



AUDITION PACKET

Audition Dates:

September 14 @ 7:00pm

September 15 @ 7:00pm

September 16 @ 7:00pm [callbacks if needed]

*Note: Not every role will require a callback. If a casting decision can be made based on the initial audition, performers may not be asked to return. We value everyone's time and will only hold callbacks when additional information is needed before casting

Performance Dates:

December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 @ 7:30pm

December 6, 12, 13, 19 @ 2:00pm



Synopsis

Book by David Greig

Music by Mark Shaiman

Lyrics by Scott Wittman & Mark Shaiman

Based on the beloved novel by Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* tells the story of Charlie Bucket, an imaginative child whose kindness and optimism never waver despite growing up with very little. When Charlie discovers one of Willy Wonka's five Golden Tickets, he embarks on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through the world's most extraordinary chocolate factory. Alongside four other children – each driven by greed, pride, or selfishness – Charlie discovers that imagination, humility, and goodness are the greatest rewards of all. Filled with unforgettable music, larger-than-life characters, and endless opportunities for theatrical magic, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* celebrates creativity, kindness, and the power of believing that the impossible might just be possible.

A Note About This Production

From our entire production team, we are thrilled that you're interested in auditioning for *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory*! Welcome to the wonderful, wacky, and wholly unexpected world of Wonka!

While many of us know and love this story, it's important to note that our production will not attempt to recreate the Broadway musical or any of the famous film adaptations. Instead, we're setting out on a journey to create something entirely our own—a unique interpretation of this beloved story that belongs specifically to our cast and creative team.

At the heart of our production will be the idea of creating something out of nothing. Imagination, invention, and playfulness will be everywhere, but Charlie's magic comes from more than his imagination. His kindness, generosity, curiosity, and ability to see the best in others—even when they don't necessarily deserve it—are what make him truly special.

These are qualities we could all use a little more of in the world, and we want to celebrate them throughout this production. Every person involved will bring their own experiences, perspectives, creativity, and individuality to the process. We encourage you to bring all of that with you. Come ready to take risks, experiment, play, and help us discover what this world can become.

Let's create something wild and wonderful together.

A Note for Parents & Performers

While our production will be filled with whimsy, imagination, and plenty of Wonka-esque fun, we also want to be transparent about the fact that our interpretation will explore some darker elements of the story.

In particular, the Oompa Loompas will have a mischievous and sometimes chaotic presence, including moments of staged violence. We recognize that different performers and families have different comfort levels with these themes. If you have any questions or concerns about the material, please feel welcome to speak with me before or during auditions. Our goal is for everyone involved to feel informed, comfortable, and supported throughout the process.

A Personal Note

Gene Wilder's *Willy Wonka* was one of my favorite films growing up, and this story has remained very close to my heart. It's incredibly meaningful to have the opportunity to step into this world again—not simply to recreate what has come before, but to discover something new within it.

I cannot wait to see what each of you brings to the room. Come with your imagination, your curiosity, and your willingness to play.

Welcome to Wonka. Let's make something unforgettable.

-Jessie Presswood, Director

Production Leadership Team

Jessie Presswood - Director
Sara Gugley - Music Director / Vocal Director
Camila Garbati - Choreographer
Ava Demorow & Audrey Demorow - Stage Manager
Kerr Anderson - Set Designer
Joiya Fishburn & Jill Beauchamp - Costume Design
Colleen Hill-Rakunas & Cinder Conlon - Lighting Design
Harold Kranick - Youth Coordinator
Kendall Kotcher - Fight/Stunt Coordinator

A Note About Working With Children

This production includes both adult and youth performers. We are committed to creating a rehearsal environment that is welcoming, respectful, encouraging, and professional for performers of every age. Adult cast members should recognize that they are role models for our younger performers. Children often look to experienced actors not only for artistic inspiration but also for examples of rehearsal etiquette, professionalism, kindness, and teamwork. We hope every adult in the company will help foster an environment where our youngest performers feel safe to take creative risks, ask questions, and grow as artists. Likewise, we expect our youth performers to demonstrate respect, preparedness, and enthusiasm as valued members of the company. Together, we will create a rehearsal space where imagination, collaboration, and mutual respect allow everyone to do their best work.

Casting Information

There are opportunities for performers of many ages.

- Adult performers of all ages are encouraged to audition.
- Youth performers ages 8 and older are encouraged to audition.
- Parents or guardians should remain present during youth auditions.

Casting is open regardless of gender for many roles.

Charlie may be portrayed by a performer of any gender while remaining the character of Charlie Bucket. Likewise, Willy Wonka may be portrayed by a performer of any gender whose audition best captures the imagination, intelligence, wit, and theatrical presence of the character.

The Oompa Loompas will primarily be portrayed by youth performers and will serve as an important part of bringing Wonka's magical world to life.

There will be an adult ensemble and a youth ensemble.

No roles have been pre-cast.

What to Prepare for Auditions

Auditions will be held in the lower level of Old Town Playhouse (148 E. Eighth Street, Traverse City, MI 49684).

Auditions will consist of a vocal audition and a dance audition. If there is a need for callbacks, you may be asked to perform a dialogue audition for the sides located here.

Vocal Audition

If you prefer to sing a selection from the show, those choices are available by clicking here. Otherwise, please prepare 16–32 bars (approximately one minute) of a musical theatre selection that best showcases your voice. An accompanist will be provided. Please bring clearly marked sheet music in the correct key. While musical theatre selections are preferred, any song with piano accompaniment is acceptable if it demonstrates your vocal abilities.

Tracks are discouraged, and a cappella auditions are strongly discouraged. Because performers will rehearse and perform with a live orchestra, we encourage auditioning with live accompaniment whenever possible.

Dance Audition

A movement audition will be held as part of the audition process. Adults and youth performers may participate in separate movement groups depending on attendance and choreography requirements. Please wear clothing that allows you to move comfortably. While fun audition attire is certainly welcome, please ensure you are able to participate safely in the movement portion of auditions.

Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes to move and dance in for auditions and callbacks.

Feel free to bring a water bottle. We ask that you silence your cell phone prior to auditions / callbacks.

Rehearsal Expectations

Rehearsals will generally be held:

Sunday afternoons/evenings (5pm-8pm)

Monday-Thursday evenings (7pm-9pm)

Not every cast member will be called to every rehearsal. Those who are called are expected to arrive on time, prepared, and ready to work.

A rehearsal conflict form must be completed during auditions. Conflicts will be carefully considered during casting; however, performers should expect to be available for all scheduled performances.

Attendance during Tech Week is strongly expected, and availability will be an important consideration when casting principal roles.

Our Rehearsal Philosophy

Our rehearsal room is built on three simple principles:

- Come prepared.
- Respect everyone's time.
- Celebrate creativity.

We believe the best productions happen when everyone arrives ready to work, supports one another, communicates openly, and embraces the creative process. Theatre is a collaborative art form, and every member of the cast and production team contributes to the success of the final production.

Rehearsals will be scheduled as efficiently as possible. Cast members will generally only be called when they are actively needed for the scenes or musical numbers being rehearsed. Our goal is to respect everyone's time while making the most productive use of each rehearsal.

Sign Up & Contact Info

Audition Sign-Up:

Please sign up for auditions via the [Old Town Playhouse website](#).

Questions & Contact:

If you have any questions about the audition process, rehearsal schedule, or the production itself, please contact the director, Jessie Presswod at presswood.jess@gmail.com.

Additional Information:

Further details, including rehearsal schedules and any updates, will be communicated to cast members after auditions.

Character Descriptions

Willy Wonka - The sly, charming star of the show. Lithe, eccentric. His larger than life persona can go from charming and comical, to magically mysterious and dark. Gender: flexible; Vocal range: A2-G4

Charlie Bucket - Sweet, smart, hopeful and loving. A boy with wonderful innocence and vulnerability. Gender: flexible; Vocal range: G#3-F5

Grandpa Joe - Impish. He is Charlie's imaginative, fun, kind and loving grandfather. After many years being confined to a bed, his childish energy returns when Charlie finds the Golden Ticket. Gender: male; Vocal range: G#2-G4

Mrs. Bucket - Charlie's warm and kind-hearted mother. Worrier. Generous and loving. Gender: female; Vocal range: G3-E5

Grandma Josephine - Gender: female; Vocal range: C4-D5

Grandma Georgina - Gender: female; Vocal range: Ab3-E5

Grandpa George - Gender: male; Vocal range: F2-E4

Mrs. Gloop - Augustus's German, moronic, Wagnerian mother. Mirthlessly smiles as though it were affixed to the front of her face. Gender: female; Vocal range: Bb3-D5

Augustus Gloop - Rampantly over-active. Gender: flexible; Vocal range: Bb3-G5

Mr. Salt - Veruca's goofy, eccentric, distracted, hilarious father. Finds it impossible to say no, giving in to every ridiculous demand his daughter makes. Gender: male; Vocal range: Ab2- Ab4

Veruca Salt - Vicious and determined. Gender: flexible; Vocal range: Ab4-Db5

Mr. Beauregarde - Violet's ineffectual father. Ignores his back-talking, insult-hurling daughter. Gender: male; Vocal range top: F#3-G4

Violet Beauregarde - Confident, forward, and full of attitude. Gender: flexible; Vocal range top: C#4-F#5

Mike Teavee - A fireplug with a ridiculous amount of energy. Gender: flexible; Vocal range: G3-Bb4

Mrs. Teavee - She needs amphetamines to get through the day and deal with her outrageous son. Tense, extreme, and hilarious. Gender: female; Vocal range: G3-Eb5

Mrs. Green - A vegetable seller. Gender: female

Jerry - Broadcaster. Gender: flexible

Cherry - Broadcaster. Gender: flexible

Ensemble - Adult

Ensemble - Youth

"My name is Willy Wonka.
I make chocolate.
Quite simply, the greatest invention
in the entire history of the world."



Old Town Playhouse Code of Conduct Information

The Old Town Playhouse Production Manual provides everything from contact lists to job descriptions, procedures, and everything else you need to know. [Click here to review the Production Manual before auditions.](#)

Discrimination, Harassment, and Intimidation

OTP is committed to maintaining an environment which fosters respect among all staff and volunteers. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, and intimidation undermines the integrity of our working relationships and disrupts the operation and management of OTP and our productions, events, and activities.

Accordingly, OTP will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation which is based upon a person's race, religion, disability, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, height, weight, marital status, veteran status, or any other basis protected by applicable law.

OTP expects all of its staff and volunteers (including but not limited to cast and crew members, and members of any production management team) to conduct themselves with dignity and with respect for fellow staff, volunteers, the general public, and others. We each have the right to work and participate in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. Any staff members or volunteers who witness or are subjected to any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation should immediately report such conduct to the Artistic Director or Executive Director.

All claims of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or intimidation will be promptly investigated, and appropriate remedial action will be taken, up to and including dismissal or replacement, when warranted by the circumstances. To the extent feasible, complaints will be handled confidentially.

Concerns can be raised in good faith without fear of reprisal or retaliation. OTP prohibits retaliation against a staff member or volunteer for making a good faith complaint under this policy or assisting in a complaint investigation.

Attitude and Professionalism

Frequently, the first or only person a patron has contact with at Old Town Playhouse is a volunteer. As ambassadors for Old Town Playhouse, it is essential that volunteers are professional, accessible, and welcoming. This is true for not only patrons, but also staff and fellow volunteers.

As a cross-section of the community, we're all coming from different places and beliefs. Once together at OTP we are working toward a common goal.

With this in mind, OTP expects all volunteers to comply with the following and promote a positive OTP environment:

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Comply with all applicable laws.
- Exhibit a spirit of professionalism.
- Be prepared for rehearsals, if applicable.
- Be open to receiving supportive and constructive feedback.
- Address conflict, if any, in a respectful and professional manner.
- Work together to keep OTP a place where people can learn, grow, and have fun.