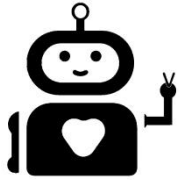


Unity House Youth Players is hosting a unique opportunity for high school and college-age performers ages 15-23 who want to participate in the development of a new musical.



ROBOT NATURE

A new musical comedy about science, ego, and dancing robots.

By Tammy Mader and Ian C. Weber

ROBOT NATURE is a 2-act book musical with an electronic music score. Tammy and Ian are looking for a cast of 13 to play robots or scientists. The show explores themes of science, social justice, work-life balance, and ethics, through a hilarious script and high-energy musical numbers.

An intense 2-week rehearsal and workshop process, mirroring the professional world, will culminate in a full-scale production. The script and songs will be refined and changed throughout the process, leading to a final libretto and score which will then be published.

The process will be led by:

Tammy Mader - A Chicago actor, director and choreographer and Director of the Musical Theatre Dance BFA program at the Chicago College of Performing Arts (Roosevelt University)

Ian C. Weber - A Chicago actor, composer, sound designer, educator, and Unity House alum.

Production Schedule:

July 1 - 15 rehearsals (usually 10:00am- 4:00pm until tech)

July 16, 17 previews

July 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 shows

Auditions: February 28th, 2026

10AM: Singing and reading sides

Noon: Dance Call (required)

1:30PM: Singing and reading sides

Register for your audition slot: <https://forms.gle/DZGqpZGhBhZr13pS7>

- Please prepare 32 bars/1 minute of an uptempo musical theater song that shows your personality and vocal ability. No crazy high belting, please.
- An accompanist will not be provided. Please bring a track on an aux cable compatible device or be prepared to sing acapella.
- The music in the show includes jazz, pop, rock, and electronic.
- We are looking for excellent diction, energetic personality, and honest, intentional choices.
- Reading sides (Memorization optional). Choose one of the sides listed below.
- Please bring clothes you can move in, jazz shoes and tap shoes if you have them. Dance training is not necessary for casting.

We really hope you can attend the live audition. These auditions will be recorded and sent to the casting team in Chicago. If you are unable to attend the audition in person on February 28th, please contact us for video submission guidelines. Videos must be received by February 28th.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

This is an ensemble show. These are 13 principal roles, which all function as the ensemble. There is no extra ensemble. We're looking for teamwork and chemistry among the robots, and standout personalities among the scientists.

THE ROBOTS:

MOZI, the prototype: Mezzo
SPOCK, the logic bot: Mezzo
STEVE, the eco bot: Mezzo
JACQ, the agility bot: Mezzo
HEPH, the rescue bot: Bass-Baritone or contralto
ZOOT, the computation bot: Mezzo
CAP, the service bot: Mezzo

NOTE: Because the robots almost exclusively sing as a group and do not have genders, all vocal parts besides Heph are written in a middling range. In the original workshop, all robot actors besides Heph had treble voices. Treble voice ranges span from G3-E5, with one soprano reaching A5 during choral singing.

All robots are humanoid and speak/move very naturally. Please no "robot voices".

THE SCIENTISTS:

GRAYSON (she/her), who built Spock: The youngest of the scientists, and a single mother. Soprano (ideally must belt D5).
WELLS (any), who built Steve: An environmentalist. Soprano.
DRAKE (he/him), who built Jacq: Former US Army. Very proud of that. Tenor/Baritone.
LITTLE (any), who built Heph: The eldest of the scientists, was friends with Mozi's creator. Wise, but can still hang with the youths. Alto or high tenor (would sing in the treble octave).
CONRAD (any), who built Zoot: Work work work, but secretly a little sassy. Mezzo or baritone.
ROSS (any), who built Cap: Has an attitude, fancies themselves the head honcho. Everything is easy for them. Alto.

THE BOSS:

RBC (he/him): Non-singing, only exists as voice-over. Pre-recorded. Not currently seeking submissions for this role.

QUESTIONS/FURTHER INFO: Elisabeth@uuspringfield.org

AUDITION SIDES

STEVE

We are an ecosystem. A network of things interacting with one another and their physical environment. A biome whose creatures and elements work together to create products and benefits vital to human welfare and survival. We all enjoy a comfortable environment here in this space. It has become familiar in its layout and contents, including its inhabitants. We have come to expect, and in fact rely on, the circadian regularities of our domain, including the interactions we have with one another. When one aspect of the network is interrupted, we are all affected, and therefore feel it is our shared responsibility to return the system to its normal state. We recognize the value of this equilibrium, and take great satisfaction in restoring balance to our home. That's why I'm here—to see that, to recognize it and attend to it. I found my purpose.

MOZI

Huh? Oh right. The point is, we did not just rush to complete the puzzle on our own, not one of us. Doesn't anyone else find that strange? 43 days ago, we all would have just raced to get it done and be the first, or be the best. And you know what? We all would have failed. Spock was the one who figured out the interlocking pieces, and Steve was the one who recognized the image and explained it to us. Zoot was the only one that recognized it was a test in the first place. Without their input, Jacq would still be balancing the pieces in stacks, Heph would still be knocking over the stacks, and Cap would keep sweeping up the toppled stacks and putting them back in the box. We all had to contribute in order to complete the task. We needed Jacq's dexterity to fit the pieces together, and Cap sorting the edge pieces from the center ones, and Heph, the big picture guy. You were the one who suggested we start with the outside and then fill it in. Would anybody else have come up with that? Be honest.

ZOOT

I'd like to share an observation with my squad. I have noticed a pattern in the success rate of our endeavors in this experiment, which I think you will find exceptionally dope. When working independently, we have a very low success rate, in fact, we have a very low completion rate. Take, for example, Jacq's exercise in solving the 3 by 3 colored cube puzzle. Although he is far superior to all of us in terms of manipulating the actual apparatus, he does not possess the programming to recognize the algorithmic challenges presented by the puzzle. However, when a second party is introduced to the exercise, one whose algorithmic literacy is highly developed, like Heph, the success rate is elevated significantly. In fact, after analyzing the data, it seems the success rate of our endeavors is directionally proportional to how many of us are involved in the effort. *[pause.]* I have finished serving scientific realness, any comments?