like a play, is called adaptation. Playwright, Emma Reeves adapted Hans Christian Andersen’s fairytale The Ugly Duckling into a musical for Tutti Fruitti. Adaptation involves lots of reading, research to decide what stays the same and what changes. Read the authors’ note from Emma Reeves below to learn more about the decisions she made in adapting The Ugly Duckling.

When [the director] Wendy first suggested “The Ugly Duckling” to me, my first thought was, that sounds like fun! Familiar with the song version made famous by Danny Kaye, I remembered The Ugly Duckling as a comic, bubbly, and ultimately uplifting piece about identity and finding your own place in life. I thought it would be a marked contrast to my previous work for Tutti Fruitti, The Snow Child, which was based on a Russian folk tale with a distinctly melancholy edge.

But when I came to read Hans Christian Andersen’s original story, I was struck by the potential darkness lurking in the material. Could anything be sadder, especially for a child, than to be rejected by your mother, brothers and sisters? And will the Ugly Duckling really be better off living as a swan? After all, at the end of the story, he’s only just met them! When it comes to building relationships with people you love and who love you, is biological heritage really the only important thing?

The longing to find someone like-minded was reflected in Andersen’s own desire to be accepted by the literary establishment—but in the end, although he did achieve the respect he craved, it didn’t really make him happy. Discovering that you’re really a swan isn’t really the end of a story, but the beginning of a new one.

We talked about these ideas, and the themes of fitting in, bullying, and self-discovery in a research and development session with Wendy and the team. We also had a great deal of fun trying out elements of design, movement, and puppetry and attempting to channel our own inner ducklings and/or swans.

Perhaps as a result of my early exposure to the Danny Kaye song, I was keen to have a strong musical element in the show, including both funny and moving songs and dances.

What emerged from our research and experimentation was a desire to balance the plaintive side of Ugly’s search for identity with as much humour and playfulness as possible. As Ugly struggles to find his place in the world, a swan mis-categorized as a duckling, he looks for answers everywhere—he even attempts to follow the well-meaning advice of dogs and cats.

Ultimately, however hard we search for an identity outside ourselves, true happiness can only be achieved by coming to peace with our inner selves. The emotional power of Andersen’s story is undeniable and timeless. Our aim is to explore in as playful, entertaining and imaginative a way as possible.

RESOURCES

Plan your visit to Merrill Auditorium

<https://www.porttix.com/plan-your-visit/merrill-auditorium/>

Learn more about accessibility at Portland Ovarions

<https://portlandovations.org/about/accessibility/>

Get the latest health and safety information for Portland Ovarions productions

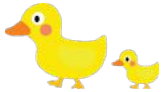
<https://portlandovations.org/about/health-safety/>

ACTIVITIES

FIND THE UGLY DUCKLING AND HIS FRIENDS IN MERRILL AUDITORIUM

Ugly and his friends are playing hide and seek in the Merrill Auditorium lobby today. Search on the Orchestra/Terrace level to find Ugly and his friends (*note: all characters are in public areas of the lower level of the lobby beyond the security and ticket-taking checkpoints*).

Each character has a letter underneath their picture. Collect all 5 letters and you'll spell a word! Write your letters and the word they spell below and show them to a Portland Ovations staff member to get a small prize.



Mummy Duck & Duckling: _____



Frog: _____



Cat: _____



Dog: _____

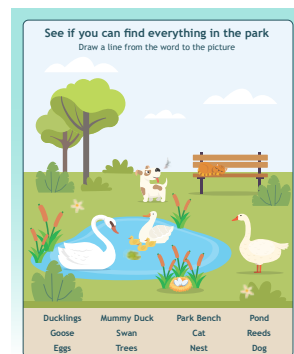
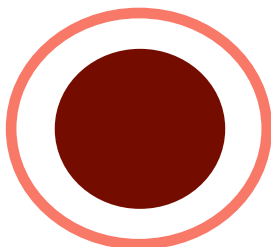
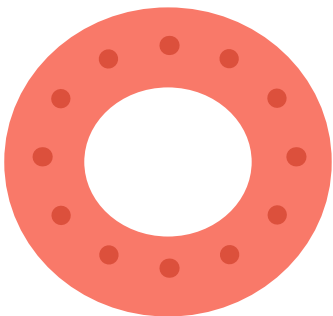


Swan: _____

Mummy Duck and Duckling Say:
(write your completed word here)

FIND THE UGLY DUCKLING AND HIS FRIENDS IMAGE SEARCH

Turn to the next page to find everyone in the park!



See if you can find everything in the park

Draw a line from the word to the picture



Ducklings

Mummy Duck

Park Bench

Pond

Goose

Swan

Cat

Reeds

Eggs

Trees

Nest

Dog

www.tutti-frutti.org.uk    @tuttifruttiprod #UglyDuckling