



AUDITION MATERIALS

AGES 5-18

Thank you for your interest in our upcoming production of

JUNIE B. JONES, JR...The Musical

Registration for auditions and audition materials (including music), are available at: <http://www.wildhorsetheater.com>

click "Junie B. Jones, Jr. Auditions"

OR

Audition Registration Google Link is: <https://forms.gle/xJ9MDGYtEpR45jbS9>

**Don't wait until the last minute to sign up! The form will close on Saturday, January 4 to allow staff to prepare for auditions!!*

(Don't forget to schedule your audition date and time – link near end of audition form!)

Welcome to the Wild Horse family! Wild Horse Children's Theater is so excited to present Junie B. Jones, Jr...The Musical! We are glad that you're interested in being part of the magic of live theater!
PERFORMANCES ARE APRIL 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 2025. Tuition is \$150 per student.

1. We will be holding two days of auditions at the Brewery Arts Center Performance Hall in Carson City:
 - a. **Wednesday, January 8th - 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm** (audition slots at 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm)
 - b. **Thursday, January 9th – 4:30-7:30 p.m.** (audition slots at 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm)
 - c. Callbacks will be held on **Saturday, January 11th**, 1-4 pm
2. **There will be regular rehearsals every Wednesday and Thursday, starting on Wednesday, January 15th from 4:15 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. You may or may not be called to each rehearsal depending on the character you are cast to play. A detailed schedule will be handed out at our first rehearsal.**
3. **A parent meeting will also be held on January 15th at 6:00 P.M. (during the first rehearsal).**

You MUST fill out the audition registration form (link above) **AND** schedule an audition time slot online. The link to schedule an audition time slot is near the end of the audition registration form.
NOTE: IF THE TIME SLOT YOU WANT IS FILLED, CONTACT EMAIL BELOW. WE MAY BE ABLE TO ADD A FEW SLOTS TO EACH SECTION.

Audition materials are below.

Questions? Contact Producerwhct@gmail.com or Director@wildhorsetheater.com

DESCRIPTION

Laugh yourself silly with Junie B. Jones in this hilarious Broadway Junior adaptation of Barbara Park's beloved series.

Join Junie B. on her first day of first grade, where many changes are in store: Junie's best friend Lucille has found new best friends — and Junie B. makes friends with Herb, the new kid at school. While in Mr. Scary's class, Junie has trouble reading the blackboard — and she may need glasses. Add in a friendly cafeteria lady, an intense kickball tournament and a "Top-Secret Personal Beeswax Journal," and first grade has never been more exciting.

Featuring many lovable characters and fun-filled songs, *Junie B. Jones, JR.* will capture your audiences' and Broadway Junior performers' hearts — just as the books captivated an entire generation of students.

We are seeking a *diverse cast* of children and teens to bring this exciting and energetic show to life! While Junie B. Jones and her friends are in first grade, this production has been successfully performed by adult theater companies in the past, much like the adult actors in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. For our production, we are looking to double cast a "younger" and "older" show comprised of performers with strong skills in singing, acting, and dancing.

Our Policy for Actors Rehearsing Multiple Shows

Go for it! If you have the time, energy, and drive to rehearse for multiple shows simultaneously, we fully support you. Theater should be fun, providing you with experience from different directors, choreographers, musical directors, and opportunities to make new friends. No one should discourage you from working with other theater companies, though not all share this philosophy. Wild Horse Children's Theater is committed to ensuring you have a positive experience. If you commit to more than one show during the same rehearsal period, please list your conflicts so we can schedule accordingly. As a rule of thumb, during tech weeks, the show going up first takes precedence, so you won't miss any critical rehearsals.

If you have a performance at another company during our auditions and/or callbacks, please make sure that is on your conflict sheet, and we will work around this if you receive a callback.

Finally, please remember that a musical is a living, breathing entity. Things don't always go exactly as planned, so changes to the plan will most likely be made throughout the rehearsal process. We promise to give you as much advance notice as possible on changes that arise.

Please review the information in this packet closely so you can come prepared to audition!

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WHAT HAPPENS AT AUDITIONS?

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE AUDITION PROCESS IS TO HAVE FUN!

1. Auditions will be spread out in one-hour slots with 25 auditioners at a time.
2. Auditioners and parents will enter through the main entrance of the Performance Hall to check in and get your audition number.
3. Auditioners will be seated in the theater in their group.
4. Each auditioner will be called up one by one to perform their audition song selection. They will say their name, age, and what song they are singing.
5. After everyone has sung, the dance portion will be taught, and small groups will dance. You can change into dance shoes if you like!
6. Auditioners will exit on the right side of the Performance Hall theater for parent pickup as the next group will be entering through the left side.

Parents need to know...

- Siblings should audition in the same time slot
- Auditioners should arrive 15 minutes before their allotted time. **Make sure you have filled out your audition form online before you arrive.**
- Parents may accompany their child through registration and can stay to watch auditions IF YOUR CHILD WANTS YOU THERE!
- Callbacks slips will be given after each group auditions. If you do not get a call back it does not mean you didn't get a principal part. There are MANY wonderful parts in this show, and we cannot possibly see everyone for every part at callbacks. Our casting committee has gotten very proficient through the years at casting on the spot!

Some tips on your audition to stand out and be your best!

- Have your song fully memorized! Nerves can make lyrics and dialogue fly right out of your brain if they aren't locked in there well.
- Make sure you are acting out your music selections in character! How do you think that character stands? Sounds? What is it they want from the audience? Are they trying to scare them? Get help from them? Persuade them? Make a choice!
- And again... Make a choice! Make a BIG choice! Just go for it :) Your job in an audition is NOT to guess what we want to see...your job is to show us the BEST you've got so that we can make a good decision.
- Come to auditions dressed comfortably so that you can move. Close-toed shoes please- no slide-ons.

Remember: Leads aren't just the most talented people. The best voice doesn't equal the best role! At auditions we look for how you interact with others, follow instructions, show independence and resilience as well as talent and availability/commitment. Don't be discouraged if you don't think you're *perfect* for a role – it is possible for us to help a committed and diligent person grow throughout the rehearsal process – practice makes perfect!

VOCAL AUDITION TIPS

1. A musical theater vocal audition is NOT "American Idol." This is an audition, not a "sing-off." It's all about storytelling. The directors aren't so much listening to voices as looking for who can tell a story with their voice, face, and body.
2. The directors have a problem. They need to put together a big puzzle and find just the right pieces to put it together best. They are not there to "judge" you – they are really hoping that you'll be the right fit for one of the puzzle pieces. Your job is to help the directors solve their problem. So, there's no need for you to be nervous!
3. If you're nervous anyway, "hide" behind the character. Remember that it's not "you" up there; it's your character. Tell your character's story the entire time when you audition. Get involved in telling the story, and don't spend time thinking about how your voice sounds when you sing. Make a strong, active choice for your character, and play it fully. We can't tell anything about your character if you don't show us an active personality.
4. Try to be aware of what your face and body are doing when you sing. Regardless of how your song sounds, if your face doesn't tell the story of the song, the audience isn't going to understand the story. Our brains process pictures before they process words, so if your hands are busy doing something unrelated to the song (for instance: tugging at the bottom of your shirt) the audience is going to think your song is about something else (a shirt), no matter what words you're singing!
5. Use clear diction. We need to understand every word that you sing. Stand in the center of the stage and sing loudly enough to be heard from way across the room, but don't scream.
6. When you are singing, you shouldn't look at anyone in the room -- especially not the director. You should look past the director at a spot on the wall that is at your eye level. Pretend that spot is a close friend to whom you are telling your story.
7. The directors may give you advice about how to read a certain line, or how to read the whole scene. If that happens, try to incorporate the suggestions into your performance, even if it seems odd or wrong. Everyone will notice how well you take direction, and that has a huge impact on whether you get that part.

What makes a great Ensemble member?

At auditions we will be looking for Ensemble members who work well with others, demonstrate energy when dancing, and passion when singing. You do not need to be skilled at either singing or dancing to get in – show that you can follow instructions, be independent (this includes things like bringing the correct materials, being on time etc.) and are committed to attend lots of rehearsals to perfect your part. The hardest part in any show is the Ensemble – they have to all work together to create a great show.

“There are no small parts, only small actors.” – Constantin Stanislavski

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

IMPORTANT NOTE ON CASTING: *We believe that our production will benefit from a variety of races, genders, abilities, body types, and sizes, and we will spread diversity as best we can across all roles in the production. There are many roles that can be cast beyond the male/female binary, and we will be thoughtful and inclusive in our casting choices. “Who is the best actor to play this role?” will be our casting criterion.*

Unless you note that you will only take a specific role on your audition form, you will be considered for all parts regardless of the character that you read at auditions.

Character Breakdowns

Junie B. Jones

Junie B. Jones is a spunky, intelligent girl who is starting the first grade as our show begins. Determined and a bit impulsive, Junie B. finds herself at the center of many classroom antics. Cast an experienced actor with a strong singing voice and excellent comedic timing. Your actor must be able to balance Junie B.'s charm and precociousness so the audience cheers for her right from the start.
Gender: Female

Daddy

Daddy is Junie B.'s encouraging father who always looks on the bright side. Look for an actor who can comfortably portray an adult figure in a world full of young school kids. Daddy sings a song with Junie B. and Mother, so find a performer with a nice voice who can portray Daddy's kind heart.
Gender: Male

Mother

Mother is Junie B.'s no-nonsense mom. She can be tough on Junie B., but it is all out of love. As with Daddy, find a performer who can play a more mature person. Mother is a perfect role for someone with a good voice who can portray a supportive parent.
Gender: Female

Lucille

Lucille is Junie B.'s former best friend who has moved on to new friendships. Poised, put together, and probably a bit spoiled, Lucille controls and plans everything she does – quite the opposite of Junie B.'s bold impulsiveness. Cast a strong singer and confident actor in this role.
Gender: Female

Camille and Chenille

Lucille's new best friends, Camille and Chenille are twins. Just like Lucille, they are well dressed and very composed. These two roles are great for performers with bright energy who are also good singers. Remember, the actors playing Camille and Chenille don't have to look exactly alike – so long as they are wearing matching costumes, the audience will get the idea.
Gender: Female

Grace

Grace is another one of Junie B.'s former best friends. She is not as calculated as Lucille, she has simply made new friends apart from Junie B. This is a perfect role for a young performer who can portray a kind and laid-back character and has a good voice.

Gender: Female

Mr./Ms. Woo

Mr. Woo is the supervisor on the school bus. This featured role is great for an actor with a commanding speaking voice as he is in charge of corralling the Kids on Bus.

Gender: Either

Bobbi Jean Piper

Bobbi Jean Piper is Grace's new friend. Bobbi Jean happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and unintentionally ends up on Junie B.'s bad side. This is a nice cameo role for a new performer.

Gender: Female

Herb

Herb is Junie B.'s new best friend. An endlessly kind and charming little boy, Herb easily balances out Junie B.'s more demanding side. Find a performer who has great chemistry with Junie B. Herb should be one of your stronger singers and a very likeable actor.

Gender: Male

May

May is the teacher's pet. Eager to prove her brilliance, May does not prioritize making friends with any of her classmates, and they do not mind. Cast a performer who can tap into the humor and confidence of this vibrant role.

Gender: Female

Lennie and José

Lennie and José are classmates and friends of Junie B. and Herb. These two roles are good features for actors with good energy and nice voices.

Gender: Either

Mr./Mrs. Scary

Mr. Scary is the Room One teacher. Unlike his name suggests, Mr. Scary is a supportive and encouraging teacher. This is a perfect role to showcase a mature and energetic actor. Though he has a few short singing lines, they could easily be spoken if the actor isn't a strong singer.

Gender: Either

Sheldon

SHELDON is definitely not the most popular kid in class. Plagued by a myriad of allergies and a general clumsiness, Sheldon's good intentions often end in disaster. Cast a great singer who can bring out the nerdy charm in this endearing role.

Gender: Male

Shirley

Shirley is a featured soloist in a few of the School Kids' songs. This is perfect introductory role for a great singer who is new to acting.

Gender: Female

Mrs. Guzman

Mrs. Gutzman is the sweet old lunch lady, revered by all of the School Kids. Cast a mature performer who can capture her warm, grandmotherly nature. Mrs. Gutzman does not have to sing, so this is a great opportunity for a strong actor.

Gender: Female

Ensemble

The Ensemble consists of Tickle the dog, the School Kids, Lunch Student 1, Kids on Bus, Student 1, Student 2, Student 3, Student 4, Student 5, Lunch Server and Cheerleaders. These are great roles for anyone who wants to be involved in the production.

Gender: Both

SONG SELECTIONS AND LYRICS

You should prepare ONE of the following songs for the audition. You will sing individually (a solo). Though auditioners will only perform one song, it's a good idea to become familiar with the other songs in case you are asked to sing another role.

This link is to the MTI "Junie B. Jones, Jr.... the Musical." page. If you click on "audition central" on the right-hand side under "Show Essentials," it will take you to the breakdown of each character with sides and their written music score and lyrics <https://www.mtishows.com/junie-b-jones-the-musical-jr>

You can also visit the following link for the "Junie B. Jones." soundtrack on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUSLfHH1K4Awz6U4QGulZleK23LyZefb5>

These song cuts are posted on drop box. Here is the link:

Audition Songs WITH WORDS AND WITH OUT WORDS:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/v40k21utrucgu55345inz/AGIEuyxS2KdL7mHRFgnfl2l?rlkey=kf78qui4zc6w78rfaf02e159w&st=1bcmc4p4&dl=0>

Each cut has two versions: one with vocals, labeled "**With Words**," and one instrumental, labeled "**WO Words**." The "With Words" versions are for learning purposes, but you will be singing along to the instrumental version for your audition. Make sure to practice with the "WO Words" version. Pay attention to the tempo (how fast or slow the song goes) and your entrances (knowing when to begin singing). Don't try to imitate the vocal quality of the person on the vocal version—sing the way you think the character would express themselves!

Please prepare ONE song from this packet.

*Next to each song title, you'll find **SUGGESTIONS** for specific characters you might consider auditioning for. However, ***feel free to choose and perform any song from this list for your audition.*** Some roles are gender-neutral, so select the song that you feel most comfortable with and add your own unique flair.

Song #1: TOP SECRET PERSONAL BEESWAX (Sing this if you are auditioning for Junie B. Jones or any female part)

Sing from beginning to 1:05

I can hardly believe it! It's almost too good to be true!
Mother went to the store and she bought me a book full of lots of empty pages
I can do things to.
If I want to draw a wiener sausage or a picture of a beautiful day
Or list my fav'rite colors and foods,
Anything I want is A-O-K!
'Cause it's my Top-Secret Personal Beeswax
The whole wide world according to me.
I'll call it Top Secret Personal Beeswax
and keep it under lock and key.
I'll take my Top-Secret Personal Beeswax
and put it in this diary
And call it Top Secret Personal Beeswax:
The Life and times of Junie B.!

Song #7: YOU CAN BE MY FRIEND (Sing this if you are auditioning for any part and just sing all of Junie B. and Herbert's parts.)

Sing from beginning to 1:17

Junie B: If you want to sit here, I suppose that that might be alright.
If you want to sit here, I suppose that I will be polite.
First grade makes you tired. Why not sit awhile?
I will take the window seat and you can have the aisle.
Herbert, you're a nice boy and I think that I will have to say
You can be my friend, just for today.

Herbert: I was thinking maybe, if tomorrow after school, you're free,
I might feel like bowling.

If you want to, you could go with me.

Junie B.: Let me check my date book. Right now, I'll look through it.
Let's see here, it looks like tomorrow I could do it...

Herbert: If you can't, no problem.

I was going bowling anyway

Song #21: SHELDON POTTS' HALFTIME SHOW (Sing this if you are auditioning for any male parts)

Sing from :11 to 1:00

Can't you see me there on Friday as I lead the bugle corps.
As my cymbals crash, I will take a bow as the crowd begins to roar.
Then the cheerleaders will jump and hop and wave as they shout,
"Hip hip hooray!"
Then I'll autograph some kickballs as I ride off on a horse.
Then there'll be a great big fireworks display!
Whaddaya think, Mister Scary?
Isn't that a show you'd really want to see?
I will call it the super doper halftime show, starring yours truly, Sheldon Potts, that's me!

Song #23: WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS (Sing this if you are auditioning for any of the "adult" parts)

Sing from :08 to :51

When the road of life hits some boulders and bumps
Dear, the strain and strife can leave you down in the dumps
But I've got some advice that in my noggin has stayed
When life gives you lemons, just make lemonade
Think your time is through, and you would be a star
Never take for granted just how special you are
Stardom isn't over, just a little delay
When life gives you lemons, just make lemonade
See these lemons inside my hand
Old and sour and no fun at all (so?)
Look at sour lemons in a different way
And suddenly, you'll have a ball

DANCE/MOVEMENT AUDITION TIPS

The choreographer will teach a small routine that you will learn in groups. Do your best with the dance steps but remember that choreographers are most interested in who looks energized and excited while moving in time with the music.

Don't panic if you mess up the steps, place your feet incorrectly, or forget what to do with your hands. Even polished dancers make mistakes. No one expects perfection. If you miss something, keep smiling and keep going—staying in character is vital in an audition! A big smile and confidence can hide many mistakes. Even if you perform the steps perfectly, if you're not expressive or look overly focused, the role might go to someone with slightly less dancing ability who portrays a believable character.

Make sure you stand where you can see the choreographer while learning the steps. Often, people uncomfortable with dancing try to hide in the back, but it doesn't work. The goal is not to hide but to show what you can do!



JUNIE B. JONES, JR. 2018
WILD HORSE CHILDREN'S THEATER

CASTING

Casting a show is like assembling a large jigsaw puzzle. If you aren't cast in the part you wanted, it doesn't mean your audition wasn't excellent. It simply means that particular role wasn't the right fit for you in this show. This decision often has little to do with your talent and more with factors like height, age, or vocal range.

Similarly, if you auditioned for a specific role but were cast in a different one, it means the directors saw you as the best fit for that role. Remember, the ensemble is also a crucial role. Being in a show is like being on a team; every player is vital to the success of the production. No single actor is more important than another on stage. As the saying goes, "There are no small parts, only small actors!"