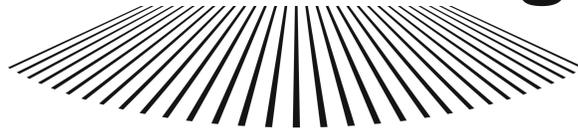


# TheWesternStage



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT**  
Cheryl Worthy  
Email: [CWorthy@hartnell.edu](mailto:CWorthy@hartnell.edu)  
831 755-6816  
Written by Kathy Cusson  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## HONK!

Music by George Stiles  
Lyrics by Anthony Drewe  
Based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling"

*HONK! is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)*

*A spectacular musical journey bursting with humor, heart, and dazzling transformation - where one extraordinary duckling's quest to find his place ignites a triumphant celebration of what makes us unique!*

## THE STORY:

In a barnyard where conformity is prized, Ugly hatches looking nothing like his duckling siblings. Ridiculed for his unusual appearance, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery after becoming separated from his family. Along the way, he encounters a colorful cast of characters – from the cunning, hungry Cat who sees Ugly as lunch to a military-minded flock of geese and a philosophical Bullfrog, who encourages Ugly to embrace what makes him different. As the seasons change, so does Ugly's understanding of himself and his place in the world. This musical adventure celebrates the challenges and joys of celebrating who you truly are, and teaches that sometimes standing out is better than fitting in.

## BACKGROUND OF HONK!:

Hans Christian Andersen published "The Ugly Duckling" in 1843 as part of his collection of fairy tales. In 1993, George Stiles and Anthony Drewe adapted the story into a musical, originally titled "The Ugly Duckling." After development and revisions, the renamed "Honk!" premiered at The Watermill Theatre in Newbury, England in 1997.

The production received its West End premiere in 1999 at the Royal National Theatre and won the 2000 Olivier Award for Best Musical, surprisingly beating both "The Lion King" and "Mamma Mia!" Since then, *Honk!* has been performed worldwide, becoming a staple of family theater with its universal message and accessible musical numbers.

\*\*\* MORE\*\*\*

### THE AUTHORS:

**George Stiles (Music)** is a British composer known for his work in musical theater. With longtime collaborator Anthony Drewe, he has created successful shows including Honk!, Mary Poppins (new songs for the stage adaptation), Betty Blue Eyes, and Soho Cinders. The Stiles and Drewe partnership has been recognized with numerous awards including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical for Honk! and the Musical Theatre Network Award for The Three Little Pigs.

**Anthony Drewe (Lyrics)** is a British lyricist and book writer who forms the other half of the acclaimed Stiles and Drewe partnership. In addition to their joint works, Drewe is known for his clever wordplay and ability to make complex emotions accessible through song. He has received the Vivian Ellis Prize and the ASCAP Award for Musical Theatre alongside Stiles. Their partnership continues to create beloved musical theater works performed around the world.

### ARTISTIC TEAM:

**Directed by:** Donna Federico

**Assistant Director:** Emily Morales-Ortiz

**Music Direction:** Don Dally

**Choreography:** Catrina Contini

**Stage Management:** Zalissa Ré Johnson

**Costume Design:** Danica Martino

**Assistant Costume & Hair & Makeup Design:** Reina Cruz Vazquez

**Lighting Design:** Derek Duarte

**Scenic Design:** TBD

**Sound Design:** Dante Carballo

**Props:** Thomas Verdos

### CAST:

**Ugly:** Max Magaña

**Ida:** Kathy Cusson

**Drake/Greylag:** John G. Bridges

**Cat:** Ty Ortega

**Lowbutt:** Sam Sullivan

**Queenie:** Fraciña Turner

**Bullfrog:** Cindy Womack

**Penny:** Galilea Valezquez-Loredo

**Turkey:** Jordan Roots

**Mother Swan/Jay Bird:** Angel Dratz

**Father Swan:** John Fair

**Henrietta:** Yarelíe Ruelas

**Maureen:** Izzy Pedego

**Dot:** Marlene Bruce

**Grace:** Pat Horsley

\*\*MORE\*\*

**ENSEMBLE/YOUTH ENSEMBLE:**

Julian Thomas Brandt  
Ryan Finfer  
Luna Itzela Ortiz  
Dahlia Serena Ramos  
Dahlia Rose  
Millie Sullivan

**WHEN:**

June 21, 22, 28, 29, July 5, 6, 12, and 13, 2025  
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:**

The Mainstage Theater on the Hartnell College Main Campus, 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, CA.

**TICKETING INFORMATION:**

Adult \$30; Seniors/Military/Teachers \$24; Hartnell Students FREE; Other Students \$16; Youths (5-15) \$12; Hartnell Faculty/Staff \$15; Student Rush \$5; Group tickets available by contacting the TWS Box Office.

Online tickets and more information: [westernstage.com/tickets](http://westernstage.com/tickets) or call **(831) 755-6816**.

TWS Box Office is open Wednesday-Saturday 5:00-8:00pm. and Sundays with performances 12-3pm. Leave VM to get callback within 24 hours.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the ticket office at least one week prior to the event.

**CURRENT COVID-19 INFORMATION**

The Western Stage is not requiring masking or proof of COVID-19 negative test result or vaccination at this time. Ticket holders are asked to not attend if they have temperature or other symptoms, or have been recently exposed to COVID-19, or have recently tested positive for COVID-19. This policy is subject to change based increase infection rates and or Hartnell College policy updates.

**ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE – ESTABLISHED 1974:**

The Western Stage (TWS) is a professionally managed, community-based theatre company and educational program that provides opportunities for high-level artistic experiences. Led by its educational mission and believing that strong arts experiences are important for building innovative, creative, and resilient communities, TWS offers a robust variety of programs designed for personal growth and skill development in a safe space where students and theatre enthusiasts may engage in theatre production while working side-by-side with theatre professionals. Through its annual production season, TWS provides strong pathways for artists throughout the continuum of a career in theatre and its related performing arts. TWS presents new works that speak to the history and culture of the Salinas Valley and provides educational opportunities for students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talent.  
[www.westernstage.com](http://www.westernstage.com)

**\*\*MORE\*\***

**ABOUT HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – ESTABLISHED 1920**

Located in the heart of Salinas Valley, Hartnell Community College District is a leading institution serving over 12,000 students annually across our main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus, and education centers in King City, Castroville, and Soledad. HCCD is a Seal of Excelencia Certified institution and a recognized Hispanic-serving institution since 2000. We offer associate and bachelor's degrees and certificate programs to prepare students for successful transfer to four-year universities or immediate entry into the workforce. [Learn more](#) about our programs and initiatives.

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