Traveling Players

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

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

DO I NEED AN AUDITION SLOT?
Nope. You'll be in the audition room the whole time. That's your audition slot!

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE 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 read a few scenes (called "sides," since they are sides of the script), play improvisation games, and participate in ensemble-building activities. The audition is an opportunity for the director to get to know you and see how you work and play with other potential ensemble members. It is also an opportunity for you to get to know your potential castmates.

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

AM I AUDITIONING FOR A ROLE IN THE PLAY?
No, you are auditioning to be a member of the Ensemble. If cast, you will participate in another round of auditions during the first weekend of rehearsals to assign roles.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE AUDITIONS?
You could be accepted, declined, or called back. (A callback is when we ask you to audition again.) If you are called back, we will let you know what we would like you to work on before your next audition.

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 accept this winter an incredible and rewarding challenge!

THE SIDES:

- Familiarize yourself with the scenes below.
- These scenes **do not need to be memorized.**
- You don't need to print out the sides either. We'll have copies for you.
- You'll read these scenes as part of your audition with other actors. You will have the opportunity to read multiple characters and scenes.
- Some helpful guidelines as you prepare:
    - Do I know who's speaking? Their age, gender, and personality? What is their status (upper or lower class)? Do they have a regional accent?
    - Can I adjust my body and voice so that the audience can "get" the essence of each character that I read?
    - Do I have a sense of what each scene is about? Will it be clear to my audience?
    - What do the characters want in the scene? How do they try to get it? Do they get it?
    - Am I speaking loudly and clearly enough so my audience can understand me?
- Want to prepare even more? Research the myths and characters of the play a bit!

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

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ON AUDITION DAY:
Auditions, rehearsals, and performances are held at our Studio in Tysons Corner Center.

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 TIPS FOR ME?
You don't need to memorize anything for this audition, but you should take a little bit of time to read the sides and research the play. You certainly don't need to be an expert! Read the sides listed below and know the characters and plot. Then relax and have fun – you'll do great!

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!

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 1 – Shallow, Slender, Evans, and Anne

Act 1 Scene 1

MASTER SLENDER is on stage. Enter JUSTICE SHALLOW and SIR HUGH EVANS, a priest.

SHALLOW Cousin Abraham Slender, can you love her?

SLENDER I hope, sir.

SHALLOW Will you, upon good dowry, marry her?

SLENDER I will marry her, sir, at your request. But if there be no great love in the beginning, yet heaven may decrease it upon better acquaintance, when we are married and have more occasion to know one another. I hope upon familiarity will grow more contempt.

EVANS His meaning is good.

Enter ANNE PAGE

SHALLOW Here comes fair Mistress Anne. — Would I were young for your sake, Mistress Anne.

ANNE The dinner is on the table. My father desires your worships' company.

SHALLOW I will wait on him, fair Mistress Anne.

EVANS I will not be absence at the grace.

Exeunt SHALLOW, EVANS

ANNE Will't please your worship to come in, sir?

SLENDER No, I thank you, forsooth, heartily; I am very well.

ANNE The dinner attends you, sir.

SLENDER I am not a-hungry, I thank you, forsooth.

ANNE I may not go in without your worship. They will not sit till you come.

SLENDER I' faith, I'll eat nothing. I thank you as much as though I did.

ANNE I pray you, sir, walk in.

SLENDER I had rather walk here, I thank you. I bruised my shin th'other day, with playing at sword and dagger with a master of fence. Be there bears i'th' town?

ANNE I think there are, sir. I heard them talked of.

SLENDER I love the sport well. You are afraid, if you see the bear loose, are you not?

ANNE Ay, indeed, sir.

SLENDER That's meat and drink to me, now. I have seen Sackerson loose twenty times, and have taken him by the chain.

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 2 – Falstaff, Nim, Pistol, and Robin

ACT I, SCENE 3

A room in the Garter Inn.

Enter FALSTAFF, NIM, PISTOL, and ROBIN the boy

FALSTAFF Well, sirs, I am almost out at heels.
There is no remedy: I must cony-catch, I must shift.

PISTOL Young ravens must have food.

FALSTAFF Which of you know Ford of this town?

PISTOL He is of substance good.

FALSTAFF My honest lads, I will tell you what I am about.

PISTOL Two yards and more.

FALSTAFF Indeed, I am in the waist two yards about. But I am now about no waste; I am about thrift. Briefly, I do mean to make love to Ford's wife. I spy entertainment in her. She discourses, she carves, she gives the leer of invitation. I can construe the action of her familiar style; and the hardest voice of her behavior, to be Englished rightly, is 'I am Sir John Falstaff's'.

PISTOL He hath studied her well, and translated her will: out of honesty, into English.

FALSTAFF Now, the report goes, she has all the rule of her husband's purse.

PISTOL 'To her, boy!'

FALSTAFF I have writ me here a letter to her — and here another to Page's wife, who even now gave me good eyes too, examined my parts with most judicious oeillades; sometimes the beam of her view gilded my foot, sometimes my portly belly.

PISTOL Then did the sun on dunghill shine.

FALSTAFF Here's another letter to her. She bears the purse too. I will be cheaters to them both, and they shall be exchequers to me. They shall be my East and West, and I will trade to them both. *[Giving a letter to NIM]* Go bear thou this letter to Mistress Page, *[giving a letter to PISTOL]* and thou this to Mistress Ford. We will thrive, lads, we will thrive.

PISTOL *[returning the letter]* I will run no base humour. Here, take the humour-letter.

NIM *[returning the letter]* I will keep reputation.

FALSTAFF *[to ROBIN]* Hold, sirrah. Bear you these letters tightly.
[He gives ROBIN the letters]
Rogues, hence, avaunt!

Exeunt FALSTAFF and ROBIN

PISTOL Let vultures gripe thy guts!

NIM Revenge.

PISTOL With wit or steel?

NIM With both.

PISTOL I will discuss the humor of this love to Ford.

NIM And I to Page.

PISTOL I will possess him with yellowness; for the revolt of mine is dangerous.

NIM I second thee. Troop on. *Exeunt.*

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 3 – Quickly, Cauis, and Simple

ACT I, SCENE 4

A room in DOCTOR CAIUS' house.

Enter MISTRESS QUICKLY, and SIMPLE

QUICKLY Peter Simple you say your name is?

SIMPLE Ay, for fault of a better.

QUICKLY And Master Slender's your master?

SIMPLE Ay, forsooth.

QUICKLY O, I should remember him: does he not hold up his head, as it were, and strut in his gait?

SIMPLE Yes, indeed does he.

QUICKLY Well, heaven send Anne Page no worse fortune! Tell Master Parson Evans I will do what I can for your master. Anne is a good girl, and I wish — Out, alas, here comes my master! -- Run in here, good young man; for God's sake, go into this closet. He will not stay long.

SIMPLE steps into the closet

[Singing] And down, down, adown-a *(etc.)*

Enter DOCTOR CAIUS

DR. CAIUS Vat is you sing? I do not like. Pray you, go and vetch me in my closet *un boitier vert* — a box, a green-a box. Do intend vat I speak? A green-a box.

QUICKLY Ay, forsooth, I'll fetch it you. *[Aside]* I am glad he went not in himself. If he had found the young man, he would have been horn-mad.

She goes to fetch the box

DR. CAIUS *Fe, fe, fe, fe*! *La grande affaire.*

QUICKLY Is it this, sir?

DR. CAIUS *Oui. Mets-le a ma pochette. Dépêche*, quickly!
Come, take-a your rapier, and come to the court.

He fetches the rapier

DR. CAIUS By my trot, I tarry too long. 'Od's me, *qu'ai-j' oublié*? Dere is some simples in my closet dat I vill not for the varld I shall leave behind.

QUICKLY *[aside]* Ay me, he'll find the young man there, and be mad.

DR. CAIUS *[discovering SIMPLE]* O *diable*, *diable*! Vat is in my closet? Villainy!

He takes his rapier

QUICKLY Good master, be content.

DR. CAIUS Wherefore shall I be content-a?

QUICKLY The young man is an honest man.

DR. CAIUS What shall de honest man do in my closet? Dere is no honest man dat shall come in my closet.

QUICKLY I beseech you, hear the truth of it. He came of an errand to me from Parson Hugh.

DR. CAIUS Vell.

SIMPLE Ay, forsooth, to desire her to —

QUICKLY Peace, I pray you.

DR. CAIUS Peace-a your tongue. *[To SIMPLE]* Speak-a your tale.

SIMPLE To desire this honest gentlewoman, your maid, to speak a good word to Mistress Anne Page for my master in the way of marriage.

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 4 – Mistress Page, Mistress Ford - Act 2 Scene 1

Enter MISTRESS PAGE, with a letter

MRS. PAGE What, have I scaped love-letters in the holiday time of my beauty, and am I now a subject for them? Let me see. *She reads:*
'Ask me no reason why I love you, for though Love use Reason, he admits him not for his counselor. You are not young; no more am I. Go to, then, there's sympathy. You are merry; so am I. Ha, ha, then, there's more sympathy. You love sack, and so do I. Would you desire better sympathy? Let it suffice thee, Mistress Page, if the love of soldier can suffice, that I love thee. I will not say "pity me" — 'tis not a soldier-like phrase — but I say "love me".

By me, thine own true knight,
By day or night
Or any kind of light,
With all his might
For thee to fight,
John Falstaff.'

O, wicked, wicked world! One that is well-nigh worn to pieces with age, to show himself a young gallant! What hath this drunkard picked out of my conversation, that he dares in this manner assay me? Why, he hath not been thrice in my company. What should I say to him? Why, I'll exhibit a bill in the Parliament for the putting down of men. O God, that I knew how to be revenged on him! For revenged I will be, as sure as his guts are made of puddings.

Enter MISTRESS FORD

MRS. FORD Mistress Page! By my faith, I was going to your house.
MRS. PAGE And, by my faith, I was coming to you. You look very ill.
MRS. FORD Nay, I'll ne'er believe that: I have to show to the contrary. I could be knighted.
MRS. PAGE What? Thou liest! Sir Alice Ford?
MRS. FORD Here: read, read.

She gives MISTRESS PAGE a letter
MISTRESS PAGE reads it.

What tempest threw this whale, with so many tuns of oil in his belly, ashore at Windsor? Did you ever hear the like?

MRS. PAGE Letter for letter, but that the name of Page and Ford differs!

She gives MISTRESS FORD her letter

I warrant he hath a thousand of these letters writ with blank space for different names.

MRS. FORD Why, this is the very same: the very hand, the very words. What doth he think of us?
MRS. PAGE I know not. For, sure, unless he know some strain in me that I know not myself, he would never have boarded me in this fury.
MRS. FORD 'Boarding' call you it? I'll be sure to keep him above deck.
MRS. PAGE Let's be revenged on him. Let's appoint him a meeting, give him a show of comfort in his suit, and lead him on with a fine baited delay.
MRS. FORD I will consent to act any villany against him that may not sully our honesty. O that my husband saw this letter! It would give eternal food to his jealousy.

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 5 – Masters Ford and Page – one is jealous, the other isn't. They were just told Falstaff loves their wives.

Act 2 Scene 2

PAGE How now, Master Ford?
FORD You heard what this knave told me, did you not?
PAGE Yes, and you heard what the other told me?
FORD Do you think there is truth in them?
PAGE I do not think the knight would offer it. These that accuse him in his intent towards our wives are his discarded men—very rogues, now they be out of service.
FORD Were they his men?
PAGE Marry, were they.
FORD Does he lie at the Garter?
PAGE Ay, marry, does he. If he should intend this voyage towards my wife, I would turn her loose to him.
FORD I do not misdoubt my wife, but a man may be too confident.

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 6 – Master Ford disguised as "Master Brook" and Falstaff

QUICKLY lets in FORD, disguised like Brooke, then exits

FORD Bless you, sir!

FALSTAFF And you, sir. What's your will?

FORD Sir, I am a gentleman. My name is Brooke. They say if money go before, all ways do lie open.

FALSTAFF Speak, good Master Brook. I shall be glad to be your servant.

FORD There is a gentlewoman in this town; her husband's name is Ford.

FALSTAFF Well, sir.

FORD I have long loved her, and, I protest to you, bestowed much on her, followed her with a doting observance, bought many presents to give her.

FALSTAFF Have you received no promise of satisfaction at her hands?

FORD Never.

FALSTAFF To what purpose have you unfolded this to me?

FORD When I have told you that, I have told you all. Some say that though she appear honest to me, yet in other places she enlargeth her mirth. Now, Sir John, here is the heart of my purpose. You are a gentleman of excellent breeding, admirable discourse, and many warlike, court-like, and learned preparations.

FALSTAFF O sir!

FORD There is money.

He offers money

Spend it, spend it; spend more; spend all I have. Win her to consent to you.

FALSTAFF I should win what you would enjoy?

FORD I could drive her then from her purity, her reputation, her marriage vow, and a thousand other her defenses. What say you to't, Sir John?

FALSTAFF Master Brooke, I will first make bold with your money.

He takes the money

Next, give me your hand.

He takes his hand

And, last, as I am a gentleman, you shall enjoy Ford's wife.

FORD O, good sir!

FALSTAFF I say you shall.

FALSTAFF I shall be with her, I may tell you, by her own appointment, between ten and eleven, for at that time the jealous rascally knave her husband will be forth. Come you to me at night; you shall know how I speed.

FORD I am blessed in your acquaintance. Do you know Ford, sir?

FALSTAFF I know him not. Hang him, poor cuckoldly knave, Yet I wrong him to call him poor. They say the jealous knave hath masses of money, for the which his wife seems to me well favoured. I will use her as the key of the cuckoldly rogue's coffer, and there's my harvest-home.

FORD I would you knew Ford, sir, that you might avoid him if you saw him.

FALSTAFF Master Brooke, thou shalt know I will predominate over the peasant, and thou shalt lie with his wife. Come to me soon at night. *Exit*

FORD Who says this is improvident jealousy? My wife hath sent to him, the hour is fixed, the match is made. See the hell of having a false woman! My bed shall be

abused, my coffers ransacked, my reputation gnawn at, and I shall not only receive this villanous wrong, but stand by him that does me this wrong. 'Cuckold' — the devil himself hath not such a name. Page is an ass, a secure ass. He will trust his wife, he will not be jealous. God be praised for my jealousy! Eleven o'clock the hour. I will prevent this, detect my wife, be revenged on Falstaff, and laugh at Page. Better three hours too soon than a minute too late. Cuckold, cuckold, cuckold! *Exit*

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 7 – Fenton and Anne Page

ACT III, SCENE 4

Outside PAGE'S house.

Enter FENTON and ANNE PAGE

FENTON I see I cannot get thy father's love;
Therefore no more turn me to him, sweet Nan.
ANNE Alas, how then?
FENTON Why, thou must be thyself.
He doth object I am too great of birth,
And that, my state being gall'd with my expense,
I seek to heal it only by his wealth.
Besides these, other bars he lays before me —
My riots past, my wild societies;
And tells me 'tis a thing impossible
I should love thee but as a property.
ANNE Maybe he tells you true.
FENTON No, heaven!
Albeit I will confess thy father's wealth
Was the first motive that I wooed thee, Anne,
Yet, wooing thee, I found thee of more value
Than stamps in gold or sums in sealed bags;
And 'tis the very riches of thyself
That now I aim at.
ANNE Gentle Master Fenton,
Yet seek my father's love, still seek it, sir.

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Side 8 – Mistresses Ford and Page plus Falstaff

MRS. FORD Mistress Page, remember you your cue.
MRS. PAGE I warrant thee. If I do not act it, hiss me. *Exit MISTRESS PAGE*
MRS. FORD We'll use this unwholesome humidity, this gross watery pumpkin. We'll teach him to know turtles from jays.
Enter FALSTAFF
FALSTAFF Have I caught thee, my heavenly jewel? Why, now let me die, for I have lived long enough. O, this blessed hour!
MRS. FORD O sweet Sir John!
FALSTAFF Mistress Ford, I cannot cog. I cannot prate, Mistress Ford. Now shall I sin in my wish: I would thy husband were dead. I would make thee my lady.
MRS. FORD I your lady, Sir John? Alas, I should be a pitiful lady.
FALSTAFF Let the court of France show me such another.
MRS. FORD A plain kerchief, Sir John
FALSTAFF By the Lord, thou art a tyrant to say so. Thou wouldst make an absolute courtier, and the firm fixture of thy foot would give an excellent motion to thy gait in a semicircled farthingale. Come, thou canst not hide it.
MRS. FORD Believe me, there's no such thing in me.
FALSTAFF What made me love thee? Let that persuade thee there's something extraordinary in thee. Come, I cannot cog and say thou art this and that, like a-many of these lisping hawthorn-buds that come like women in men's apparel and smell like Bucklersbury in simple time; I cannot. But I love thee, none but thee; and thou deserv'st it.
MRS. FORD Do not betray me, sir. I fear you love Mistress Page.
FALSTAFF Thou mightst as well say I love to walk by the Counter gate, which is as hateful to me as the reek of a lime-kiln.
MRS. FORD Well, heaven knows how I love you; and you shall one day find it.
FALSTAFF Keep in that mind.
Enter ROBIN
ROBIN Mistress Ford, Mistress Ford! Here's Mistress Page at the door, sweating and blowing, and looking wildly, and would needs speak with you presently.
FALSTAFF She shall not see me. I will ensconce me behind the arras.
MRS. FORD Pray you, do so; she's a very tattling woman.
FALSTAFF hides himself
Re-enter MISTRESS PAGE
What's the matter? How now?
MRS. PAGE O Mistress Ford, what have you done? You're shamed, you're overthrown, you're undone for ever.
MRS. FORD What's the matter, good Mistress Page?
MRS. PAGE Having an honest man to your husband, to give him such cause of suspicion!
MRS. FORD What cause of suspicion?
MRS. PAGE What cause of suspicion? Out upon you! Your husband's coming hither, woman, with all the officers in Windsor, to search for a gentleman that he says is here now in the house, by your consent, to take an ill advantage of his absence. You are undone.

MRS. FORD 'Tis not so, I hope.

MRS. PAGE Pray heaven it be not so, that you have such a man here! But 'tis most certain your husband's coming, with half Windsor at his heels, to search for such a one. I come before to tell you. If you know yourself clear, why, I am glad of it; but if you have a friend here, convey, convey him out. Be not amazed. Call all your senses to you. Defend your reputation, or bid farewell to your good life for ever.

MRS. FORD What shall I do? There is a gentleman, my dear friend; and I fear not mine own shame so much as his peril. I had rather than a thousand pound he were out of the house.

MRS. PAGE For shame, never stand 'you had rather' and 'you had rather'. Your husband's here at hand. Bethink you of some conveyance: in the house you cannot hide him. O, how have you deceived me! Look, here is a basket. If he be of any reasonable stature, he may creep in here; and throw foul linen upon him, as if it were going to bucking. – send him by your two men to Datchet Mead.

MRS. FORD He's too big to go in there. What shall I do?

FALSTAFF *[Coming forward]* Let me see't, let me see't, O, let me see't! I'll in, I'll in. Follow your friend's counsel; I'll in.

MRS. PAGE What, Sir John Falstaff! *[Aside to him]* Are these your letters, knight?

FALSTAFF *[Aside to MISTRESS PAGE]* I love thee. Help me away. Let me creep in here.

FALSTAFF goes into the basket

I'll never –

MISTRESS PAGE and FORD cover him with foul linen