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. Our goal is to give everyone we welcome to Traveling Players an incredible summer 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. You will need two screens during the audition – your desktop for the bulk of the audition, and your phone to read additional audition material.

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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Please select one non-ologue to perform.

NON-OLOGUE OPTION #1
"Going Home"

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

1. You are returning home from a long day.

2. When you reach your front door, you discover you don't have your keys.

3. Because you don't have your keys, you must now find an alternate route into your house.

4. End the piece by successfully entering your house – either through the door or by some other means.

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NON-OLOGUE OPTION #2
"The Adventure"

Create a *60-second* comic monologue.

1. It begins with these words: "You would not believe the adventure I just had! I almost didn't make it home. You simply won't believe it!"

2. After this, the words are your own. Tell the audience about the adventure you went on. You got magnificently lost in your local park; you found the lost city of Atlantis, you had to rescue your friend from a terrifying monster – it can be anything you like. Except the examples we just wrote.