

Tutti Frutti presents

# UGLY DUCKLING

JAN 21 / PASANT THEATRE

by Emma Reeves

Adapted from "The Ugly Duckling"  
by Hans Christian Andersen

This performance will run approximately one hour, with no intermission.

Sponsored by Jackson National Life Insurance Company; L.O. Eye Care; Sutton Advisors PLC; and Wharton Center Inner Circle.

Media Sponsor: WKAR



View the digital program at  
[whartoncenter.com/program](http://whartoncenter.com/program)

## Cast and Touring Team

Ugly  
Mum, Dog  
Goose, Fluffy, Swan, Cat  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager (UK)

Danny Childs  
Dora Rubinstein  
Marcelo Cervone  
Kirsty Smith  
Cat Aldred

## Creative Team

Director  
Writer  
Designer  
Assistant Designer  
Composer  
Musical Director  
Choreographer  
Movement Director  
Lighting Designer  
Puppet Maker  
PiPA Director Placement  
Illustrations  
Graphic Design

Wendy Harris  
Emma Reeves  
Catherine Chapman  
Rebecca Constable  
Tayo Akinbode  
Christella Litras  
Holly Irving  
Joanne Bernard  
Mike Redley  
Nick Ash  
George Stone  
Firecatcher  
Jo Mohan

# Musical Numbers

Tayo Akinbode, composer

"Mummy Ducks Lullaby"

"Waddle like a Duckling"

"When You're a Goose" (The Goose Song)

"Love Me" (The Dog Song)

"Ugly's Song"

"You Can Take Flight" (The Swans Song)

"Maybe You're a Duckling"

## Adapting "The Ugly Duckling"

by Emma Reeves

When Wendy first suggested "The Ugly Duckling" to me, my first thought was, that sounds like fun! Familiar with the song version made famous by Danny Kaye, I remembered *The Ugly Duckling* as a comic, bubbly and ultimately uplifting piece about identity and finding your own place in life. I thought it would be a marked contrast to my previous work for Tutti Frutti, *The Snow Child*, which was based on a Russian folk tale with a distinctly melancholy edge.

But when I came to read Hans Christian Andersen's original story, I was struck by the potential darkness lurking in the material. Could anything be sadder, especially for a child, than to be rejected by your mother, brothers, and sisters? And will the Ugly Duckling really be better off living as a

swan? After all, at the end of the story, he's only just met them! When it comes to building relationships with people you love and who love you, is biological heritage really the only important thing?

The longing to find someone like-minded was reflected in Andersen's own desire to be accepted by the literary establishment—but in the end, although he did achieve the respect he craved, it didn't really make him happy.

Discovering that you're really a swan isn't really the end of a story, but the beginning of a new one.

## BIOS

**DANNY CHILDS** (*Ugly*) Professional work includes: *12 Miles from Nowhere* (Karen Simpson/Action Transport Theatre); Wishee Washee in *Aladdin* (Buxton Opera House); Grandson in Michael Morpurgo's *Farmboy* (Colchester Mercury/Polka Theatre); King John in *King John* (CreamFaced Loons); and Potty Pierre in *Beauty and the Beast* (Jordan Productions). Danny is also creative director of SquadFour Productions in Manchester.

**DORA RUBENSTEIN** (*Mum; Dog*) trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Credits include: *Cinderella* (Cast, Doncaster); *Digital Ghost Hunt* (York Theatre Royal); *Peter Pan*, *Aladdin* (The Dukes, Lancaster), *The Wizard of Oz*

(Leicester Square Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* (The Young Shakespeare Company). She also performs and teaches circus skills such as contortion and acrobatics.

**MARCELO CERVONE** (*Goose; Fluffy; Swan; Cat*) Theatre credits include: understudy in *Sunny Afternoon* (ATG UK Tour); Action to the Word's *Dracula* (Latitude Festival & Arts Theatre); Mowgli in *The Jungle Book* (S4K International Tour). Training: American Musical Theatre Academy of London (AMTA); BA in performing arts from Anglia Ruskin University.

**KIRSTY SMITH** (*Stage Manager*) is a Nottingham-based freelance stage manager. Kirsty has many years of professional experience within the theatre industry spreading out across the UK. She has toured with multiple different children's show, including: *The Boy Who Bit Picasso*; *Getting Dressed*; *Mirror, Mirror*; and Tutti Frutti shows *Keepy Uppy* and *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

**WENDY HARRIS** (*Director; Artistic Director of Tutti Frutti; Chair of PYA England*) has held the position of artistic director at Tutti Frutti since 2005 and has directed all but one production in partnership with York Theatre Royal, touring nationally and internationally and co-producing the Little Feet Festival of Children's Theatre and the First Words writers' development program.

**EMMA REEVES** (*Writer*) has won Best Children's TV Episode at the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Awards twice and been

nominated on two other occasions. Her work has won a national RTS award, an RTS Scotland award, and has been nominated for two BAFTA awards and two Broadcast awards.

**CATHERINE CHAPMAN** (*Designer*) is a theatre designer and loves her role of creating magical places for stories to be told. Catherine was born in North Yorkshire and often returns to the area to work at York Theatre Royal and Stephen Joseph Theatre. She has previously worked with Tutti Frutti.

**REBECCA CONSTABLE** (*Assistant Designer*) is passionate about design for performance and has gained valuable industry experience working as a designer for the Nottingham Playhouse, Sheffield Crucible Theatre, along with a designer/maker for the Lakeside Theatre Nottingham, Freedom Studios, and the 2017 National Theatre Connections festival.

**TAYO AKINBODE** (*Composer*) Tayo's recent work includes: *Much Ado About Nothing* for New English Shakespeare Company at the Dubai Opera House; *The Panto That Nearly Never Was* at Theatr Clwyd; *Sonnet Sunday, Henry IV, pt1, pt 2*, and *Henry V* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre; *The Whip* at Royal Shakespeare Company; *Pulse* at Bamboozle Theatre.

**CHRISTELLA LITRAS** (*Musical Director*) is a songwriter, musician, composer, vocal arranger, record producer, creative support officer (Leeds Playhouse), and founding member of Caution Collective. She composed the musical

score for *Windrush: Movement of the People* by Phoenix Dance Theatre, which celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the SS Empire Windrush.

**JOANNE BERNARD** (*Movement Director*) trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. She has 18 years performance experience working for a variety of companies including Ace Dance and Music (contemporary/African fusion), Foot in Hand (disabled and able-bodied dancers), and Tutti Frutti (children's theatre).

**NICK ASH** (*Puppet Maker*) is an award-winning puppet and mask maker and has a varied career in film, TV, and theatre. In 2006 he co-founded the award-winning Scratch Built Productions, creating imaginative new shows which include *Baby Boomers*, *Knight Time*, *How To Be a Hero*, and *The Three Sillies*.

## **Tutti Frutti**

Executive Director  
Admin & Operations Manager  
Sales & Marketing Manager  
Arts Engagement Coordinator  
Finance Officer  
Fundraising Manager

**Emma Killick**  
**Mosa Mpetha**  
**Sophie Backhouse**  
**Suvi Saraf**  
**Louise Lydamore**  
**Janet Myers**

[www.tutti-frutti.org.uk](http://www.tutti-frutti.org.uk)

@tuttifruttiprod

#UglyDuckling