



# AESOP'S FABLES



Anyone ages 8+ may audition for the Xclaim! production of **AESOP'S FABLES!** This unique and fun collection of short tales was specifically designed for interactions with live actors and stage puppets! The story begins with the iconic race between The Tortoise and the Hare and checks in on their progress throughout the race. Between these scenes, other famous fables teach basic morality and share wisdom with both puppets and actors – even Aesop himself! With a variety of puppets and human characters, actors of all ages will play fun and challenging roles, and family audiences will roar with delight at the hilarious situations in this exciting puppet show for stage!

**AUDITIONS:** Choose one audition slot (Ages 7+):

**Saturday, March 21** at **1:00p-2:00p** OR  
**Thursday, March 26** at **5:00p-6:00p** OR  
**Saturday, March 28** at **1:00p-2:00p**

**AUDITION FORMAT:** Interviewed by director (parents encouraged to attend), perform human and puppetry audition sides.

**CASTING:** The director will single-cast all roles in the production. Most actors will have the opportunity to play multiple characters, especially puppets. 2026 Spring Academy students get extra consideration, but casting is based on BEHAVIOR, LACK OF CONFLICTS, & ability to best perform audition material. Race and gender are not factors in any casting decisions.

**FIRST MEETING & READ-THRU:** Monday, March 30 at 6:30p-8:00p. A brief company meeting with cast and parents will be at 8:00pm.

**REHEARSAL PERIOD:** April 3 – May 27  
 Rehearsals depend on role (usually 3-4 days per week). Audition form has rehearsal times on each day of the week. Actors are not called to all rehearsals.

**PERFORMANCES:** May 28-31, 2026 at the Xclaim! Center:  
 Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 7:00pm and Sunday at 3:00pm.

**REHEARSAL CONFLICTS** affect casting. You can only perform the roles for which you can rehearse. If cast, the director accepted conflicts on your audition form, but later conflicts will NOT be accepted and WILL result in re-casting your role. **NO conflicts allowed beginning 2 weeks before the show.**

**BACKSTAGE & TECHNICAL POSITIONS:** We are accepting submissions for technical positions in stage management, costuming, make-up, lighting and sound ops. Interested parties should submit an audition form and register for an audition slot to interview with the director.

**EXPECTATIONS, FEES & EXPENSES:**  
**All cast members must contribute the following to our production:**

- \$125 Activity Fee (*due at 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal*)
- Purchase show t-shirt used as puppetry costume
- Personal undergarments/dressing, footwear and make-up
- A minimum of 6 volunteer hours for production needs
- Assist with fundraising to support the show
- Strike will occur following the final performance on Sunday, May 31.**
- All cast members MUST stay to strike.** Cast party after until 7:00p.

**CONTACT INFO:** For more information, visit the website **[www.xclaiminc.com](http://www.xclaiminc.com)** or email: **[info@xclaiminc.com](mailto:info@xclaiminc.com)**

**LIST OF FABLES (with Animal/Puppets):**

- The Hare and the Tortoise
- The Bear and the Travelers
- The Horse and the Donkey
- The Fox and the Stork
- The Frog and the Mouse
- The Donkey in the Lion's Skin
- The Bats, the Birds, and the Beasts
- The Lion and the Mouse
- The Fox and the Crow
- The Wolf and the Crane

**HUMAN ROLES:**

- Aesop
  - Little Timmy
  - Little Timmy's Mom
  - Farmer
  - Fee & Nee
  - Salesperson
- OTHER ANIMALS/PUPPETS:**  
 Faun, Squirrel, Bear, Raccoon, Skunk, Gopher, Chipmunk, and more!

**ATTACHMENTS:**  
 Character List, Audition Sides and 2-page Audition Form



# AESOP'S FABLES



## ACTING MONOLOGUES

*(Prepare one of the following monologues)*

**AESOP:** For now, I think it's time for another story about life – and death! A truly serious lesson learned in a chilling tale: "The Frog and the Mouse!"

Our tale takes place along the river bank. On one side, lives a Mouse. This afternoon, Ms. Mouse crossed the river just like any normal day: over the river's low point, across the branches. But while on the other side, a sudden downpour of rain caused the river to rise and the Mouse found herself trapped!

**MOTHER:** How dare you, Mr. Hare! How can you just dismiss such a small child so thoughtlessly? Little Timmy here is your number one fan. He has followed your career since you were just a bunny at the bunny hop. Then he insisted we go to the Cotton Tail Races just to see you. He has been at every race you have run since you went pro. And he has been to each of your championships! The least you could do is give Little Timmy your autograph.

**SALESPERSON:** Have I got a deal for you! Stick with me and I'll make you rich! Just give me one hundred bucks and convince your friends to join along, too. Soon enough, you'll have so much money you could be king of the forest!

## PUPPETRY SIDE 1 *(Lion is costumed actor, Mouse is puppet)*

**LION:** What have we here?

**MOUSE:** Squeak! Squeak!

**LION:** Why, it's a mouse! Must be snack time!

**MOUSE:** Please don't eat me, oh great Lion! I beg your forgiveness for waking you, but I am just small and insignificant compared to you!

**LION:** *(Amused by the MOUSE's grand gesture)* Go on.

**MOUSE:** Oh your greatness, I am such small thing, I am not worthy to be your prey. If you let me go, I will forever be in your debt, and I promise one day to repay you!

**LION:** *(Laughs)* I don't see how a Mouse could repay a life debt to a Lion, but you amuse me, little one. And for that, I give you your life. Go and bother me no more.

## PUPPETRY SIDE 2 *(Hare and Tortoise are both puppets)*

**HARE:** *(Enters)* Hey, hey, hey, everybody, it's the fastest creature in the forest—ME, the HARE!

**TORTOISE:** How do you know you're the fastest creature in St. Morgan forest?

**HARE:** I have never yet been beaten, when I run my fastest. I beat Faun and Squirrel in a running race, and I beat Gopher and Raccoon in a burrowing race. So, nobody can beat me. I challenge anyone here to race with me.

**TORTOISE:** I accept that challenge!

**HARE:** *(Bursts out laughing)* You?! You can't run! You're the slowest animal in the forest. You're even slower than a snail.

**TORTOISE:** I'll show you. Let's have a race.

**HARE:** Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! I could dance circles around you all the way.

**TORTOISE:** Keep your bragging until after the race, Hare. Or are you afraid of racing me?

**HARE:** Afraid!? Of you!? Don't be ridiculous. We will race this afternoon at three o'clock.

**TORTOISE:** OK. You're on!