

Bye Bye Birdie

Synopsis & Character Descriptions

Synopsis

Bye Bye Birdie is a beloved musical comedy inspired by the rock-and-roll craze of the 1950s. When teen idol Conrad Birdie is drafted into the army, his mild-mannered manager Albert Peterson and Albert's devoted secretary Rose Alvarez devise one last publicity stunt before Conrad's induction. Their plan sends Conrad to Sweet Apple, Ohio, where he will give a final, all-American goodbye kiss to local teenager Kim MacAfee, live on television.

The arrival of Conrad Birdie turns the quiet town upside down. Teenagers swoon, parents panic, and generational tensions bubble to the surface. As Kim navigates first love and growing up, Rose begins to question how long she's willing to wait for Albert to commit. Meanwhile, the MacAfee family struggles to keep order as fame, music, and youthful rebellion take center stage.

Filled with iconic songs including *Put On a Happy Face*, *Kids*, *A Lot of Livin' to Do*, and *One Last Kiss*, *Bye Bye Birdie* is a warm-hearted satire of celebrity, family, and the changing American landscape, offering big laughs, memorable characters, and joy for performers and audiences alike.

Principal Roles

- **Albert Peterson (Tenor):** Nervous music executive and the heart of the story. Strong vocals and comedic timing required.
- **Rose Alvarez (Alto):** Albert's devoted secretary with strength, passion, and emotional depth.
- **Conrad Birdie (Baritone):** Swaggering rock-and-roll star with strong vocals and commanding physical presence.
- **Kim MacAfee (Soprano):** All-American teenage girl navigating first love and independence.
- **Hugo Peabody (Speaking Role):** Kim's earnest and awkward boyfriend. Strong comedic acting required.
- **Harry MacAfee (Tenor):** Kim's frustrated but lovable father with standout comedic moments.
- **Doris MacAfee (Alto):** Kim's warm but flustered mother, adjusting to her daughter growing up.
- **Mae Peterson (Alto):** Albert's overbearing mother. Bold, high-comedy character role.

Featured & Supporting Roles

- Ursula Merkle (Mezzo) – Kim's excitable best friend
- Randolph MacAfee (Tenor) – Kim's younger brother
- Mayor (Adult Chorus, Variable Range)
- Edna (Adult Chorus, Variable Range)
- Ed Sullivan (Speaking Role)
- Gloria Rasputin (Soprano)

Adult Ensemble Roles (many may be doubled)

- Charles F. Maude (Tenor)
- Maude's Dishwasher (Tenor)
- Maude's First Customer (Baritone)
- Maude's Second Customer (Tenor)
- Mr. Johnson (Variable Range)
- Mrs. Merkle (Soprano)
- Policeman (Variable Range)
- Another Parent (Speaking Role)
- Traveler 1 (Speaking Role)
- Traveler 2 (Speaking Role)
- Train Conductor (Speaking Role)
- Lee (Speaking Role)
- Doctor (Nonspeaking Role)
- Sweet Apple Shriners (Nonspeaking)

Teen Ensemble Roles (many may be doubled)

- Alice (Mezzo)
- Margie (Mezzo)
- Harvey Johnson (Tenor)
- Nancy (Variable Range)
- Helen (Variable Range)
- Penelope Ann (Variable Range)
- Deborah Sue (Variable Range)
- Fred (Variable Range)
- Suzie (Variable Range)
- Carl (Variable Range)
- Girl 1 (Speaking Line)
- Sad Girl 1 (Nonspeaking)
- Sad Girl 2 (Nonspeaking)
- Reporters & TV Crew
- 1st Reporter (Speaking Role)

- 2nd Reporter (Nonspeaking Role)
- 3rd Reporter (Speaking Role)
- TV Show Stage Manager (Nonspeaking)
- TV Show Stagehands (4, Nonspeaking)
- TV Show Wardrobe Crew (2–3, Nonspeaking)