

WILLY WONKA JR Character Breakdown

Willy Wonka / Candy Man

Gender: Preferably Male but could be Female Big Singing Role Vocal Range: Top F5, Bottom G3

Willy Wonka is an enigmatic character; at once mysterious and mischievous but also charismatic. There are a number of directions to take with Wonka, ranging from Gene Wilder's version in the original film, Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory, to Johnny Depp's portrayal in the recent film, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, and everything in between. Should be able to be funny and serious and change between the two on a dime. Needs to be a fantastic actor and singer in this iconic role.

Charlie Bucket

Gender: Preferably Male but could be Female Big Singing Role Vocal Range: Top F5, Bottom A3

Charlie Bucket is the emotional heart and soul of the musical. The actor performing Charlie should have an unchanged voice and lots of pluck and enthusiasm. Charlie is in nearly every scene, so this needs to be an actor who can handle the demands of a sizable role. Charlie should be a great singer, excellent actor, and hopefully reads as younger onstage.

Mr. Bucket

Gender: Could be Male or Female Singing Role Vocal Range: Top C#5, Bottom D4

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. Mr. Bucket can double as an Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Mrs. Bucket

Gender: Female Singing Role Vocal Range: Top Bb5, Bottom Db3

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. Mrs. Bucket can double as an Oompa-Loompa in the second half of the show.

Grandpa Joe

Gender: Could be Male or Female Singing Role Vocal Range: Top Eb5, Bottom Bb3

Grandpa Joe is the grandfather we all wish we had when we were Charlie's age. He is caring, patient, sweet, and always reminds Charlie to look on the bright side. This actor needs to be kind, funny, and make a great duo with Charlie. The role sings a bit, but the singing is secondary to the actor's solid acting skills.

Grandpa George Gender: Male Non-Singing Role

Grandma Georgina, Grandma Josephina Gender: Female Non-Singing Roles

One of Charlie's three grandparents which are mainly non-singing character roles. These performers should be innately interesting, have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Phineous Trout

Gender: Female or Male Small Singing Role Vocal Range: Top C5, Bottom B3

Phineous is the reporter who announces the winners of the Golden Ticket contest throughout the show. The role requires some singing, so this actor needs a great announcer's voice and good stage presence.

Mrs. Gloop

Gender: Female

Singing Role

Vocal Range: Top E5, Bottom B3

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.

Augustus Gloop

Gender: Preferably Male but could be Female

Singing Role

Vocal Range: Top G5, Bottom B3

Augustus is the overachieving eater. Augustus sings "I Eat More!" along with his mother and Phineous Trout. The song is on the difficult side, but does not need to be sung with a polished pretty voice, in fact, the more character the better.

Mrs. Beauregarde

Gender: Female

Non-Singing Role

Mrs. Beauregard 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.

Violet Beauregarde

Gender: Female

Singing Role

Vocal Range: Top G5, Bottom G3

Gum chewer extraordinaire, Violet hails from Snellville, Georgia, so it's nice if she has a Southern American accent, but not necessary. Violet should stand in stark contrast to Veruca Salt. Veruca is a wealthy refined brat; Violet is more of a bluecollar, middle class brat. She sings "Chew It" along with Willy Wonka. The song is a tour-de-force for the right voice, so this needs to be a young lady with strong voice.

Mr. Salt

Gender: Preferably Male but could be Female

Non-Singing Role

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. (But this accent is not necessary but Veruca and Mr. Salt should sound like they hail from the same place.) He sings very little.

Veruca Salt

Gender: Female

Singing Role

Vocal Range: Top E5, Bottom A3

Veruca is wealthy, class-conscious, and completely spoiled. She is often portrayed with a high British accent that is by no means required (brats come in all nationalities). Veruca's solo number "I Want It Now" is deceptively tricky and comes late in the show, so this should be a young lady with a strong voice. Needs to be a great singer and actor in this role who can make bold choices onstage.

Ms. Teavee

Gender: Female

Small Singing Role

Vocal Range: Top F5, Bottom B3

Ms. Teavee is a take on all television moms of the distant past. Think June Cleaver (Leave it to Beaver) or Marion Cunningham (Happy Days) or even Carol Brady (The Brady Bunch). She's perfectly put together and a bit vacant. She sings "I See It All On TV" but does not require a polished voice.

Mike Teavee

Gender: Preferably Male but could be Female

Singing Role

Vocal Range: Top G5, Bottom G3

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. He does not understand the word "no." Mike and Ms. Teavee sing "I See It All On TV" so he should be a reasonable singer, but does not need to be phenomenal.

Matilda

Gender: Female Small Singing Role

Matilda is also a schoolmate of Charlie's, but she's a bit of bully. Matilda has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with James and Charlie.

James

Gender: Male Small Singing Role

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. This is a great role for a performer who is newer to the stage.

ENSEMBLE

The Candy Man Kids Chorus Gender: Any

Candy Man Kids sing "The Candy Man". The names of the characters have been drawn from other Roald Dahl books. These actors can double as Cooks and Oompa-Loompas.

Oompa-Loompa Chorus Gender: Any

The Oompa-Loompa Chorus is a fun role to play, great for younger & inexperienced actors.

Chorus Of Cooks Gender: Any

The Cooks appear during "I Eat More!" presenting Augustus with a smorgasbord of food choices. May double as the Candy Man Kids Chorus and Oompa-Loompa Chorus.

Squirrels Gender: Any

The squirrels are non-speaking, non-singing roles. This is a great part for beginning actors. May double as the Candy Man Kids & Oompa Loompa's.