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*Dramatic Publishing*

# Here Comes Gosling!

(One-Act Version)



**Book and Lyrics**  
**by Sandra Fenichel Asher**  
**Music by Ric Averill**



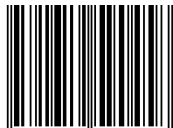
# Here Comes Gosling!

## (One-Act Version)

**Comedy with music. Book and lyrics by Sandra Fenichel Asher. Music by Ric Averill.** *Cast: 3m., 1 to 2w., 1 to 2 either gender (1 puppet).* Together again after their award-winning romp in both the picture book and stage versions of *Too Many Frogs!*, Froggie and Rabbit eagerly prepare for the arrival of guests—Goose, Gander and especially baby Gosling. There are many things to do before the guests arrive, all of which are accompanied by songs set to Ric Averill's charming music. When the goosey family arrives, Froggie's enthusiastic greeting terrifies Gosling, who goes into a fit of nonstop honking. In turn, that frightens Froggie and sends him into hiding. While the others try to calm Gosling, Froggie sings and dances. Gosling quiets her honking to watch him, and their friendship finally begins. *Here Comes Gosling!* is perfect for the very youngest theatergoers, especially older siblings who will recognize the challenges presented by a new baby. The script is available in a traditional format, ideal for proscenium or in-the-round presentation, or as a fully interactive play, in which all of the children in the audience become part of the action. *Area staging. Approximate running time: 35 minutes. Code: HG6.*

*Cover: Eastern Michigan University Theatre of the Young.  
(l-r) Emily Vergin and Antonio Cooper. Photo: Patricia Zimmer.  
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(One-Act Version)

By

SANDRA FENICHEL ASHER

Adapted from the book by the playwright, writing as Sandy Asher

Music by

RIC AVERILL



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Book and lyrics by SANDRA FENICHEL ASHER

Music by RIC AVERILL

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(HERE COMES GOSLING! [ONE-ACT VERSION])

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With loud honks of gratitude to  
Patricia Zimmer, Judy Matetzschk-Campbell and Ric Averill

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The development of *Here Comes Gosling!* was a complicated process supported by many people to whom I owe enormous gratitude. It all began with a chance opportunity to attend a performance of *How Long Is a Piece of String?* presented by the Oily Cart company in London. I was enchanted by their total immersion storytelling. Inspired to try a total immersion script myself, I decided my picture book about Froggie, Rabbit, Goose, Gander and baby Gosling presented a perfect foundation. As I worked on the adaptation, I benefitted from suggestions and developmental workshop experiences provided by Patricia Zimmer, her Eastern Michigan University Theatre for the Young students, the teachers and children of the Washtenaw County Head Start (now the Beatty Early Learning Center) and Northwestern University's Purple Crayon Players. At the same time, Judy Matetzschk-Campbell expressed interest in a traditional version of the same story for her Pollyanna Theatre in Austin, Texas. As dramaturg and director, Judy offered guidance and encouragement as I took on the happy task of developing two different scripts at once, both enhanced by charming music composed by Ric Averill. After the premieres of the two scripts in Michigan and Texas, Kassie Misiewicz offered a second production of the interactive version at Trike Theatre in Bentonville, Ark., directed by Megan James. Heartfelt thanks to all of these folks, to their staffs and colleagues, and to the audiences who helped keep all of us flying in the right direction!

*Here Comes Gosling! (Interactive Version)* premiered at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich., in March 2011.

Cast:

Froggie .....Darius Hayes  
Rabbit ..... Jillian Carey  
Goose ..... Emily Vergin  
Gander .....Antonio Cooper  
Helpers ..... Christopher Biek,  
Hsin Chen, Megan Flynn  
Musicians ..... Bridgit Cook, Dean Bard

Crew:

Director .....Patricia Moore Zimmer  
Musical Director ..... Bridgit Cook  
Stage Manager ..... Ethan Hibbard  
Scene Design.....Kenton Jones  
Costume Design..... Sarah Donnellon, Haley Cavanaugh  
Puppet Creation..... Dean Bard



The traditional, one-act version of the play was produced by Pollyanna Theatre Company in Austin, Texas.

Cast:

Goose ..... Julie Linnard  
Gander ..... Michael Dalmon  
Rabbit ..... David Meissner  
Froggie ..... Toby Minor  
Mail Carrier/Bubbles/Gosling ..... Michelle Keffer

Crew:

Director ..... Judy Matetzschk-Campbell  
Production Designer ..... Ia Enstera  
Lighting Designer ..... Don W. Day  
Sound Design and Music Arrangement ..... Tizoc Trevino  
Graphic Designer ..... Rachel Meissner  
Stage Manager ..... Andrew Perry  
Costume Assistant ..... Rose Downing  
Running Crew ..... William J. Ott, Rose Downing

# Here Comes Gosling!

## (One-Act Version)

### CHARACTERS

GOOSE: a loving but harried new mother.

GANDER: a proud but inexperienced new father, doubles as MAIL CARRIER (brief, non-speaking role).

RABBIT: reserved, gentle, caring, obsessively tidy.

FROGGIE: exuberant, impatient, childlike but not a child.

GOSLING: a baby, may be a puppet handled mainly by GOOSE.

NOTE: In the Pollyanna Theatre production, GOSLING was played by a fifth actor who doubled as MAIL CARRIER. A wheelbarrow was used as GOSLING's carriage.

TIME: Story time.

PLACE: An imaginary forest where rabbits, frogs and geese talk, bake carrot cake and change diapers. RABBIT's house and FROGGIE's house are at opposite sides of the stage or playing space. A winding, flowery path downstage—or through the audience—leads from one to the other. A garden patch near RABBIT's house sports signs for “carrots” and “spinach.” A tree stands at some distance from RABBIT's house.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. Honk-Honk, My Little One.....	9
2. Wake Up, Froggie .....	10
3. Waiting for Baby .....	12
4. Carrots and Spinach .....	16
5. Bath Time.....	21
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7. What Could Be Wrong With Baby Gosling? .....	24
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9. Toodle-oo .....	37

# Here Comes Gosling!

## (One-Act Version)

### (#1: “Honk-Honk, My Little One”)

AT RISE: *A spotlight comes up on GANDER, writing a letter, while GOOSE rocks a sleeping GOSLING in a baby carriage.*

GOOSE.

HONK-HONK, MY LITTLE ONE.  
HONK-HONK, MY PRETTY ONE.  
HONK-HONK, MY GOSLING DEAR.  
HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY—  
YOUR MAMA GOOSE IS NEAR.

GANDER.

HONK-HONK, MY LITTLE ONE.  
HONK-HONK, MY PRETTY ONE.  
HONK-HONK, MY GOSLING DEAR.  
HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY—  
YOUR PAPA GANDER IS NEAR.

GOOSE & GANDER (*as GANDER finishes letter and puts it into a gaily decorated envelope*).

WE’RE OFF TO SEE OUR FRIENDS NOW.  
WE KNOW WHERE OUR PATH ENDS NOW.  
WE’LL SPEND A LOVELY AFTERNOON.  
WE’LL EAT OUR LUNCH, WE’LL SING OUR TUNE.  
HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY,  
SWEET LITTLE GOSLING DEAR.  
HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY, HONK-AWAY,  
YOUR MAMA AND PAPA ARE NEAR.

*(All exit to mail the letter. Lights come up full. RABBIT is seated in a rocking chair outside of his house, reading, with a basket of books beside him. MAIL CARRIER enters, hands RABBIT the letter and exits. RABBIT eagerly opens the letter. Music fades.)*

RABBIT. What's this? A letter for me? I wonder who sent it!  
*(He opens the letter and reads.)*

RABBIT *(cont'd)*. "Dear Rabbit,

Great news! We have a new baby. Her name is Gosling. We're coming to visit you so that you can meet her. We'll be there at 1 o'clock. Please tell Froggie about Gosling, too. See you soon!

Your friends,

Goose and Gander

*(Indicating the letter.)* Goose and Gander have a new baby, Gosling! How exciting! I must tell Froggie. *(To audience, indicating the houses.)* This is where I live. And that's Froggie's house, way over there. He's probably still asleep. But that's all right. I know he'll be excited to hear the great news.

## (#2: "Wake Up, Froggie")

*(Music. RABBIT sings as he puts the book and rocking chair away and travels to FROGGIE's house.)*

RABBIT *(cont'd)*.

**WAKE UP, FROGGIE!**

**WE'VE GOT GREAT NEWS TODAY.**

**WAKE UP, FROGGIE!**

**OUR GUESTS ARE ON THEIR WAY.**

**WAKE UP, FROGGIE!**

WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO.  
**WAKE UP, FROGGIE!**  
I'M WAITING HERE FOR YOU.

*(Very softly and then with increasing volume.)*

RABBIT *(cont'd)*.

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

WAKE UP

**WAKE UP**

YOO-HOO, FROGGIE—**WAKE UP! YEAH!**

*(Music ends.)*

RABBIT *(cont'd, to audience)*. He's still asleep!

*(RABBIT knocks on FROGGIE's door.)*

RABBIT *(cont'd)*. KNOCK-KNOCKETY-KNOCK. Wake up, Froggie. I have great news.

FROGGIE *(opens door, peers out, blinks, yawns and stretches, all while holding his stuffed toy "Mr. Green")*. It's very early for news, Rabbit.

RABBIT. It's never too early for GREAT news. (*Shows FROGGIE the letter.*) Gander and Goose are coming to visit us, and they're bringing their new baby, Gosling.

FROGGIE (*instantly energized*). Love new babies! Mr. Green loves new babies, too! When will they be here?

RABBIT. Soon.

FROGGIE. How soon?

RABBIT. One o'clock.

FROGGIE. That's not soon! That's *later. Much later.* Can't wait that long.

RABBIT. Yes, you can. We have a lot to do before our guests arrive.

FROGGIE. What is there to do except wait? And wait and wait and wait?

RABBIT. First, we need to find a pleasant spot for our picnic.

FROGGIE. Okey-dokey! Love picnics! Mr. Green loves picnics, too!

RABBIT. Let's go!

### **(#3: "Waiting for Baby")**

*(Music. As RABBIT and FROGGIE search for a picnic spot, FROGGIE sings, dancing Mr. Green to the music.)*

FROGGIE.

WAITING FOR BABY

TO PLAY WITH ME.

WAIT—

(CAN'T WAIT.)

AND WAIT—

(GOTTA WAIT.)

AND WAIT—

(GONNA WAIT.)

AND WAIT AND SEE!

*(Still searching, RABBIT joins in as the melody repeats, substituting “Doot-doot-doot-doot-doot-doot-doot-doot-dooooo” for the words. Eventually RABBIT and FROGGIE end up at the “picnic spot” UC, between the two houses. Music ends.)*

RABBIT. This is it! A perfectly pleasant spot for our picnic.

FROGGIE. Need a picnic blanket!

RABBIT. A picnic blanket! Right! *(Retrieves a large, colorful sheet from his house.)* I’ve got just the thing right here.

*(RABBIT hands one side to FROGGIE, who sets down Mr. Green to have both hands free.)*

RABBIT *(cont’d)*. Take this end. That’s it. Now, stand back, stand back, stand back.

*(FROGGIE backs away, holding the sheet.)*

RABBIT *(cont’d)*. Ready?

FROGGIE. Ready!

RABBIT. Hold tight!

FROGGIE. Hold tight!

RABBIT. U-u-u-up! And down.

*(RABBIT snaps the sheet up and down; FROGGIE lets go.)*

RABBIT *(cont’d)*. Froggie! You let go!

FROGGIE. Didn’t hold tight.

RABBIT. No! Let’s try again.

FROGGIE. Okey-dokey. Try again.

RABBIT. Ready?

FROGGIE. Ready.



RABBIT. Hold tight!

FROGGIE. Hold tight!

RABBIT. U-u-u-up! And down.

*(Attempting to “hold tight,” FROGGIE quickly gathers as much of the sheet as possible and clutches it to his chest. RABBIT struggles to “snap” what’s left.)*

RABBIT *(cont’d)*. Froggie! You’re holding on too tight!

FROGGIE. Holding on too tight.

RABBIT. Yes! Let’s try again. Not too loose, and not too tight. Just right.

FROGGIE. Okey-dokey. Just right.

RABBIT. U-u-u-p! And down.

*(This time, the sheet successfully floats upward, but FROGGIE steps underneath as it comes down, and it covers him.)*

RABBIT *(cont’d)*. Ummm, Froggie?

FROGGIE *(from under the sheet)*. Here I am, Rabbit.

RABBIT. Yes, I know where you are. You didn’t stand back.

FROGGIE. Stood under.

RABBIT. Come out, please.

FROGGIE. Mr. Green is under, too.

RABBIT *(beginning to lose his cool)*. Yes, yes, I know. You both need to come out, please.

FROGGIE. Okey-dokey. Coming out.

*(He battles the sheet, becoming more entangled the harder he tries to get out.)*

FROGGIE *(cont’d)*. Need help, Rabbit! Help! Help! Mr. Green needs help, too!

RABBIT. Just stay still, Froggie. Both of you! Stay perfectly still!

FROGGIE. Okey-dokey. Perfectly still.

*(RABBIT peels the sheet off of FROGGIE, who is now clinging to Mr. Green.)*

RABBIT. This is your last chance, Froggie. Now, hold on tight—

FROGGIE. Hold on tight—

RABBIT. But not too tight—

FROGGIE. Not too tight—

RABBIT. And stand back!

FROGGIE. Stand back.

RABBIT. Last chance, Froggie.

FROGGIE. Last chance, Rabbit.

RABBIT *(as they successfully raise and lower the sheet three times, ending in a perfect landing)*. U-u-u-up one! And down. U-u-u-up two! And down. U-u-u-up threeeeeeee! And all the way down! *(Making pats and adjustments.)* There! That's nice and straight.

FROGGIE *(making untidy pats and adjustments)*. Nice and straight.

RABBIT *(readjusting)*. No, no, Froggie. *This* is nice and straight.

*(FROGGIE tugs at one end, gently at first and then more firmly. RABBIT grabs the other end and tugs back through the following.)*

FROGGIE. Nice and straight.

RABBIT. Nice and straight.