

Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka KIDS*

Character Breakdown

Grandma Josephina

Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Female

Grandma Georgina

Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Female

Grandpa George

Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Male

The Candy Man Kids

Sophie, Danny, Alfie, Billie and additional kids as needed are The Candy Man Kids -. These kids sing "The Candy Man" and their numbers may be expanded as you see fit and your program will allow. The names of the characters have been drawn from other Roald Dahl books. Feel free to assign additional names to match the number of performers you cast. All

students like to go home and exclaim "I'm playing Alfie" versus "I'm just Kid 2 in 'The Candy Man.'" You may also cast a single class (say the sixth grade chorus) to perform these roles, as they appear only in this number unless you choose to double them as Cooks and Oompa-Loompas.

Gender: Any

Oompa-Loompa Chorus

The Oompa-Loompa Chorus can be as small as a handful of performers or as large as your stage and theater can accommodate. Consider casting your youngest performers as Oompa-Loompas and augment them with a handful of older students who can take the lead and serve as Oompa-Loompa wranglers.

Gender: Any

Willy Wonka / Candy Man

Willy Wonka is an enigmatic character; at once mysterious and mischievous but also charismatic. There are a number of directions to take with Wonka, ranging from Gene Wilder's version in the original film, *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*, to Johnny Depp's portrayal in the recent film, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and everything in between. Pick a young man (or a young woman) who is charismatic, engaging and has a great voice (in the case of a young man, preferably a changed voice). The actor should be able to be funny and serious and change between the two on a dime. It is preferred that Wonka double as the Candy Man, as it helps reinforce that Wonka has staged the Golden Ticket competition and is somewhat controlling this contest along the way.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Phineous Trout

Phineous is the reporter who announces the winners of the Golden Ticket contest throughout the show. The role requires some singing, and can be played by either a boy or a girl. If played by a girl, be sure to change the pronouns appropriately.

Gender: Any

Mrs. Gloop

Mrs. Gloop is Augustus' mother who has overindulged her son with food. The role requires a character actress who isn't afraid to take positive risks both in her acting and her singing.

Gender: Female

Violet Beauregarde

Gum chewer extraordinaire, Violet hails from Snellville, Georgia, so it's nice if she has a Southern American accent, but not necessary. Violet should stand in stark contrast to Veruca Salt. Veruca is a wealthy refined brat; Violet is more of a blue-collar, middle-class brat.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: Db5

Vocal range bottom: C4

Matilda

Matilda is also a schoolmate of Charlie's, but she's a bit of bully. Matilda has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with James and Charlie.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: C#4

Candy Man

The Candy Man goes from neighborhood to neighborhood selling candy, much like an ice cream truck. He should be pleasant, charismatic, and friendly. It's possible for a girl to play this role, but she should play the role as male, otherwise, the title of the song may not make sense.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Mr. Bucket

These are great roles for young people who have nice voices, and are natural nurturers. Mr. and Mrs. Bucket can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Male

Mike Teavee

For this adaptation Mike is not just a TV junky. He is also addicted to video games, the Internet and any other mindnumbing technological device. Mike is bratty, loud and obnoxious. He does not know the word "no." Mike could also be portrayed by a girl playing a boy, but generally works best with a male actor.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: Db5

Vocal range bottom: Db4

Squirrels

The squirrels are non-speaking, non-singing roles and you can cast as many as necessary. This is a great part for beginning actors.

Gender: Any

Charlie Bucket

The role of Charlie Bucket is the emotional heart and soul of the musical. The actor performing Charlie should have an unchanged voice and lots of pluck and enthusiasm. Think a male "Annie." Charlie is in nearly every scene, so make sure you select an actor who can handle the demands of a sizable role.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Mrs. Bucket

These are great roles for young people who have nice voices, and are natural nurturers. Mr. and Mrs. Bucket can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Female

Augustus Gloop

Augustus is the overachieving eater who represents the evils of eating too much. Be extremely sensitive in casting this role as it is tempting to cast an overweight young person and that can be scarring-especially if the child struggles with this issue. Consider casting a thin child and creating the illusion of size via the costume. Either a boy or a girl acting like a boy can play Augustus.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: Db5

Vocal range bottom: Eb4

Ms. Teavee

Ms. Teavee is a take on all television moms of the distant past. Think June Cleaver (*Leave it to Beaver*) or Marion Cunningham (*Happy Days*) or Carol Brady (*The Brady Bunch*). She's perfectly put together and a bit vacant.

Gender: Female

Veruca Salt

Veruca is the wealthy, class-conscious, spoiled brat. She is often portrayed with a high British accent that is by no means required (brats come in all nationalities). Veruca's solo number "I Want It Now" is deceptively tricky and comes late in the show, so select a young woman with a strong voice. Veruca should contrast sharply with Violet Beauregarde in terms of look and physical type.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

James

James is Charlie's friend from school. He has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with Matilda and Charlie.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: A3

Mrs. Beauregarde

Mrs. Beauregard is a teacher of geography and has invested a great deal of hard-earned money on therapy for her orally fixated daughter, with less than stellar results. The role is virtually non-singing. Her accent should match Violet's.

Gender: Female

Grandpa Joe

Grandpa Joe is the grandfather we all wish we had when we were Charlie's age. He is caring, patient, sweet and always reminds Charlie to remain cheerful. Cast an actor who can be kind and funny.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: C4

Chorus Of Cooks

Please note this is an optional chorus. The Cooks appear during "I Eat More!" presenting Augustus with a smorgasbord of food choices. (Check out the Director's Guide note in the song for more information.) Double the Candy Man Kids Chorus and Oompa-Loompa Chorus or cast a single class of kids to perform this section. (For example, Mrs. Ripley's third grade class.)

Gender: Any

Mr. Salt

Mr. Salt's solution to most problems is to buy his way out. He is upper class, and usually portrayed with a high British accent. (But this accent is not necessary-just make sure Veruca and Mr. Salt sound like they hail from the same place.) He sings very little. A female actress playing male may also play the role.

Gender: Male

Disney's *Alice In Wonderland JR.*

Character Breakdown

Alice

A curious and adventurous girl of different sizes.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Small Alice

A curious and adventurous girl of different sizes.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: B3

Tall Alice

A curious and adventurous girl of different sizes.

Mathilda

Alice's older sister, who is more logical and grounded than her sibling

Friends 1 & 2

Mathilda's snooty friends who find Alice odd

Cheshire Cats 1-3

Magical felines in three parts who don't always agree; friendly guides for both Alice and the audience

White Rabbit

The perennially tardy royal trumpeter

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: C4

Doorknob

Gatekeeper of Wonderland

Dodo Bird

Captain of the Queen's Navy and referee of the caucus race

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum

Goofy twins with impeccable manners who are easily confused

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: C#4

Rose, Lily, Petunia, Daisy, Violet

The rudely exclusive Flowers of the Golden Afternoon

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Caterpillar

A charming, theatrical, and encouraging soon-to-be-butterfly

Vocal range top: C#5

Vocal range bottom: A#3

Mad Hatter

A tea party host with a penchant for hats and making up rules

Vocal range top: Bb4

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

March Hare

The ever-celebrating and game-loving tea party host

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: B3

King of Hearts

The Queen's placid partner

Queen of Hearts

The highly feared, hot-tempered monarch of Wonderland

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: C4

Wonderland Ensemble

The zany, magical, and unique characters that Alice meets along her journey, from cats and rabbits to flowers and doorknobs. This group includes participants in the caucus race who are swept up by the ocean of tears; Party Guests at the March Hare and Mad Hatter's tea party; and Royal Cards, servants of the Queen and King of Hearts, including Ace of Spades, Two of Clubs, Three of Diamonds, and Four of Hearts.