Puffs

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world, Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic is the Off-Broadway comedy by Matt Cox that follows a group of well-meaning magical misfits during the times of that certain boy wizard. Discover the hilarious and untold story of the “losers” who embrace being badgers and strive to be “third or nothing!”

Some people are born to do great things. Some people change the world. Some people rise from humble beginnings to beat back the forces of darkness in the face of insurmountable odds. "PUFFS" is the story of the people who sit in class next to those people. And badgers.

–WAYNE HOPKINS (male)

The hero. Totally uncool, but full of charm and heart. Loyal to a tee. Likes comic books and video games, knows nothing about magic or this weird magic world he is now a part of. Best friends with Oliver and Megan.

–OLIVER RIVERS (male)

One of the main trio. Incredibly smart and cerebral, he is a math wiz, and proud of it; lovingly a nerd from New Jersey. After ending up at wizarding school, he finds out he isn’t the top of his class, and instead begins a fantastical journey of friendship and even some love, better than any algebra class could ever promise. Real comic chops, incredibly appealing, youthful.

–MEGAN JONES (female)

One of the main trio; begins the show by only desiring to live up to her mother’s reputation: a dark wizard currently in Wiz Priz for being such a bad-ass Death Buddy in her youth. Favorite store: Hot Topic. Favorite color: black. Over time, her tough veneer begins to soften, as a budding romance with Oliver becomes apparent. Defiant and headstrong on the surface, the audience begins to see that her adamance of being completely unique and independent really stems from her desire to be loved and accepted.

–NARRATOR (either)

The narrator of the story. She/he guides us through our entire show of Puffyness. British accent. Must be a great storyteller, as she/he must keep the audience engaged and updated on all the goings-on. Can be a bit of a know-it-all, but still relatable and appealing. Comedy skills a must, improv background is a plus. Any ethnicity/cultural background.

–ERNIE MAC (male) and A VERY TALL MAN / SEAMUS / A CERTAIN POTIONS TEACHER / PROFESSOR TURBAN / GHOST HISTORY TEACH / PROFESSOR LOCKY / MR. NICK / SAL / SECOND HEADMASTER / REAL MR. MOODY

Requires an actor capable of doing strong impressions. Ernie Mac: Proud. Loud. Pretty sure he’s the best. Male Teachers: Potions Teacher/ Locky/ Professor Turban/ Mr. Moody. All impressions. Strong comedic ability. (Impressions: Rickman/ Branagh/Gleeson/Whoever played Quirrell in the movie)

–HANNAH (female) and FIRST HEADMASTER / PROFESSOR McG / PROFESSOR SPROUTTY / XAVIA JONES / PROFESSOR LANNY / RUNES TEACH / MS. BABBLE

Requires playing several different roles back to back, so the ability to play a variety of character types a plus. Hannah: Shy. Very shy. Female Teachers: Professor McG, Professor Plants, Professor T, Bath Babbles. Adults of all kinds of different personalities. (Maggie Smith impression for McG.)

–J. FINCH FLETCHLEY (male) and UNCLE DAVE / GOYLE / A FAT FRIAR / CLUMSY LONGBOTTOM / HERMEOONE #3 / VIKTOR / MR. BAGMAN / ZACH SMITH

Improvisational skills a plus. Boyish & fun. Chipper and happy except, when his life is in mortal danger.
–LEANNE (female) and GINNY / HELGA / FRENCHY

A little distant. A little random. Is possibly a genius or really, really stupid. But has a really strong heart. The Puffiest of the Puffs.

–SALLY PERKS (female) and HERMEOONE / BLONDO MALFOY / ROWENA / RITA SCOOTER / BIPPY


–SUSIE BONES (female) and HARRY / COLIN / HERMEOONE #2 / RIC GRYFF / MYRTLE

Susie: Sad. Gloomy. Think Eeyore from “Winnie the Pooh.” Constantly in fear of her or her family dying. Harry: Young, plucky, and famous. Struts around school like he owns it. Gets into a few wacky situations, but it’s nothing the bonds of friendship can’t overcome.

–CEDRIC (male) and MR. VOLDY

An appealing comic actor to play the pivotal roles of Cedric in Act I and Mr. Voldy in Act II. Cedric: A champion. Athletic, winning, popular, and charming. Everyone’s favorite, but still loyal, patient, and kind. A leading example of a Puff. Mr. Voldy: Evil. Like, reeeaaally evil. Wants to rule the world in shadows and darkness and terror. (Or, ya know, just an amazing Ralph Fiennes impression.)

–DEATH BUDDIES to be played by all.

Be prepared to read TWO of these monologues.

CEDRIC (British Accent)

Welcome to the Puffs! Hi! Just a few things to get you acquainted to the school. First, the stairs move. [other students gasp] Don’t freak out. Just breathe. Second... the Puffs don’t exactly have the best reputation here. People will make jokes about you. Or throw food at you. Or they might curse you. In fact, here, is a list of curses you can expect to be hit by at some point in the next week. But, none of that matters because really... we’re a bunch of nice, fun, happy people. Also, badgers. Badgers are great! That being said. There’s something very important we need to discuss. What do you think the most important part of magic school is? [OLIVER replies, “Learning magic?”] Wrong. The House Cup. Here, you earn points for doing something right. And you lose them for doing something wrong. The Puffs have come in last place in the House Cup for ...ever. But, together we are going to change that. This year, we’re going to win. Or, we’re going to get second. OR, we’re going to get third. Third or nothing!

BIPPY (British Accent)

Hello Mister Wayne HOPKINSES! Megan Joneses! It’s me! Bippy! Your little house elf friend! [Bippy sings a little Bippy song:] Ahhhhhh, I am Bippy, I am your best friend! We’ll be together til the very end! Bippy! Bippy! Yippee Bippy, Skippee Bippy, We all say: Yippeeee! Verse Two of Twenty! ... Magic exit!

NARRATOR (British Accent)

Heroes. Made. Not born. Except sometimes... They are born. On a gloomy night, in a far away, magical land, called: England. [A Very Tall Man with a beard and some goggles enters holding a very special baby. The First Headmaster enters a few moments afterwards. They admire this heroic, special, important baby boy.] Ah! A giant! Aw, a baby. His
parents - dead. But he lives. He is the boy who lives. He has a scar. On his forehead. Shaped like... you know. You get it?

You are familiar with this boy? Well. Forget about him. This story is not about him. [From seemingly nowhere, another bundle of cloth (AKA a baby) appears carried by someone far less impressive, with somewhere far better to be.] Ah! Another orphan. His parents: also dead. Killed in a freak chocolate frog accident. (Please. Don’t ask.) This boy is whisked away to live with his Uncle, in the even more magical land of Cattlepoke Springs, New Mexico.

Tonight! We will be taking an incredibly in-depth look at those seven years. Over the next five hours split into two parts- What?! 110-ish minutes? Oh. Tonight! We will be taking... a look at those seven years. Seven years that were, in one word, eventful. It begins as these stories tend to begin... WITH A SORTING!

Wayne (no accent)

Question. Hypothetical. What if I don’t have enough of a personality for the magic talking hat to sort me? Like..how much authority does this hat really have? Never mind...This place is crazy huh? I never thought I’d go to school in a castle. Pretty cool. I’ve never really liked school. People were mean. To me. I’m talking too much. You probably have all your own nervous thoughts going on...Can I tell you something? I think I might be...special? I watch a lot of movies and read lots of books, and it’s like: a normal boy finds out he actually has amazing abilities and is swept away to a new, magical world? Does that sound familiar? Because that is now my ACTUAL life. And THAT kid, through some incredible circumstances always becomes like the most important person. Like in the whole worlds. A sort of...Chosen One. AHH! Magic is real, and this orphan boy wizard is ready for seven years of amazing adventures!

Oliver (no accent)

No, I’m from New Jersey. My family just moved to England back in May, so they’d be closer to me when I started at the Mathematical Institute at Oxford this semester. Oh, I know I’m eleven. I’ve sort of been called a “math savant.” But that’s not important now. Now, I’m just a wizard...a beginner level wizard. You don’t think ending up here means we’re already bad at wizard-ing right? I’m not use to being bad at school.

Megan (no accent)

How about I finish the story for him now? Helga was so stupid and boring, she couldn’t come up with anything, so they just gave her all the dumb kids. The Puffs. The end. I never wanted to be a Puff. Every member of my family? Puffs. We’re like THE Puff family. But I’ve always known that I was different. There nothing even special about Puffs. Loyalty? Being really nice? A bunch of lame, awful failures doomed to be stupid walking personality-less nobodies that no will ever care about ever? Ugh. My mom was a Puff. But she was different. She became something bigger. She made the name Jones finally mean something other than a bunch of...Puffs. I thought...I knew...I would be different too. But...after all my hard work to make myself not a Puff, what do you know? The hat puts me with the Puffs. I did everything, I mean, I even changed my accent so I wouldn’t sound like my Puff family. Sorry to bring the mood down. Sorry to make things so...Sirius. She’s not coming here. Ever. I feel the need to hug. Don’t tell anyone.

Cedric (as Mr. Voldy)

(into a bullhorn) Is this thing on? Your efforts are futile. I do not want to kill you. Give me Potter. And you shall be rewarded. You have until midnight,...night....night...night. That went well I think. Hmmmm. So, we’ve got until midnight. Anyone bring any board games? Or snacks. What do you mean I’m still talking into the megaphone? What? Oh! Bring me Harry...Harry. Harry... Okay. The megaphone is now definitely off. You ever feel like a piece of yourself is missing? I feel like that. Like six or so pieces from right in here are just gone. I can’t tell if I’m depressed or my lunch hasn’t settled or---
ohhhh. I just put something together. What? The megaphone is still on? Really? Oh my, I am just having a day, aren’t I? YAH! Harry!

Hannah (as First Headmaster)

Students! Gather round. Yes. Yes. I just want to reaffirm to you all: even in the face of great danger, the doors of this school will always remain open. Never mind. A redhead’s been kidnapped. School’s cancelled forever. Go home. Never mind. The monster is dead. Let’s hear a big round of applause for the boy who fought it alone...MR. POTTER! Yes. Yes. Now, you all know I don’t pick favorites. But, Harry-he’s my favorite. Now, please, I would like to take a moment of silence for my pet bird who tragically died. Never mind. He’s alive again. Exams are cancelled. See you next year.

Hannah (as Professor McG)

Transfiguration: the art of – oh, puffs. Yes, hello. Um. We’re going to turn things into other things. Woooow! Go crazy! Mr. Rivers, oh dear, oh dear. Your wand technique is all wrong. Here, you get to use the training wand. Oooooo! Eh hem. Five points from the puffs.

Ernie Mac (as A Certain Potions Teacher)

Sit. Everyone. Now. You are here to learn the art of potion mak---Ohhhh. Puffs. Can anyone tell me...What. Is. A. Potion? (It’s what you put on your skin to make it feel soft.) No. That’s lotion. (It’s the place all the fishes live!) Wrong. That’s the ocean. (It’s magical liquid.) You are the most dunderheaded student I have ever seen sit in my class. If you manage to succeed in my course this year, I will eat a shoe. Ten points from the Puffs...Class dismissed.

Ernie Mac (as Second Headmaster)

Attention, students! Same headmaster, here. This year we will be hosting two other wizard schools. One with French People, and the DragoStrang Institute. They are all very intimidating, and they break dance. They are here to compete alongside one of you in a very dangerous Wizard Tournament. Anyone who wishes to participate, put your name in this cup. We’ll draw names on Halloween. It’s Halloween! Let’s find out who our competitors will be. Ow! Hot! Fire!...Mr. Diggory. Ow-hot. Fire...again...Mr. Potter? MR. POTTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! HARRY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (calm) Did you put your name in that little ol’ cup over there? Did you? I’m the definition of calm right now.

Susie (as Harry)

I don’t have a date. I want to ask Cho. But I’m so embarrassed. Hey! Remember in Year Two when that teacher removed all my bones? My arm was like this. Remember? Now! I have new bones! I HAVE NEW BONES! THEY GREW THEM. Boy, I’ve has a rough couple of years huh? All those evil people and monsters. And last year, I didn’t have a permission slip to go into town. That was a real bummer for me and my life. But now I have a permission slip. I got it from...someone (winks). Don’t need one for any other crazy things that happen here though. Oh well. Bye Wayne! Cedric! I have a permission slip. Look at my new bones!

Susie (as Myrtle)

**Leanne (as Leanne)**

No! I don’t want to leave. Why is everyone always so down on us? I won’t stand for it anymore! And I won’t sit for it either. And I also won’t stand on one leg because I can’t. Watch. Anyways. Look at your hand! You have a wand! Unless you look at your other hand. Look at yourselves! Hannah. You used to be so awkward. And you still are, but we don’t mind anymore! Who’s that? It’s Ernie Mac. And he is basically the best. And Sally. Remember that time you did that thing? It was amazing! Susie! We all thought you’re be dead by now. But look at you, standing there, alive. Wayne. You give the best huhs. Megan! You give better hugs than you think you do. And J. Finch. He’s imaginary, AND HE CAN DO MAGIC! We all can. We’re wizards. I’m a Puff and I’m staying, because if we don’t fight now we may never find out how that hat talks!