Traveling Players

SHAKESPEARE TROUPE 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! (Yes, it's a long audition. Take your vitamins!)

WHO WILL BE AT THE AUDITION?

- Shakespeare Troupe auditionees – performing a monologue
- Jeanne E. Harrison, Artistic Director of Traveling Players – hosting the audition

Interested in Shakespeare Ensemble (3 weeks), Comedy Ensemble (3 weeks) & Shakespeare Troupe (6 weeks)? Audition for Shakespeare Troupe and you'll be considered for all three programs.

WHY DO YOU HOST GROUP AUDITIONS INSTEAD OF VIDEO SUBMISSIONS?

Actors can be particularly strong at movement, improv, 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 monologue is the only opportunity for the director to see you perform memorized Shakespeare. However, it is only a few minutes of your audition, and it cannot give us all of the information we need to select you.

In addition to your monologue, you will create original scenes, play improvisation games, do movement/imagination activities, and read for several roles in the play. The director for Shakespeare Troupe won an award for her integration of classical and physical theatre, so expect to move. We'll also discuss the play and our performance tour.

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?

Yes and no. You are auditioning to be a member of Troupe; however, we will do that by auditioning you for this summer's play. If accepted, you'll return for a casting audition in May. Troupe is the only ensemble that is cast before summer. (None of our roles are pre-cast. All roles are available.)

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. It's not uncommon to be called back, so do not be surprised if that happens. We want to give everyone we welcome this summer an incredible and rewarding challenge!

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THE MONOLOGUE:

- Prepare a monologue from any Shakespeare play except for this summer's title (*King Lear*).
- This monologue **must be memorized**. You cannot read it.
- It should be roughly 14 lines (12-16 lines is fine). Ideally, it has a character arc or journey.
- You can choose a monologue from a character of any gender or age.

Some helpful guidelines for the monologue:

- Specificity: Do I understand all the words? Do I know what's happening in this scene? Do I know the plot of the play? Is it a monologue or a soliloquy? (Either is fine.)
- Connection: Do I understand the character I'm portraying and their circumstances? Am I speaking loudly and clearly enough so my audience can understand me?
- Motivation/acting tactics: Do I understand *why* this character says each line? Do I make a choice or discovery? Will it be clear to my audience?
- Physicality: Are my physical gestures connected to my words and character? How can I engage my whole body in the performance?

Questions? Just ask! Call us at 703-987-1712 or email us at jeharrison@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. You will need two screens during the audition – your desktop for the bulk of the audition, and your phone for when you are reading sides. This will allow you to read the sides more easily and give you freedom of movement, too.

IN PERSON @ OUR TYSONS STUDIO:
Before arriving, please be sure to eat - no starving artists! You will likely have to bring a meal, too, since our auditions are long. 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 take us on the character's journey. Then research ***King Lear*** - you certainly don't need to be an expert! - but know the characters and plot. Ideally, read the play.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO GETS IN?

We accept actors into Shakespeare Troupe who are a good fit for the Troupe 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, artistic risk-taking, clarity of storytelling, spontaneity, and stamina are the qualities that allow Shakespeare Troupe performers to thrive.

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!