

The Ugly Duckling
by Patrick Stinson

CAST

NARRATOR - Christopher Walken
BROTHER 1 - Jay Leno
BROTHER 2 - Arnold Swarzenegger
BROTHER 3 - Elvis
Ugly Duck
SISTER 1 - Madonna
SISTER 2 - Paris Hilton
SISTER 3 - Liza Minelli
Joan Rivers
MOTHER DUCK - Director

NARRATOR

Once upon a time down on an old farm, lived a duck family, and Mother Duck had been sitting on a clutch of new eggs. One nice morning, the eggs hatched and out popped six chirpy ducklings. But one egg was bigger than the rest, and it didn't hatch. Mother Duck couldn't recall laying that seventh egg. How did it get there? TOCK! TOCK! The little prisoner was pecking inside his shell.

MOTHER DUCK

Did I count the eggs wrongly?

NARRATOR

But before she had time to think about it, the last egg finally hatched. A strange looking duckling with gray feathers that should have been yellow gazed at a worried mother. The ducklings grew quickly, but Mother Duck had a secret worry.

MOTHER DUCK

I can't understand how this ugly duckling can be one of mine!

BROTHER 1

He looks funny

SISTER 1

I can't believe I'm related to him

BROTHER 2

He's not as pretty as me.

SISTER 2

No ones as pretty as me.

SISTER 3

My big toe is prettier than him

BROTHER 3

Me no like him...he ugly.

NARRATOR

Well, the gray duckling certainly wasn't pretty, and since he ate far more than his brothers and sisters, he was outgrowing them. As the days went by, the poor ugly duckling became more and more unhappy. His brothers didn't want to play with him, he was so clumsy, and all the farmyard folks simply laughed at him. He felt sad and lonely, while Mother Duck did her best to console him.

MOTHER DUCK

Poor little ugly duckling! Why are you so different from the others?

NARRATOR

And the ugly duckling felt worse than ever. He secretly wept at night. He felt nobody wanted him.

UGLY DUCK

Nobody loves me, they all tease me! Why am I different from my brothers and sisters?

NARRATOR

Then one day, at sunrise, he ran away from the farmyard. He walked a long while and he saw a large sign on the side of a mountain. He couldn't read well, so he asked a passer-by what it said.

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER

Aaaaiiiieeee...That is the Hollywood sign you puny little ducky...welcome to Cali -for-nia.

UGLY DUCK

Is there any place that I can get a job? Where do you work?

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER

I am the the governor. You have a unique look quacky...you should go into the show business. Take a left at Ventura and go to Rodeo then turn right at the first light.

UGLY DUCK

What is this place?

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER

It is an audition ducky. Tell them Arnold sent you..Aaaaiiiieeee.

SCENE 2

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT HERE

A sign reads Casting over the door
DIRECTOR (Sticking his head out the door)
Next (Jay Leno goes in)

UGLY DUCKLING (entering)
Am I in the right place?

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
You...my finely feathered friend...should be in a pond. This is not "Make way for ducklings"

UGLY DUCKLING
I was sent here by Arnold?

PARIS HILTON
That's Hot..

MADONNA
A lot of people are afraid to say what they want. That's why they don't get what they want.

UGLY DUCKLING
I don't understand what you are trying to tell me.

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
That is...most likely...because we do not currently speak ducky.

DIRECTOR (Sticking his head out the door)
Next (Jay Leno comes out and Liza goes in)

JAY LENO
Eaaii....I think I really killed that director. Now that my late night career is over I'm gonna be the next Tom Cruise.

PARIS HILTON
That's Hot..

ELVIS
Uh huh huh...Wise man says only fools watch your films

JAY LENO
Listen here... Your not even the real Elvis.

ELVIS
That may be but I am a Hunk a hunk of burning love.

UGLY DUCKLING

Excuse me Mr. Leno...big fan..could you tell me what I need to do?

JAY LENO

I went into a McDonald's yesterday and said, "I'd like some fries." The girl at the counter said, "Would you like some fries with that?"

UGLY DUCKLING

I don't know what that has to do with my audition...it was funny though.

JOAN RIVERS

Ducky can we talk? Leno is not going to be helpful unless you talk about cars.

UGLY DUCKLING

Maybe you can help then?

JOAN RIVERS

Sorry all requests must go through my daughter Melissa.

DIRECTOR (Sticking his head out the door)

Next (Liza comes out and Madonna goes in)

UGLY DUCKLING

Hi Miss Minelli...I'm new here..and i was wondering if you could give me some pointers...so I don't make a fool of myself when i go in there?

LIZA MINELLI

I've said it before, but it's absolutely true: My mother gave me my drive, but my father gave me my dreams. Thanks to him, I could see a future.

UGLY DUCKLING

That's some great advice Miss Minelli but it doesn't have anything to do with this audition.

LIZA MINELLI

Initially, I wanted to be an ice skater, but then when I was 13 I saw Bye Bye Birdie, and that was it - I wanted to be on Broadway.

UGLY DUCKLING

Again thank for the info...but can we talk about auditioning?

LIZA MINELLI

Nap time. (she curls up on the floor in fetal position sucking her thumb)

PARIS HILTON

That's Hot..

DIRECTOR (Sticking his head out the door)
Next (Madonna comes out and Christopher Walken goes in) Your on deck kid (pointing the The Ugly Duckling)

UGLY DUCKLING

Well if no one is going to help me. I guess I need to rely on myself. I need to clear my head...I know I drink some coffee.

PARIS HILTON

That's Hot..

UGLY DUCKLING

Is that all you can say?

PARIS HILTON

That's Hot..

UGLY DUCKLING (grabbing coffee)

Owww...That's HOT!!

PARIS HILTON

I told you it was.

DIRECTOR (Sticking his head out the door)

Next (Christopher Walken comes out and THE UGLY DUCKLING starts in)

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

Listen Ducky...when you go in there..you knock 'em dead. This director loves when you talk about his mustache. Make sure you tell him how masculine it looks.

UGLY DUCKLING

Wow finally some good advice thanks Mr. Walken.

SCENE 3

THE AUDITION

DIRECTOR

Name?

UGLY DUCKLING

Ummm...I really don't have a name...I'm a duck.

DIRECTOR

OK. A. Duck...I like it...it's fancy.

UGLY DUCKLING

What would you like me to do?

DIRECTOR

Well I'm casting for a big movie musical so i need you to sing a song for me.

UGLY DUCKLING

Any song in particular?

DIRECTOR

Here sing this...Hit it Pearl (the unseen pianist)

UGLY DUCKLING (adding a showstopping dance to it)

(Song is public domain and free to use music available online)

GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY

Give my regards to Broadway!

Remember me to Herald Square!

Tell all the gang at Forty Second Street

That I will soon be there!

Whisper of how I'm yearning

To mingle with the old time throng!

Give my regards to Old Broadway

And say that I'll be there e'er long.

DIRECTOR

All right that'll be all I need to see today.

UGLY DUCKLING

Is that all you need to see sir?

DIRECTOR

Sir?

UGLY DUCKLING

Yes that is a very fine mustache you have.

DIRECTOR

For your information A. Duck...I happen to be a lady.

UGLY DUCKLING

But...

DIRECTOR

Good day.

UGLY DUCKLING

But...

DIRECTOR
I said good day!!

SCENE 4
THE FIRST REHEARSAL

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
So...Ducky...you got in..huh?

UGLY DUCKLING
No thanks to you...Walken. The director said I was the best dancer SHE has ever seen and would overlook my lack of social skills just this once.

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
Well you better watch your back and your front duck because Walken is out to get you.
(He exits)

LIZA MINELLI
Mama? Mama can you hear me? Mama? I made it Mama. I'm on Broadway!

UGLY DUCKLING
Miss Minelli...It's so good to see you. I'm glad you were cast.

LIZA MINELLI
The regrets of yesterday and the fear of tomorrow can kill you. (she exits)

UGLY DUCKLING
I can never tell what she is talking about.

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER
AAAEEIEII..Hi Ducky. I told you I'll be back.

UGLY DUCKLING
No actually you didn't.

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER
Listen to me now and hear me when you play back the recording. I am the governor and if i said I was going to say I'll be back then I said I'll be back.

UGLY DUCKLING
If you say so...Hey Mr. Governor....why don't any of these other actors like me?

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER

They are jealous of you...you have a unique look. They all have lost their edge and when they see someone new come on the scene they get frightened and they want to scare you off. AIIIIIEEE

UGLY DUCKLING

How come you don't do that sir?

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER

I'm a politician I love everyone. Except predators and terminators.

UGLY DUCKLING

Why are you here anyway?

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER

I wrote this musical.

UGLY DUCKLING

What is it called?

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER

CALI-FORN-IA Exclamation Point

UGLY DUCKLING

That sounds like a great show and I can't wait to get started.

DIRECTOR

Ok everyone gather around. This is our one and only rehearsal for this number. Here are your lines. Now lets try this (this is big musical number) hit it Pearl (again who is Pearl?)

OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM

(Song is public domain and free to use music available online)

(All dance except Arnold and Director)

JOAN RIVERS

Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O

And on his farm he had a cow, E-I-E-I-O

With a "moo-moo" here and a "moo-moo" there

Here a "moo" there a "moo"

Everywhere a "moo-moo"

Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O

And on his farm he had a pig, E-I-E-I-O

With a (snort) here and a (snort) there

Here a (snort) there a (snort)

Everywhere a (snort-snort)
With a "moo-moo" here and a "moo-moo" there
Here a "moo" there a "moo"
Everywhere a "moo-moo"
Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O

LIZA MINELLI

Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O
And on his farm he had a horse, E-I-E-I-O
With a "neigh, neigh" here and a "neigh, neigh" there
Here a "neigh" there a "neigh"
Everywhere a "neigh-neigh"
With a (snort) here and a (snort) there
Here a (snort) there a (snort)
Everywhere a (snort-snort)
With a "moo-moo" here and a "moo-moo" there
Here a "moo" there a "moo"
Everywhere a "moo-moo"
Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O

(adds an unscripted verse and others get mad)

UGLY DUCKLING

Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O
And on his farm he had a duck, E-I-E-I-O
With a "quack,quack" here and a "quack,quack" there
Here a "quack" there a "quack"
Everywhere a "quack,quack"
With a "neigh, neigh" here and a "neigh, neigh" there
Here a "neigh" there a "neigh"
Everywhere a "neigh-neigh"
With a (snort) here and a (snort) there
Here a (snort) there a (snort)
Everywhere a (snort-snort)
With a "moo-moo" here and a "moo-moo" there
Here a "moo" there a "moo"
Everywhere a "moo-moo"
Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O

DIRECTOR

Cut...A Duck..I should be infuriated with you. But I loved it. That was perhaps the best performance of the century. You've got what it takes kid. you're gonna be a star

MADONNA (Lying)

That's great Kid

JOAN RIVERS (Lying)

Can we talk about how awesome that was?

LIZA MINELLI (Lying)
My mama would be proud

JAY LENO (Lying)
If I still had a show you would be my next guest

PARIS HILTON (Lying)
THAT'S HOT

DIRECTOR
Come on Kid let's go talk about your future (the director and the ugly duckling exit)

MADONNA
Can you believe that?

JOAN RIVERS
Can we talk about uncool that was?

LIZA MINELLI
Mama why? Why Mama?

JAY LENO
If I still had a show I would run out of time and not have him on

PARIS HILTON
THAT'S NOT HOT

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
I have a plan..come here...(they huddle while Walken divulges his secret plan)

SCENE 5 THE LOVE SCENE

DIRECTOR
OK A. Duck...In this scene you are declaring your love to Paris.

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER
No he is declaring his love of Cali-forn-ia

DIRECTOR
No he is singing to Paris.

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER
I wrote in my script that I gave to you. He sing to her about his love of Cali-forn-ia.

DIRECTOR
Her is Paris.

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER
Cali-forn-ia

UGLY DUCKLING
Can we start now?

DIRECTOR
Paris we're ready for you.
(she enters)

ARNOLD SWARZENEGGER
Why didn't you say he was singing to Paris?

DIRECTOR
Here's your music.

LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART
(Song is public domain and free to use music available online)

UGLY DUCKLING
I am dreaming Dear of you, day by day
Dreaming when the skies are blue, When they're gray;
When the silv'ry moonlight gleams, Still I wander on in dreams,
In a land of love, it seems, CALIFORNIA.

Let me call you "Sweetheart," I'm in love with CALIFORNIA.
Let me hear you whisper that you love CALIFORNIA too.
Keep the love-light glowing in your eyes so true.
Let me call you "Sweetheart," I'm in love with CALIFORNIA.

Longing for you all the while, More and more;
Longing for the sunny smile, I adore;
Birds are singing far and near, Roses blooming ev'rywhere
CALIFORNIA, alone, my heart can cheer; CALIFORNIA, just CALIFORNIA.

Let me call you "Sweetheart," I'm in love with CALIFORNIA.
Let me hear you whisper that you love CALIFORNIA too.
Keep the love-light glowing in your eyes so true.
Let me call you "Sweetheart," I'm in love with CALIFORNIA.

(During the last chorus. The stars have rigged a bucket of water above the ducks head and Paris pulls on a rope to cause it to fall - A. Duck runs off)

DIRECTOR

Cut... Print.... That's a take. Never before have I seen a button to song since flashdance. Inspiring! (she runs off after A. Duck)

PARIS HILTON

I thought it was supposed to get him fired!

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

I don't know what happened.

JAY LENO

Maybe we've been to rough on the guy?

JOAN RIVERS

Can we talk about how insensitive we have been?

LIZA MINELLI

My Mama wouldn't be proud.

ELVIS

This reminds me of a song...

Don't be cruel...uh huh..to a hearts that true.

We don't have no other duck
maybe we should wish for better luck

MADONNA

Fake Elvis is right. Let's go find A. Duck and apologize.

SCENE 6

THE MISSING DUCK

ALL STARS

Surprise

ELVIS

Where is he?

JOAN RIVERS

Here Ducky Ducky Ducky?

MADONNA

I'm sorry for being a material girl in a material world.

DIRECTOR (crying)

He's gone...all because of you meddling stars.

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

We will make it our mission to find this missing duck.

(Entering from the back of the house with posters)

JAY LENO

Have you seen this duck?

PARIS HILTON

That's Hot....is what I'd say if you knew where this duck was.

(All Stars wander the stage calling for the duck and eventually exit)

SCENE 7

BACK AT THE FARM

NARRATOR

The Ugly Duck fled as far away as he could, and at dawn, he found himself in a thick bed of reeds.

UGLY DUCK

If nobody wants me, I'll hide here forever.

NARRATOR

There was plenty a food, and the duckling began to feel a little happier, though he was lonely. One day at sunrise, he saw a flight of beautiful birds wing overhead. White, with long slender necks, yellow beaks and large wings, they were migrating south.

UGLY DUCK

If only I could look like them, just for a day!

NARRATOR

Winter came and the water in the reed bed froze. The poor duckling left home to seek food in the snow. He dropped exhausted to the ground...

JAY LENO

Here's a beautiful swan. He must be injured. We'll take him back to my farm.

JOAN RIVERS

CAN we talk about how we can't find A. Duck. I hope he is all right.

UGLY DUCK

Miss Rivers it's me. Don't you recognize me?

JOAN RIVERS

We never met before. Unless you are a friend of my daughter Melissa's.

UGLY DUCK
It's me A. Duck.

ELVIS
Your not A. Duck. Look you are A. Swan. (Shows him a mirror)

UGLY DUCK
Goodness! How I've changed! I hardly recognize myself! Friends it is me A. Duck. I have been transformed into a beautiful swan.

(All react positively)

MADONNA
We are so happy that you are alright A. Swan. We are terribly sorry for being mean and unfair to you. We want to make it up to you. We want you to star in our next movie musical.

UGLY DUCK
Gee

SCENE 8 THE SWAN SONG

The Biggest of Musical Numbers!!
(Sung to the tune You're a grand old Flag- Public Domain)

You're a grand old bird,
You're a high flying swan
And forever in movies may you star.
You're the emblem of
The shows I love.
We think you will go really far.

Ev'ry heart beats true
'for the swan that's iin you,
Where there's never a boast or fan.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old swan.

HOW TO DO IMPERSONATIONS

Step 1

Find out as much as you can about the person you want to impersonate. Knowing about the person can make doing an authentic impersonation easier. Find out about their family, their job and any important events that shaped them into the person they are today.

Step 2

Watch him as much as possible. You need to watch his mannerisms, his speech patterns and his attitude. Try to figure out if he has a catch phrase, for example Bugs Bunny says "What's up, Doc?" and "That's hot" is Paris Hilton's.

Step 3

Mimic her style. You should wear the same style of clothes as she is wearing. Try to do your hair like her. You can wear a wig to get the same hairstyle if needed. Make sure your make up matches hers.

Step 4

Practice your impression in front of a mirror. Remember that in most cases, you are your own worst critic. The more you practice, the better you will become.

Step 5

Show your friends and family your impersonation. Ask them where you can improve. If they find your act entertaining, you may want to consider trying to find a paid gig doing impersonations.

Step 6

Keep up to date on the person you are impersonating. Some people, especially celebrities, change their look or ways quite often. When you are doing impersonations, it is important to stay current.

Step 7

Remember that you are your own person. When you are impersonating someone, it is easy to become so engrossed with the impersonation that it takes over your identity. It is important to come back to reality and just be yourself sometimes.