

A
Year
With

Frog and Toad

SYNOPSIS

Act I

Frog and Toad are hibernating. The birds are ready for spring, as the sleeping friends sing about their friendship and the year ahead. The protagonists awaken, and Toad begins to plant a garden, impatient that his plants grow slowly. He yells at the seeds but then worries that they are afraid to grow. He sings, dances and plays the tuba to encourage them, which seems to work.

The next day, Frog writes a letter to Toad, because Toad is sad that he never receives mail, and gives it to Snail to deliver. They then go swimming in the pond, but Toad is embarrassed to be seen in his bathing suit, and he tries to slip unseen into the water. But the animals come to look at Toad in his suit, and eventually, freezing, he must come out, where everyone sees him in his bathing suit. Turtle proceeds to feed the fish in the pond.

Later on, Frog has left Toad a note that he has gone to the island on the lake to be alone, and Toad worries that Frog is sad. He rides a log out to the island, bringing lunch for the two of them, but he falls off the log into the water. It turns out that Frog is in fact happy and simply wanted time alone to think. The two friends eat wet sandwiches without iced tea.

Snail continues on his quest to deliver the letter to Toad.

Later on, at Toad's home, Toad is baking cookies. Frog and Toad, along with the Birds, go kooky eating cookies and wolf down the whole batch that were supposed to be for dessert.

Act II

Frog and Toad try to fly a kite with some difficulty, eventually succeeding despite heckling from the birds.

By the end of summer, leaves cover the ground and the Birds fly south for the winter. Each of the two friends intends to surprise the other by raking his yard, but the squirrels soon make a mess of the neat piles of leaves, so neither of the friends discovers the good deed that the other has done.

A few days pass as a storm comes, and Frog tells Toad a scary semi-autobiographical story about a young Frog, whose parents; Mother Frog and Father Frog leave Young Frog to go find a way out of the woods. The story continues as the young Frog escapes from being eaten by a Large and Terrible Frog..

Now it is winter and the Moles come out to play. Snail continues to Toad's house to deliver the letter.

Frog and Toad decide to go sledding down a hill that frightens Toad. Frog falls off the sled, which bears Toad on a dangerous and bumpy path. Toad, angry that Frog had supposedly made him sled down the steep hill on purpose, initially declares to dissolve their friendship. Snail finally arrives with the letter that Frog had sent to Toad months earlier. The letter tells how Frog is only happy when his friend Toad is happy. Toad forgives Frog, and Snail is proud to have delivered his first letter.

Frog is late on Christmas Eve, and Toad is worried about all the bad things that might have happened to him. Finally, Frog arrives, delayed by wrapping Toad's present.

Frog and Toad are hibernating again in their respective beds. The Birds sing as spring approaches.

CHARACTERS

Frog

Frog is a friendly, confident, positive and caring character. He should always seem comfortable solving Toad's problems and reacting to Toad's traumas.

Toad

Toad is serious, irritable, self-conscious yet an oddly charismatic character. The friendship that he shares with Frog is loyal through and through.

Turtle

Turtle is a "rabble-rouser" and loves to get the whole gang to tease Toad in fun! Strong comedian.

Mouse

Mouse is always able to ask all the right questions like a talk-show host. Mouse, like Turtle, is full of fun and they should have a good chemistry.

Lizard

Lizard is definitely the most confused of the Turtle, Mouse, Lizard trio, but eventually joins in the fun.

Snail

Snail is simply unflappable. They will deliver without fail "in the rain or sleet or snow." Lots of personality, confidence, and optimism!

Birds

The Birds communicate the passage of time (seasons) and set the stage for the story to follow. They need a good sense of musical timing and can sell their songs like cabaret singers!

Moles/Squirrels/Frogs/Lizards/Birds

Full of mischief and energy, the friends and neighbors of Frog and Toad complete their animal family. They are expressive, sassy, teasing, and love a good cookie.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Desha Crownover

A Year with Frog and Toad can be easily dismissed as a play just for little kids, but that would be a mistake. Did you know that A Year with Frog and Toad was also a hit on Broadway? It was nominated for three Tony Awards – including Best Musical. It has been produced thousands of times for the professional stage as well as schools and community theatres. Based on Arnold Lobel's well-loved books, and featuring a challenging, jazzy vocal score, this whimsical show demonstrates something that we all--regardless of age--cherish: true friendship and devotion.

Frog and Toad needs actors who are exuberant, enthusiastic, versatile, and brave. There are challenging vaudeville numbers, an underwater ballet, and lots and lots of funny moments. Whether this is your first or fortieth show, you will learn and develop a lot of valuable skills that will benefit you, both onstage and off!

JT San Diego Junior Theatre Pre-Audition Meeting

AUDITIONS!

- Auditions are by appointment only and are held in one-half hour increments.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your assigned time slot to check in and finish your paperwork.
- Arrive with audition form completely filled out, front and back, with a current headshot attached to the rear of the form.
- Students should prepare a 1 minute song cut for their audition. An accompanist will be provided. No accapella singing or tracks will be allowed. Please have your sheet music printed in the correct key and in sheet protectors inside a 3 ring binder.
- Callback List will be posted after all auditions have been completed

PRODUCTION POLICIES

Eligibility

- ▶ Student must be age 8-18 on Opening Night, October 29th 2021.
- ▶ Students must be enrolled in a FALL session class before being scheduled for an audition time slot or signing up for a crew. (No refunds or credit will be issued after student auditions)
- ▶ Crew Credit must be current. After two consecutive productions as a cast member, student must crew a production before auditioning again.

Parent Volunteers

- ▶ No Production here at JT would be possible without the time and assistance of our parents. As such, we do require parents to sign up for a minimum number of volunteers slots, including Backstage Monitoring, after rehearsal pick-up supervisor, and selling concessions. There are also lots of additional opportunities to serve on, or chair committees.

Conflicts

- ▶ It is very important that you list ALL conflicts on the audition form. This includes JT Classes/Camps, school events, sports, appointments, vacations, etc. Any conflicts that arise which were not listed prior to casting may result in student being dismissed from the production.
- ▶ Students cannot have any conflicts on Tech Rehearsals or any performances dates.



Important Dates

Auditions

August 17 & 18, 4-6p

Callbacks

August 19, 4-7p

Rehearsals-

First Rehearsal- Tuesday September 7, 4-6p

General Rehearsals- Monday-Friday 4-6p

Tech Rehearsals-

Sunday- October 24 12-6p

Monday Oct 25- Wednesday Oct 27 4-9p

Thursday Oct 28 6-9:30p

Performances-

Friday October 29, 6p Call/ 7p GO

Saturday October 30, 1p Call/ 2p GO

Sunday October 31, 1p Call/ 2p GO

Friday November 5, 6p Call/ 7p GO

Saturday November 6, 1p Call/ 2p GO

Sunday November 7, 1p Call/ 2p GO

Friday November 12, 6p Call/ 7p GO

Saturday November 13, 1p Call/ 2p GO

Sunday November 14, 1p Call/ 2p GO

School Day Performances

Wednesday November 3, 8a Call/ 9:30a GO

Tuesday November 9, 8a Call/ 9:30a GO

Production Fee

- ▶ Goes towards helping to cover the overall cost of the production. There is a \$125 Production Fee for Cast Members and a \$75 Fee for Crew Members. The Production Fee is due by Opening Night Included with this fee students will receive:
 - Production T-Shirt
 - Pizza dinner prior to opening night
 - 1 Headshot button (Show Logo button if crew)
 - 1 admittance to Strike Dinner
 - Memory Book
 - Production Photographs on DVD