

**TRAVELING PLAYERS
THESPIAN 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, participate in group discussions, and 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 below to prepare.
- 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 the auditionees plus Morgan Shotwell, the Thespian Ensemble 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 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 outreach@travelingplayers.org.

ON AUDITION DAY:

Eat before you arrive. 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!

**TRAVELING PLAYERS
THESPIAN ENSEMBLE**

MONOLOGUE OPTION #1:

Henriette from *The Learned Ladies*, Act I, Scene 3

Henriette knows that Trissotin is a fake poet, but she's also fully aware that he's completely captivated her mother, who loves all things academic.

HENRIETTE

That's true, but do not underestimate
That man's ability to dominate
With devious deception and persuasion.
I've watched in disbelief his swift invasion
Of our home – his artful attitude.
Make no mistake about it – he is shrewd.
But at the moment, he's my mother's pet.
He lives here as her guest, please don't forget.

MONOLOGUE OPTION #2:

PHILAMENTE from *The Learned Ladies*, Act III, Scene 4

Philamente wants her daughter to dedicate her life to knowledge, by marrying a poet, who actually isn't a poet, but Philamente hasn't figured that out.

PHILAMENTE

I know, and how it cuts me to the quick
To see you so insipid and so thick!
Your beauty is a flower in its glory,
But so ephemeral, so transitory!
Whereas the beauty of the mind endures
Beyond the epidermal and assures
One of a beauty that will e'er abound.
A good solution to your plight is found
In choosing for your mate a learned man
To teach you. My choice is Trissotin!

MONOLOGUE OPTION #3:

Trissotin from *The Learned Ladies*, Act IV, Scene 4

Trissotin is accused of being a fake poet, which he is.

TRISSOTIN

I cannot speak!
I must prepare to turn the other cheek
To this disloyal friend who's turned on me
And for what reason? Jaded jealousy.
But no—the truth! Unworthy, yes I am I
Why should I be the chosen one, madame?
I've naught to offer but my feeble Muse
And tears of joy that you'd deign to choose.