

# **SELF-TAPE/ AUDITION PACKAGE**

## **“GHOSTWRITER”**

*Re-imagined by J.J. Johnson*

### **NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

Sinking Ship Entertainment and Sesame Workshop pride themselves on their authentic and relatable casts. We're eager to see performers who are differently abled and those with diverse body types.

Kids come in all shapes, colours and sizes, the Ghostwriter cast will reflect this. Thank you, J.J.

## **CHARACTER DESCRIPTION**

### **RUBEN**

**[RUBEN]** Male. Age 11: Open Ethnicity. *“You know what’s worse than having your underwear talk to you? Being naked in front of your entire school. Yeah, that’s worse. Way worse.”*

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. Ruben got thrust, big time. An avowed introvert, Ruben is far more contented having his nose in a book than having to fight the characters from one. He’s a ready, aim, maybe we shouldn’t fire type person whose indecision could lead to inaction were it not for his new-found gaggle of friends who pull him out of his comfort zone... repeatedly. Ruben is not your classic hero but he’s read about them, and when push comes to shove will rise to the occasion to save his friends and aid the writers who have turned to him for help. **SERIES LEAD**

**\*\*FOR THIS ROLE WE ARE LOOKING THROUGHOUT CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE UK\*\***

**DEADLINE FOR SELF-TAPES: MONDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 @ 4:00 PM EST**

**SEND SELF-TAPES DIRECTLY TO:** [ghostwritercasting@gmail.com](mailto:ghostwritercasting@gmail.com)

Any questions can be sent to [ghostwritercasting@gmail.com](mailto:ghostwritercasting@gmail.com)

*(Self-tape Instructions are on the last page of this audition package)*

*Note: Please make sure to fill out the forms within this audition package and send them a long when sending in the self-tape*

**PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WEBSITE CAREFULLY BEFORE EMAILING.**

**You do not need to email for permission to submit!**

*NO phone calls please*

*We are committed to diverse, inclusive casting. For every role, please submit qualified performers, without regard to disability, race, age, color, national origin, ethnic origin or any other basis prohibited by law unless otherwise specifically indicated.*

# Actor Information Form

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (for talent under 18)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (talent under 18)

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Country, City and Province/State You Live In: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Have they ever acted before (school plays, classes, etc)? If so, please specify:

Special skills (Languages they can speak, anything extra special they can do):

## **If they have an agent:**

Agent name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agent contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(If they have an agent, please allow them to submit your child's audition package)

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# Parental/Guardian Consent Form

(for talent under 18 years old)

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I consent to have my son/daughter/ward \_\_\_\_\_  
send their electronic audition for the casting! I understand that this is  
not a promise of employment. I agree to accompany my  
son/daughter/ward to any requested additional casting sessions, as  
needed.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Electronic Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# TIPS FOR SELF TAPES

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!!

1. Frame yourself (the talent) from head to toe. Start off with a brief introduction into camera: state your NAME, age (for talent under 18 years old), HEIGHT, and LOCATION.
2. Now, zoom in so that you're framed from the top of the head to the mid chest area ONLY and keep that frame for the entire scene. There should be little to no space over the top of your head. Be sure that the lighting is bright. Make sure that the sound quality is clear. It is very important that we can clearly see and hear you.
3. Now, do the scene(s)! (scene(s) are attached at the bottom of this audition package)
4. Feel free to tape the scene(s) as many times as you'd like, but only send us **one** take, the BEST take.
5. Remember to look natural, be energetic, have fun, and just be yourself!
6. Send everything in **ONE** email to [ghostwritercasting@gmail.com](mailto:ghostwritercasting@gmail.com)  
Audition videos should be sent via a link such as YouTube. **Please make sure to set the privacy settings so that the video is UNLISTED. Auditions must not be made public. Auditions must also NOT BE LISTED AS PRIVATE. If you send us a private link we will be e-mailing you to change it to unlisted.**

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# **SUBMISSION CHECK LIST**

This is everything you will need to send us in order for you to be considered!

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*NO phone calls please*

\_\_ Actor Information Form

\_\_ Parent/Guardian Consent form (for talent under 18 years old)

\_\_ An acting resume if you have one (if not the information sheet above will be fine!)

\_\_ A recent photo (we need to see your face and teeth clearly; it does not need to be a professional headshot. This could even be a candid photo – as long as it looks just like you and you’re the only one in the photo! No sun glasses)

\_\_ Your self taped audition (sides for self tape are on the last page) (This should be sent via a link such as YouTube, VIMEO etc. *Please set the privacy setting so that the video is UNLISTED. (Auditions MUST NOT be PUBLIC or PRIVATE).*)

NOTE: Your audition submissions will NOT be considered if any of the forms are missing. If you have an agent please allow them to submit you.

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ANGLE ON: **R-U-B-E-N**'s underwear label. **R**, **U** and **N** start to magically lift off the label. They rise right into his eye-line.

START Sc. 1 →

RUBEN  
 (shock)  
 R... U... N...  
 (putting it together)  
 Run. Run?

The letters drop out of frame just as Curtis and his friends enter the bathroom. They take note of Ruben's head over the bathroom stall.

Curtis looks down at the book on the floor. He grabs it.

CURTIS  
 Now this... is mine.

Curtis turns and leaves with Ruben now the one giving chase. It's clear that book means something to him.

RUBEN  
 Give that back!

← END Sc. 1

5

**INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY**

5

Ruben <BURSTS> into the hallway and stops, immediately realizing his mistake.

CUT WIDE, where a cleverly-staged **WATER FOUNTAIN** masks his naked lower half. Everyone in the hallway is looking at him.

RUBEN (V.O.)  
 You know what's worse than having your underwear try to talk to you? Being naked in front of your entire school. Yeah, that's worse. Way worse.

Ruben slowly backs up and races down another hallway. <LAUGHTER> follows him out.

6

**INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY #2 - DAY**

6

CLOSE ON TEXT: **LOST AND FOUND** written in **GLITTER PEN INK**. We PULL OUT from the text to reveal a **LOST AND FOUND BOX** brimming with **CLOTHES**. Ruben silently approaches and pulls out a **PAIR OF SWEATPANTS**. He quickly puts them on before sliding down the wall, completely drained.

RUBEN (V.O.)

My dad always says that 'adversity builds character.' Which I think is his way of saying that problems make you a better person. But he also says 'whoever smelt it, dealt it' so I'm not exactly sure how much to believe. What I do know is that in the stories I like to read, the main character always faces a major problem. But unlike me, they usually have a group of friends helping them solve it.

Ruben hangs his head down, feeling particularly isolated and alone. Unbeknownst to him, the **O, A, N, D** and **N** of the Lost and Found text start to **SHIMMER**. A **MIRROR BALL OF REFLECTED LIGHT** starts to play across his face.

RUBEN (V.O.)

It's not that I don't want friends, it's just that I don't know how to make them. Wait, oh no, it's happening again!

Ruben notices the **SHIMMERING LIGHT**.

START Sc. 2

RUBEN

Oh no, it's happening again!

Ruben gets up to run as the letters <SHOOT> out behind him. They <PING-PONG> off the **WALLS**, each strike erupting in a fireworks-like <EXPLOSION> of **GLITTER**.

**SLOW MOTION** as Ruben tries to stay in front of the sparkling chaos behind him.

RUBEN

Leave me alone!

Ruben quickens his pace. The five letters separate and drive towards him, each grabbing an arm or a leg. Ruben starts to lift off the ground.

RUBEN

What? No!

\*Picture the game *Robot Unicorn Attack* but instead of a unicorn, it's Ruben with a **RAINBOW** trailing behind him.

Ruben flies down the hallway, he looks ahead to see the **CLOSED GYM DOORS** racing towards him. He covers his face.

Ahhhhh! RUBEN



CUT TO:

7 **INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY** 7

We're inside the **GYMNASIUM** looking out to the hallway as Ruben speeds towards the glass window. His <SCREAM> grows in intensity until his face <SMUSHES> against the glass.

RUBEN  
Ahhhhh-ugh!

He slides down, cheek first.

8 **INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY #2 - DAY** 8

The **D** lets go of Ruben and presses the **ACCESSIBLE DOOR BUTTON**, the doors open revealing an empty gym beyond. The **D** retakes its position and together the letters drag Ruben inside.

The doors <CLOSE> behind them just as **TWO STUDENTS** walk by, completely unaware of what just took place.

9 **INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY** 9

We're close on a thick **GYM MAT**, Ruben gets unceremoniously <DUMPED> onto it.

RUBEN  
Oof!

He turns around slowly, scared.

RUBEN  
What do you want with me?

The **O, A, N, D** and **N** hover in mid-air then start to shift position. The **D** moves to the front. Ruben doesn't know what to do next. Suddenly, the letters charge towards his face and Ruben presses back into the mat, then reads out.

RUBEN  
(reading letters)  
DOANN?

The letters shake, no. Then they start to shift again and as they do, Ruben steals a moment to scan the room. He notices an **ELECTRICAL SWITCH** nearby.



DONNA (O.S.)  
 (dire)  
 You have a Uniragon. Right. Beside.  
 You.

CAMERA ROTATE around Ruben to reveal a **DONNA**, 8, face planted in her **PHONE**. Her eyes momentarily flick up to Ruben.

DONNA  
 Do you know how incredibly rare  
 this is?  
 (back to phone)  
 These bad boys hardly ever spawn.

Ruben moves a bit.

DONNA  
 Uhm, I thought I was pretty clear  
 about not moving. Just stay still,  
 I'm going to try to catch it.

ANGLE ON: the girl's phone, she's playing a Pokemon Go-type game. A photo-real **UNIRAGON** (part unicorn, part dragon) is standing right beside Ruben, leering at him.

The girl <FLICKS> her finger, launching a **LIGHTNING STRIKE**. The Uniragon reacts.

START Sc. 3 →

DONNA  
 Ha, didn't like that, did you?

RUBEN  
 (trying to remain still)  
 Are you talking to me?

DONNA  
 (eyes glued to phone)  
 No, just try to remain calm. I've  
 almost got him, that was to you.

Her fingers work the phone, calling up a **SUB MENU** and choosing **ICE FIRE**.

DONNA  
 The Uniragon is one of the rarest  
 creatures to find. You play?

RUBEN  
 No.

There's a <THUD> from behind him. **GLITTERY LIGHT** starts to emanate from beneath the door.

RUBEN

I really need to go...

DONNA

And I really need 10,000 extra  
experience points but we don't  
always get what we want, do we?

The <THUDDING> intensifies.

RUBEN

Seriously, there's some stuff going  
on....

ANGLE ON: the girl's phone, the Uniragon virtually <BLASTS>  
Ruben, then disappears.

DONNA

(amazement)

It just horned you!

One final <THUD> sends Ruben running. The Girl follows,  
calling after him.

DONNA

Where are you going? You've been  
marked! It'll only re-spawn by you  
now!

11      **EXT. FRONT YARD OF SCHOOL - DAY**

11

Ruben rounds the corner and stops. He notices something  
further ahead.

RUBEN'S POV: Curtis and his friends are re-entering the  
school. CRASH IN on Ruben's book, still in Curtis's hand.

DONNA (O.S.)

(hushed)

What are we looking at?

Ruben turns, the Girl has snuck up right beside him.

RUBEN

Listen, I've had a really...  
(searching for the word)  
*Strange* day.

DONNA

You're telling me. I almost caught  
a Uniragon.

RUBEN

No, you don't understand, that kid stole a book that's really important to me and I need to get it back.

(remembering everything else)

And then deal with some other stuff that's happening...

DONNA

Curtis, huh? I'll make you a deal. I'll help you get your book back if you help me catch my Uniragon.

RUBEN

That's okay, I'd rather...

DONNA

Blah, blah, blah! Let's go!

The girl drags him off, as they run...

DONNA

What's your name?

RUBEN

Ruben.

DONNA

I'm Donna. Looking forward to working with you, Ruben.

Ruben slows to a stop.

RUBEN

(to himself)

Donna?

We FLASH BACK to the letters in the gym forming the word: **DONNA.**

Donna rounds back and collects him.

DONNA

Why do you keep stopping?

Off Ruben, once again getting pulled away.



RUBEN

It's just... something my Mom  
wrote, she was...

Donna's phone <DINGS> again, this time louder.

DONNA

(interrupting a special  
moment, hushed)  
We're getting close!

Donna continues down the corridor. Ruben eventually follows.

DONNA

And don't worry about your book,  
we'll get it back. Curtis is always  
taking my stuff - he's a terrible  
older brother.

RUBEN

He's your brother?!

DONNA

(already back to phone)  
5 feet, 4 feet, 3 feet...

CUT TO behind Donna and Ruben as they near a **T-SECTION** in the  
corridor.

DONNA

2 feet...

ANGLE ON: Phone screen. We watch as they turn the corner and  
come across a photo real **THREE-HEADED DOG CREATURE**.

DONNA

A three-headed dog? I've never seen  
one of these in my game before...

One of the dogs on the screen <HUFFS>.

CUT OUT to see Donna and Ruben's hair blow back. They both  
slowly start to look up.

CUT WIDE to REVEAL that the two are standing in front of a  
real 16 foot tall **THREE-HEADED DOG**.

DONNA

Nice doggie ...s?

One of the dogs <BARKS>. It's terrifically loud and coats  
both kids in an excessive amount of **DOG SPIT**.

A **GLOB OF MUCUS** falls off Donna's face.

RUBEN  
(frozen with fear)  
We should run.

DONNA  
You think?



END Sc. 3

Ruben and Donna turn and run with the massive dog following after them.

RUBEN (V.O.)  
My dad always says that adversity  
builds character. Well, if he's  
right, then I'm going to have a lot  
of character...

Ruben and Donna race through a set of **THICK DOUBLE DOORS**.  
They force them closed right before the giant dog catches up  
to them and share a nervous smile.

RUBEN (V.O.)  
But at least I won't be building it  
alone...

FADE OUT:

END OF CHAPTER I