

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL



This is the continuing saga of “Ugly, the Egg Shell” and his brothers and sisters and their many travels around the United States.



**UGLY**

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL



**Beaky**



**Billy**



**Downy**



**Fluff**

Ugly and his family were “born” in the summer of 2002 in Grand Rapids, MI. Their first appearance was in the **Circle Theatre’s** performances of the musical, “HONK!” in June 2002. This is where our story begins...

After a rigorous rehearsal and performance schedule where they performed beautifully, Ugly and his family were moved to the Circle Theatre’s space in a warehouse in Grand Rapids waiting for their next “trip”. Unbeknownst to them, Steve and Sandi Krupa had seen one of their performances in Grand Rapids and were pleading with the Board of Lakeland Players to allow Ugly and his family to be in their version of “HONK!” that would be performed in May 2003. Luckily, the Board agreed and Ugly and his family were adopted by Lakeland Players (LP) Community Theatre in Waterford, MI in the winter of 2003. LP definitely wanted them to appear in their upcoming production of “HONK!” and purchased them from the Circle Theatre.!

On May 2, 3, 9, & 10, 2003, Ugly and his family were surprised to find that they now had a new place to call home, a “nest” built by Roy Borgeson and Steve Krupa. That’s where they resided when they performed in “HONK!” when it was presented by **Lakeland Players** at Mason Middle School in Waterford, MI. From that day forward, their living accommodations became the nest at LP.

In August 14 – 16, 2003, Ugly and his family made the trek with their “nest” to the **Mid-Michigan Youth Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University** to star in “HONK!”. There Ugly and his family received a brand new paint job. Now they looked stunning!

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL



They returned in September to their permanent home at Summit Place Mall in Waterford.

In March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14, 2004, Ugly and his family and their nest appeared in "HONK! at **Bloomfield Players** production at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

From there, they made the short trek up the road in May 2004 to **Our Lady of Refuge** in West Bloomfield, MI to star in "HONK!, Jr."

In July of 2004, they took a trip to **Cranbrook's Summer Theater Arts Camp** in Bloomfield, MI to participate in their version of "HONK!, Jr.". While visiting there, they received a new paint job! Gone were their shiny coats. They were now in pastel colors WITH SPOTS! Horrors!

November 2004 found Ugly and his family and their nest at **Walnut Creek Middle School** in West Bloomfield for their production of "HONK!, Jr."

On March 19, 2006, Ugly and his family with the nest in tow headed for **Hoban High School** of Akron, OH. There they were greeted by enthusiastic students who wanted to give Ugly and his family a new, fresh look. The students wish was granted. They became maize and blue or blue and maize depending which egg shell you were. They enjoyed their performances in "HONK!" in Akron.

In early May 2006, Ugly and family returned to Michigan and made a stop at **Oakland University** in Rochester, MI where they performed in "HONK!" in the student production.

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL

On June 5, 2006, Ugly and his brothers and sisters made a short trip across town to **Avon Players** in Rochester, MI where they appeared in "HONK!, Jr." After a spectacular run, they returned to their home in Summit Place Mall.

In October 2006, Ugly and his family appeared in "HONK!, Jr." again, this time at **Our Lady of Sorrows Parish** of Farmington, MI.

Roughly one year later, Ugly and his family traveled north in October 2007 to perform in "HONK!" with the **Bay Players of Tawas, MI**. It was a cold trip but lots of fun with the great cast from Tawas.

Almost one year later, Ugly and his family along with their nest, cattails, etal traveled across state to **Big Rapids, MI** to appear in the **Big Rapids High School** production of "HONK!" that ran from November 13 through 15, 2008. While visiting Big Rapids, a new member joined the set – the lid for the cooking pot! We all say, "Welcome!" to our newest member of the family.

After a short rest at their home in Summit Place Mall, Ugly and his family heard about a flurry of interest from theatre groups all around the country. There were requests from Wisconsin and Grand Rapids, MI and even as far away as North East, MD. In fact, Ms. Amy Smith, the Special Education Teacher at **North East Middle School** at 200 East Cecil Avenue in **North East, MD** 21901, really wanted to have Ugly and his family and friends visit her school out east! However, such a long trip seemed cost prohibitive.

Luckily, Tina Sheing also wanted Ugly and his family to visit her theatre camp in Delaware in the summer so Amy and Tina made a proposal to Paul Stark, the Lakeland Players Vice President that would allow them to both rent Ugly and the rest and they could share the transportation costs! Paul agreed so on May 1, Amy and her mom showed up at the storage unit with a big marching bands trailer, so they all were loaded up and made the trek to Maryland.

After several wonderful performances in May 2009 at North East Middle School, Ugly, his family and friends were picked up by Tina Sheing and transported to **Delaware** to attend Brandywine's five-week Summer Stock Theatre program. The **Brandywine School District Summer Stock Theater Program** presented "Honk!" on July 23-25 at **Concord High School** at 2501 Ebright Road in Wilmington, DE 19810. They enjoyed meeting new friends and loved being part of the theatre experience for the children who were attending the summer stock theatre program. Here's some photos of Ugly and his family and friends who appeared in these performances:

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL



After appearing in another wonderful run of successful performances at the camp, Ugly and his family and friends finally had to pack up for their long trip back home. Unbeknownst to them was Lakeland Players' (LP) MOVE! New owners of Summit Place mall had requested that LP move out. After over a month of searching, Lakeland Players found a new home for Ugly, his family and friends – a warehouse in Pontiac! On July 27, 2009, Tina and her friend, Deb Johnson, brought Ugly and his family and friends in a Penske truck to 40 W Howard St. in Pontiac, MI 48342-1280 – their new home!

Ugly and his family and friends didn't stay home for long. In November 2009, they were onstage again, this time at **Lenawee Christian School** in **Adrian, MI** doing *HONK! Jr.*. After another wonderful run, they jumped back into a trailer and traveled the 90 miles between Adrian and Pontiac to come home in time for Thanksgiving. They were truly thankful for the wonderful year they were blessed with in 2009.

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL

After a restful period of almost one year, **St. Regis Catholic School** at 3691 Lincoln Rd. in **Bloomfield Hills** inquired about the availability of Ugly and his siblings. The trip to St. Regis was onboard a Chrysler minivan. Unfortunately, at first, St. Regis personnel did not think their stage was big enough to include the nest so only Ugly, his siblings, the cooking pot and utensils and the cattails were invited to appear in *HONK! Jr.* in November 2010. However, the Director at St. Regis soon realized that alternate “nests” they would need to build to support the egg shells would take up more space than the nest. As you can see below, the nest turned out to be a welcomed addition to the set pieces already there. Ugly and his siblings again loved the attention showered on them by adoring new fans.



Finally, in December 2010, Ugly, his siblings and all the set pieces made their way back home via a pick-up truck and a Chrysler crossover vehicle to Pontiac.

While they were still at St. Regis, e-mail requests for them to go “on the road” again started appearing. The next stop for Ugly and his family and friends was a visit to Denise Stull, Vocal Music Instructor at **Union Middle School** at 390 W. Walker St. in **Upper Sandusky, Ohio**. They left Pontiac on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and traveled to Ohio to perform onstage in Union Middle School’s production of *HONK! Jr.* on May 10, 2011. Ms. Stull brought a trailer and away they all went. Oh, what fun!



On May 11, 2011, the Daily Chief Union newspaper of Upper Sandusky, OH had a FRONT PAGE article stating, “Union School sixth grade students (center, from left) Curran McKain, playing the part of Ida, and Chad Walkins, in the role of Ugly, stand centerstage among a cast of characters in a performance of “*HONK! Jr.*” in the school auditorium Tuesday afternoon. The performance was a part of the sixth grade spring concert....”

WOW! A front page story. How great is that! Here’s a photo of the fantastic Union School cast & crew who helped to present *HONK! Jr.* at Union Middle School:

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL



While in rehearsal in Upper Sandusky, more inquiries were made about the availability of Ugly and his siblings for other trips. One was from Mater Dei Academy in Cleveland, OH. However, arrangements could not be made with Mater Dei Academy since they needed Ugly and his friends on May 13<sup>th</sup> just **3 days** after appearing on the Union Middle School stage. After the successful appearance in Upper Sandusky, Ugly and his siblings returned home on May 21, 2011.



On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Jan Lamb contacted Lakeland Players about the availability of Ugly, his siblings and their friends. **Walnut Creek Middle School** in West Bloomfield was planning to **AGAIN** present *HONK! Jr.* and wanted to acquire the set for their show. The show dates were December 8 thru 10, 2011. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Lamb arrived with a trailer pulled by an SUV AND a Prius and off the gang went to visit Walnut Creek. Here's a photo of Ugly and his friends with Jan Lamb onstage at Walnut Creek!

On October 28, 2011, Keith Filipek, Music Teacher and Drama Director at the **Morenci Area Schools**, contacted Lakeland Players indicating his school would like to present *HONK! Jr.* and that he might be interested in having Ugly and his friends help them with their production. Wow! It sure is nice to be wanted by so many friendly people. After Ugly and his friends appeared onstage at Walnut Creek Middle School, they made a stop in Morenci, MI. Kevin and Lori Wilson, parent volunteers, visited the Lakeland Players' Storage Facility in Pontiac on Saturday,

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL

March 17<sup>th</sup> (St. Patrick's Day!) to pick up Ugly and his friends and transport them to Morenci, MI. Almost two months later (May 12<sup>th</sup>), they returned with wonderful stories about their trip south to Morenci to appear in *HONK! Jr.* Here are a few photos Mr. Filipek shared with us:



**The Cast of Morenci Area Schools' production of *HONK! Jr.* – May 3 – 6, 2012**

On February 23, 2013, we received a request about the availability of Ugly and his siblings from Trinity Bird at **Bronson Jr./Sr. High** in Bronson, MI. They traveled to southern Michigan to perform in *HONK!* for two weekends starting on March 15, 2013. Tim Erwin, who played the role of Ugly in the show, spent over 5 hours on Saturday morning, March 9<sup>th</sup> traveling from Bronson to Pontiac and then back to Bronson to pick up Ugly, his siblings and the set pieces. Trinity says that Tim and his fellow actors and the crew, of course, were a smashing success at **Bronson High!** Hopefully, you'll see Tim and his friends in some photos soon on these pages.

Margaret Duran, from a small elementary school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, inquired about the possibility of Ugly and his friends traveling to the Land of Enchantment. Unfortunately, that was a little too far to go! Also, Steve McCurdy of the Tapestry Players from St Luke's UMC in Houston, TX was inquiring about Ugly and his friends' availability. They were planning on performing *HONK!* in the Spring of 2014.

However, nothing materialized until March 2014 when Susan Danuloff visited Ugly and his friends and then told her friends about them back at Winan's Academy of the

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL

Performing Arts in Detroit, MI. Her Production Team all agreed that they wanted Ugly and his friends to be in their May production of *Honk Jr.* so on Monday, May 19, 2014, Steve Holbrook from Winan's Academy showed up to take Ugly and his friends on a road trip to the Motor City to appear in *Honk! Jr.*. What fun they had.



After a one day performance, they all returned to their home in Pontiac, hoping someone else would be interested in having them be in their production.

Lo and behold, Carolyn Priebe from Oakland Christian School in Auburn Hills made an inquiry about the availability of Ugly and his friends in December 2014. Carolyn had borrowed Lakeland Players' *Children of Eden* animal heads a couple of years ago and had seen Ugly and his friends in storage. She was assigned to direct a production of *Honk Jr.* at her school in late January 2015 and wondered if Ugly and his friend would like to be in it. Unfortunately, Lakeland Players had to relocate in November 2014 to a suite a few doors down from their former location. This space was  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of the previous location and lots of set pieces, costumes and props had to be disposed/ removed since there wasn't enough space for them. Since the nest took up so much space, there were threats to dispose of him. Luckily, wiser heads prevailed and the nest was allowed to stay but he had to "lose his legs". Tragedy!!!! However, by not having legs, the nest could squeeze into a space with the flats and wagons, his buddies from his previous LP production. When Carolyn was offered the use of the remaining *Honk!* set, if she agreed to make repairs, she happily agreed. Ugly and his friends were ecstatic.

On Saturday, January 10, 2015, Carolyn and a group of her students from Oakland Christian School arrived at the storage space in the school's truck to take Ugly and his friends to their school to perform *Honk Jr.*. Furthermore, the students were enrolled in a thespian competition and there was a good chance the *Honk!* set would be going to the competition as well.

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL



Oh joy! They performed at the district MIFA (Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association) Theatre Festival at Avondale High School on January 27. Next they performed at Clarkston Community Church on February 5, then on Saturday, February 7, 2015, they performed at the regional MIFA Theatre Festival at Chesaning High School and received a "1"! Over 35 schools competed in six different regional sites around the state and only 13 schools advanced to the finals. This was Oakland Christian School's first year being involved with MIFA so it's been quite an adventure for them. At this Festival, the students qualified for the state MIFA festival! They performed the show on Friday the 13th at Chelsea High School and competed against 12 other schools. It's been a wild ride. Their final performance was on March 7, 2015 at Oakland Christian School. Whew!

In late January 2016, Lakeland Players was contacted by Kathy Schaefer of Our Lady of Consolation in Rockford, Michigan. Her parochial school was doing *HONK! Jr.* and inquired about renting the eggshells and some set pieces. After a visit in early February to inspect everything, Kathy returned on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, pulling a small trailer to pack up the eggshells, cattails, nest and cooking pot with utensils and head for Rockport and Our Lady of Consolation. Hopefully we will receive some photos after their performance on April 27, 2016 so you can see Ugly and his siblings in action on the stage at Our Lady of Consolation!

As you have seen, Ugly, his siblings and the rest of the set pieces have traveled to their various vacations via Venture and Chrysler Vans, large 15-seat Ford Vans, snowmobile trailers, marching band trailers, a pick-up truck and Chrysler crossover vehicle, a

## THE TRAVELS OF UGLY THE EGG SHELL

Penske truck and even in a Dodge Durango. We have received requests about the availability of Ugly and his siblings from as far away as Albuquerque, New Mexico, Houston, Texas, Georgia and, even, the United Kingdom! Perhaps another road trip is in the offing? We shall see. Please return soon to read about the further adventures of Ugly the Egg Shell and his friends.

By the way, does anyone want to appear with Ugly the Egg Shell and his friends next? How about you?

### ITINERARY CHART:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theatre Group</b>	<b>Location</b>
6/6/2002	<b>Circle Theatre</b>	Grand Rapids
5/2-10/2003	<b>Lakeland Players</b> at Mason Middle School	Waterford, MI
8/14-16/2003	<b>Mid-Michigan Youth Theatre, Saginaw Valley State University</b>	Saginaw, MI
3/5-14/2004	<b>Bloomfield Players</b> at Andover High School	Bloomfield Hills, MI
5/5/2004	<b>Our Lady of Refuge Elementary School</b>	West Bloomfield, MI
7/7/2004	<b>Cranbrook's Summer Theater Arts Camp</b>	Bloomfield, MI
11/5/2004	<b>Walnut Creek Middle School</b>	West Bloomfield, MI
3/19/2006	<b>Hoban High School</b>	Akron, OH
5/5/2006	<b>Oakland University</b>	Rochester, MI
6/5/2006	<b>Avon Players</b>	Rochester, MI
10/15/2006	<b>Our Lady of Sorrows Parish</b>	Farmington, MI
10/15/2007	<b>Bay Players</b>	Tawas, MI
11/13-15/2008	<b>Big Rapids High School</b>	Big Rapids, MI
5/1/2009	<b>North East Middle School</b>	North East, MD
7/27/2009	<b>Brandywine's Summer Stock Theatre Program at Concord High School</b>	Brandywine Hundred, near Wilmington, DE
10/31/2009	<b>Lenawee Christian School</b>	Adrian, MI
11/14/2010	<b>St. Regis Catholic School</b>	Bloomfield Twp., MI
5/10/2011	<b>Union Middle School</b>	Upper Sandusky, OH
12/8-10/2011	<b>Walnut Creek Middle School</b>	West Bloomfield, MI
5/3-6/2012	<b>Morenci Area Schools</b>	Morenci, MI
3/15-23/2013	<b>Bronson Jr./Sr. High School</b>	Bronson, MI
5/24/2014	<b>Winan's Academy of the Performing Arts</b>	Detroit, MI
1/10-3/7/2015	<b>Oakland Christian School</b>	Auburn Hills, MI
4/27/2016	<b>Our Lady of Consolation School</b>	Rockford, MI
*****	<b>*** NEXT? ***</b>	*****