BABE, THE SHEEP-PIG

By David Wood, adapted from the book by Dick King-Smith
Directed by Simon Kennedy and Lucy Norris

COURTYARD THEATRE
CHIPSTEAD PLAYERS

AUDITION NOTICE

Performance Dates: Tuesday 6th – Saturday 10th April 2027
Evening performances, plus a Saturday matinee.

Read-Through:
Tuesday 10th November 2026, 7.30pm — Rehearsal Room

Auditions:
Wednesday 18th November 2026, 7.30pm — Auditorium
Sunday 22nd November 2026, 2.30pm — Rehearsal Room

Rehearsals:
Starting in January 2027, on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Exact times and start date to be confirmed.

Production Contacts:

Directors

Simon Kennedy
kennedy.stg@gmail.com | 07738 965910

Lucy Norris
lucy.norris1963@gmail.com | 07400 561499

Production Assistant (PA)

Sophie Dunhill
sophie.dunhill12@gmail.com | 07720 447615

The Play

Babe, The Sheep-Pig tells the story of a young pig who arrives at Farmer Hogget's farm and forms an unlikely friendship with Fly, the sheepdog. Fascinated by her work with the sheep, Babe sets out to become a sheep-pig, discovering that kindness and good manners can sometimes achieve more than barking orders.

Full of humour, warmth and adventure, the story builds towards the Grand Challenge Sheep-Dog Trials, where Babe has the chance to prove just how extraordinary he is. Although most of the characters are animals, this isn't a play about mooing, barking and oinking! We're looking to bring their personalities, friendships and feelings to life through acting, movement and imagination.

Characters

Babe
A curious, kind and polite young pig who desperately wants to fit in. At first he tries to copy Fly and the other dogs, but gradually discovers that his own way of doing things might be better. Babe is at the centre of the story, with plenty of funny and touching moments. We're looking for someone who can make the audience care about him, listen and react to others, and show how his confidence grows throughout the play.

Fly
Farmer Hogget's sheepdog and Babe's adopted mum. Fly is confident, capable and loves Babe enormously, even if she doesn't always understand him. She believes dogs are clever, sheep are stupid and there's a proper way of doing things — until Babe starts challenging her ideas! Fly also helps tell the story, speaking directly to the audience, so this is a large role for someone comfortable with narration, comedy and more emotional scenes.

Farmer Hogget
Farmer Hogget is quiet. Very quiet. A stern, rather grumpy man, he initially has little use for a pig on his farm. But as Babe reveals his talents, Hogget gradually warms to him and becomes incredibly proud of his unusual pig. This is a challenging part with relatively few lines. We're looking for someone who can show that change through their face, movement and reactions, rather than words.

Mrs Hogget
Farmer Hogget may be a man of few words. Mrs Hogget most definitely isn't! Practical, outspoken and very funny, she initially sees Babe as little more than a future dinner and can't understand her husband's growing fascination with him. But even she develops a soft spot for the pig. This is a great comedy role for someone with clear speech who enjoys delivering longer, lively passages of dialogue.

Ma
An elderly sheep who is suspicious of sheepdogs and isn't afraid to speak her mind. She's surprised by Babe's kindness, and the two become good friends. Ma has some funny moments but also one of the most moving parts of the story. We're looking for someone who can show her warmth and personality, rather than simply playing an old sheep.

TV Commentator
The Commentator introduces the Grand Challenge Sheep-Dog Trials and returns for the final competition. This is a lively, funny role for someone with plenty of energy and clear speech, who can make the competition sound incredibly exciting — especially when Farmer Hogget turns up with a pig!

Supporting Roles

There are lots of other parts, including Sheep, Puppies, Ducks, Cockerel, Turkey, Cat, sheepdogs, rustlers, fairground characters, officials and more.

Some have only a few lines, but there's plenty to do through acting and movement. The Sheep, in particular, are an important part of the production, working together as a flock with their own personalities and ways of moving.

There are opportunities for all ages and experience levels, and some cast members may play more than one character.

Backstage Opportunities (Ages 13+)

For children aged 13 and over, there are also opportunities to get involved backstage, including lighting, sound, stage management, costume, props, hair and make-up, set design and prompting.

Where possible, you'll be able to learn from experienced adult volunteers. No previous experience is needed, although backstage roles require commitment and may have different schedules from rehearsals.

If you're aged 13 or over and interested in a backstage role, or simply want to know more about what's involved, please get in touch or let us know at the read-through.

Auditions

Auditions are open to young people aged **7–14**.

Audition pieces will be available at the read-through, or you can request them from Sophie Dunhill at **sophie.dunhill12@gmail.com**.

There are separate audition pieces for **Babe, Fly, Farmer Hogget, Mrs Hogget, Ma and the TV Commentator**. If you'd like to audition for any of these parts, please prepare the relevant piece. You're welcome to audition for more than one.

For all other roles, please prepare Babe's audition piece. This also applies if you're not sure which part you'd like or are happy to be considered for anything.

At the auditions, we may ask you to try another character, read something in a different way or take part in some simple movement exercises.

You don't need to know exactly which part you'd like. Just come prepared, have a go and be willing to try something new!