

Wind in the willows

### **Main points to hit:**

- **The Meeting:** Mole abandons his spring cleaning, meets Ratty, and learns to appreciate the river life.
- **Toad's Obsession:** Toad abandons his horse-drawn caravan for a dangerous passion for motorcars.
- **The Wild Wood:** Mole and Rat visit the wise Badger in the Wild Wood, seeking help to manage Toad.
- **Imprisonment & Escape:** After stealing a car, Toad is jailed but escapes with the jailer's daughter's help.
- **Battle for Toad Hall:** The friends return to find the Wild Wood weasels and stoats have seized Toad Hall; they take it back via a secret tunnel.
- **Reformation:** Toad learns humility and promises to behave, ending his reckless ways.

### **Artistic development:**

**An accountant / finance consultant. 2 days per month.**

**A movement director. 2 days per month.**

- Ways to incorporate music
- When do people multirole
- Costume changes
- Props / set ideas

### **Music Ideas:**

- weasel song, transition into battle music
- lots of underscoring - wood/river sounds to set the scene
- badger song
- leitmotifs and themes for different characters

### **Multi rolling:**

Ensemble characters can be multirole, the weasels/stoats/rabbits can be the ensemble who then double with another ensemble character (e.g. jailer's daughter) this means max cast of 10 (6 principles, 4 ensemble), possibly smaller characters like piper and otter can also be ensemble at times

### **Props/Set:**

**Costume / set designer: 2 days pay. Would we want a resident designer?**

how do we do set with no reliable theatre space??

- car
- jail
- river bank
- road hall
- wild wood
- furnishings for the hall - things for weasels to steal

- can instruments double as props at times?

**Instruments we may need:**

**Appoint a MD.**

- strings (violin/viola and cello)
- flute
- percussion (cajon)
- acoustic guitar
- brass? (possible horn or trumpet)
- accordion
- clarinet?
- banjo
- auxiliary instruments e.g. whistles and ocarinas - help for atmosphere
- double bass

**Potential venues:**

- slung low
- Kirkstall abbey [kirkstall.abbey@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:kirkstall.abbey@leeds.gov.uk)
- the green @ Uni of
- seven arts theatre? In chapel Allerton <https://www.sevenleeds.co.uk>
- Harewood house
- sunny bank mills - in Farsley... <https://www.sunnybankmills.co.uk>

Company name: Just Moss

Title of show: Windy Willows

Companies that we relate to:

Ilyria Theatre company – Travel around the country doing outdoor theatre companies.

Frantic Assembly – starts with music, use pre-existing material.

Legal structure: Partnership

We'd like to make an actor musician show based on pre-existing classical stories, which is witty, whimsical and wholesome. We want it to be immersive and use exciting, innovative, unconventional and outdoor venues.

**What do you want to do and why? Why now?**

- Create an actor musician show of an adaptation of wind in the willows
- Actor musician is upcoming and entertaining
- More exposure of Actor musician
- Folk theatre
- Post covid – more interested in more experiential theatre. Cost of living crisis, time outside, accessible.
- Undertone: Class division.

**Who is the project for?**

- Family / younger audiences
- Lots of different classes – accessible tickets

**Why is it valuable?**

- Immersive theatre makes it more accessible for people who may struggle to sit in a theatre environment for a long period of time
- It is more welcoming to other classes
- Traditional type of theatre that is dying out slightly.
- People like an experience – post covid – lack of commitment and often get distracted – don't feel alone
- Telling a traditional novel that brings the community together – heritage of theatre.