



Florence Nightingale On Stage 2024

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Audition Information For children aged 6-18 years

Thank you for registering for our production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The project will be raising funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. The money raised from the show will help us continue to fund specialist hospice care for hundreds of patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

We try very hard to keep costs to a minimum, but these productions are expensive to put on. There will be show fee of £200 for the project, which will include a show t shirt and most of your costumes.

We no longer have funding for children who qualify for Pupil Premium. If you think you will struggle to pay the show fees, please contact onstage@fnhospice.org.uk

Key Dates

Date	Event	What for
28 th April 10 am – 7 pm and 2 nd May 4pm – 8pm	Auditions: Aylesbury Waterside Theatre	All roles ages 6-18 years, acting, singing and basic dancing/movement. Principal Dancers 9-18 years
By 8th May	Callback Invitations	Sent via email.
12 th May	Callback Auditions: Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Offices	For Principal Roles ages 6-18 years – acting & singing
Week Commencing 20 th May	Casting notification	Email informing you of the outcome of the auditions.
8th June	Get together rehearsal	Get to know each other and do some initial singing
Mid-July	Outline rehearsal schedule notification	sent via email.
20 th July to 31 st July (inclusive)	Rehearsals	Show rehearsals: location in Aylesbury to be confirmed
1 st August	Technical Rehearsal	Aylesbury Waterside Theatre
2 nd August	Dress Rehearsal	Aylesbury Waterside Theatre
3 rd August	SHOW DAY!	Aylesbury Waterside Theatre

Auditions

We are holding auditions on **Sunday 28th April** from 10 am until 7 pm and **Thursday 2nd May** from 4 pm till 8 pm. These will cover acting, singing and dancing. We will be auditioning in groups, and each will last between 1½ and 1¾ hours (except for the youngest group which will be 1 hour). At this stage we are unable to give you precise timings, but we will start with the youngest children.

We have had a huge amount of interest in this project already. If necessary, we will cap audition numbers at 300, but will run a reserve list if more apply than we have capacity for.

There will be 150 places available in the cast; we will not be able to take everyone, so it is inevitable that some children will be disappointed at the end of this process, and we ask that you, as their parents/guardians, help to support us and manage their expectations. Because of the numbers that we are dealing with and the compressed timescale of the project, we **will not** be able to give individual feedback on auditions and outcomes.

If you have performed in one of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's productions before, please **do not assume that you will automatically get a place**; there simply will not be enough space for everyone. We want you to be aware of this at the outset.

Venue

The main auditions will be held in the Norman Bragg Studio at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. Call back auditions will be held in the education suite at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity head offices.

Audition days

- You will be sent the time for your audition by email.
- Please bring your child to the foyer at Aylesbury Waterside theatre **15 minutes before your time** slot. This is so we can check in all the children and will help us to start the audition promptly.
- You will be asked to leave your child; chaperones will look after all the children during the auditions. We do not have space for parents in the audition space, but you will be able to wait in the foyer; or you can go shopping or grab a coffee nearby. Your child will be required for the whole of the time slot allocated to their audition group.
- Your child will be introduced to the team, the audition process will be explained to them, and we will set out our expectations of all participants.
- ALL attendees will need to sing a short excerpt from the song *'I've got a golden ticket'*. Everyone will sing as a group and those who have indicated on their audition form that they want to be considered for a principal role will be asked to sing it as a solo. This excerpt is in **Appendix 1** at the back of this pack. You can listen to it on Spotify at <https://open.spotify.com/track/7hHrulHGumMbRLZT7qWSNb?si=HWahiaBYQgCsUm6jC8sbhg&context=spotify%3Aalbum%3A0R70199QRbxxdl1ApnbEx>
- If your child wants to audition for a principal role, they will need to perform a short dialogue. This is in **Appendix 2** at the back of this pack.
- Your child should wear light comfortable clothing that they can move easily in (this is particularly important for the dance auditions).

Principal Dancer Auditions

We will be casting two groups of Principal Dancers – Junior Principal Dancers will be ages 9-12 and Senior Principal Dancers ages 13-18. All children in the cast will do some dancing or movement even if they are not cast as Principal Dancers.

The Principal Dancer groups will have extra, more complex dances; we will be looking for children for these groups who can pick up dance moves quickly and execute them expressively. For children who asked to be considered for Principal Dancers, these auditions will take place during their allocated audition time slot.

What to bring to the audition

- A recent photograph with their name and date of birth on the back. This should be of head and shoulders only and 6" x 4" in size.
- Light refreshments and plenty to drink.
- Any necessary medication; Please inform of us of any medical conditions prior to the audition, including SEN or other conditions that we should be aware of (particularly if they find auditions stressful).

Call back auditions for principal roles

A short synopsis of the musical and a list of the principal roles are contained in **Appendix 3** at the back of this pack. We will let you know by **8th May** if you have been invited for a call back to audition for a principal role. If you are not invited for a call back audition, do not assume that you will not be offered a place on the project.

The call back auditions will be held on **Sunday 12th May** from 10 am to 4 pm in in the education suite at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity head offices. We will send you an audition time by email.

If your child is hoping to audition for a principal role, please keep this date free. **If they cannot attend on this date, they will not be considered for a principal role.**

Principal role auditions will require both acting and solo singing.

Audition outcome

All parents will be emailed the outcome of all the auditions as early as possible during week commencing **20th May**. We will let everyone know the outcome at the same time.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be intensive and held every day from **Saturday 20th July to Friday August 2nd August**. We are aware that some schools do not break up for the summer holidays until 23rd July. Children **must** be available for **Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July**, and every other day that they are called. We will take account of those who do not finish school until 23rd July. There will be rest days built into the schedule according to child performance licensing requirements. Please expect your child to be called to rehearsal on **Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July** as we will need the weekends for rehearsal time too. We will send out an outline rehearsal schedule in mid-July.

Rehearsals will be in Aylesbury; exact location to be confirmed.

Everyone must be available for the technical and dress rehearsals which will be held on Thursday 1st August and Friday 2nd August (respectively) on the main stage at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. Please keep these dates free.

Performance date – Saturday 3rd August

The show will take place at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. There will be two performances: a matinee and evening. The youngest age group will be split, with one group performing in the matinee and the other in the evening. The elder children will perform in both shows.

If your child is offered a part in the show

Please note the following:

Behaviour: We expect all participants to behave in a safe and responsible manner and that there is mutual respect between production members and cast members.

Our basic rules are that the children must:

RESPECT each other, the production team and the chaperones – everyone is there to help things run smoothly and ensure your child has a fabulous time.

DO NOT call out or speak over anyone who is already talking.

LISTEN – to each other.

NO mobile phones or chewing gum allowed. Phones must be switched off and put away during rehearsal and performance times; they can however be used during rest breaks.

Commitment: If you accept a place offered to you, we expect your child/children to be at every rehearsal for the full time they are called for as well as the performances. Even one missing person can affect the dynamic of the cast and have a massive impact on what we can achieve that day.

However, we do understand that illness and the unexpected happens.

Communication: We rely on good communication with parents to ensure that the production runs smoothly. It is essential that in the run up to rehearsals and during the rehearsal week, you check your emails. Remember to check your spam folder too in case key information has ended up there.

Prior to the start of rehearsals, you will be sent:

- information on what your child needs to have learnt. Principals must have learnt their lines and cues and be off script if possible; this is imperative for intensive rehearsals.
- An outline rehearsal schedule so you know which days your children will be called.

During rehearsal week we will send updates as necessary; this may include adjustments to the rehearsal timings.

We will set up a closed Facebook Group to post up to date information prior to and during rehearsal week. This will be used to support our communications and will not be the primary source of information. We will also continue to be in regular contact by email; if you do not have Facebook you won't miss out on important information. We will confirm arrangements once the show is cast.

Costumes: You will be asked to supply some costume elements. We have a team of helpers who will be making and sourcing most of the items.

Important notes

- Do not worry if your child has no experience. We are principally looking for character, energy and enthusiasm which is as important, if not more so, than being the best singer, dancer or actor. We are also looking for commitment to the whole production and an overall love of theatre.
- Please confirm that your child will be attending on their allocated date and time by return email. This will help us to manage numbers and ensure we have enough chaperones.
- A reminder that we will be looking to cast around 150 children. **It is inevitable that some children will be disappointed at the end of this process, and we ask that you, as their parents, help to support us and to manage their expectations.**

Thank You.

Thank you for allowing your child/children to audition for this exciting production. We hope that they will have a fabulous time. We are looking forward to meeting your children and working with them.

We hope this information pack answers any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need to discuss further any information regarding your child and their involvement in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by emailing: onstage@fnhospice.org.uk

“I’ve got a golden ticket”.

I never thought this day would be anything but catastrophe,

But suddenly I begin to see,

A bit of good luck for me.

I’ve got a golden ticket,

I’ve got a golden twinkle in my eye

Granpa Joe, How’ja know,

That I’d be be coming home today

With something good , something gold,

Something special that I can hold,

Granpa Joe, just as you planned

The final golden ticket in my hand.

Appendix 2 – Audition Dialogue

My name is Willy Wonka Jnr. My uncle, who I don't think is really my uncle, makes the chocolate. Quite simply, the greatest invention in the entire history of the world. Is there anyone who doesn't love the tooth-tickling tongue-tastical taste of a sweet bar of soft milk chocolate...? Except dogs, of course, its poisonous to dogs.

Apparently there comes a time, in every chocolatier's life when the chocolate turns dark and bitter. That's when they know it's time to lay down their spoon ... to hand over to someone else, someone new. Me...no, no way!!!!

The only question is... who?

So, he has ordered me to go out into the world. The world I haven't ever seen. Well, what we are waiting for let's go....

Story Synopsis

Synopsis

Charlie Bucket, an imaginative child with a knack for making something out of nothing, dreams of acquiring a golden ticket to tour Willy Wonka's over-the-top chocolate factory and can't believe it when it actually happens. Fellow contest winners: the gluttonous German, Augustus Gloop; Daddy's spoiled rotten princess, Veruca Salt; chewing gum celebrity, Violet Beauregarde; and over-amped computer hacker, Mike Teavee, have no idea what they're getting themselves into, as they each learn lessons about selfishness and greed from Wonka, who is not only out of his mind but potentially dangerous.

Principal Characters

We will be casting 10 children in principal roles as follows:

Charlie Bucket: The earnest and kind-hearted young protagonist of the story. Charlie comes from a poor family but dreams of a better life. He/she is selfless, compassionate, and possesses an unwavering moral compass. Charlie's integrity and pure heart lead him/her to be the final Golden Ticket winner.

Note: we will be casting two Charlies – one for each performance. Can be any gender

Augustus Gloop: A gluttonous, overweight child who finds one of the Golden Tickets. Augustus is known for his insatiable appetite, and his love for food often leads him into trouble. He represents the sin of gluttony in the story.

Note: we will be casting a boy to play Augustus

Veruca Salt: A spoiled and bratty young girl who also discovers a Golden Ticket. Veruca is used to getting anything she wants and throws tantrums when she doesn't. She symbolizes the vice of greed.

Note: we will be casting a girl to play Veruca

Violet Beauregarde: A competitive and gum-obsessed girl who is among the Golden Ticket winners. Violet is a world-champion gum chewer and boasts of her accomplishments. She embodies the sin of pride. Violet is obsessed with fame and believes that she is the best.

Note: we will be casting a girl to play Violet

Mike Teavee: A technology-obsessed boy who secures one of the Golden Tickets. Mike is obsessed with television, video games, and gadgets. He represents the vice of sloth or laziness.

Note: we will be casting a boy to play Mike

Second-hand vegetable salesman: This character sells the only food Charlie's family can afford. Whilst a kind person who cares about Charlie and his family, their priority is making a living.

Note: this character can be any gender

Cherry Sundae: A zany and quick-witted reporter who adds a delightful dash of humour to the piece. The reporter is "on the scene" for all of our golden ticket winners.

Note: this character can be any gender

Jerry Jubilee: Another reporter who is the bearer of bad news for Charlie's golden ticket ventures but is full of wacky energy while doing so.

Note: this character can be any gender

Young Willy Wonka: The child who will grow up to be the owner of the world-famous Wonka Chocolate Factory; the future reclusive and imaginative genius known for creating the most extraordinary candies and confections. Young Willy Wonka is the Narrator of the story.

Note: this character can be any gender

Ensemble roles will include Reporters, Oompa Loompas, Squirrels, Bavarians, Cheer Squad, Back-Up Dancers, and a slew of other featured characters.