

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

It is with great delight that we announce the Ōropi School Musical - 'The Beetles.' Deep in the jungle of the Amazon, lives a colony of beetles beneath the tangled roots of an ancient old fig tree. For almost a year, scientist Seth and his team have been observing the beetles—collecting data and all kinds of oh-so, valuable information. But one day, bulldozers appear on the horizon and threaten the beetle's peaceful existence. Seth wants to save the colony of course, but he won't be able to...not as a human anyway. So join us on stage in a flurry of song, dance and drama as we delve into the world of beetles in the rainforest with oh so much colour! 'The Beetles.' will be shown on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, November 29 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Performing Arts Centre This highly anticipated event is one not to be missed. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of Term 4.

We urge you to encourage your children to practice their dances and songs at home. This can be achieved by logging on to the Gobsmacked website: www.gobsmacked.nz

Click to Sign in for School Productions

Enter your details and your school's Secret Signup Code: OS265

Check your email for your own personal password and login to Gobsmacked for resources.

To receive regular updates regarding the progress of your child, go to our website, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram. From here you will see pictures and video footage of students preparing for their musical.

If you would like your children to get into the performing arts spirit before their show next term sign them up to the 2-day Gobsmacked Holiday

Programme that's only \$25 a day – October 5 & 6. Go to www.gobsmacked.nz to register.

The parts below are the classroom Ensemble Characters.

| Ensemble Character | Class |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Scientists | Kotare |
| Fairies | Kea/Ruru Girls |
| Moths | Korimako Girls |
| Lady Bugs | Pukeko/Kotare Girls |
| Dung Beetle Henchmen | Korimako Boys |
| Underground Beetles | Kea/Ruru Boys |
| Insect Spies | Te Kokako & Korimako Kim Boys |
| The Centipede | Kiwi |
| Trees | Te Hokioi |
| Butterflies | Te Kokako & Korimako Kim Girls |
| Loggers | Tui Jordan & Nick |
| Beetle Babies | Piwakawaka Trista & Cat |

AUDITIONS YEAR 5-8 STUDENTS

If your child would like to audition for a main character part and is a Year 5-8 student the details are attached below. Auditions for main character parts are on September 11th at 1.30 pm. Students have already attended a hui regarding auditions for these main parts.

Please see main character information below:

The Beetles

Synopsis

Deep in the jungle of the Amazon, lives a colony of beetles beneath the tangled roots of an ancient old fig. For almost a year, scientist Seth and his team have been observing the beetles—collecting data and all kinds of oh-so, valuable information. But one day, bulldozers appear on the horizon and threaten the beetles peaceful existence. Seth wants to save the colony of course, but he won't be able to...not as a human anyway...

Long Blurb

For almost a year now, Scientist Seth and his biology team have been observing a grand old colony of beetles who live beneath the roots of a giant fig tree. Seth loves these little insects so much, he sometimes wishes he *were* a beetle. But greedy men are clearing the Amazon and one day, the loggers come within sight of the beetle colony. With the bulldozers heading straight towards them, the other scientist flee. But not Scientist Seth. He won't leave his precious colony of beetles to their doom.

But what can he really do? More than ever, Seth wishes he were a beetle so he could warn the colony of the coming destruction. Like any wise scientist, Seth knows that sometimes an answer will come if you sleep on it. That night, the fairy queen of the Amazon comes to Seth while he's asleep. She's heard his wish to save the beetles and decides to use a little magic to help him out.

After a very brief sleep, Seth wakes in the middle of the night to find himself *changed*. Something is wrong...he can't feel his arms, his back feels terribly heavy, and something strange appears to be growing straight out of his head. Big eyes, a shiny shell and six fine legs...that's right. With a little bit of magic, Scientist Seth has now become Seth the Beetle. He's a little overwhelmed, but shortly after his transformation, Seth meets Tinkatroll and a most distinguished stink-bug called Igor, who remind him of the whole reason he wished he was a beetle in the first place. The bulldozers are coming. The colony must be warned...but how?

In a flash of brilliance, Tinkatroll suggests they go to the beetle king right away and warn him of the threat. Together, the trio set off for the palace, but the night is dark and full of terrible thing in the Amazon. Their trip is nearly cut short when an eclipse of carnivorous moths swoop in, hoping to make dinner of them all. They manage to escape and race to the royal palace where they receive a strange, welcome warning from the King's ladybug attendants. No sooner have they met King Henry the 1043rd, they realise exactly what the ladybugs were trying to warn them about. For when Seth tries to tell the King about the danger, he simply will not believe it.

"The loggers are a myth," Says the mad king. "Always were, always will be. Our colony is perfectly safe and that's how it's going to stay." He's a king in denial. Still, a king (even a mad one) has manners and he invites his guests to stay the night and rest their feet, because he knows they must be weary from their travels. But the mad king's kindness is a ruse. What he *really* has planned is to squash these delusional bugs where they stand. "I will not have these outsiders inciting mass hysteria amongst my people." Says the mad king to his advisor Dendy.

Right away, the king sends for his dung beetle henchmen, to put an end to this strange and treasonous beetle Seth and thereby stop the spread of what he feels is illicit propaganda. Lucky for Seth and his friends, a ladybird called Paul actually believes the news Seth has brought with him. Paul warns Seth of the King's plan to kill them and helps them escape. But the dung beetle henchmen are hot on their heels and they're ready to carry through with the King's orders no matter the cost. Right when it looks like our trio are doomed, Monsieur Igor releases the ultimate stink bug attack to chase the King's cronies away.

Under cover of night, Paul leads Seth, Igor and Tinkatroll straight to an underground meeting of beetles he thinks will believe in their cause. Paul is right. These revolutionary beetles believe Seth right away. After all, many of them have felt the rumblings of the earth with their own six feet. But there are others at the meeting as well. Spies of the king... The spies quickly bring word to the king of the treasonous plans and treasonous words of the underground beetles and when the king learns Seth was at the meeting, his fury will not be quelled.

To the great dismay of his advisor Dendy, the King sends for *her*... Silvia. The giant centipede. An elite killer, imprisoned long ago for a ravenous taste for hunting beetles, which she never curbed. Silvia is terrible. Silvia is unpredictable. But Silvia is deadly. And deadly is what the king demands. He doesn't care who gets hurt in the process. There's no escaping Silvia, and all too soon, our noble hero Seth is dead. It's tragedy beyond compare. "He was only a beetle 3 days, but what a splendid beetle he was," Igor sobs. And so, the shell of a beetle lies at the roots of a tree, soon to be felled by the loggers. The trees are saddened by the death, and reminded of their uncertain fates looming on the horizon as the loggers draw closer.

Before it all gets too tragic, the fairy queen reappears. She is saddened by everything that is going on, but she has come to proclaim, that Seth's three days as a beetle are over. In a flutter of butterflies, Seth is reborn as a human again, and it looks like somehow the magic that turned him back has brought him to life as well.

But he's failed. The loggers have come and they are about to mow down the trees and destroy the colony of beetles forever. Seth tries to convince them not to mow this particular spot, but the loggers won't listen. It's not even that all of them are bad men. But there's mouths to feed and bills to pay back home. They have to get the job done by their deadline. The loggers inch closer to the colony tree with their chainsaws, ignoring Seth's pleas and in a blink of an eye, the ancient colony tree begins to fall. Without even thinking, Seth rushes forward to hold the tree up, in a last ditch attempt to protect the colony. Finally, the beetle colony notice the kerfuffle. And just in time, click open their wings and fly away to safety.

But it looks like it's too late for Seth. The tree is gaining momentum and it's about to fall right on top of him. But right before Seth is squished for good, the fairy queen appears one last time. She can save Seth... maybe... by turning him into a beetle. But this time the change would be for good. Seth agrees and the rest is history.

The beetle colony move to a new location, and every year they celebrate Seth's sacrifice for the colony which is now, finally safe.

Main Characters

Scientist Seth: He has a passion for beetles that borders on insanity, but he might just save the day with his crazy ways (**Actor/Singer – Year 5 – 8**).

(Speaks in a very proper intellectual manner)

Monsieur Igor: The travelling stinkbug. Having left his colony in France to travel the world, Monsieur Igor has seen it all. He's the kind of beetle who's always willing to lend a helping leg and contrary to what his name implies, Igor actually smells quite lovely (**Actor/Actress – Year 5 – 8**).

(Speaks in a French accent)

Tinkatroll: Her parents named her Calla-lily when she was born. But Tinkatroll renamed herself when she was eight. She's the fiercest fairy in the land but also, a loyal friend you can trust when the going gets tough (**Actress – Year 5 – 8**).

(Casual tough manner to her speech)

Henry the 1043rd: The mad king with an authority complex. His secret hobby is styling his moustache (**Actor/Singer – Year 5 – 8**).

(Stuck up pompous, absorbed way about him)

Dendy: Dendy only recently came into the role of the king's advisor after the last twelve mysteriously disappeared. Some say the job is cursed. Dendy says, he hopes not (**Actor/Actress – Year 3 – 6**).

(Nervous, bumbling advisor to the King)

Fairy Queen: Guardian of the forest and all things good. She knows a pure heart when she sees one. And she's not averse to the granting of a small wish here and there. But the Queen tries not to intervene too much in the forest happenings (**Actress/Singer – Year 5 – 8**).

(Soft, ethereal fairy voice)

Silvia the Giant Tiger Centipede: Many years ago, Silvia was locked in the deepest dungeon to protect the innocent town's-beetles who she had developed a taste for. A poison's specialist, and a master of stealth, Silvia never misses a kill once she has her sights set on it (**Actress/Singer – Yr5 – 8**).

(Speaks in a strong calculated saucy voice)

Ladybug Paul: Paul has been one of the ladybug assistants in the Royal Palace for many years now. He's never seen a worse king than the one that's ruling now, but he'll have to keep those feelings hidden if he wants to keep his head (*Actor - Year 5 - 8*).

(Mysterious and composed)

AUDITION PIECES

SCIENTIST SETH - (Memorise ALL lines below for the main character you wish to audition for)

(Seth SOLO - The Beetles)

Scientist Seth: *(dreamily)* Don't you just thrill over this work? Isn't it just marvellous? Oh the wonder! Oh the magic!... The frenzied search through the foliage... the discovery of entirely different specimens? *(Building up and on the verge of hyperventilating with excitement)* Unseen Phylum... the inner workings of the colony... entire ecosystems right under the bark of of a single tree *(places a hand reverently on the main tree)*.

SETH and IGOR - (Memorise ALL lines below for the main character you wish to audition for)

Monsieur Igor: Geutal lue monsieur! Do not faint away! My name is Monsieur Igor and I will save your day.

Seth: *(Still holding onto his feeler)* Thank goodness you've come. There's something stuck to my head and I can't get it off. *(Walks over towards him)*

Monsieur Igor: Zey are you feelers Monsieur. *(With a touch of humour)* Did you forget you had them? You are a funny little **bog** *(He means 'bug' but with his accent it comes out as 'bog')*

Seth: Bog? Is that supposed to be an insult.

Monsieur Igor: Insult? What insult? Zis is just what you are?

Seth: *(Spluttering and walking forwards)* How dare you!

Monsieur Igor: No closer please Monsieur. I stink.

Seth: *(Stops abruptly confused)* What?!

Monsieur Igor: I am a stinkbug after all. I don't have many friends because I stink so much.

TINKATROLL and THE FAIRY QUEEN - (Memorise ALL lines below for the main character you wish to audition for)

(Fairy Queen SOLO - A Song of Magic)

Fairy Queen: *(Who always speaks with a mystic almost musical voice)* What a pure heart.

Tinkatroll: *(Wrinkling he nose in disbelief)* You can see it from there?

Fairy Queen: Of course. Truly kind hearted people always show traces of their kindness on their faces.

Tinkatroll: I wonder if it's even still alive? *(prods seth gingerly with her toe/wand).*

Seth snorts loudly and rolls over making the fairies jump, squeal and scatter. The Fairy Queen (who wasn't scared at all, sighs, shakes her head and touches a hand to her forehead as if pained. Eventually the other fairies creep back and gather round again).

Fairy Queen: Did you hear what he said before? He wants to help the beetles. *(looks down at Seth Ethereally)* Fear not mortal man. I am here to help you write the tale of a hero.

Tinkatroll: Hero?

The Fairy Queen begins the Song of Magic and pretty soon all the other fairies have joined in all dancing around Scientist Seth.

A Song of Magic 🎵 🎵 🎵

Fairy Queen: *(Said powerfully and mystically while circling around him)* Noble human. Because the pure love you have for this simple colony of beetles I shall grant you a boon. 3 days...3 days...this is the time I bequeath unto you. To warn the beetles... to save the beetles... Before it's too late.

Tinkatroll: *(wrinkles up nose)* Do you really think changing him into a beetle will take the human out if it?

Fairy Queen: Taking the human out of him is never what I intended. His human heart is what makes him so important

Tinkatroll: Pfft. There's no way a human could do anything helpful for the Amazon. And even if he has this, "pure heart"...what can he really do on his own?

Fairy Queen: *(smiling)* You're right. He can't do it alone

Tinkatroll: Exactly! I'm glad you're finally beginning to see it from my point of view!

Fairy Queen: I'm sending you Calla-lily.

Tinkatroll: I've told you all a million times not to call me Calla-lily! It's Tinkatroll.

Fairy Queen: You will help and guide the human on his mission.

Tinkatroll: What!?

Fairy Queen: *(drifting away)* I'm trusting you Tinkatroll! Goodluck!

Tinkatroll: Hey, wait! I never signed up for this!

Fairy Queen disappears and Tinkatroll glumly sits beside a tree and waits for Seth to wake.

KING HENRY THE 1043rd and DENDY his royal advisor - (Memorise ALL lines below for the main character you wish to audition for)

(King Henry SOLO - Off With Their Wings!)

Dendy: *(worriedly)* What do we do now your noble-ness?

Henry the 1043rd: I'm thinking **Dendy** let me think!!! *(thoughtful pause)* ...I suppose I could always send *her* out after them...

Dendy: You wouldn't! Not her! She's evil and dark...she shouldn't be released! There's no telling what she might do...why, she might even eat other, innocent beetles too!

Henry the 1043rd: Sacrifices must be made Dendy if my peaceful kingdom is to be kept in tact. Those beetles should be proud to die for their colony.

Dendy: *(shocked)* Your majesty!

Henry the 1043rd: *(dark)* Fetch her...*at once!*

LADY BUG PAUL - (Memorise ALL lines below for the main character you wish to audition for)

Paul: Is it true what you said?

Monsieur Igor: Oh Monsieur! You gave me a fright!

Tinkatroll: Come on! We don't have time to waste!

Seth: Wait!

Paul: Is it true?

Seth: I wish it wasn't...

Paul: So the bulldozers are really coming?

Seth: I've seen them with my own eyes

We hear the voices of the henchmen in the distance.

Paul:*(as if deciding something)* Follow me!

Paul leads them away quickly. Soon they are standing at the yawning entrance to a dark hole.

Paul: This secret passage was made so the king could escape in an emergency.

Igor and Tinkatroll don't look impressed and even Seth looks a little bit worried now. We hear the voices of the henchmen in the distance again.

Paul: Are you coming!?

SILVIA THE CENTIPEDE - (Memorise ALL lines below for the main character you wish to audition for)

(SOLO - Silvia the Saucy Centipede)

Silvia: *(laughing to self)* I'm free! I'm free at last! *(looks disdainfully at guards pointing spears at her)* well, almost...

Silvia begins to circle hungrily around the room.

Dendy: *(with teeth chattering)* You have been summoned here by his royal highness Henry the 1043rd...

Silvia: *(laughing)* Oh I have, have I? And what kind of a king would be crazy enough to release me?

Henry the 1043rd: You dare speak to your lord this way? Bow before your king, serpent!

But Silvia won't bow, instead she just laughs and laughs.

Silvia: *(laughing)* Sooo...now that you've released me, what's to stop me from gobbling you up on the spot?

Silvia comes in close and menacing to the king.

Henry the 1043rd: You could do that, yes. But I don't imagine you would live long if you gobbled up the beetle king in his own palace. You would have a moments satisfaction, then it would be back to the dungeons for you. I doubt the next king would even consider letting you out.

Silvia: *(narrowing eyes suspiciously)* What do you want?