

BYE BYE BIRDIE

Audition Packet

AUDITIONS SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2017

Everything you need for the audition is in this packet. Please look over it carefully and contact Mr. Tay if you have any questions.

About Bye Bye Birdie

Bye Bye Birdie is a satire that takes place in 1958 and centers around an Elvis Presley type rock and roll superstar (Conrad Birdie) who is drafted into the army. His agent and song writer (Albert Peterson) and Albert's secretary and love interest (Rosie Alvarez) plan a farewell performance for Birdie on the Ed Sullivan television show, which they hope will provide the publicity to sell his new song "One Last Kiss" and bring Albert's company out of debt. At the conclusion of the performance, Birdie will give a real kiss to a lucky girl from his fan club. The lucky girl, randomly chosen, is Kim MacAfee from Sweet Apple, Ohio, and is an avid member of the local Conrad Birdie fan club. Albert and Rosie come to Sweet Apple to prepare for Birdie's arrival and things begin to unravel. Kim's father (Harry MacAfee) begins to get excited about the thought of being on the Ed Sullivan Show with his daughter and Kim's new steady (Hugo Peabody) starts to get jealous of the thought of Kim kissing Birdie on national television. After Birdie's arrival in Sweet Apple, things continue to come undone as Birdie's charms enrage Hugo to punch him out on national television as he embraces to kiss Kim. Later, Birdie confesses that he is tired of show business and goes out on the town with the kids to show them how to party. This leads to Birdie's arrest. Meanwhile, Rosie is getting tired of waiting for Albert to propose and figures that eight years is long enough. She is also tired of Albert's domineering mother (Mae Peterson) who is constantly interfering in their relationship. Rosie goes out on the town and stumbles into a Shriner's meeting, leading to a humorous ballet sequence. The show ends with Albert bailing Birdie out of jail prompting Birdie to ask Albert to be his agent forever as he gets on the train to New York and his induction into the army. Kim and Hugo make up as Hugo proposes to Kim and Albert finally decides to propose to Rosie to tie up the remaining romantic knot before the show's finale.

BYE BYE BIRDIE CHARACTERS

Character	Gender	Age range	Description
Girls Chorus	F	Teen	Conrad Birdie's Fan Club, multiple singing parts
Albert Peterson	M	Adult	President of the Almaelou Music Corporation and is Conrad Birdie's agent. He is a nervous, excitable man who spends most of his time trying to control the uncontrollable, with quite comic results.
Rosie Alvarez	F	Adult	Albert's girlfriend and secretary at the Almaelou Music Corporation, who is frustrated with Albert's inability to commit to her. She is willing to do anything it takes to get Albert to give up the music business and settle down. Headstrong and confident, she is often one step ahead of Albert.
Helen	F	Teen	Ensemble
Nancy	F	Teen	Ensemble
Alice	F	Teen	Ensemble
Margie	F	Teen	Ensemble
Freddie	M	Teen	Ensemble
Karl	M	Teen	Ensemble
Harvey Johnson	M	Teen	A typical nerdy teenager who can't seem to get enough of the gossip going on.
Mr. Henkel	M	Adult	Walk-on, non-speaking
Penelope	F	Teen	Ensemble
Boys	M	Teen/ Younger	Ensemble
Girl	F	Teen/ Younger	Ensemble
Suzie (or divide)	M/F	Teen/ Younger	Ensemble
Mrs. Miller	F	Adult	Walk-on, non-speaking
Mrs. Garfein	F	Adult	Walk-on, non-speaking
Younger siblings (added)	M/F	Younger	Ensemble
Ursula Merkle	F	Teen	Kim's best friend and the hyper-enthusiastic teenager who leads the girls in screaming for Conrad.
Kim MacAfee	F	Teen	Self-confident young member of Conrad's fan club who is chosen to receive a kiss from Conrad before he leaves for the Army. She sees herself as more mature than the average teenager.
Mrs. Doris MacAfee	F	Adult	Kim's loving mother who knows just how to handle her husband and her household.
Sad Girl	F	Teen/ Younger	Ensemble
Girl 1	F	Teen/ Younger	Ensemble
Teen Chorus- NY Penn Station	M/F	Teen	Ensemble
Mrs. Mae Peterson	F	Older Adult	Albert's controlling mother. She loves her son, despite her disapproval of the way he runs the family business and (especially) his affection for Rosie. She has never stopped parenting Albert, and her mounting frustration throughout the show as Albert begins to stand up to her provides recurring comic relief.
Policeman	M/F	Adult	Ensemble
Conrad Birdie	M	Teen	A teen heartthrob who has been drafted into the army. This character was written with Elvis Presley in mind. He says little but conveys much with his body language, swagger and, of course, his music. This is someone who knows that good looks and a killer smile will get him more than his personality.

Guardsmen	M/F	Adult	Chorus
Kids	M/F	Teen/ Younger	Ensemble
Reporters	M/F	Adult	Chorus
First Reporter	M/F	Adult	Chorus
Second Reporter	M/F	Adult	Chorus
Adults	M/F	Adult	Ensemble
Trainman	M/F	Adult	Chorus
Teen Girls	F	Teen	Ensemble
Hugo Peabody	M	Teen	Kim's devoted steady boyfriend who is jealous that Conrad is receiving so much attention from Kim.
Deborah Sue	F	Teen	Ensemble
Mayor	M	Adult	Head figure of Sweet Apple, Ohio, who welcomes Conrad Birdie to town. A bit naive to the effect Conrad has on the girls of the town.
Mayor's Wife, Edna	F	Adult	One of the adults in the show who cannot escape the power of Conrad Birdie's spell.
Mr. Johnson	M	Adult	Harvey's father and one of the many parents in Sweet Apple desperate to keep control of their children as Conrad Birdie comes to town.
Mrs. Merkle	F	Adult	Ursula's overbearing mother who also gets a touch of Conrad Birdie Fever.
Mr. Harry MacAfee	M	Adult	Kim's father who thinks he's in control of his family and his teenaged daughter (but isn't).
Randolph MacAfee	M/F	Younger	Kim's younger brother.
Gloria Rasputin	F	Adult	Dreamy, ambitious knockout whom Mrs. Peterson chooses to replace Rosie. She is looking for her big break in show business and hopes Albert can help her.
Sullivan	M	Adult	Walk-on
Roger's parent	M/F	Adult	Walk-on
Phyllis parent	M/F	Adult	Walk-on
Conductor	M/F	Adult	Chorus

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

Audition order: DANCE, MUSIC, LINES

1. Auditions occur after school the week of September 11th. Please sign up for a day. Everyone for that day must be in the classroom ready to begin at 4:10. Please understand that we will try very hard to stay on track with times, but it is very easy to fall behind. Please be patient.
2. DANCE – A short sequence of choreography will be taught to everyone during the first 30-40 minutes of auditions. This is enough time to learn and practice. Once that time is over, we will begin auditions. Each student will begin by performing the dance, then singing, then the speaking lines.
3. You will be asked to sing one of two songs (the highlighted measures):
LADIES – “How Lovely To Be A Woman” or “An English Teacher”
GENTS – “Sincere”

*The music does not have to be memorized, but it is encouraged. Please get copies from Mr. Tay in room 3-106 Piano recordings will be on the website (bocamiddledrama.org). I suggest listening to recordings on itunes or youtube as well.
4. You will be asked to read from the script. Please study the lines for the correct male/female role. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO MEMORIZE THESE!!!**
5. Though music/scripts do not need to be memorized, you must remember that we are looking for the full character, not just a student reading from a paper.
6. DO NOT FREAK OUT about any part of the audition! You’re in the show no matter what! 😊 You also don’t need to nail the dancing in order to be a principal role “...wait...what?!?! I can mess up and still be cast?!?!”
7. **ALL STUDENTS THAT WANT TO BE IN THE SHOW WILL BE IN THE SHOW!**
Auditions are just for casting specific roles.

8. If you were a principal role in “Seussical”, it does not mean you will be a principal in “Bye Bye Birdie”.
9. Though some people try to argue, the director does NOT pick favorites! The casting process is an extremely exhausting and lengthy process, in which the director tries to place students in roles that will fit his vision for the show.

At the current point in time, I cannot tell you who will be judging auditions other than myself (the director). I can assure you that the panel will not consist of your peers. Regardless of who is there, come prepared and be confident! You can do this!!

If you have any questions, please see Mr. Tay in 3-106 or email
Joshua.tay@palmbeachschools.org.