

Children for the Arts: Willy Wonka Jr.  
Character Descriptions

**Willy Wonka:** Willy Wonka is an enigmatic character; at once mysterious and mischievous but also charismatic. The actor should be able to be funny and serious and change between the two on a dime.

**Oompa Loompas:** Workers in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. They sing and dance in "Golden Age of Chocolate" and Oompa Loompa songs 1-4.

**Candy Man Kids:** They sing and dance in "Golden Age of Chocolate" and "The Candy Man".

**James:** James is Charlie's friend from school. He has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with Matilda and Charlie.

**Matilda:** Matilda is also a schoolmate of Charlie's. Matilda has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with James and Charlie.

**Phineous Trout:** Phineous is the reporter who announces the winners of the Golden Ticket contest throughout the show. The role requires some singing, so they must have a great announcer's voice and good stage presence.

**Charlie Bucket:** Charlie Bucket is the emotional heart and soul of the musical. The actor performing Charlie should have lots of pluck and enthusiasm. Charlie is in nearly every scene, so the actor must be able to handle the demands of a sizable role.

**Grandpa Joe:** Grandpa Joe is caring, patient, sweet, and always reminds Charlie to look on the bright side. He should be an actor who can be kind, funny, and makes a great duo with Charlie. The role sings a bit, but the singing is secondary to the actor's solid acting skills. Can do a solid, fun "grandpa" voice!

**Mr. Bucket:** This is a great role for a young person who has a nice voice and is a natural nurturer. Mr. Bucket performs the number "Think Positive" with Charlie.

**Mrs. Bucket:** This is a great role for a young person who has a nice voice and is a natural nurturer. Mrs. Bucket sings "Cheer Up, Charlie" with Mr. Bucket and Grandpa Joe.

**Grandpa George, Grandma Georgina, and Grandma Josephina:** Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. They need to be innately interesting, have good comic timing and are solid actors.

**Violet Beauregarde:** Gum chewer extraordinaire, Violet, hails from Snellville, Georgia with a Southern accent. Violet should stand in stark contrast to Veruca Salt. Veruca is a wealthy

refined brat; Violet is more of a blue-collar, middle-class brat. She sings "Chew It". Must be a young lady with a strong voice.

Mike Teavee: For this adaptation Mike is not just a TV junky. He is also addicted to video games, the Internet, and any other mind-numbing technological device. Mike is bratty, loud and obnoxious. Mike and Ms. Teavee sing "I See It All On TV" so he should be a reasonable singer but doesn't need to be perfect.

Augustus Gloop: Augustus is the overachieving eater from Frankfurt, Germany; carries a strong German accent. Augustus sings "I Eat More!" along with his mother and Phineous Trout.

Veruca Salt: Veruca is wealthy, class-conscious, and completely spoiled. She is portrayed with a high British accent. Veruca's solo number "I Want It Now" is deceptively tricky and comes late in the show; should be a great singer and actor who can make bold choices onstage.

Mrs. Gloop: Mrs. Gloop is Augustus' mother who has overindulged her son with food. She accompanies Augustus on the tour of the factory, and sings "I Eat More!" which is one of the more difficult songs in the score. The role requires a character actress who isn't afraid to take positive risks both in her acting and her singing.

Mrs. Beauregarde: Mrs. Beauregarde is a teacher of geography and has invested a great deal of hard-earned money on therapy for her gum-chewing daughter, with less than stellar results. The role is virtually non-singing. Her accent should match Violet's and the two should make a good pair onstage.

Mr. Salt: Mr. Salt's solution to most problems is to buy his way out. He is upper class and usually portrayed with a high British accent. He sings very little.

Ms. Teavee: Ms. Teavee is a take on all television moms of the distant past. She's perfectly put together and a bit vacant. She sings "I See It All On TV".