

AUDITION NOTICE

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase
by Joan Aiken, adapted for stage by Russ Tunney
Directed by – Charlie McCarthy
Production Manager – Bradley Adams



Performances: **Tues 14th April 2026 – Saturday 18th April 2026** (matinee on Saturday)

(Please note the shows are in the week after the Easter school holidays.)

All evening shows start at 7:30pm, the matinee on Saturday will begin at 2pm.

Read Through:

Tuesday 11th November 2025 - The Courtyard Theatre, Hazelwood Lane, Chipstead, CR5 3QU

Doors open 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start.

Rehearsals:

From Thursday 25th January 2026

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7:15pm – 9:30pm

Sundays from 2pm – 4:30pm

(Cast must be available to rehearse over the Easter holidays)

Auditions: These will be in the form of a workshop - please be available for the whole session.

You only need to attend **one** of the two audition dates.

Wednesday 19th November 2025: 7:15pm – 9:15pm

Sunday 23rd November 2025 5:15pm – 7:15pm

Audition pieces will be available on request after the read through by emailing Bradley at

bradley.adams34@gmail.com

SYNOPSIS:

“Once upon a time that never was...”

In an alternative version of history, wolves stalk the streets of England, but cousins Bonnie and Sylvia have bigger things to worry about when their home, Willoughby Chase, is taken over by their new guardian, the scheming Miss Slighcarp.

Adapted by Russ Tunney from Joan Aiken's classic children's novel, The Wolves of Willoughby Chase will set your imagination alight, as you are whisked away into a magical world of suspense, mystery and danger, with a cast of larger-than-life characters.

This production will rely heavily on onstage sound that will be incorporated into the soundscape of the show. This integral part of the production will be produced live each night by a group of **Sound Artists**, using Foley techniques. This is a great opportunity for those interested in exploring different ways of performance using sound on stage, with the possibility for those who play percussion or an instrument, as well as vocals being required.

THE CHARACTERS & AUDITION PIECES

This play is suitable for those between the ages of 7 and 18.

As well as named characters, this production also calls for the cast to double up as the chorus, who act as the storytellers and play several different roles throughout.

THE CHILDREN

- **Bonnie** – The headstrong daughter of Sir Willoughby, and the only child living in the large Willoughby house. She is slightly spoiled, but incredibly bright, kind and clever, forever fighting against the evils of the world.
- **Sylvia** – Bonnie's cousin, who travels from London to stay at Willoughby house whilst Bonnie's parents go away on an extended journey. She is quiet and not used to the luxuries of Willoughby Chase.
- **Simon (The Goose Boy)** – Not much older than Bonnie and Sylvia, Simon lives on his own and looks after geese near Willoughby Chase. He comes to their aid throughout the play, offering a helping hand.
- **Emma** – An orphan who befriends Bonnie and Sylvia and teaches them how to survive the harsh living conditions of the orphanage.

THE ADULTS

- **Miss Slighcarp** – A supposed distant relative to Sir Willoughby, she takes on the role of a governess, looking after Bonnie and Sylvia, whilst Bonnie's parents are away. It soon becomes clear that she is only there to get her hands on the family's fortune. She is a menacing tyrant, and relishes punishing the children.
- **Mr Grimshaw** – Miss Slighcarp's partner in crime, who helps her forge important documents. He is bumbling and doesn't quite have the knack for scheming, despite trying his best.
- **James** – The footman at Willoughby Chase, who stays on at the house after Miss Slighcarp dismisses the rest of the servants. He is kind and helps to protect and look after the girls from Miss Slighcarp's tyranny.
- **Sir Willoughby** – The head of the household and Bonnie's father. He shows compassion for Bonnie but leaves the house in Miss Slighcarp's care whilst he embarks on a voyage with his sick wife in the hopes that it will restore her health.
- **Mrs Brisket** – The owner of the orphanage, and sister to Miss Slighcarp. She is lazy, and runs the orphanage as a workhouse, exploiting the children in her care. She is a big fan of cheese.
- **Mr Gripe** – The Willoughby's family lawyer, unwittingly duped by Miss Slighcarp and Mr Grimshaw.
- **Mr Wilderness** – A blacksmith, friends with Simon the Goose Boy.
- **Dr Morne** – The Willoughby's family doctor.
- **Dr Field** – A doctor living in the flat below Sylvia's Aunt Jane. They have a great love of painting.
- **School Inspector** – An inspector who is called in to inspect the orphanage.

All child and adult characters are for those aged between 7 and 18

Both auditions are in workshop style and will focus on the script as well as a devised element to see what you can bring to the characters.
