

Traveling Players

COMEDY ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS – TOUCHSTONES

WELCOME!

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

HOW CAN I AUDITION?

You can audition **virtually or in person** (at [our Studio](#) in Tysons, VA). Either way, you must [register for an audition](#). Our auditions can fill up quickly, so don't delay.

DO I NEED AN AUDITION SLOT?

Nope. You'll be in the audition room the whole time. That's your "audition slot"!

WHO WILL BE AT THE AUDITION?

- Comedy Ensemble auditionees – performing a "non-ologue" (original rehearsed story)
- Shakespeare Ensemble auditionees – performing a monologue
- Jeanne E. Harrison, Artistic Director of Traveling Players – hosting the audition

*Interested in Comedy Ensemble & Shakespeare Ensemble?
You only need one prepared piece. Prepare for your **first-choice** ensemble.*

WHY DO YOU HOST GROUP AUDITIONS INSTEAD OF VIDEO SUBMISSIONS?

Actors can be particularly strong at improv, movement, emotional journeys, heightened language, comedy, tragedy, and all the tones in between. We want to give you opportunities to show us the ways YOU shine – and WITH WHOM you shine. We have designed our auditions to give you as many ways to shine as possible.

Your non-ologue is a rehearsed performance in which you fully embody a character and a story you've had a chance to craft. The non-ologue, however, is only a few minutes of your audition. We want to get to know you a bit better! We also want you to get to know us - and some of the students you'll potentially live and create with this summer.

We have been told that our auditions are significantly more fun than the average audition. We plan to keep it that way.

DO THE TOUCHSTONES PERFORM A PLAY?

The Touchstones will create an original performance show - a compilation of short and long-form improvisations, some of which will include audience participation. They will also take the show on the road, performing several times and bringing joy to all who get to see your once-in-a-lifetime masterpiece!

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE AUDITIONS?

You could be accepted, declined, or called back. Decisions are emailed about a week after your audition, and you have a week to accept the offer to join us. We want to give everyone we welcome this summer an incredible and rewarding challenge!

A note for 8th graders – Most 8th graders are called back before being accepted into HS ensembles (which include graduated Seniors), so do not be surprised if that happens.

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THE “NON-OLOGUE”:

- **Choose one** of the two “non-ologues” to prepare. Please choose whichever you are more comfortable with.
- This performance **must be memorized**. You won’t be able to read notes from a paper when you perform it.

Some helpful guidelines for the “non-ologue”:

- 60 seconds is a very short time. Is my piece simple enough to fit into that time without running over?
- 60 seconds is also a very long time. Do I have enough material to fill it?
- Do I have an ending? What about a beginning? Perhaps I need a middle as well.
- What kind of character am I playing? How does what I’m saying/doing *affect* me?
- How can I engage my whole body in the performance? (This doesn’t always mean *moving* your whole body.) Are my physical gestures connected to my character?

Questions? Just ask! Call us at 703-987-1712 or email us at outreach@travelingplayers.org.

ON AUDITION DAY:

VIRTUAL:

Before logging on, set up your computer in a well-lit space with plenty of room to move. You should be visible from at least the waist up when standing.

Please be sure to eat beforehand - no starving artists! Dress in clothing that allows you to move comfortably. Have a water bottle. Please turn your phone off once you're connected.

IN PERSON @ OUR TYSONS STUDIO:

Before arriving, please be sure to eat - no starving artists! Dress in clothing that allows you to move comfortably. Bring a water bottle. You will turn off your phone during the audition.

GOT ANY ADVICE FOR ME?

Make sure you know your non-ologue well enough to take us on your character’s journey!

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO GETS IN?

We accept actors into our programs who are a good fit for our ensembles and our community. We’re interested in how you play with others – on stage and off – and with whom you play particularly well. Collaboration, dedication, kindness, joy, and imagination are the qualities that allow our ensembles and all our students to thrive.

Students who have been with Traveling Players before know the power of a strong, well-balanced ensemble. But how do you create a cohesive and effective ensemble? You need a mix of experiences and backgrounds – performers with different skill sets and growth opportunities — all of whom are eager to support and challenge each other to do their best work.

You will have your best audition if you relax, have fun, and connect with your fellow performers.

Break a leg! We can’t wait to see you!

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NON-OLOGUE OPTION #1

“The Speech”

Create a *60-second* physical comedy routine, using no words, that follows the following basic structure:

1. You are about to give a speech to a large crowd. You are an expert in the topic you are speaking about.
2. But before you can say a single word, you start to have a problem. You can make this problem anything you want: your throat gets scratchy, you lose your voice, you're paralyzed by stage fright, you forgot your notes, etc.
3. You try to overcome the problem, but you never manage to speak a single word.
4. End the piece with the problem getting so bad that you can't even stand at the podium. You have no choice but to exit.

NON-OLOGUE OPTION #2

“The Terrible News”

Create a *60-second* comic monologue.

1. It begins with these words: “I'm lost! I'm desperate! I'm destroyed! I've just heard the most terrible news!”
2. After this, the words are your own. Tell the audience about the terrible news you've received. You've lost money, a friend is ill, your boy/girlfriend got eaten by a giant squid - anything you like. It can be anything you want, but it should be something specific to YOUR CHARACTER. The bad news can't be that your favorite movie star just got divorced: it doesn't affect your character directly.
3. End your monologue with what you plan to do about the news: your statement of intent for how you will get through this/set things right.