

TRAVELING PLAYERS ENSEMBLE
SHAKESPEARE ENSEMBLE

WELCOME! We're so excited for you to audition! We can't wait to meet you – or see you again!

WHAT HAPPENS AT AUDITIONS?

We know that actors can shine in different ways, so we organize our auditions to allow actors with different strengths to shine. You will perform a memorized monologue, play improvisation games, and participate in group discussions as well as talk to the director one on one.

The audition is an opportunity for the director to get to know you and to see how you work and play with other potential members of the ensemble. It is also an opportunity for you to get to know your potential castmates. You will have your best audition if you relax, have fun, and connect with your fellow performers! We have been told that our auditions are significantly more fun than the average audition. We plan to keep it that way.

THE MONOLOGUE:

- **Choose one** (1) of the three (3) monologues to prepare. (Note: Any actor of any gender may choose to perform any of the monologues.)
- This monologue **must be memorized**. You won't be able to read it from the paper when you perform it.
- You'll perform your monologue to the rest of the auditionees plus Ryan Fields, the Shakespeare Ensemble Director, and Jeanne Harrison, the Artistic Director.

Some helpful guidelines for the monologue:

- Do I understand all the words? Have I looked up any words or phrases I don't understand?
- Do I understand *why* this character says each line? Will it be clear to my audience?
- Am I speaking loudly and clearly enough so my audience can understand me?
- How can I engage my whole body in the performance? (This doesn't necessarily mean *moving* your whole body.) Are my physical gestures connected to my words and character?

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to ask...you can reach us at 703-987-1712 or you can email us at director@travelingplayers.org.

ON AUDITION DAY:

Before arriving: Please be sure to eat. Dress in clothes that will allow you to move comfortably. Bring a water bottle. Now relax and have fun -- you're going to do great! You could very likely learn new skills and make new friends!

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Monologue Option #1

Margaret from *Henry VI, Part 3*

MARGARET What, was it you that would be England's king?
Where are your mess of kids to back you now,
The wanton Edward and the lusty George?
And where's that valiant unfit prodigy,
Dickie, your girl, that with her grumbling voice
Was wont to cheer her dad in mutinies?
I prithee grieve to make me merry, York.
Why art thou patient, man? Thou shouldst be mad;
And I, to make thee mad, do mock thee thus.
Stamp, rave, and fret, that I may sing and dance.

Monologue Option #2

Messenger from *Henry VI, Part 3*

MESSENGER By many hands your father was subdued,
But only slaughtered by the ireful arm
Of unrelenting Clifford and the Queen,
Who crowned the gracious duke in high despite,
Laughed in his face; and then— with grief he wept.
And after many scorns, many foul taunts,
They took his head and on the gates of York
They set the same, and there it doth remain,
The saddest spectacle that e'er I viewed.

Monologue Option #3

Richard from *Henry VI, Part 3*

RICHARD I'll make my heaven to dream upon the crown.
I, like one lost in a thorny wood,
That rents the thorns and is rent with the thorns,
Seeking a way and straying from the way,
Not knowing how to find the open air,
But toiling desperately to find it out,
Torment myself to catch the English crown.
Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile.
Can I do this and cannot get a crown?
Tut, were it farther off, I'll pluck it down!