

## AUDITION NOTICE

Fort Wayne Youtheatre, Director Christopher J. Murphy & Puppet Director Todd Espeland seek performers ages 10-18 (High School Seniors) for the following roles. We encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, genders and abilities to audition. Reading skills required. In general, we are looking for 5th grade thru middle schoolers to play the younger characters and upper middle through high school students to play the adults.

### CHARACTERS:

**Jeremy Thatcher:** An ordinary middle schooler trying to navigate adolescence who becomes EXTRAordinary when his life takes an unexpected turn.

**Dr. Thatcher:** Jeremy's dad. A veterinarian. He has a great sense of humor.

**Mrs. Thatcher:** Jeremy's loving mom. She's the real boss in the family.

**Spec:** Jeremy's Best Friend. Middle school age. An enthusiastic "art nerd." Male OR Female.

**Mary Lou Hutton:** A middle school girl with a crush on Jeremy. She loves to read and is the only other person who can see Jeremy's dragon.

**Mr. Hutton:** Mary Lou's father. A bit of an uptight businessman.

**Mrs. Hutton:** Mary Lou's mother. A bit of a fussy wife and mother.

**Miss Priest:** A local librarian. There is something mysterious about her. She is s former dragon hatcher.

**S. H. Elives:** Owner of the Magic Shop. A mysterious old man, wise and ancient.

**Howard:** A middle school bully who likes to torment Jeremy.

**Freddy, the Frog Killer:** A middle school bully who likes to torment Jeremy.

**Puppeteers:** A troupe of puppeteers to bring Grief (Jeremy's dog), Priscilla (Jeremy's cat), Fat Pete (another cat), Professor Macaroni (a monkey) and the various sizes of Tiamat (the dragon) to life. (The largest version of Tiamat is 18 feet long and requires 6 people!) These performers are EXTREMELY important to the play and must be able to not only manipulate the puppets, but bring them to life with their own vocals, bodies and voices.

*Note: Some performers MAY double as multiple characters or be puppeteers AND play other roles. TBA.*

### THE SHOW:

The story follows teenager Jeremy Thatcher, who is struggling to survive bullies, crushes, and sixth grade art class, when he stumbles into a very strange magic shop. He enters, and his life is changed forever. Buying what he thinks is a marble, he discovers he has really purchased a dragon's egg. It soon becomes clear that this is one pet he wasn't prepared for. How is he supposed to keep a flame-breathing dragon with razor-sharp teeth and an out-of-control appetite in his bedroom? Through the use of giant puppets and innovative staging, Bruce Coville's award-winning book will magically be brought to life on stage before your eyes.

# AUDITION & PRODUCTION INFO

## **AUDITION WORKSHOP: Monday, February 20**

- 4:30- 6:30PM.
- While not mandatory, Youtheatre highly encourages all auditioners to attend this workshop where Puppet Director Todd Espeland & Director Christopher J. Murphy will go over the audition materials, and explore how to bring the many puppet characters to life.
- Reserve a spot via the SignUpGenius @ [fortwayneyoutheatre.org/auditions](https://www.signupgenius.com/fortwayneyoutheatre.org/auditions)

## **OPEN AUDITIONS: Monday, March 6 & Tuesday March 7, 2023**

- 4:30-5:30PM & 5:30-6:30PM spots available at the Arts United Center, 303 East Main Street.
- Reserve a spot via the SignUpGenius @ [fortwayneyoutheatre.org/auditions](https://www.signupgenius.com/fortwayneyoutheatre.org/auditions).
- Enter Green Room Entrance @ back of building. Arrive in time to check in, etc. prior to your audition time.
- Everyone should be prepared to read from the sides in the Audition Packet.

## **CALL-BACK: Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

- 4:30-6:30PM at the Arts United Center, 303 East Main Street.
- Enter Green Room Entrance @ back of building.
- Actors needed at Call-Backs will be notified via call or text Monday or Tuesday following Open Auditions.
- Sides for Call-Backs are in the Audition Packet.

## **CAST LIST AVAILABLE: Friday, March 10 or Monday, March 13**

- Posted on Youtheatre's FB & Instagram.

## **REHEARSALS: Mondays- Fridays, March 20-April 21 (4:30- 6:30/7:00PM).**

- Not all actors will be called for all dates & times. Schedules will be made after casting.
- No rehearsal Friday, March 31- Friday, April 7 due to Spring Break.

## **TECH SUNDAY: Sunday, April 23 (Noon- 5:00PM)**

## **TECH WEEK: Monday, April 24-27 (4:30- 8:00PM)**

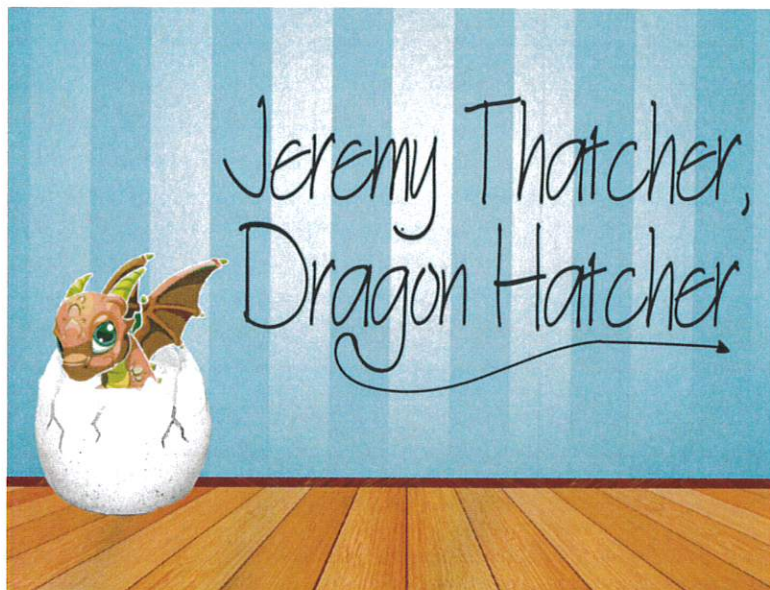
- All cast & crew required at Tech Sunday, Tech Week & Performances.

## **PERFORMANCES:**

- **Public Performances:** April 28 (7PM), 29 (2PM), 30 (2PM)
- **Sensory Friendly Performance:** April 29 (4:30PM)
- **School Performance:** May 1 (10AM)



# OPEN AUDITION & CALL-BACK SIDES



- #1. (Pg. 2-4).....Jeremy & Spec
- #2 (Pg. 8-9).....Jeremy & Freddie
- #3 (Pg. 11-13).....Jeremy & Mr. Elives
- #4 (Pg. 17-18).....Jeremy & Dr. Thatcher
- #5 (Pg. 23-24).....Jeremy & Mrs. Thatcher
- #6 (Pg. 51-54).....Jeremy & Mary Lou
- #7 (Pg. 74-77).....Jeremy & Miss Priest
- #8 (Pg. 20-21)...Jeremy & Tiamat Puppeteer

*Note: While any MAY be used, #1, #4, #5 & #6 are most likely for Open Auditions. #2, #3, #7 & #8 are likely for call-backs.*

# 1

JEREMY THATCHER DRAGON HATCHER  
A STAGE ADAPTATION OF THE NOVEL  
BY  
BRUCE COVILLE

Scene: A secluded part of the school playground. Jeremy runs on out of breath. He is carrying his book bag, and a large sketch pad. Jeremy struggles to catch his breath. After a beat, SPEC runs on, also out of breath.

*start*

Spec

There you are. Good job getting out of there so fast.

Jeremy

Stinks. Stinks. STINKS!

Spec

Calm down, it's not that bad.

Jeremy

(Hopeful)

Really?

Spec

No. It's pretty bad Jeremy.

Jeremy

UGH!

Spec

I mean Mr. Kravitz read Mary Lou Hutton's love letter to you in front of the entire sixth grade class. It doesn't get much worse than that.

Jeremy

I didn't even hear what it said. All I heard was everybody laughing. I wanted to disappear.

Spec

She wrote that she was going to kiss you after school, if it was the last thing she did.

Jeremy

Oh no!

Spec

And-

Jeremy

And? There's more?

Spec

She said you had beautiful eyes.

Jeremy

Oh no!

Spec

The good news is that old man Kravitz never said who signed the note. So nobody knows who wrote it.

Jeremy

How is that good news? Mary Lou Hutton should be embarrassed too. But she won't, she tells anyone who will listen that she wants to be my girlfriend. In the first grade when those idiots Freddie the Frog Killer, and Howard started chasing girls, she thought that was a good idea, so she started chasing me. I spent the whole year hiding during every recess.

Spec

By tomorrow no one will remember.

Jeremy

You think?

Spec

No, this was pretty big.

Jeremy

Oh no.

(Jeremy sits. Completely defeated)

Spec

(Joins him)

Come on. Let's do what we came out here to do.

Jeremy

Nah, I don't feel like drawing.

Spec

Come on, drawing always cheers you up. Plus, we have to practice for the contest.

*q stop*

(They take art supplies out of

\* start

~~A little help.~~

FREDDIE

(Jeremy gets up and retrieves the ball)

Is that you Thatcher?

(Jeremy throws him the ball)

Thanks lover boy.

(Hollering off)

Howard. Hey Howard, I found Lover Boy Jeremy Thatcher. Come on let's take him to Mary Lou so he can get his kiss.

(Makes kissing sound. (Howard Morton enters)

Jeremy

You leave me alone, Freddie The Frog Killer!

(This hits Freddie hard)

Freddie

Don't call me that.

Jeremy

It's true!

Freddie

It happened once! By accident!

Jeremy

Who catches a frog and puts it in a plastic container and puts a plastic lid on it so it won't jump away? And who is surprised when he takes it out for show and tell and the frog is dead? Freddie The Frog Killer that's who!

~~Freddie~~

FREDDIE

That's it Thatcher. Howard and me are going to personally deliver you to Mary Lou Hutton, and she's going to get her big, fat, juicy KISS!

(Freddie and Howard lunge at Jeremy but they miss)

Jeremy

You'll have to catch me first. ~~stop~~

(Jeremy scoops up his book bag and runs for all he's worth. He escapes the schoolyard but finds himself in unfamiliar territory.

**Scene: Outside the Magic Shop**

(Jeremy is now in front of The Magic Shop. There is also a large knocker on the door and a sign that reads:

ELIVES' MAGIC SUPPLIES  
S.H. ELIVES PROPRIETER

Jeremy

(Jeremy looks around out of breath)

Where am I?

(Looks around more)

I've never been here. This is so weird; I've lived here my whole life; how can I be lost?

(Jeremy notices the door)

We have a magic shop here? How did I not know this? Maybe I can find something in here to make Freddie, Howard and Mary Lou Hutton disappear.

(Jeremy approaches the door and notices the knocker)

Should I knock?

(Pause)

Who knocks at a store?

\* start

Jeremy

Skull of Truth. Then he notices some Chinese rings and then he sees perched on a pedestal is a large marble shimmering a thousand different colors across its surface. Jeremy is drawn to it)

How much does this cost?

Elives

(Glances up)

You don't want that.

Jeremy

How do you know whether I want it or not?

Elives

That's my business.

Jeremy

How much is it?

Elives

(Shuffles toward the case)

Do you have any idea what this is?

Jeremy

I don't know, some kind of marble?

Elives

(Snips)

Don't be a fool. Look at it again.

(Pause)

Jeremy

All right, it's too big for a marble. What is it?

Elives

Never mind.

Jeremy

Can I see it?

Elives

You're seeing it now.

Jeremy

I mean, may I look at it more closely?

(Elives opens a drawer at the bottom of the cabinet and pulls what looks like a jewelry box lined with cotton. He then reaches in his pocket and pulls out an enormous ring of keys. He looks for the right key, all the while muttering to himself. When he finds the key he is looking for he unlocks the cabinet door and carefully takes out the marble.)

Jeremy

(Taking in the beauty)

It's beautiful!

(Jeremy reaches for the marble and Elives reluctantly allows him to hold it. Jeremy again takes in its beauty and feels an attachment to it. It begins to swirl. Elives takes the marble from Jeremy and

looks at it for a long moment.  
It has stopped swirling now that  
Jeremy is not holding it.  
Elives sighs and shakes his head)

Elives

Do you have a quarter?

Jeremy

What?

Elives

Do you have a quarter? You may have it for a quarter.

Jeremy

I thought you said I didn't want it.

Elives

(Softly)

You don't. It wants you.

(Pause)

A quarter please.

(Jeremy reaches in his pocket  
and pulls out a quarter. He  
hands it to Elives. Elives  
takes the quarter)

Now stand still. I have to get you something. ~~stop~~

(He fishes behind his counter  
Until he finds a yellowed  
piece of paper. He packs the  
paper in the box and hands it to  
Jeremy. He then comes around the  
counter and looks Jeremy straight  
in the eye and places his hands  
on Jeremy's shoulders.)

\$ start  
Hey Bub.

Dr. Thatcher

Jeremy

Hi Dad.

Dr. Thatcher

How was your day?

Jeremy

Complicated. Where did Fat Pete come from?

Dr. Thatcher

I found him out front. He must have been fighting again he's got a little cut under his eye.

Jeremy

You've been treating him so long he must know when it's time to go to the Vet.

Dr. Thatcher

I'm gonna walk him down to the barn and treat his wound then I'll take him home.

(Jeremy approaches Fat Pete)

Jeremy

Hi Pete, how you doing slugger?

(Jeremy tries to pet Pete, but  
Pete swats at Jeremy and hisses)

Why you rotten little-

Dr. Thatcher

What's the rule, Jeremy?

Jeremy

Don't get mad at a cat for acting like a cat.

Dr. Thatcher

Right. Why was your day so complicated?

Jeremy

Mary Lou Hutton wants to kiss me.

Dr. Thatcher

That's because you're so cute.

Jeremy

I'm not cute!

Dr. Thatcher

Okay, you're ugly. Don't forget to do your chores.

Jeremy

I won't. Hey dad, when is the next full moon?

Dr. Thatcher

Tonight. More precisely, about three hours. Chores! *\*stop*

(As Dr. Thatcher exits Fat  
Pete takes one more swipe at  
Jeremy. Jeremy goes to the  
box and takes the egg and the

\*start

MRS. THATCHER  
(Off)

Jeremy. Jeremy Thatcher.

Jeremy

(Jeremy folds the paper  
and puts it in his pocket. He  
then gathers the eggshell and  
wraps it in the towel he hurries  
and takes everything  
to the lawn chair and folds  
everything inside the lawn chair.  
He takes Tiamat behind the lawn  
chair.)

Now you stay put. Stay.

(Beat)

Over here mom.

Mrs. Thatcher

(Enters)

What on earth are you doing out here? It's after midnight.

Jeremy

It's that late? What're you doing up?

Mrs. Thatcher

Oh, your dad was snoring so loud and I couldn't- Never mind why  
I'm up, why are you up?

Jeremy

I was a... looking at the full moon.

(Tiamat comes out from behind  
the lawn chair and goes directly  
to Mrs. Thatcher and begins  
sniffing her. Satisfied she  
goes to Jeremy and pecks at

his leg trying to get his  
attention.)

Mrs. Thatcher

You couldn't have done that from your window?

Jeremy

I wanted to see it from this perspective. I'm putting it in one  
of my drawings. Ow! Why rotten little-

Mrs. Thatcher

What's wrong?

Jeremy

Mosquito bite.

(Tiamat scurries into Mrs.  
Thatcher's view and Jeremy  
realizes that she cannot see her.)

Mrs. Thatcher

Let's bring it in. And get into bed.

Jeremy

Okay mom. I'll be right there.

Mrs. Thatcher

Now, young man.

(She exits for the house)

Jeremy

Coming.

gstop

(He watches her leave)

#67

~~affirmation).~~

~~Is it your wing?~~

~~(Tiamat makes a sound of  
affirmation).~~

~~You probably pulled something when you were shedding your skin.  
Let me rub it first.~~

~~(Jeremy rubs Tiamat's wing)~~

~~Does that feel better?~~

~~(Tiamat makes a sound of  
affirmation).~~

~~Good:~~

~~(They begin to play and Jeremy  
doesn't hear Mary Lou enter.)~~

*\* start*

Mary Lou

You have a dragon?

Jeremy

(Shocked)

What're you doing here?

Mary Lou

I can't believe you have a dragon.

Jeremy

It's none of your business. What're you doing... Wait, you can see her?

(During the following Tiamat  
checks out Mary Lou, sniffing,  
looking at her from head to  
toe)

Mary Lou

It's beautiful, and a little scary.

Jeremy

It's not an it, it's a she. And how come you can see her?

Mary Lou

I love dragons.

Jeremy

(To himself)

I wonder if that's it? If you really love dragons, you can see them? That's got to be it.

Mary Lou

What?

Jeremy

You're the first person besides me who's been able to see her.

Mary Lou

Wow. Where did you get her?

Jeremy

I don't think I'm supposed to tell, besides it's none of your business. And you still haven't told me what you're doing here.

Mary Lou

I came to see if you were all right. When I got here the front door was wide open so I came in. What happened?

Jeremy

~~I'm not sure, but I think Tiamat was shedding her skin and it scared her. And when she was shedding I think she hurt her wing.~~

~~Mary Lou~~

~~I get that. I meant, what happened to you?~~

Jeremy

This is going to sound weird but I think I felt her fear and pain. My right shoulder hurt and I felt scared. She was scared when I came in and her right wing was hurt.

(Jeremy is pacing his room  
and steps on something.)

Jeremy

Ow!

Mary Lou

What

Jeremy

A tooth. I stepped on a tooth. That's the third one today.

(He puts it carefully in a  
box on his nightstand.

It's a good thing I gave her milk before I left, who knows what damage she would've done without it.

Mary Lou

Milk?

Jeremy

It calms her. Listen, Mary Lou. You can't tell anyone about this.

Mary Lou

Of course I won't tell anyone. I know how these things work.  
What do we do now?

Jeremy

We don't do anything this is my problem. What you're going to do  
is go away.

Mary Lou

I just wanted to help.

Jeremy

I don't need your help. No one invited you to barge in here.

Mary Lou

Well excuse me for caring.

*stop*

She runs out the door. Tiamat  
watches her leave.)

Tiamat projects a question: Friend of Foe?

Jeremy

Foe! Friend! I don't know.

SCENE: The Hatchers dining. Mrs. Hatcher is setting the table  
and Jeremy is helping. It is much more formal than in previous  
scenes. The table has a table cloth and candles.

Jeremy

I don't see what the big deal is, you'd think the president was  
coming to dinner or something.

Mrs. Thatcher

\*start

Miss Priest

Greetings Thatcher.

Jeremy

(Climbing off Tiamat)

What're you doing here?

Miss Priest

Did you bring the teeth?

Jeremy

Yes.

Miss Priest

The skins?

Jeremy

Yes, and the eggshells.

Miss Priest

(To Tiamat, she curtsies)

And how are you this evening my lady?

**NOTE: Projection. Tiamat breathes fire.**

Very well.

(To Jeremy)

You have done very well.

Jeremy

Thank you. What happens next.

Miss Priest

You may go home. Your work is done.

Jeremy

I don't want to go home.

Miss Priest

Then, if you're feeling brave you may stay with me. Turn off your flashlight. *\* cut to ...*

(Jeremy does. Elives appears)

~~Elives~~

~~Greetings.~~

~~(He inspects Tiamat)~~

~~You seem to have done a good job.~~

~~Jeremy~~

~~Thank you.~~

~~Elives~~

~~What is her spoken name?~~

~~Jeremy~~

~~Tiamat.~~

~~Elives~~

~~The Queen of the Universe! Well, her line always did have a streak of vanity. That's not her real name, though. She can't tell you that.~~

~~(To Miss Priest)~~

~~How is that coming?~~

~~Miss Priest~~

~~It'll be ready. You best see to your part.~~

~~Elives.~~

~~(Takes out a small book from his  
pocket and begins circling  
Tiamat mumbling.)~~

\* Miss Priest

Jeremy come and help me.

(He does)

Jeremy

What're we doing?

Miss Priest

(She is spreading all the things  
-that Jeremy brought to her around  
-in sort of an arch.)

Making a gate. Everything must go with her shell, skin, and  
teeth.

Jeremy

I don't want Tiamat to go back.

Miss Priest

What?

Jeremy

I want her to stay with me.

Miss Priest

(Laughs)

What a terrible idea! Why do you want her stay?

Jeremy

Because I love her and don't want I to lose her.

Miss Priest

Silly boy. Nothing you love is lost. Not really. Things, people-they always go away, sooner or later. You can't hold them any more than you can hold the moonlight. But if they've touched you, if they're inside you, then they're still yours. The only things you ever really have are the ones you hold inside your heart. \* stop

(To Elives)

Ready here.

Elives

I'm ready.

Jeremy

Can I say goodbye?

(he approaches Tiamat)

I will miss you, so.

**NOTE: Projection. Tiamat sends an image of a crystal breaking in half.**

Elives

It is time.

(Elives moves toward Tiamat)

Step away.

# 5 start

Jeremy

Well, hello there.

(Tiamat mimics Jeremy, if Jeremy moves his head to the left Tiamat does the same, this happens for a bit, almost like a dance between them. Jeremy reaches out to pet Tiamat and she bites his finger.)

Jeremy

Why you rotten little...

**\*Note: Projection. Jeremy shows anger. And then Tiamat shows that she is sorry.**

Jeremy

Are you telling me you're sorry?

(Jeremy gives Tiamat his finger again, this time Tiamat takes his finger gently into her mouth and nods her head like the two are shaking hands.)

Jeremy

My name is Jeremy. It's nice to meet you.

(Tiamat drops Jeremy's finger and quickly scurries up to Jeremy's shoulder where she is perched like a parrot.)

Wow you're fast. Now what do I do?

(Jeremy goes for his flashlight, then starts looking for the paper S.H. Elives gave him)

Where's the paper that Old Man gave me? Maybe I missed something.

(Tiamat leaves his shoulder and  
chases the light like a cat  
would. Jeremy laughs and plays  
with the Tiamat. Jeremy finds  
the paper.) \*stop

Here it is.

(Tiamat jumps back on Jeremy's  
shoulder and reads along with  
Jeremy. Basically her head  
follows the light. Jeremy reads  
the paper out loud for the first  
~~first~~ line or two and then

Formatted: Indent: Left: 3"

Elives enters and takes over  
reading the letter, sometimes  
reading with Jeremy and sometimes  
alone.)

Jeremy

(starting to read what he thinks  
it says)

How to Hatch a... The Care and Feeding of Dragons. How did he  
change it?

(Reading)

You have been chosen to care for a rare and precious creature  
Jeremy Thatcher.

Elives

(saying the name with Jeremy)

Jeremy Thatcher.

Jeremy

How does he know my name?

Elives

(Continues)

When fully grown, your dragon will be unimaginably powerful.  
But in its early stages of its development it is very  
vulnerable.