

## UGLY DUCKLING

Ballet in 2 acts, for small child audience.  
Story by Hans Christian Andersen. Music and libretto by Zoltan Demme.

DANCERS: Ugly Duckling, Mother Duck, Duck Majesty, Cock the King, His Grace The Turkey, Her Grace The Turkey Lady, Peacock Queen.  
GROUP DANCERS: Poultry, Wild Ducks, Migrant Birds, Wild Pigeons, Hawks, Icebirds, Storks, Vultures, Swans.

### ACT 1

#### **Act 1, Scene 01-1-1 CUCKOO AND CLOCKS**

China cabinet in the romantic era. As large as the stage. Porcelain sculptures everywhere. Silver music boxes. Cuckoo-clocks on the walls. Steeple with bells outside.

#### **Act 1, Scene 01-2-1 PORCELAIN POULTRY REVIVE**

Sunshine. Group of porcelain poultry of china cabinet. Frills and laces of their clothes are also made of porcelain. Mother Duck, ducks, ducklings, hens, chickens, cock revive.

#### **Act 1, Scene 01-2-2 DANCE OF THE DUCKLINGS**

Porcelain eggs. Small ducklings come out and dance. Yellow, frilly, lacy clothes. Happy Mother Duck, ducks, and poultry.

#### **Act 1, Scene 01-2-3 BIRTH OF AN UGLY DUCKLING**

Big porcelain egg. An extremely ugly duckling comes out. No frills. No laces. She has thick and large pieces of rags. She is dirty, smelly, she makes almost a nauseating impression. Confused Mother Duck, ducks, poultry. Cock attacks the ugly newcomer.

#### **Act 1, Scene 01-2-4 BEATING THE SMALL UGLY DUCKLING**

Fight. The ducks and hens beat and chase the ragged newcomer. Other little ducklings leave the scene. Mother Duck and the bleeding, dirty duckling follow them.

#### **Act 1, Scene 01-3-1 LITTLE DUCKS ARRIVE TO THE RULERS OF POULTRY FARM**

Spring sunshine. Bird talk. Frilly clouds on the sky. Frilly humps in the poultry yard. Porcelain poultry of china cabinet revive. Mother Duck followed by ducklings and finally the ugly one arrives. Greetings to Duck Majesty and other poultry. Shame of Mother Duck because of the ugly young.

**Act 1, Scene 01-3-2 DANCE OF THE DUCK MAJESTY**

Duck Majesty on the top of a hump. Red mark on her leg while dancing. Slimy, smarming poultry. Slimy Mother Duck and ducklings. Ugly Duckling fears and hides.

**Act 1, Scene 01-3-3 DANCE OF THE YOUNG TURKEYS**

Young turkeys arrive and chase other young poultry. Ugly Duckling fears and hides. His Grace The Turkey, Her Grace The Turkey Lady arrive and stop youngsters.

**Act 1, Scene 01-3-4 COURTESY DANCE**

All the poultry smarm around His Grace The Turkey and Her Grace The Turkey Lady. Ugly Duckling fears and hides.

**Act 1, Scene 01-3-5 PEACOCK VALSE**

Musix box sounds. The beautiful Peacock Queen and many young peacocks arrive to a hump. Slimy poultry around the group.

**Act 1, Scene 01-3-6 POULTRY FIGHT**

The beauty of the peacock is amazing for the dirty duckling in ugly rags. She leaves her hiding place and comes closer. Peacock Queen kicks her off the hump. Young turkeys and peacocks spot her. Chase. Beating. Ugly Duckling escapes.

**Act 1, Scene 01-4-1 MUSIC BOX**

China cabinet again. Porcelain sculptures everywhere. Silver music boxes. Cuckoo-clocks on the walls. Steeple with bells outside. Small sculpture of a musician on the top of a music box. He is playing music on a flute.

**Act 1, Scene 01-5-1 DANCE OF MIGRANT BIRDS**

Porcelain water-lilies, porcelain water plants, porcelain reeds of china cabinet appear on stage. Marsh in the outskirts.

Morning. Sunrise. Frilly clouds. Frilly borders of water and small islets. Migrant birds arrive then leave.

**Act 1, Scene 01-5-2 DANCE OF THE WILD PIGEONS**

Small porcelain sculptures of wild pigeons revive. Pigeons pick, peck, jump on the ground then leave.

**Act 1, Scene 01-5-3 DANCE OF THE WILD DUCKS**

Wild duck ladies and cavaliers revive and dance. Ugly duckling arrives onto the stage. Wild ducks become frightened of the dirty duckling in rags and quickly escape.

**Act 1, Scene 01-5-4 HAWK DANCE**

Hawks come. All of them hunt for the duckling. Chase. Run. Hawks tear out some pieces of rags of the duckling but finally she escapes.

**Act 1, Scene 01-6-1 STREET BELL**

China cabinet again. Porcelain sculptures everywhere. Silver music boxes. Cuckoo-clocks on the walls. Steeple with bells beyond the window. Street bell sounds now.

**Act 1, Scene 01-7-1 THE TEMPEST**

Other part of china cabinet revives. Frilly, lacy character of stage set is still saved. Storm. Thunder. Lightning. Danger. Ugly Duckling straggles with wind on stage. Composed for a dance solo.

**Act 1, Scene 01-8-1 TRUMPET SOLDIER ON THE TOP OF A MUSIC BOX**

China cabinet again. From the top of a music box a silver soldier plays trumpet music. Bell sounds outside.

**Act 1, Scene 01-8-1 - INTERMEZZO**

OPTIONAL. A dark, dirty corner of china cabinet. Old, broken sculptures. Jesus Christ covered with mess and surrounded with messy angels. Statue of Liberty fully cracked. Dusty, damaged Thomas Morus, Voltaire, Rousseau, Marx portraits with readable names on. Choir and cuckoo alert.

CHOIR

You see he-re this small sculp-ture

of Je-sus Christ, a-mong cob-webs?  
You see ho-ow ma-ny dirt and  
mess co-ver him from the past cen-tu-ries?  
All grand-fa-thers and all fa-thers  
have no suc-cess to clean up his nice i-de-as  
from the dirt, mess of the past cen-tu-ries!  
Have more suc-ces than what we had!  
Clean up the dirt! Clean up the mess!  
Sculp-ture of Christ make clean a-gain,  
make nice a-gain, don't let him stay ug-ly!

You see he-re this small sculp-ture  
of Li-ber-ty, a-mong cob-webs?  
You see ho-ow ma-ny dirt and  
mess co-ver her from the past cen-tu-ries?  
All grand-fa-thers and all fa-thers  
have no suc-cess to clean up her nice i-de-a  
from the dirt, mess of the past cen-tu-ries!  
Have more suc-ces than what we had!  
Clean up the dirt! Clean up the mess!  
The Li-ber-ty make clean a-gain,  
make nice a-gain, don't let her stay ugly!

You see he-re these small sculp-tures  
of U-to-pists, a-mong cob-webs?  
You see ho-ow ma-ny dirt and  
mess co-ver them from the past cen-tu-ries?  
All grand-fa-thers and all fa-thers  
have no suc-cess to save the-ir nice i-de-as  
from the dirt, mess of the past cen-tu-ries!  
Have more suc-ces than what we had!  
Clean up the dirt! Clean up the mess!  
Their i-de-as have clean a-gain, have nice a-gain!  
Keep clean these small sculp-tures!

**Act 1, Scene 01-8-2 TRUMPET SOLDIER ON THE TOP OF A MUSIC BOX**

China cabinet. From the top of a music box a silver soldier plays trumpet music. Bell sounds outside.

**Act 1, Scene 01-9-1 SWANS ARRIVE**

A strange part of china cabinet appears. No frill. No lace. Everything is tranquil and elegant. Moonlight. Enigmatic land. Ugly Duckling comes impoverished. Far from her, in the backstage, snow white swans revive.

**Act 1, Scene 01-9-2 DANCE OF THE SWANS**

Swans begin to dance far from the duckling in the moonlight. Bone tired dirty duckling admires purity and elegance of swans.

**Act 1, Scene 01-9-3 SWANS LEAVING**

Dance of swans ends. Like a dream, they disappear. Ugly duckling stays alone in the cold moonlight.

**ACT 2**

**Act 2, Scene 01-1-1 DANCE OF ICEBIRDS**

A new part of china cabinet. Winter. Snow. Cold. Frosty, frilly, lacy trees. Small, blue female icebirds revive. Dance. Ugly duckling comes shivering with cold. Icebirds become frightened and escape. Male icebirds arrive. Dance and attack. Sharp beaks beat the duckling. She loses a few pieces of rags. She becomes hurt, bleeding, and stays alone in the snowy ground.

**Act 2, Scene 01-2-1 TOWN BELL**

China cabinet again. Porcelain sculptures everywhere. Silver music boxes. Cuckoo-clocks on the walls. Steeple with bells beyond the window. Town bell sounds now.

**Act 2, Scene 01-3-1 NOISES OF THE MARSH**

Porcelain water-lilies, porcelain water plants, porcelain reeds of china cabinet appear on stage. Marsh in the outskirts. More dangerous, darker, dimmer than the previous one. Frilly, dark clouds. Frilly borders of water and small islets.

**Act 2, Scene 01-3-2 DANCE OF STORKS**

In the backstage a few groups of storks revive and come closer. With their long legs they move easily in the muddy, marshy water. Dance then leaving.

**Act 2, Scene 01-3-3 STRUGGLING IN THE MARSH**

Bleeding duckling comes. She get stuck in the marshy ground. She begins to sink. She loses a few pieces of rags. Struggle for life. Memories from the spring poultry yard. Escaping. Composed for a dance solo.

**Act 2, Scene 01-4-1 TRUMPET SOLDIER ON THE TOP OF A MUSIC BOX**

China cabinet again. Darkness. From the top of a music box a silver soldier plays trumpet music. Bell sounds outside.

**Act 2, Scene 01-4-1 - INTERMEZZO**

OPTIONAL. A dark, dirty corner of china cabinet. Old, broken sculptures. Jesus Christ covered with mess and surrounded with messy angels. Statue of Liberty fully cracked. Dusty, demaged Thomas Morus, Voltaire, Rousseau, Marx portraits with readable names on. Choir and cuckoo alert.

CHOIR

Be-side poul-try, we have o-ther  
sculp-tures he-re! From his-to-ry!  
You see ho-ow ma-ny dirt and  
mess co-ver them from the past cen-tu-ries?  
All grand-fa-thers and all fa-thers  
have no suc-cess to save the-ir nice i-de-as  
from the dirt, mess of the past cen-tu-ries!  
Have more suc-ces than what we had!  
Clean up the dirt! Clean up the mess!  
All these sculp-tures have clean a-gain,  
have nice a-gain! Don't let them stay ug-ly!

**Act 2, Scene 01-4-2 TRUMPET SOLDIER ON THE TOP OF A MUSIC BOX**

China cabinet. Darkness. From the top of a music box a silver soldier plays trumpet music. Bell sounds outside.

**Act 2, Scene 01-5-1 DANCE OF THE NEW DUCKLINGS**

Porcelain eggs. New ducklings born in the poultry yard. Yellow, frilly, lacy clothes. Happy poultry. Bleeding, dirty duckling partly covered with marshy mud arrives. She has fear and hides herself.

**Act 2, Scene 01-5-2 A DANCE OF THE DUCK MAJESTY**

Duck Majesty on the top of a hump. Red mark on her leg while dancing. Slimy, smarming poultry.

**Act 2, Scene 01-5-3 POULTRY FIGHT**

Dirty and hurt duckling comes out. Fear. Chase. Beating. No recognition. Ugly Duckling escapes. She loses a few pieces of rags again.

**Act 2, Scene 01-6-1 FLATLAND WITH BONES AND STONES**

Other part of china cabinet revives. Frilly rocks. Frilly stones. Frilly fragments of bones of animals in a meadow area. Deer corpses. Deer heads. Deer antlers. All like the deer sculptures of china cabinets of romantic era.

**Act 2, Scene 01-6-2 DANCE OF YOUNG VULTURES**

Groups of young vultures revive. Tearing corpses. Eating. Jumping.

**Act 2, Scene 01-6-3 VALSE OF VULTURES**

Big black vultures arrive. Eating. Dancing. Tearing corpses. Suddenly a strange ragged corps moves. It is the dirty duckling. She has no power to stand up. Vultures tear her body. Somehow she escapes. In the beaks of the black birds long and large pieces of rags remain.

**Act 2, Scene 01-7-1 MUSIC CLOCK**

China cabinet again. Porcelain sculptures everywhere. Silver boxes. Steeple with bells outside. Music clock on the wall.

**Act 2, Scene 01-8-1 LAKE AND FOREST**

End scene of Act 1. No frill. No lace. Everything is tranquil and elegant. Moonlight. Enigmatic land. Ugly Duckling comes. She is thin, bleeding, impoverished. She is lunatic and mad now.

**Act 2, Scene 01-8-2 REVIVING AS A SWAN**

Snow white swans arrive. Lunatic duckling behaves ambivalent way. One time she believes that these birds too desire to kill her and defends herself from the beats that she never received. Other time she desires to die by the beaks and beats of these beautiful birds and lies down to the ground. Tragic Dance Macabre, Totentanz, Dance of Death. Sometimes the duckling tears her rags even. Presto dancing. Pirouettes. Falling and dropping rags. All the dirty rags come off.

But from behind the rags a snow white clothes comes out! Ugly  
Duckling stands on the stage now as a swan!