

Mews: The Musical!: High School Edition
Summer 2026 Workshop - Sellwood Studio of Performing Arts (Madison, NJ)

Character Descriptions (for the sides) - Choose **ONE** side to memorize and perform.

BIGGER ONE: This is a broken man. Where the cats are silly and fun, Bigger One is trying to remain buoyant though his life has not gone the way he hoped. His cats are his best friends, and he's trying to find the strength (with their help) to build himself back into a person with confidence again. He's having an identity crisis that attaches to sincere depression, but you should play his desire to struggle against the depression. He wants something better. He needs it. His cats will help him. He loves them so much. Note: Mews is told from the perspective of his cats - Bruce and Frida - and therefore, we only know him as 'Bigger One' because that's what they named him.

DA LADY: This is a multi-faceted character. At once, she's strong, confident, calm and secure, but on the other hand, she hides pain and trauma from her past. This is a woman who wears loose-fitting yoga clothes, likes eastern philosophy and meditation, kind of a modern "hippie." But, she's complex and sometimes that confident façade comes crumbling down. She is Bigger One's love interest. Note: As with Bigger One, we only know her as 'Da Lady' because this is how the cats refer to her when she appears in their lives.

FRIDA: She's full of energy; a plucky, feisty, loving, silly, fun "mew" (rhymes with shoe). She's wide-eyed, adventurous, sensible, daring—and a stand-up comic! But she's also a cat. Who behaves like a cat and has cat-like movements.

BRUCE: On the surface he's a surly cat who likes to complain, to tell Frida she's "nuts." But deep down, this guy has a heart of gold. He'll do anything for Frida and Bigger One. Remember: he's a cat. He behaves like a cat and has cat-like movements. Go big, have a fun, big, grumpy, goofy, loving cat voice. Go out on a limb. Really show us something big. An NY accent may not hurt, they are NYC cats after all.

*Note: The above detail small descriptions for each of the four roles seen below. There are other roles in *Mews* to be cast. A full character breakdown will be provided at a later date following the initial self-tape audition round.

Side #1: Bigger One

Here (in an imagined conversation), Bigger One needs his mother to hear that her ideas, this obsession with understanding everything, leaves out crucial parts of life. This is a lightbulb moment for Bigger One. He loves his mother, but desperately needs to continue to forge his own path.

BIGGER ONE

You don't have to understand. And you're a great mom, but you've pushed that kind of thinking on me since I was a kid. There's more to a body than a brain. There are nerve endings. And ventricles. And deep-seeded longings that drive people to places they don't understand. And guess what? They don't care that they don't understand! They don't care! We need more, something beyond that. Something to do with breath and breathing and stillness. Like cats!

Side #2: Da Lady

In this scene, Da Lady and Bigger One are on their second official date. Though she's managed to push him outside his comfort zone, he's still hesitant and nervous. She tries to help calm his nerves and reassure him, all the while becoming more attached to him the more time they spend together. They bond over a shared love of cats.

DA LADY

Well, I'm interested in feeling peaceful. And I think being *inside* a moment is one way to do that. Look at Bruce, right?

BRUCE

Huh? You got wet food?

DA LADY

When he goes to drink the water with the ice cube, he isn't associating it with anything in his past or future. He's just allowing his body to let the cool water rush through him. He *can't* experience it any other way.

(BRUCE wants to jump on the counter.)

DA LADY

Oh! You want up? Can he?

BIGGER ONE

You'll have to pick him up. He's been struggling more and more with those back legs.

DA LADY

Poor guy.

*(DA LADY tries to pick BRUCE up to set him on the counter. BRUCE doesn't *quite* trust her yet; he struggles and gets free.)*

DA LADY

Ohp, oh, OK. Not yet. *(BRUCE crosses away.)* Ya know, it takes everyone a while to know what they want. I moved to Hoboken to get some space, but I kept getting dragged back into cubicles in Manhattan, when what I wanted for *so long* was to work with animals. I still don't work *with* them, but I work *on behalf* of them, raising money for the system of shelters I work for. Which is. Enough. Oh! And, why I wanted your story. We have loads of facts and stats and pictures of cute animals but we don't have anything which says what they're *worth* – to our lives, ya know? And your story does that. It's like you understand them from the inside out. Thanks again for letting me use it.

(She smiles, kisses his cheek. They lock eyes.)

DA LADY

Anyway, I guess I was saying it takes time to figure out what you want. You'll get there.

Side #3: Frida

Here, Frida is finally comfortable as a stand-up comic who's killing it. But she's still concerned about her squirrel identity crisis

FRIDA

How we doin tewnight? Oh, we got some celeb lookalikes in da house! These two lookin like Meow-ly Cyrus and Chairman Meow, right in da front row! (cats laugh harder than before) I'm getting pretty good up here, dontcha think? I come a long kitty way. Maybe I should take this act on the road! Anymew (anywho). I'm still on my squirrel journey. I went to visit some squirrels. I hung out in their nest. The one the park workers are trying to remove. I did squirrel stuffs. I chewed on nuts, I helped drag sticks, I made my tail super-bushy. And ya know what I found? Even when those squirrels are scared for their nest, they're still happy to be squirrels. Imagine that! I'm over here going through a mew-life crisis, asking myself: Should I dye my fur blonde? (cats laugh hard) Should I buy a convert-mew-blecar? (convertible--cats laugh hard) Maybe get a new tail implant? (She wiggles her tail, cats laugh hard—she's killing now) And these squirrels, they know who they are. No matter what happens, they're still squirrels. Isn't that mew-mazing?

Side #4: Bruce

In this scene, Bruce tries to understand (or maybe tries not to understand) Frida's cat vs squirrel identity crisis.

Scene 3

(BRUCE enters the apartment moments later. FRIDA enters, carrying a teetering tower of acorns.)

BRUCE

What are ya *doin*?

FRIDA

He calls me squirrel, so I'm hoardin nuts.

BRUCE

What? Dis goin tew far! Ya so stewpid.

FRIDA

Am NOT! Are *you* a squirrel? What would *you* do if you were?

BRUCE (*shrug*)

Eat more wet food.

FRIDA

Do squirrels even EAT wet food?

BRUCE

Who cares? Go sleep in a sun patch.

FRIDA

Can't sleep. Brain clogged with squirrel stuffs. Like Bigger One. Tryna' store nuts for winter.

BRUCE (*idiot*)

Yas crazy! Why do this? Yas *not* a squirrel!

FRIDA

Says who? It's been keeping me up! I'm only sleeping sixteen hours a day! (*She gets an idea.*)
Maybe it would help if YAS called me squirrel!

BRUCE (*skeptical*)

Why?

FRIDA

Dunno. Maybe it fits. Just try!

BRUCE

No chance. That's stewpid. Ya stewpid.