

**PERUSAL SCRIPT**

# **THE UGLY DUCKLING**

Adapted from the story by Hans Christian Andersen  
by  
George and Gayanne Ramsden King

Music by  
C. Michael Perry  
&  
Mylee Bell

Lyrics by  
George King, Gayanne Ramsden King,  
C. Michael Perry, and Mylee Bell



Newport, Maine

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## **The Ugly Duckling**

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**ORDER # 3295**

**Cast of Characters** — 24 characters, 4m-5f-15e  
Can be doubled to as few as 9 players, if desired

**Hans Christian Andersen -**

**Mother Duck -**

**Four Ducklings -**

**Old Duck -**

**Ugly Duckling -**

**Two Castle Ducklings -**

**Two Castle Pigs -**

**Duchess Duck -**

**Gander -**

**Three Swans -**

**Two Hunters -**

**Rover -**

**Old Woman -**

**Cat -**

**Hen -**

**Girl -**

**Singing Chorus**

**Speaking Chorus**

One Method of Doubling roles:

Player 1 (m) - HC Andersen

Player 2 (m) - Ugly Duckling

Player 3 (f) - Mother Duck, Old Woman

Player 4 (f) - Duckling, Pig, Rover, Girl, Chorus

Player 5 (m) - Duckling, Gander, Chorus,

Player 6 (f) - Duckling, Hen, Chorus

Player 7 (m) - Duckling, Pig, Swan, Chorus

Player 8 (m) - Castle Duckling, Hunter, Chorus

Player 9 (m) - Castle Duckling, Hunter, Chorus

**SONG LIST**

**MUSICAL #1 — SUMMER SONG**

Company

**MUSICAL #2 — QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!**

Ducks

**MUSICAL #3 — SWAN WALTZ**

Swans

**MUSICAL #4 — SOMEONE FINE**

Cat, Hen

**MUSICAL #5 — UGLY DUCKLING (FINALE)**

Ugly Duckling and Company

**THE UGLY DUCKLING** Book and Lyrics by George and Gayanne Ramsden King. Music by C. Michael Perry and Mylee Bell. Additional Lyrics by C. Michael Perry and Mylee Bell. 24 characters: 4m 5f 15 either (can be doubled to 9 players). Simple Setting and fairytale/animal costumes. ***Can be played by children and/or adults for child and family audiences.*** *The Ugly Duckling* is cast off and scorned because he is seen as “different” from the very moment he hatches from a large awkward egg. He is at once chased from the castle yard while all the animals make fun of him. He is then rejected by an Old Woman and her pets and finally spends a long cold winter huddling in a marsh. When Spring brings two hunters with guns to the marsh, the Ugly Duckling courageously saves a beautiful swan from being shot by them. It is then that he finally realizes that he is also a swan and is immediately accepted by the swans who praise him for bravery. At long last, he finds love and acceptance, and the place where he really belongs. Also part of *Three Timeless Tales*. **ORDER #3295.**

**Dr. Gayanne Ramsden King** has produced and directed a variety of plays for adults, teens, and children. She has also published an award-winning Story Theatre adaption of the classic *Beowulf*, and a musical version of *Heidi*, in collaboration with C. Michael Perry. In addition, Dr. King has published a book of poems and several other poems in various collections. She has a Doctorate degree in Children’s Theatre from Brigham Young University and has worked as a pre-school teacher, an elementary school librarian and a professor of Public Speaking.

**George G. King** loves music and drama, writing, producing plays and musicals, and working with children of all ages. He published and produced *Coming Home -- A Christmas Musical* which he wrote in conjunction with C. Michael Perry. He has taught in several schools throughout Utah County and in Texas and worked for US Steel, WordPerfect Corp. and Zions Bank as a publication’s editor and writer. He has earned degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and Rice University in Houston, Texas.

**Mylee Bell** is a pianist, composer, and piano teacher. She grew up with a passion for music and sought it out in various forms, including studying piano and violin, and performing in choirs. Mylee received honorable mention at her state music competition in high school. She performed a 45 minute solo piano recital while studying piano performance at BYU. Mylee has taught dozens of piano students, from beginner to advanced. Since graduation she has played with choirs, solo performers, and a local musical production. Mylee has also written many piano arrangements, songs for children, piano pieces, and pop songs. She lives with her family in Orem, Utah and continues to collaborate and compose.

**C. Michael Perry** has spent a lifetime working in the theatre as a working actor/singer/dancer, Director, Choreographer, Designer, Composer/Lyricist and award winning teacher of Theatre on the High School level. He spent 8 years in television meeting and working with many famous folks (Buddy Hackett, Paul Lynde, Bob Hope, Jimmy Coco, Rene Auberjonois, Ruth Buzzi, and Dame Judith Anderson among them.), and choreographed Dick Van Dyke for an ABC Musical Special. His musical, *An Enchanted April* played Off-Broadway in the fall of 2019 and was lauded by reviewers. Many of his 45 musicals have been produced across the continent and around the globe in places like India, Egypt, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Africa, Venezuela, Germany and Malta. He is the owner/editor of Leicester Bay Theatricals, Zion Theatricals, Leicester Bay Books, Zion BookWorks, and Shining Sharon Music Company. He met Gayanne while at University, and George, (through the internet) when Gayanne married him.

## THE UGLY DUCKLING

**ANDERSEN:** The story of the Ugly Duckling begins on a beautiful summer day in the countryside.

### MUSICAL #1 — SUMMER SONG

#### CHORUS:

WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY!  
WHAT A SUMMERFUL DAY!  
CAN YOU FEEL THE BREEZE,  
MOVING WITH EASE?  
TO WHISPER IN THE CORN  
AND PLAY UP IN THE TREES?  
CAN YOU FEEL IT MOVE?  
CAN YOU SWAY?  
ON THIS WONDROUS  
PERFECT SUMMER FILL'D DAY!

*(As ANDERSEN speaks, MOTHER DUCK, FOUR DUCKLINGS and the UGLY DUCKLING enter. The FOUR DUCKLINGS and the UGLY DUCKLING carry life-size eggs that are now shut but can be opened.)*

**ANDERSEN:** The most important residence in the countryside is an old castle surrounded by a moat. Burdock plants grow on the edge of the moat and under their tall stalks sits a mother duck with four eggs.

**MOTHER DUCK:** Hatch! You lazy eggs! Hatch! I absolutely refuse to keep sitting on you all day long anymore.

**ANDERSEN:** Just as Mother Duck is about to give up, she hears a giant....

**CHORUS:** *(Speaking)* CRACK!!!

*(The FOUR DUCKLINGS open the tops of their eggs.)*

**ANDERSEN:** And out of four eggs come four baby ducklings.

*(The FOUR DUCKLINGS open their eggs.)*

### MUSICAL #2 — QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!

**FOUR DUCKLINGS:**

QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!

**MOTHER DUCK:**

QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, COME OUT, COME OUT!  
YOU'RE YOUNG AND NEW.  
COME OUT AND GREET YOUR WORLD!  
IT'S READY FOR YOU!

**FOUR DUCKLINGS:**

HOW BIG THE WORLD IS, SO GREAT AND WIDE!  
HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO STEP OUTSIDE!

**MOTHER DUCK:**

BUT I'M WILLING TO BET  
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET!

*(Speaking)*

Wait until I take you up to the castle.  
But first we must go swimming in the moat.  
Line up! One, two, three! Forward, march!

*(MOTHER DUCK pulls out a whistle, blows three times, marches the DUCKS into a line.)*

But wait! We can't forget this egg! It hasn't hatched!

**ANDERSEN:** The last egg is much larger than the others. Mother Duck walks over to it.

**MOTHER DUCK:**

QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!  
COME OUT, COME OUT!  
YOU'RE YOUNG AND NEW!  
COME AND GREET THE WORLD!  
WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU!

**ANDERSEN:** Just then an Old Duck waddles by.

**OLD DUCK:** Look at the size of that egg!

*(Walks around as she speaks, then sings.)*

ITS AN EGG FROM THE LAKE.  
IN YOUR NEST BY MISTAKE.  
THAT'S NO EGG FOR A DUCK.  
WHAT COMES OUT OF THAT EGG WON'T QUACK OR CLUCK.  
AND AT BEST IS A 'HE!'  
YES, A HE, WAIT AND SEE

HOW UGLY THIS LITTLE EGG WILL BE!

*(Speaking)*

It isn't one of your lovely ducklings

**MOTHER DUCK:** *(horrified)*

LEAVE IT ALONE!

SEND IT OUT ON ITS OWN!

I CAN'T LET IT GO.

I'VE MOTHERED IT SO,

CAN'T LEAVE IT BE,

THIS PART OF ME.

**OLD DUCK:** Do what you want! Waste your time on a turkey!

*(OLD DUCK waddles away. MOTHER DUCK nudges the egg.)*

**MOTHER DUCK:**

QUACK, QUACK, QUACK.

COME OUT COME OUT!

**ANDERSEN:** Then there's the sound of a huge....

*(COMPANY adlibs cracking sound)*

Then out steps a very large, and a very ungainly and ugly duckling.

**MOTHER DUCK:**

OH, DEAR. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

**FOUR DUCKS:**

QUACK! QUACK!

QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!

SEND HIM BACK!

*(An ACTOR takes off 4 duckling egg parts.)*

**ANDERSEN:** When he heard the other ducks say how ugly he was, the new, large duckling felt ashamed.

*(UGLY DUCKLING puts his shell in front of him and puts egg piece back in place.)*

**FOUR DUCKLINGS:** *(Laughing and pointing.)* Look at him! Look at him!

He's hiding.

*(MOTHER DUCK pulls back the top shell as she speaks.)*

**MOTHER DUCK:** Now, now, looks aren't everything.

*(Speaking to the four ducklings.)*

You let him be!

*(She now encourages the big duckling.)*

Let's just see if you can swim.

*(As the Chorus speaks MOTHER DUCK, who is something of a martinet, herds the ducklings into a line, UGLY DUCKLING last, and MOTHER DUCK marches them down stage and they then pretend to swim, going around in circles.)*

*(FOUR DUCKLINGS go around in a circle and then the UGLY DUCKLING joins them. They do what the VOICE CHORUS describes.)*

**VOICE CHORUS:** *(variously, or in unison)*

Soon the new ducks move beyond

The shore and right into the pond.

Around and around they go

And the big one seems to glow.

All the ducklings are in a row.

Along the water they all flow.

The ugliest one takes the lead

He is very strong indeed.

He can outswim all the rest.

At swimming he is the best.

*(VOCAL CHORUS members exit.)*

**MOTHER DUCK:** You've all done very well.

You take to water like ducks! I can tell.

And my big duckling is no turkey.

Just watch the way he swims!

Now come ashore!

*(FOUR DUCKLINGS and UGLY DUCKLING follow directions.)*

Come out of the water!

Hup, two, three four!

Forward march!

Forward to the castle barn

To meet the animals of the farm

And see if we can live with them.

**ANDERSEN:** The Mother Duck marches her ducklings to the castle barn.

*( TWO CASTLE DUCKLINGS enter.)*

But when the castle ducklings see the Ugly Duckling  
They try to drive him away.  
They throw mud and sticks at him.

**TWO CASTLE DUCKLINGS:**

Quack quack quack!  
Quack quack quack!

Look at ugly duckling! Hey you!  
You should be made into stew.  
You look worse than a rat!  
We'll feed you to the cat.

Ugly ducky don't come near!  
Ducky we don't want you here!  
You don't have bright yellow hair!  
You're so ugly everywhere.

Your feathers are old and gray.  
Ugly ducky go away!  
Ducky you will never do!  
Just what kind of duck are you?

Quack quack quack!  
Quack quack quack!  
Ugly ducky please go back!

*(The DUCHESS DUCK comes in a fancy dress with pearls and tiara. She is very grand.)*

**DUCHESS DUCK:** Silence! This will never do!

Just what has come over you?

*(All the creatures bow as she enters. She speaks forcefully, with a definite grace and elegance.)*

You must never forget your place!  
Walk with pride! Speak with grace!  
Be as good as you can be!  
Face the world with dignity!

**MOTHER DUCK:** Hush! Hush my ducklings!

It's the Duchess Duck. She is the most important creature in all the castle barnyard.  
She moves with pride and she decides  
Who can stay to live in the barnyard

And who will be sent away.

*(CASTLE PIG enters behind DUCHESS DUCK)*

**CASTLE PIG:**

Oink! Oink! Oink!

Duchess look and see!

Look at that ugly duckling, Duchess!

We can't let him be!

Oink! Oink! Oink!

Don't let him stay! Send him away!

Send him down the lane.

We have standards to maintain.

**DUCHESS DUCK:** You there! You! The big one! Come here!

*(UGLY DUCKLING goes over to DUCHESS DUCK. She examines him through her lourgnette.)*

What do they call you?

**UGLY DUCKLING:** *(Speaks then hangs down his head.)* Ugly Duckling.

**FKVE MORE PAGES TO THE END OF THE SCRIPT**