



**DD**

**STAGING THE  
PRODUCTION**

**BY**

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- 3 SYNOPSIS
- 4 CHARACTER PARTS
- 5 CHARACTER DESCRIPTION,  
COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP
- 6 AUDITIONS
- 7 SONGS AND MUSIC
- 8 DANCE
- 9 SCENERY AND PROPS

# DD SYNOPSIS

Tom and Rosie have a beautiful cottage in Cornwall. It is a long way from Tower School, where they both work: Tom, as the School Caretaker and Rosie, as a class assistant.

Tom desperately wants to retire early and spend all his time breeding ducks with Rosie. Sadly, he is not old enough to do this and the Head doesn't want him to leave either because he is so good at his job.

During the summer holidays, Tom and Rosie's favourite duck drowns. Miraculously, the pair of them revive the duck. After that, it gratefully follows them around wherever they go.

Tom calls the little creature DEAD DUCK. Rosie doesn't like this at all and changes it DD (short for Delightful Duck). When it is time for them to return to London DD gets into the boot of their car and goes with them.

The children are thrilled to have a duck at their school. Emily, the Chair of the School Council, befriends DD and discovers that she is the only person who can hear the duck speaking.

Meanwhile, Tom isn't happy. He decides to stop working so that the Head will sack him. Then he will and Rosie will be able to move to Cornwall for good. He leaves the cleaning undone and the school begins to get messy.

Fortunately, Emily, Rosie, the Duck and the School Council save Tom's reputation by cleaning the school for him.

Tom discovers what is happening and is very ashamed of his behaviour. He thanks everyone by building the school its own duck-house by the pond in the school grounds. Soon there are lots of new ducklings for Tom and the children to enjoy at their school.

## DD – CHARACTER PARTS

Speaking parts	Number of words	Scenes they appear in	Song – individuals or groups
Tom	951	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 10	Sweet little home in the countryside
Rosie	549	1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9 & 10	ditto
Herself (Head Teacher)	632	2,5 & 10	
DD	372	3,4,5,6,7,8,9 & 10	Sing in the Bath
Narrator 1	460	1,3,4,7,9 & 10	
Narrator 2	470	1,3,4,7,8,9 & 10	
Narrator 3	421	1,3,4,7,8,9 & 10	
Narrator 4	478	1,2,3,4,5,7,9 & 10	
Secretary	180	2, 6	
KS1 Child 1	76	2	
KS1 Child 2	43	2	
<b>SCHOOL COUNCIL</b>			
<b>Emily – Chair of School Council</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>5,6,7,9 &amp; 10</b>	<b>Not very PC is it?</b>
Aggie	20	6,9 & 10	Not very PC is it?
Annette	34	6,9 & 10	ditto
Charlie	40	6,9 & 10	ditto
Hannah	18	6,9 & 10	ditto
Jeanette	33	6,9 & 10	ditto
Josie	47	6,9 & 10	ditto
Maxi	91	6,9 & 10	ditto
Megan	6	6,9 & 10	ditto
Miranda	24	6,9 & 10	ditto
Rachel	29	6,9 & 10	ditto
Razia	18	6,9 & 10	ditto
Ruth	40	6,9 & 10	ditto
Sam	10	6,9 & 10	ditto
Sumeera	26	6,9 & 10	ditto
<u>Non-speaking parts</u>			
Cleaners		1	
Children in Playground	10	5,7	
Fluffy Little Ducklings		3	<b>Fluffy Little Ducklings</b>

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTION. COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP

Character	Description
Tom	Friendly, much loved caretaker of Tower School. Wants to retire.
Rosie	Friendly classroom helper and wife of Tom.
Herself (Head Teacher)	Always busy, barely has time to speak to anyone. Like Tom a great deal and doesn't want to lose him.
DD	Revived duck. Unhappy that he can only speak to Emily. A bit of a joker. Extremely lively.
Narrators	Story tellers. Could read their parts but it looks better if they know them.
Secretary	Pregnant, friendly woman.
<b>SCHOOL COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Emily – Chair of School Council</b>	<b>Bright, empathetic child who communicates with the duck.</b>
School Council Members	Maxi is the Secretary and has quite a big part. 14 children in all, form the Council and they come from different year groups. They each have a few lines to deliver.
KS1 Children	2 Project children from KS1 that show their work to the Head Teacher.
Cleaners	Non speaking
Children in Playground	These could be the School Council children
Fluffy Little Ducklings	Young children dressed as ducklings. These could be members of your choir.

### Costumes :

**Actors:** Modern day clothing. School uniform (different from your own school's) for the children. Project children's tops need to be different from school council's.

Secretary is pregnant, so will need padding. DD White fluffy costume, white leggings, white and red head dress that doesn't impede acting. Ducklings – yellow leotards, leggings and head dresses.

**Choir:** Yellow or white tee shirts, duck head dresses

**Make- up:** Light make-up for female adults. Moustache for Tom. White and red face for Muschovy duck, yellow faces for ducklings.

**Check that children are not allergic to make-up!**

## AUDITION

You could use the excerpt below or choose your own selection.

Give the children a couple of chances to read through the lines. For those who cannot read, give them a simple line to repeat so that they can feel included.

Pick those children whose voices can be heard at the back of the hall for your speaking parts.

The duck is unhappy that the child can't hear it.

**Duck:**        *(Sulks)* **They're all laughing at me. Not one of them can hear me. Oh dear!**

**Rachel:**    **Oh Cool! Look at the way it's standing with his feet crossed. It amazing that it doesn't fall over.**

**Duck:**        *(Sarcastically)* **Oh Cool!**

*(The duck wobbles and begins to fall. The child steadies him.)*

**Rachel:**    **You're a funny little duck!**

**Duck:**        *(Quacks)* **You're a funny girl, what's you're name?**

**Rachel:**    *(Amused)* **'Ent it lovely when it quacks.**

# SONGS and MUSIC

## PHOTOCOPIABLE SONG SHEET

### CD WITH:

- SONG VOCALS FOR PRACTICE
- SONG BACKING TRACKS FOR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE
- LINK-UP MUSIC
- SOUND EFFECT

### MUSICAL SCORE

### Songs in order of appearance :

Sweet Little Home in the Countryside – Tom, Rosie & Choir

Fluffy Little Ducklings – Little children

Not Very PC Is IT? - Emily and the School Council

Sing in the Bath - DD, Backing Group and Choir for choruses

Dream Cleaning Team – School Council, Rosie and Choir

### Sound Effect

Telephone ringing

## DANCE

Sweet Little Home in the Countryside – A group of children doing a simple country dance to accompany the singers, works well for this.

Fluffy Little Ducklings – A group of children acting out the words to the song, complete picnic, baby in pram and dog on lead + a few fluffy little ducklings.

Not Very PC Is IT? - School council could have protest boards with slogans on them. E.g.: Equal Ops for Ducks, No More Crispy Duck, Nurseries Places for Ducklings, Animal Rights for Ducks etc.

As each part of the song is sung a new boards is lifted and displayed. The children can gently sway the boards. In the end everyone has their board up and it's a full protest.

Sing in the Bath - DD could do a simple dance as the duck air plays a guitar. A backing group of singers, could work out a simple route to keep the song lively.

Dream Cleaning Team - Energetic Action songs. The children will help to work the movements out on this. The choir can do a sit down version of the actions if it doesn't get too complicated.

Songs can be solos or backed by choir.

All stage performers that are singing need to have a simple routine for each song so that they don't look wooden.



# SCENERY AND PROPS

## **Scene 1 The School Hall**

School Hall Sign, Cleaners' mops & buckets, brooms, dusters

## **Scene 2 The Head's office**

Secretary's desk with computer and lamp, telephone + chair.

Head's table, chair, telephone

Children's project

Box on Head's table with sweets in it.

## **Scene 3 In the Country**

Tin bath with ramp for ducks

Lit incubator with chicks in

Tray with coffee mugs on.

## **Scene 4 In the car**

Side view of car with Duck and luggage in the boot.

## **Scene 5 Playground and School Hall**

## **Scene 6 In the Library**

Library bookcase

Seats for the School Council to sit on

White board with pens

## **Scene 7 In the Car and the Bath**

Car

Bath, scrubbing brushes

## **Scene Eight The Caretaker's House**

Table with cloth and 2 chairs

## **Scene 9 Playground and Library**

Chairs and White Board with felt tips

## **Scene 10 Caretaker's House & School Pond**

Duck house with ramp and tools ready to come on.