

TRAVELING PLAYERS ENSEMBLE COMMEDIA 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 your prepared comedy routine (details below), 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 COMEDY ROUTINE:

- Choose **one (1)** of the two (2) comedy routine options to prepare.
- Your comedy routine **must be rehearsed**.
- Your comedy routine must be original – we want to see what YOU create!
- You'll perform your comedy routine to the rest the auditionees plus Jeanne Harrison, the Artistic Director.

Some helpful guidelines for the comedy routine:

- 90 seconds is a very short time. Is my piece simple enough to fit into that time without running over?
- 90 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?

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 info@travelingplayers.org.

ON AUDITION DAY:

Set up a space where you feel comfortable moving around and will not be interrupted, by siblings or pets.

Eat before you log on. Please dress in clothes that will allow you to comfortably move, and **bring a water bottle**.

You could very likely learn new skills and make new friends! Relax and have fun -- you're going to do great!

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You can prepare either of the options below. Prepare the piece you feel more comfortable with.

**Option #1
Physical Comedy Routine**

A ninety-second physical comedy routine using an object. This should be performed without words, although you can certainly make sounds. You can use any object you like (bring it with you). The piece should follow this general structure: 1) you try to use the object for its intended purpose; 2) for some reason (malfunction, incompetence, accidents, etc.), this doesn't work; 3) you end up using the object for another purpose entirely.

Example 1: You enter with a broom, intending to sweep the floor. Unfortunately, there's a piece of paper lying on the floor, which is impossible for you to sweep up with the broom. You get increasingly frustrated with the broom, scold it, regret that you've scolded it and apologize to it. To make up, you make it into a dance partner and waltz off with it.

Example 2: You enter with a kite, intending to fly it. Since there is no wind, this does not work. You try running around to generate wind, but keep hurting yourself. Eventually, you realize that the kite makes a good fashion accessory and exit wearing it like a cape.

**Option #2
Original Comic Monologue**

A ninety-second story. Tell us a story from your own life, but exaggerate it to make it ridiculous. Remember, this is a performance piece, so give it some kind of build: start with the real story ("last summer, I went sailing with my brother and sister"), then begin to add details that are funny but might still be true ("none of us knew how to sail, so we ended up stuck on the lake for two days. All we had to eat was a pack of fruit roll-ups") and eventually get to the ridiculous parts ("we were finally rescued by Vikings, who would only take us back to shore if I bested their leader in a pie-eating contest.").