Traveling Players

MYTHOLOGY ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS

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?
- Other Mythology Ensemble auditionees – also performing a monologue
- Morgan Shotwell, Director of Middle School Programs – hosting the audition

6th graders: *Interested in Thespian Ensemble and/or Comedy Ensemble - Jesters?*
If one of these is your ***first-choice*** *Ensemble, then attend that audition. You only need to audition once with one prepared piece.*

WHY DO YOU HOST GROUP AUDITIONS INSTEAD OF VIDEO SUBMISSIONS?
Some theatre camps have students submit a video of a monologue as their audition. We do it a little differently here at Traveling Players.

Your monologue is a memorized performance when you fully embody a character without a script in front of you. The monologue, 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 with and create with this summer.

We have designed our auditions to give you as many ways to shine as possible. 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. Roles get auditioned during the first couple of days of camp, when your whole Ensemble will be together for the first time.

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 welcome to Traveling Players an incredible summer and rewarding challenge!

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THE MONOLOGUE:

- **Choose one** of the three monologues to prepare.
- This monologue **must be memorized**. You cannot read it.

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 thoughts and 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 full water bottle close by. 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 the monologue well enough that you don't have to struggle to remember it - instead, you can take us on the 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 monologue to perform. Actors may choose any monologue regardless of gender.

MONOLOGUE #1

Persephone from *Persephone*

Persephone, recently kidnapped to the Underworld, confronts her kidnapper, Hades.

PERSEPHONE Mad at you??? I hate and despise you! You are the lowest of the low! The slimiest of the slime! Don't even speak to me! (*HADES tentatively stands up.*) Sit down! Sit Down!!! Don't you come near me — You disgusting creep!!!! You loathsome— monster! Don't you dare take another step!!!

MONOLOGUE #2

Hades from *Persephone*

Hades was just struck by Cupid's arrow, making him fall in love with Persephone, whom he takes to the Underworld. He now nervously attempts to explain his actions.

HADES The weird thing is *I have to – I have to say it.*
How much I like you, I mean – more than anybody else I've ever liked a lot – not that there have been many. Not *any.* I mean I never really felt about anybody this way before – the way I feel about you, Persephone.
I – think – (*Big breath)* I'm *sure.* I'm ***positive.***
Jeez, why is this so hard!!!? (*He starts to sway and faint, but catches himself.*)
(*Firmly*) Persephone, I love you.

MONOLOGUE #3

Ascapalous from *Persephone*

Ascapalous, Hades gardener, tries to convince Persephone to eat fruit of the Underworld. He knows that if she eats it, she will be trapped in the Underworld forever.

ASCAPALOUS It's a pom-er-gran-ate. See? You don't eat the outside — but inside — the seeds are like candy. It's juicy. All I'm sayin' is you oughta' try it. You miss the sunshine, don'cha? It's like I'm tastin' sunshine. *(He is slurping the juice.)* Mmmm, mmmm. *(He wipes the juice from his chin.)* Go on — try it yerself.