



## Auditions: What to Expect in 2021

### AUDITION LOCATION:

Zoom

### AUDITION DATES:

Saturday, May 15  
12:00pm – 2:00pm

Tuesday, May 18  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday, May 19  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

### PERFORMANCES:

July 23-25 @ OARDC Fisher Auditorium

- What do I do first?
  1. Complete the online audition form (<http://www.wacpac.org>). INCLUDE ANY KNOWN SCHEDULING CONFLICTS! A link will be emailed to you to sign up for an audition time slot. You will then receive an email with a Zoom link.
  2. Print the AUDITION SCENES from the website and have them with you for your audition.
  
- What do I do when it's my scheduled time?
  1. Follow Zoom link and wait patiently until the host admits you.
  2. Feel free to join a few minutes early and wait.
  3. If you show up late, you may miss your time and will have to sign up for a different available time.

- What if there are technical issues that impact my audition?  
We will do our best to execute these online auditions. If there are technical issues, don't panic. We will contact you and set up an alternate time slot.
- What will the audition be like?  
First, we want you to relax (breathe)! Take this opportunity to show us your personality and skills. The more confident and energetic you are, the more we can see your capabilities.

Your audition will involve two components.  
You must participate in both: Vocal & Reading

## 1. VOCAL:

As part of your audition, you'll be asked to sing. For this show, we'd like auditioners to choose and prepare a well-known song. Feel free to check out our song list at <http://www.wacpac.org> to choose your audition song. Please use an instrument/karaoke track (no vocals) to sing along with (check YouTube).

- **Why should I choose a well-known song?**  
Many times, auditioners sing a song that the directors are not familiar with, so it is difficult to gauge whether or not they are singing on pitch. The directors then ask the auditioner to sing another song, like "Happy Birthday" or "Twinkle Twinkle" in order to assess for pitch. Having auditioners sing not one but TWO songs, only adds to the length of auditions. We prefer you provide accompaniment music, as opposed to singing a cappella.
- **What if I don't get to sing my whole song?**  
Don't worry if you are interrupted and don't get to finish your song. This will happen with everyone and only means that we have heard enough of your voice to give us a good idea of your sound. You may also be asked to sing some scales to give us an idea of your vocal range.

## 2. READING:

You will also be asked to read lines from the script, which you will need to print prior to the audition. You do not have to read a certain part in order to get that same part in the play! By just reading any character you can give us a good idea

of your abilities. Remember to speak loudly, clearly and put as much expressive energy into your reading as you can.

- **When am I done with auditions?**

You are finished when you have completed the singing and acting portions of the audition.

- **Can I come back and audition for the same thing twice?**

This is not encouraged. If you feel a need to do so, speak with the director.

- **What if I get “called back”?**

Callback auditions mean that we would like to see you audition again for some reason. It does not necessarily mean that you are guaranteed a part. We just need to find out more before we make our casting decisions. Callbacks are scheduled for Sunday May 24th 3:00pm – 5:00pm on Zoom and chosen auditioners will be notified by directors by email.

- **What if I am not “called-back”?**

It does not necessarily mean you haven't been cast. You could not be called back and still be cast in the show. Please do not contact the directors to inquire if you've been cast or called back.

- **When will I know if I have been cast in the show?**

1. The cast list will be posted on Monday May 24th at 5pm on the WaCPAC Facebook site and at [wacpac.org](http://wacpac.org). YOU MUST CONFIRM THAT YOU ACCEPT YOUR ROLE, by sending an email to [jenettekarger@gmail.com](mailto:jenettekarger@gmail.com) by 11pm on May 24th. Once you accept, you are committed and we will be counting on you!

2. If you are not cast in the show, you will likely be disappointed. Please consider becoming involved in the production in some other way. No production is successful without the work of the crew! We will need help with lights, sound, props, make-up, publicity, tickets, set-building, etc. We hope that this production will be a fun and meaningful experience for everyone involved, in whatever capacity they participate.

3. If you are cast, but not in the role you wanted, please continue with the production. Unfortunately, some people take these decisions very personally and leave the production entirely. The directors must always do what is best for the success of the show and although we wish we

could give everyone a speaking role, it's just not possible! Chorus members are integral to a show and still have an AWESOME theatre experience. We hope that cast members will support each other and choose to be happy and supportive of their castmates.

### Special notes:

Attendance is mandatory for all of Tech Week (July 19-22) and all performances (July 23-25). **If you have a conflict during those dates, you will not be cast.** If you are unaware of a conflict and it arises after the show has been cast, you may be asked to leave the production. This is not to be mean, but it is ESSENTIAL to have the full cast present for tech week and performances!

If you accept your role as an actor in the cast, you will be asked to put in a minimum of four hours working backstage, with set building, painting, costumes, or wherever you are needed most. We will need this commitment from every actor. If you are not willing to put in this extra time, please do not audition. Parent volunteers are also an essential part of our productions' success.

- **When will the first meeting be held?**

All CAST members will be expected to attend the read through on ZOOM Tuesday, May 25th at 6:30pm . If you have a conflict and cannot attend, contact Jenny Karger at [jenettekarger@gmail.com](mailto:jenettekarger@gmail.com) or 818-298-7308.

- **When will I receive a complete rehearsal schedule?**

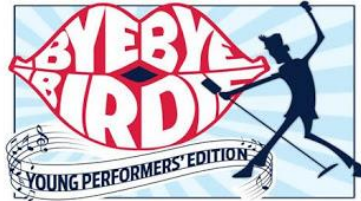
A finalized rehearsal schedule will be posted once the director has had time to take all scheduling conflicts into account. It depends on the role which days/dates you'll be required to attend rehearsals (some Zoom, some at First Presbyterian Church). You may have some conflicts along the way, but starting July 19th at the latest, everyone must be at every rehearsal through the run of the shows, which are scheduled for July 23-25.

- **What about COVID-19?**

WaCPAC will follow federal and state guidelines regarding COVID-19. The cast will be considerably smaller this year than in previous years. All participants will be required to sign a waiver prior to beginning in-person rehearsals in June. Social distancing and masks will be required at rehearsals and other activities. Performances will be live and performed to a reduced-capacity audience. Illnesses, symptoms, and exposures will need to be reported to the director ASAP and may impact attendance.

- **Much more detailed information will come once the show is cast.**

Thank you for sharing your talents with WaCPAC! Break a Leg!



## Synopsis

It is 1960, and a chorus of young girls energetically sings the praises of rock & roll idol Conrad Birdie. At Almelou Music Corp. in New York, Conrad's managers, Albert Peterson and Rosie Alvarez (who've been dating for years), learn that their client has been inducted into the army. Though she'd prefer that Albert settle down and become "An English Teacher," Rosie concocts a plan: as a publicity stunt, Conrad will bid a typical American teen-age girl goodbye with a public farewell kiss. Rosie randomly selects the name of the lucky girl: fifteen-year-old Kim McAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio.

Meanwhile, in Sweet Apple, every teenager in town is on the phone, gossiping about Kim and her new steady, Hugo Peabody ("The Telephone Hour"). Kim, who proudly celebrates her new maturity ("How Lovely To Be A Woman"), is astonished to hear the news about Birdie.

In New York's Penn Station, Albert cheers up a downcast Birdie fan ("Put On A Happy Face"). Mae, Albert's overbearing mother, insults Rose, but Albert is unable to stand up to her. Birdie arrives, pursued by reporters, so Albert and Rosie deftly manage the press ("Healthy Normal American Boy").

In Sweet Apple, Hugo is a bit jealous of the attention Kim pays to Birdie, but Kim assures Hugo he is the "One Boy" for her. On the courthouse steps, the Mayor welcomes Conrad, who bowls everyone over with his powerhouse hit, "Honestly Sincere."

With Conrad staying for the week, the McAfee household is completely turned upside down. A frustrated Mr. McAfee threatens to put his foot down, until he hears the family will be appearing on The Ed Sullivan Show ("Hymn For A Sunday Evening"). Mae, who followed Albert and Rosie by bus, introduces Albert to a sensational tap-dancer named Gloria Rasputin, whom Albert begrudgingly hires as a typist. Rosie, enraged by Albert's behavior, enlists the aide of Hugo in a plan to undermine the big show. On The Ed Sullivan Show, Conrad prepares to give Kim "One Last Kiss," but at the last minute, Hugo steps onstage and punches Conrad, knocking him to the floor. Everyone scatters, and Rosie bids Albert a bitter farewell, leaving him alone on national television. Smiling nervously, Albert desperately tries to recover ("Healthy Normal American Boy" Reprise).

Rosie and Kim, furious at Albert and Hugo, pack up to leave ("What Did I Ever See In Him?"). Albert and Mae make a new plan: Conrad will now kiss Kim at the train station before he leaves. But Conrad is tired of being locked up in a suburban household, and he invites the kids to join him in a wild night out ("A Lot of Livin' To Do"). Mr. and Mrs. McAfee, fearing the worst, join up with other parents to find their teens ("Kids!"). Mae

continues to pester Albert and berate Rosie. Finally, Albert stands up to his mother, demanding that she go home.

At the Ice House, a popular spot for teens, Kim tries to ward off Conrad's advances. The parents and Hugo arrive just in time, and Kim realises that she belongs with Hugo. Rosie and Albert make up, too, and Rosie has a bit of fun mocking Mae. The next morning, Albert sneaks Conrad out of town and tells Rose he's accepted a teaching job in Pumpkin Falls, Iowa. Albert and Rose celebrate their new future ("Rosie") and dance off into the sunset.

## Character Breakdown

**Cast Size:** Approx. 25    **Cast type:** Ensemble Cast    **Dance Requirement:** Standard

**ALBERT PETERSON** is the 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. Look for an actor with excellent comic timing, a great singing voice and a natural likability. Albert carries much of the story, so choosing an actor who will be comfortable with such a responsibility is crucial —cast your best leading man.

**ROSIE ALVAREZ** is 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. Rosie needs to be a strong actor and a great singer. This is definitely a role for a student ready to shine in a leading role. Look for a young lady with tons of charm who can embrace that "go-get-'em" personality.

**MRS. MAE PETERSON** is 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. This is a non-singing role, so look for an actor with strong comedic timing and the ability to take positive risks in building a strong character.

**CONRAD BIRDIE** is 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. Look for a great singer/dancer with the ability to keep an over-the-top character alive while singing. This is a great role for a student who has tons of charm and can embody the "teen idol" persona.

**KIM MACAFEE** is the 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. This is a large role for a talented singer and actor, so look for a student with a wholesome, innocent persona who will enjoy letting it go and have some fun along the way.

**HUGO PEABODY** is Kim's devoted steady boyfriend who is jealous that Conrad is receiving so much attention from Kim. This is a character-driven, non-singing role, so this is a great role to cast an up-and-coming student who isn't quite ready to take on a leading role. When casting, think about the juxtaposition between Hugo and Conrad Birdie — casting a strapping Conrad and a diminutive Hugo will offer some great comic moments as the two compete for Kim's affections.

**MR. HARRY MACAFEE** is Kim's father who thinks he's in control of his family and his teenaged daughter (but isn't). Mr. MacAfee should be a good actor with a decent singing voice who can find the comedy in his character's frustration and irritability.

**MRS. DORIS MACAFEE** is Kim's loving mother who knows just how to handle her husband and her household. Mrs. MacAfee should be a good actor/singer. When casting, look for the chemistry between Mrs. MacAfee and her husband — this actor should be able to play off of Mr. MacAfee's gruffness with ease and charm.

**URSULA MERKLE** is Kim's best friend and the hyper-enthusiastic teenager who leads the girls in screaming for Conrad. This is a great supporting role to give to an energetic girl who will have fun creating a unique character with a one-of-a-kind voice. In casting, think of contrasting Kim's "maturity" with Ursula's youthful enthusiasm.

**RANDOLPH MACAFEE** is Kim's younger brother. This is a great small featured role for a younger actor with an unchanged voice who will get to create a fun character with only a few lines.

**THE MAYOR** is the head figure of Sweet Apple, Ohio, who welcomes Conrad Birdie to town. A bit naïve to the effect Conrad has on the girls of the town, this is a great featured role for an ensemble cast member who can develop a fun character.

**THE MAYOR'S WIFE, EDNA**, is one of the adults in the show who cannot escape the power of Conrad Birdie's spell — also a great featured role for an ensemble cast member to have some fun with.

**GLORIA RASPUTIN** is the 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. Often played as a ditz chorus-girl type, this is a good place to utilize a great tap dancer who will have fun with this featured dance solo and can create a gum-chomping, hair-twirling, larger-than-life character.

**MRS. MERKLE** is Ursula's overbearing mother who also gets a touch of Conrad Birdie Fever. Cast a good character actress who can incorporate her character into her singing voice.

**HARVEY JOHNSON** is a typical nerdy teenager who can't seem to get enough of the gossip going on in Telephone Hour. Cast a young actor who will have fun developing his character throughout this song and subsequent scenes.

**MR. JOHNSON** is 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. This is a small featured part for an ensemble member.

Other TEENAGERS in Sweet Apple include ALICE, DEBORAH SUE, HELEN, NANCY, MARGIE, PENELOPE, SUZIE, FREDDIE, KARL and various other BOYS and GIRLS. Have fun casting these roles out of the ensemble and encourage your actors to create distinct characters.

Other ENSEMBLE roles include a POLICEMAN, various REPORTERS, a CONDUCTOR and a TRAINMAN, and other PARENTS of the Sweet Apple teenagers with featured lines throughout the script. Get everyone involved!

# Show Song List

- 1. Overture – Teens
- 2. Opening Curtain – Orchestra
- 3. “An English Teacher” – Rosie
- 4. “The Telephone Hour” – Helen, Nancy, Margie, Alice, Freddie, Karl, Harvey, Penelope, Suzie
- 5. Playoff: The Telephone Hour – Orchestra
- 6. “How Lovely To Be A Woman” – Kim
- 7. Penn Station Transition – Albert & Girls
- 8. “Put On A Happy Face” – Albert
- 9. "A Healthy, Normal, American Boy" – Albert, Rosie, Teens, & Adults
- 10. Penn Station To Sweet Apple – Orchestra
- 11. Sweet Apple Band – Orchestra
- 12. "One Boy" – Kim, Alice, Rosie, & Girls
- 13. Underscore: Sweet Apple Station – Orchestra
- 14. "Honestly Sincere" – Conrad & Chorus
- 15. Playoff: Honestly Sincere – Orchestra
- 16. "Hymn For A Sunday Evening (Ed Sullivan)" – Kim, Randolph, Mr. MacAfee & Mrs. MacAfee
- 17. TV Theme – Orchestra
- 18. "One Last Kiss (Part 1)" – Conrad & Teens
- 19. "One Last Kiss (Part 2)" – Albert & All
- 20. Playoff: One Last Kiss – Orchestra
- 21. "What Did I Ever See In Him? (Part 1)" – Rosie
- 22. "What Did I Ever See In Him? (Part 2)" – Kim & Rosie
- 23. Playoff: What Did I Ever See In Him? – Orchestra
- 24. "A Lot of Livin' To Do" – Conrad, Kim, & Teens
- 25. "Kids" – Mr. MacAfee, Mr. Johnson, & all parents
- 26. Playoff: Kids – Orchestra
- 27. To Ice House – Orchestra
- 28. "Reprise: An English Teacher" – Rosie
- 29. To Railroad Station – Orchestra
- 30. "Hand Car" – Teens
- 31. "Rosie" – Albert, Rosie, & Ensemble
- 32. Bows – Orchestra
- 33. Exit Music – Orchestra

