

James and the Giant Peach, Jr.

Character Breakdown

Ladahlord

Ladahlord is a mysterious character who seems to have a hand in the magical things that are happening. Though he may seem a bit off, he carefully watches over James, making sure James moves towards to a better life. Ladahlord also serves as a guiding narrator throughout the story. This is a perfect role for a charismatic young actor who can sing and dance well.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: Gb5

Vocal range bottom: G3

James

James is the hero of our story, on an epic quest to find a family of his own and gain confidence in himself. Cast a young boy with an unchanged voice and someone who has great acting instincts. Make sure he can win over an audience and is comfortable being onstage.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: G#3

Ladybug

Ladybug immediately takes on a doting, maternal role in James' life. This is a fantastic role for a performer with a great singing voice and a regal demeanor.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Grasshopper

Grasshopper, the leader of the Insects, is ever the optimist and assumes a paternal role in James' life. Cast a performer who can sing and act well, but foremost has a warm, inviting presence.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: F#5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Spider

Spider is a clever creature who becomes a fun-loving older sister to James. A young woman with a spunky personality and a great voice is a perfect choice for the role.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Earthworm

Earthworm is a gentle spirit, although he can be a bit of a coward. Luckily, he gains enough courage to save the day by baiting some gullible seagulls. Earthworm looks at James as a brother figure. Cast a performer who can sing well, and more importantly, someone who isn't afraid of being a little outlandish.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: A5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Centipede

Centipede may be a bit of grouch, but he is ever-loyal to the pack, and by the end of the story, he's won over by James. James sees Centipede as that cranky uncle with a heart of gold. Centipede should have a good singing voice, and be able to make strong, specific acting choices.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: F#5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Spiker and Sponge

Spiker and Sponge are the sort of aunts (or monsters) that you fear ever being stuck with. They take James into their home but only so that he can be their own personal servant. Spiker is the brains of the operation, and Sponge is more concerned with finding something to eat. These are great character roles for two young performers who are fantastic singers and actors. To play into the humor, cast a duo that contrasts completely in physical appearance.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Zoo Crowd

Mr. Trotter, Mrs. Trotter, Karl Kreatour and the Zoo Crowd are all part of James' nightmare. These are small, featured roles, so feel free to cast from your ensemble.

Gender: Any

Matron Nurse

The Matron Nurse runs the Painswick Orphanage, and you definitely get a sense she hasn't had a vacation in years. This is a great acting role for a young woman who can command a room.

Gender: Female

Billy and Bobby Bobby-Cop

Billy and Bobby Bobby-Cop are a perfectly unified pair of cops working for Scotland Yard. This is fun cameo role for two performers who work well together.

Gender: Male

Vagrants

The Vagrants, including Doreen Driggles, Ridgley Rapsallion, Violet Funkschmeller, and Chris Cryermouth are an ensemble of have-nots to support Spiker and Sponges treacherous plans. These ensemble roles are important for making up the world of the musical. The Passing Man, Man (with wallet) and Passing Woman all have featured moments where they fall victim to Spiker and Sponge.

Gender: Any

Garden Chorus

The Garden Chorus comes to life in Shake It Up as Ladahlord mixes a magical potion. This is a great place to cast kids of various skill level and get them excited about musical theater.

Gender: Any

Reporters

The Reporters, including Ida Walters, are on the scene just as the peach is becoming larger than life. Cast a group of energetic performers.

Gender: Any

Ladies

Bitsy Botana and the rest of the LadiesGarden Guild are in flowery frocks and hats, intent on having Spiker and Sponge give the keynote speech at their conference. A few young performers with good voices will do the trick.

Gender: Female

Hollywood Agents

The Hollywood Agents, led by Buzz, jump in on the success of the growing peach with movie and Broadway deals for Spiker and Sponge. Like the Reporters, this is a fun group to cast with some lively performers.

Gender: Any

Farm Animals, Willy Wonka And Oompa-Loompas

Farm Animals, Willy Wonka and Oompa-Loompas are all in harms way as the peach outgrows its stem and rolls towards the ocean. These are very fun cameo roles for performers with personality.

Gender: Any

Angry Crowd

The Angry Crowd is in search of the amazing giant peach, but they quickly turn into an angry mob when the peach is nowhere to be found. These ensemble parts are easy to cast from any of your company.

Gender: Any

Cruise Ensemble

The Cruise Ensemble are various vacationers en route to New York with Spiker and Sponge. Use anyone from your ensemble to fill out the scene!

Gender: Any

Sharks And Seagulls

The Sharks and Seagulls are featured in Plump and Juicy. Cast strong movers and dancers in these roles.

Gender: Any

New Yorkers

New Yorkers, including the Screaming Women, Lucille Van Koogelestein, Bunny Mackenzie The Third, Jake and Joe all witness the peach land directly on the Empire State Building and are sent into a panic! Cast a handful of characters for these cameo roles.

Gender: Any