

Ugly Duckling



(Left to right) Emma and Lucy

Visual Story

The Ugly Duckling is a show created by Lucy Hoult and Emma Claire Blythe as their company WhatNot Theatre. It is performed with just Emma and Lucy and runs at about 45 minutes long. The show begins with Emma playing Farmer Mary who describes what is going to happen, and demonstrates the lighting changes. She starts by showing the audience the last egg to hatch – Dotty the Duckling.

Dotty is a large grey duckling (played by Lucy) that looks and sounds different to her sister ducklings who are small and yellow. Mummy duck reassures Dotty that she is perfect and being different is a good thing. Dotty wants to find out what bird she is so she follows some geese to a nearby farm.

Here Dotty meets Farmer Mary, who, tells her she can stay and ask the birds on her farm to help her find out what bird she is.

Dotty then meets Henny the Hen, Reggie the Rooster and Tommy the Turkey (all played by Emma) but can't find what bird she is. She chases a mouse ,one day, trying to help Tommy and ends up alone on a lake but her feathers have changed to white. Here she wishes on a star to go home. When she opens her eyes a large white bird flies in, landing next to Dotty. This is Amelia Swanhart (played by Emma) and she tells Dotty she is a Swan and offers for her to come and join her and her crew. Dotty is about to say yes when suddenly Mummy Duck appears and tells Dotty that she has been very missed and they have been looking for her. Dotty thanks Amelia and then heads back to the pond with Mummy Duck.

At various points the audience are asked if they want to help throw leaves and snow onto the stage, as well as point things out and answer questions. This is always done by the characters who are just played by Emma and Lucy. Anyone can say no and will not be forced to join in.

Characters



**Emma playing
Reggie the rooster**



**Emma playing
mummy duck**



**Emma playing
Farmer Mary**



**Emma playing
Tommy the Turkey**



**Emma playing Henny
the Hen**



**Emma playing
Amelia Swanhart**



**Lucy playing Dotty
duckling young**

In the show the main character of Dotty the Duckling is played by Lucy, Dotty stays in the same costume for the whole show until towards the end when she changes into white to show she is growing into a swan.

All the other characters we meet are played by Emma. Emma plays different characters shown by wearing different costumes and changing her voice to different accents. There are also three puppet ducklings that have a recording to give them voices



**Lucy playing Dotty
duckling grown**



**Small puppet
duckling Maisie**



**Small puppet
duckling Mandy**



**Small puppet
duckling Molly**



**Leaf Throwing for
Autumn**

Audience Participation

There are two parts in the show where the audience are invited to throw items onto the stage, the actors will come into the audience to offer these things to throw, there is enough for everyone but children are given the choice and do not have to join in.



**Snow throwing for
Winter**



Set and Props

The set for ugly Duckling is set up like a small farmyard, there are benches, stools, green grasses, a washing basket and a large washing line covered in washing where the actors enter and exit from. There are a couple of moments where Dotty goes into the audience space.

Light, Sound and seating



There are very few lighting changes in Ugly Duckling, the audience space will always remain at a low light for people to see.

There are a couple of lighting changes where the lights go from a warm yellow to a darker colder blue colour for the winter.



There are a few sound effects throughout the show of birds such as chickens, geese and ducks, there is also a mouse squeak and some chase music. The loudest point in the show is the entrance of Ameila Swanheart with some louder music and sound effects, this happens once Dotty comes back on stage dressed in white.

Audience are encouraged to sit on the floor towards the front but are welcome to sit wherever and however is comfortable, this can be on benches, chairs or any other sensory seating element. WhatNot want families to be comfortable to enjoy the show so they are free to do whatever they feel is best.



Audience are free to move around how they need to and are welcome to make noise and sounds as well as leave and enter how they need.

Please note there may be slight differences to some of the costume and set pieces that are shown in the above pictures. However none of the content has changed.