

Willy Wonka Jr. Character Descriptions

Willy Wonka: 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. Pick a young man (or a young woman) who is charismatic, engaging and has a great voice. The actor should be able to be funny and serious and change between the two on a dime.

Gender: Any Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: G3

Candy Man (Solo, Duet, or Trio)

Gender: Any Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: G3

Charlie Bucket: 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 make sure you select an actor who can handle the demands of a sizable role. Charlie should be a great singer, excellent actor, and hopefully reads as younger on stage.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: A3

Grandpa Joe: 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. Cast 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.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: Eb5 Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Mr. Bucket: This is a great role for an actor with a nice voice who is a natural nurturer. Mr. Bucket performs the number "Think Positive" with Charlie. Mr. Bucket may double as an Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: C#5 Vocal range bottom: D4

Mrs. Bucket: This is a great role for an actor with a nice voice who is a natural nurturer. Mrs. Bucket sings "Cheer Up, Charlie" with Mr. Bucket and Grandpa Joe. Mrs. Bucket may double as an Oompa-Loompa in the second half of the show.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: Db5 Vocal range bottom: Bb3

The Candy Man Kids: Candy Man Kids sing "The Candy Man," and their numbers may be expanded to include as many performers as you see fit and your program will allow. May also double as Oompa-Loompas.

Gender: Any

Grandpa George, Grandma Georgina, Grandma Josephina: Charlie's three grandparents are fun character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors may double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Phineous Trout: Phineous is the reporter who announces the winners of the Golden Ticket contest throughout the show. The role requires some solo singing. Looking for a performer with a great announcer's voice and good stage presence.

Gender: Any Vocal range top: C5 Vocal range bottom: B3

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.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: B3

Augustus Gloop: Augustus is the overachieving eater. Either a boy or a girl acting like a boy can play Augustus. 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.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: B3

Mrs. Beauregarde: 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. Her accent should match Violet's and the two should make a good pair onstage.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: G4 Vocal range bottom: C4

Violet Beauregarde: 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 cast a young lady with strong voice.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: G3

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. (But this accent is not necessary-just make sure Veruca and Mr. Salt sound like they hail from the same place.). A female actress playing male may also play the role.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: G4 Vocal range bottom: C4

Veruca Salt: 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 select a young lady with a strong voice. Veruca should contrast sharply with Violet Beauregarde in terms of look and physical type. Cast a great singer and actor in this role who can make bold choices onstage.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: A3

Mike Teavee: For this adaptation Mike is not just a TV junky. He is also addicted to video games, the Internet and any other mindnumbing 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". Mike could also be portrayed by a girl playing a boy.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: G3

Ms. Teavee: 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".

Gender: Female Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: B3

James: James is Charlie's friend from school. He 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.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: F#4 Vocal range bottom: A3

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

Gender: Female Vocal range top: B4 Vocal range bottom: C#4

Oompa-Loompas solos 1-5

Gender: Any Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: A3

Oompa-Loompa Chorus, Squirrels, Town Ensemble

Gender: Any Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: A3