

AUDITION GUIDE - James and the Giant Peach, JR

ABOUT

James and The Giant Peach, JR features a robust cast of supporting, featured, and ensemble characters to tell the story. These roles are the mainstay of this energetic musical production. *JGP, Jr* is adapted for the youth stage and provides a unique experience for each performer to explore and create memorable characters in an ensemble, developing invaluable skills to grow as an actor.

SYNOPSIS

When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach, rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous proportions. James befriends a collection of singing insects that ride the giant piece of fruit across the ocean, facing hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements along the way. Read the full synopsis - [LINK](#)

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

WHAT TO BRING

- Bring your calendar. Directors must be notified of all rehearsal conflicts at the time of auditions. Absences during TECH WEEK (the week leading up to performances) are **not permitted**.
- Bring a headshot and resume if available
- Bring your audition sides
- Bring a smile!
-

Parents: Bring your \$75 refundable volunteer deposit due at auditions - **REQUIRED**

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- Sign-in when you arrive
- Review the audition sides provided
- Fill out auditions forms
- Stretch, play, relax, warm-up your voice

AUDITION MATERIAL - When you audition you will sing the audition songs, as well as read, recite, or repeat from the audition sides. You will be invited to act out a monologue, tell a joke, present your gymnastics, martial arts, or dancing talents. **Contemporary, Ballet, Lyrical dance** experience a plus! - See helpful and highly recommended videos in the Audition Playlist - <https://www.oyesresents.org/audition-guide-jgp>

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- **1-minute monologue (recommended)** in American or British dialect (please memorize). Choose a monologue that shows a range or spotlights a characteristic (feisty, sentimental, comedic, athletic, dry, leader, villain, ingénue)
- **Pantomime/Imagination** - Be prepared to use your imagination and interact with imaginary things such as a butterfly or heavy object, and imaginary characters.

AUDITION SONGS

- Please prepare to sing **“Right Before Your Eyes”** and *at least* one additional song from the selections below. You will sing to the instrumental tracks in your audition. *Try something challenging and fun!*

SONGS ON YOUTUBE: [Auditions Playlist](#)

Right Before Your Eyes (all roles) - *Right before your eyes, marvel as magic is on display, Right before your eyes, All might seem tragic, but then it's okay, Poof! A new surprise, Right before your eyes!*

Poor Unfortunate Souls (Spiker/Sponge/Ladahlord/Insects/Ensemble) - *Come on you poor unfortunate soul, go ahead, make your choice. I'm a very busy woman and I haven't got all day. It won't cost much, just your voice! You poor unfortunate soul, it's sad, but true. If you want to cross the bridge my sweet, you've got to pay the toll. Take a gulp and take a breath and go ahead and sign the scroll. Flotsam, Jetsam, now I've got her boys, the boss is on a roll, this poor unfortunate soul*

On Your Way Home - Reprise (all roles) - *Where do you go when you start to feel sad, everyone's gone, no more mum, no more dad. Tucked in the clouds is there somewhere you won't be alone?.*

CHOREOGRAPHY - *Short and simple choreography breakdowns will be added to the [Auditions Playlist](#).*

AUDITION GUIDE INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE

<https://www.oyespresents.org/audition-guide-jgp>

CAST OF CHARACTERS | James and the Giant Peach, JR

Storytelling for ***James and the Giant Peach, Jr*** relies on the commitment, strength, and talent of an ensemble cast. We recognize the importance creating a strong ensemble cast and encourage all participants to embrace their casting in order to tell the story on stage. Some roles will be double cast (shared).

Ladahlord - Ladahlord is a mysterious character who seems to have a hand in the magical things that are happening. Though he may seem a bit offbeat, he carefully watches over James, making sure James moves towards to a better life. Ladahlord also serves as a guiding narrator throughout the story. This is a perfect role for a charismatic young actor who can sing and dance well.

James - James is the hero of our story, on an epic quest to find a family of his own and gain confidence in himself. This is a demanding role for an experienced singer and actor.

Ladybug - Ladybug immediately takes on a doting, maternal role in James life. This is a fantastic role for a performer with a great singing voice and a regal demeanor.

Grasshopper - Grasshopper, the leader of the Insects, is ever the optimist and assumes a paternal role in James life. A strong singing and acting role with a warm, inviting presence.

Spider - Spider is a clever creature who becomes a fun-loving older sister to James. A spunky personality and a strong singing voice.

Earthworm - Earthworm is a gentle spirit, although he can be a bit of a coward. Luckily, he gains enough courage to save the day by baiting some gullible seagulls. Earthworm looks at James as a brother figure. Outlandish and strong vocal skills.

Centipede - Centipede may be a bit of grouch, but he is ever-loyal to the pack, and by the end of the story, he's won over by James. James sees Centipede as that cranky uncle with a heart of gold. Centipede should have a good singing voice, and be able to make strong, specific acting choices.

Spiker and Sponge - Spiker and Sponge are the sort of aunts (or monsters) that you fear ever being stuck with. They take James into their home but only so that he can be their own personal servant. Spiker is the brains of the operation, and Sponge is more concerned with finding something to eat. These are great character roles for two young performers who are **strong singers** and actors. Comedic roles. These roles are available to male or female actors.

Mr. Trotter, Mrs. Trotter - Featured roles. James' adoring parents appear to James in a dream turned nightmare.

Karl Kreatour - Featured role appearing in James' nightmare.

Matron Nurse - The Matron Nurse runs the Painswick Orphanage. Strong commanding character role.

Billy and Bobby Bobby-Cop - Billy and Bobby Bobby-Cop are a perfectly unified pair of cops working for Scotland Yard. These are fun comedic roles for two performers who work well together.

Vagrants - The Vagrants, including **Doreen Driggles, Ridgley Rapsallion, Violet Funkschmeller,** and **Chris Cryermouth** are have-nots who support Spiker and Sponge's treacherous plans. The **Passing Man, Man** (with wallet) and **Passing Woman** all have featured moments where they fall victim to Spiker and Sponge. Strong featured character roles, acting, dancing, singing.

The Garden Chorus comes to life in Shake It Up as Ladahlord mixes a magical potion. Various skill levels required; vocal, dance, acting, pantomime.

Reporters - The Reporters, including **Ida Walters,** are on the scene just as the peach is becoming larger than life.

Ladies - Bitsy Botana and the rest of the Ladies Garden Guild are in flowery frocks and hats, intent on having Spiker and Sponge give the keynote speech at their conference. Strong singing roles.

Hollywood Agents - The Hollywood Agents, led by **Buzz,** jump in on the success of the growing peach with movie and Broadway deals for Spiker and Sponge. Lively and energetic roles.

Farm Animals, Willy Wonka And Oompa-Loompas - Farm Animals, Willy Wonka and Oompa-Loompas are all in harm's way as the peach outgrows its stem and rolls towards the ocean. These are featured cameo roles.

Angry Crowd - The Angry Crowd is in search of the amazing giant peach, but they quickly turn into an angry mob when the peach is nowhere to be found. Ensemble roles.

Cruise Ensemble - The Cruise Ensemble are various vacationers en route to New York with Spiker and Sponge. Ensemble roles.

Sharks And Seagulls - The Sharks and Seagulls are featured in *Plump and Juicy*. Strong movers and dancers are cast in these roles.

New Yorkers

New Yorkers, including the **Screaming Women, Lucille Van Kooglestein, Bunny Mackenzie The Third, Jake and Joe** all witness the peach land directly on the Empire State Building and are sent into a panic! Featured cameo roles.

Dialects:

ESTUARY, RP, COCKNEY - DO YOUR BEST!

Ladahlord, James, Mrs/Mr. Trotter, Insects - British Estuary Dialect

Spiker, Sponge - British Cockney Dialect

<https://pronunciationstudio.com/received-pronunciation-vs-estuary/>

About Casting

Our goal is to provide participants the tools they need to participate in an ensemble, and have a fantastic time learning and growing in this group process. We aim to provide as much stage time as possible to every participant, and encourage our cast members to be part of an ensemble group no matter what role they are cast to play. We're here to enjoy the experience! The casting process takes into consideration various factors including presentations at audition, experience, training, passion, growth, commitment to rehearsals and practice, roles previously played, and last but definitely not least, the chemistry of the cast over all.

The production team maintains the privilege of casting the show as they see fit, and intend to create a well-balanced cast.

Please encourage your child to embrace their casting, and remember, there are no small parts!

Remember, we are rooting for you! Do your best and have fun!

Additional Questions: Email registration@ojaiyes.org

James and the Giant Peach, Jr - Production Team

Artistic Directors - Daena Santoyo, Megg Sicotte-Kelly

Directors/Instructors - Daena Santoyo, Cassie Kelso

Choreographers/Instructors - Emma Rose-Allen, Sarah Hubber Arlon

Vocal Director - Connie Woodson

Production Design (including set, properties, and costumes) - Megg Sicotte-Kelly

Lighting and Technical - Adam Dunn

Enrichment Instructors: Cassie Kelso (improv, diction, dialects, drama exercises),

Production Admin. Assist. - Marin Valerio

AUDITION - SIDES & MONOLOGUES

SIDES - Please be familiar with the Auditions Sides inserted in this packet. No need to memorize all of the sides. You will be able to hold the side during your audition.

MONOLOGUES - You can choose any monologue from any resource that best fits your ability and interest - choose something you like! A few short monologues have been included here as options. Choose a monologue that invites you to express a character with your whole body! Do not worry about the gender of the character.

Quick Tips:

Memorize your monologue (write it out a few times as well - this helps!)

Props are not needed

Diction / Annunciation - practice speaking clearly

Expression - use your face (eyes, face, and body to tell the story)

Choose something you like - something that inspires your imagination and ideas

The Strange Old Man (James and the Giant Peach)

Come right up close to me, and I will show you something wonderful. (Gestures to his bag) You know what this is, my dear? You know what's inside this little bag? *[Opens the bag and looks inside]* Listen to them. Listen to them move. There's more power and magic in these little green things than in all the rest of the world put together. You'll never guess what they are... Crocodile tongues! One thousand long, slimy crocodile tongues boiled up in the skull of a dead witch for twenty days and nights with the eyeballs of a lizard! Here. You take it. It's yours. And now, all you have to do is this. Take a large jug of water, and pour all the little green things into it. Then, very slowly, one by one, add ten hairs from your own head. That sets them off! In a couple of minutes the water will begin to froth and bubble furiously, and as soon as that happens you must quickly drink it all down, the whole jugful in one gulp. And then, my dear, you will feel it churning and boiling in your stomach, and steam will start coming out of your mouth, and immediately after that, MARVELOUS things will start happening to you, FABULOUS, UNBELIEVABLE things - and you will never be miserable again in your life.

Charlotte (Charlotte's Web)

Salutations! It's a fancy way of saying hello. My name is Charlotte. *(She comes into better view.)* Charlotte A. Cavatica. I'm a spider and that's my home. I know it looks fragile, but it's really very strong. It protects me. And I trap my food in it. My breakfast is waiting for me on the other side of my web. A fly. I caught it this morning. *(Charlotte notices Wilbur's disgusted reaction)* That's the way I'm made. I can't help it. Anyway if I didn't catch insects and eat them, there would soon be so many they'd destroy the earth--Wipe out everything. And I don't really eat them...I drink their blood. I love blood! Spiders are really useful creatures. A spiders life is an uncertain thing, but I promise that I'll stay as long as I can. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to have my breakfast.

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

(Tip: Imagine a character reciting the poem, and present the poem as this character)

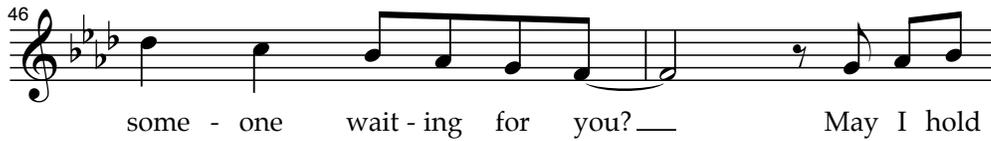
There is a place where the sidewalk ends and before the street begins,
and there the grass grows soft and white, and there the sun burns crimson bright,
and there the moon-bird rests from his flight to cool in the peppermint wind.

Let us leave this place where the smoke blows black and the dark street winds and bends.
Past the pits where the asphalt flowers grow we shall walk with a walk that is measured and slow
and watch where the chalk-white arrows go
to the place where the sidewalk ends.

Yes we'll walk with a walk that is measured and slow, and we'll go where the chalk-white arrows
go, for the children, they mark, and the children, they know, the place where the sidewalk ends.

Audition Sides - Matron Nurse, James

*(JAMES gently picks up
the LADYBUG (puppet).)*

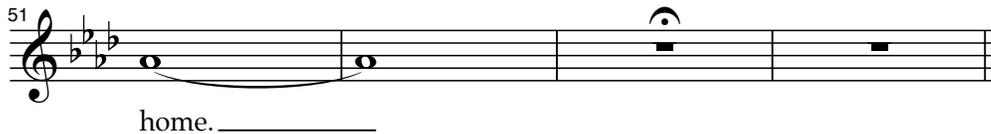


Molto rall.



*(JAMES releases the LADYBUG (puppet)
into the air. She flies gorgeously offstage,
leaving JAMES alone and back in bed.)*

Rall.



Lights up full and bright quite suddenly. The MATRON NURSE enters, her face pale, her hair pulled back in a too-tight bun or a snood. She wears black cat-eye glasses and black orthopedic shoes with a small heel. Her ruby red lipstick matches the red cross prominent on her uniform.

START

MATRON NURSE

(entering)

James Henry Trotter! Get up! Get up at once!

JAMES

But why?

MATRON NURSE

(dry, cold and uncaring)

You're leaving the orphanage, effective immediately.

The MATRON NURSE spits a loogie into her hand, rubs her hands together and then attempts to calm JAMES' wild hair with her hands and fresh loogie gel.

JAMES

But where am I to go?

MATRON NURSE

They've found family to take you in.

Audition Sides - Matron Nurse, James

JAMES

But, I don't have any family.

MATRON NURSE

You've got two aunts. They live in Dover.

The MATRON NURSE puts a tie around JAMES' neck.

JAMES

Dover? But, that's where I lived with my Mum and Dad—

MATRON NURSE

(impatiently)

And now it's where you're gonna live with your aunties. Pack your things in 'ere.

The MATRON NURSE hands JAMES a small suitcase.

JAMES

Yes, Mum.

JAMES folds his father's glasses inside his mother's scarf carefully, and places them inside the suitcase.

MATRON NURSE

(picking up the scarf and glasses)

That's all you've got? No clothes? No toothbrush?

JAMES

(taking the glasses and scarf back)

These belonged to my parents and they are the most important things in the entire world to me.

MATRON NURSE

The most important thing from here on is your aunties. You do everything they ask of you. Don't talk back, or be a nuisance. You can't ever come back here James. You've got a family to take care of you now.

JAMES

Yes, Mum.

MATRON NURSE

Come along. We're gonna have to 'urry if we're gonna make the train to Dover.

END

#6 – RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES (REPRISE #1)
begins.

Audition Sides - Spiker, Sponge

SCENE SEVEN:

Spiker & Sponge's Garden, Moments After the Peach's Escape

#30 – TRANSITION TO SPIKER AND SPONGE

begins.

START

SPIKER

That bloody peach nearly killed me!

SPONGE

Thankfully I'm a tad bit over my ideal weight, and the peach was ripe. The thing ran right over us—

SPIKER

And then it rolled away. Far, far away.

SPONGE

Spikers! The boy?! What's become of him?

SPIKER

We've got bigger problems than the boy. Did you read any of them contracts we signed?

SPONGE

Only the parts about the money comin' in advance.

SPIKER

Do you know what an advance is?

SPONGE

Yeah, it's oodles of money we get for signing them contracts.

SPIKER

It's money paid in advance...

SPONGE

In advance of what?

SPIKER

Delivering on all them promises we made! TV appearances, magazines, movies! Can't do any of 'em without a bloomin' giant peach.

SPONGE

So, this is bad?

Audition Sides - Spiker, Sponge

SPIKER

It's worse than bad, you twit! We could go to jail.

SPONGE

I can't go to jail, the food is wholly unacceptable to a sophisticated palate such as mine.

SPONGE removes a spray can of whipped cream from her purse. SPONGE sprays the whipped cream directly into her mouth.

SPIKER

Are you quite finished?

SPONGE squirts one more squirt into her mouth.

SPONGE

(speaking with her mouth full)

I am now.

SPIKER

Spongers, we've gotta get out of here before anyone misses that peach!

An ANGRY CROWD enters the stage.

SPONGE

Too late, Spikes! There's a crowd headin' up the hill.

SPIKER

Are those police cars?

SPONGE

And helicopters!

END

#31 – A GETAWAY FOR SPIKER AND SPONGE
begins.

Audition Sides - James, Ladahlord

The formerly fearless CENTIPEDE (puppet) is now terrified by the possibility of being captured by JAMES.

CENTIPEDE (puppet) dashes past JAMES and into the underbrush.

JAMES chases after him.

(JAMES)

You're a fast one! But I think I'm faster. Stay – right there...

JAMES dives to capture CENTIPEDE (puppet) but instead drags an old man (LADAHLORD) onto the stage by his shoe.

START

(JAMES)

(staring at LADAHLORD and afraid)

Who are you?

LADAHLORD

Unimportant! Who. Are. You? James Henry Trotter—

LADAHLORD stands and begins to cross slowly towards JAMES.

JAMES

If you come any closer, I'll scream for my aunts.

LADAHLORD

And what makes you think those two hideous creatures would come running to your rescue?

JAMES

They're my family.

LADAHLORD

Ha! Says who?

JAMES

That's what I've been told.

LADAHLORD

Ah! But do YOU think so?

JAMES

I... ? I...

Audition Sides - James, Ladahlord

LADAHLORD

(passionately with enthusiasm)

And there it is! The very first primordial ooze of an inkling that has the potential to lead to so many other fan-tas-marific things! **Ha!** James! That bag, right over there, contains something remark-u-lous! Are you willing to reach into the great unknown and find out what's inside?

JAMES

I... I don't know.

LADAHLORD

Come on, James! Only you have the power to change the course of your wretched little life. What's it gonna be? Victim? Or hero?

JAMES looks at LADAHLORD and then at the bag. And then JAMES thrusts his hand deep inside the bag.

(LADAHLORD)

(screaming at the top of his lungs)

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!

JAMES

(screaming in reaction)

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!

JAMES removes a dusty old book from the bag.

It's okay! It's okay! It's just a book! Why were you screaming?

LADAHLORD

To get your undivided attention.

(whispering)

What's inside the book, James?

JAMES

(reading)

It's full of recipes... with very strange ingredients.

LADAHLORD

Not recipes— No! Potions, tonics, spells! Now, you must pick a spell from the book, devour the potion, and fabulous, unbelievable things will happen to you!

END

#13 – SHAKE IT UP *begins.*