Traveling Players

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

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 that will perform the play. If cast, you will participate in another round of auditions during the first weekend of rehearsals to assign roles.

I'M IN 6th GRADE – HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT PLAY I WILL BE IN?

6th grade is a swing year, which means you can be cast in either *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* or *Willey and the Hairy Man*. You should audition for the play you are most interested in, and we will consider it your first choice when casting. Most actors are cast in their first choice; however, we occasionally cast actors in a different play if it will give them a better artistic challenge.

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!

HOW DO I GET BETTER AT ACTING?

Practice! Every time you perform, you can get better – more comfortable in front of an audience, more specific character interpretation, more vocal projection, and more precise enunciation, etc.

Just for our 4th – 6th graders, we are also offering a class in Acting & Improv this winter. You could take a class in addition to performing in the play, or you could take the class instead. There's no audition to join the class. If you are not accepted into this cast, we hope that you will take a class – and that we'll see you in our next cast!

We're an educational theatre company. All we want is to see you flourish - on stage and off stage!

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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!

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? Are they real or imaginary? Or something else entirely?
    - 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.

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!

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

Side 1 – Musicians

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* calls for live music to be played throughout the performance.**

If you play an **easily transportable instrument** and would like to show your skills, please bring your instrument and prepare a short piece (no longer than 16 bars/30 seconds). The piece can be in any musical style you choose.

You do NOT need to play a musical instrument to be cast.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE
Side 2 – Father, Abilene, Traveler, Edward

Abilene is a young girl living in the 1920s. She lives in a grand house with her Mother, Father, and Grandmother, Pellegrina.

FATHER Abilene! Come along now, You'll be late for school.

ABILENE I'm almost ready, Father. I just have to put Edward in his chair.

FATHER Oh, I know.

ABILENE Father?

FATHER Oh. Good morning, Edward. You're looking dapper as always.

ABILENE holds up EDWARD to her ear

ABILENE What's that, Edward? Oh. (*To her FATHER*) He says thank you, and that you look rather dapper yourself.

FATHER Thank you, Edward. (*Exits*)

TRAVELER Now, Edward didn't say any such thing. He couldn't say anything with his painted mouth after all. And what he was really thinking was…

EDWARD I do look good, don't I? Now fix my tie. I'm sure it's crooked. You really should be more careful with the tie.

ABILENE Oh, your watch. I remember. There you are. When the big hand is on twelve and the little hand is on three, I will come home to you.

FATHER (*Reentering*) Abilene.

ABILENE and her FATHER leave. EDWARD calls after them.

EDWARD The tie! Fix the tie! Oh, dear.

TRAVELER And so, Edward Tulane spent his days staring out upon Egypt Street, listening to the ticking of his watch. And at three o'clock, Abilene would return.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

Side 3 – Pellegrina

Abilene's grandmother, Pellegrina, spins a fantastical bedtime fairytale.

PELLEGRINA Once there was a princess who was very beautiful. She shone as bright as the stars on a moonless night.

But what difference did it make that she was beautiful? She was a princess who loved no one and cared nothing for love, even though there were many who loved her. One day, a prince from another kingdom came. As soon as he saw the princess, he fell in love with her. He gave her a ring of pure gold. Placing it on her finger he said, "I love you." But do you know what the princess did?

She took the ring off her finger, put it in her mouth, and she swallowed it. "That is what I think of love," she said, and she ran away, deep into the woods. Looking around she realized that she was lost.

Listen. Eventually, she came upon a little hut. Inside the hut, the princess saw an old witch. "I am a beautiful princess. My father is a powerful king. You must help me or there will be consequences." At this, the witch said, "Consequences? You dare talk to me of consequences? Very well then, tell me the name of the one you love." "Love! I love no one," said the princess proudly." "You disappoint me," said the witch raising her hand. In an instant, the beautiful princess was changed into a warthog. The warthog princess ran from the hut, back into the woods. There she came across several men. They had been sent by the king to find a beautiful princess, so when they found an ugly warthog, they shot it. Pow.

Yes. The men took the warthog back to the castle. There, the cook slit open its belly and found a ring of pure gold. The cook put the ring on her finger and finished butchering the warthog. The end.

Side 4 – Pellegrina, Abilene

Abilene's grandmother, Pellegrina, spins a fantastical bedtime fairytale. To read the full fairytale, please see ***SIDE 3.***

PELLEGRINA Listen. Eventually, she came upon a little hut. Inside the hut, the princess saw an old witch. "I am a beautiful princess. My father is a powerful king. You must help me or there will be consequences." At this, the witch said, "Consequences? You dare talk to me of consequences? Very well then, tell me the name of the one you love." "Love! I love no one," said the princess proudly." "You disappoint me," said the witch raising her hand. In an instant, the beautiful princess was changed into a warthog. The warthog princess ran from the hut, back into the woods. There she came across several men. T hey had been sent by the king to find a beautiful princess, so when they found an ugly warthog, they shot it. Pow.

ABILENE No!

PELLEGRINA Yes. The men took the warthog back to the castle. There, the cook slit open its belly and found a ring of pure gold. The cook put the ring on her finger and finished butchering the warthog. The end.

ABILENE No!

PELLEGRINA Yes. The end.

ABILENE But it can't be. No one is living happily ever after.

PELLEGRINA Ah, but how can a story end happily if there is no love? Now, it's late, and you must go to sleep. Tomorrow, a new adventure begins.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

Side 5 – Edward, Amos, Abilene, Martin

Abilene and Edward have set off on the Queen Mary, a luxury ocean liner which will take them to their new home. While aboard, they have a run in with some older children.

EDWARD Look I have more admirers approaching. Get out of the way.

AMOSWhat's he supposed to be wearing?

ABILENE It's a sailor suit. It's very fashionable.

EDWARD I don't like these two heathen. Take me away.

ABILENE He has many different outfits. He even has his own silk pajamas.

MARTIN You hear that, Amos? He has silk pajamas. Let me see him.

MARTIN grabs EDWARD and runs away from ABILENE. AMOS blocks ABILENE as MARTIN starts pulling the shoes off of EDWARD.

ABILENE No!

EDWARD Stop it! Young man, I demand you release me at once.

ABILENE escapes from AMOS and approaches MARTIN

ABILENE Give him to me!

EDWARD This is so humiliating!

MARTIN Oh, I'm sorry. Here you are.

MARTIN throws EDWARD to AMOS

EDWARD Noooooo!

MARTIN Oops. Good catch, Amos!

ABILENE Don't throw him, he's made of china! He'll break!

MARTIN Throw him back to me!

The boys continue to toss EDWARD back and forth. AMOS runs near the railing at the edge of the deck

ABILENE He's mine. Give him to me!

Just as AMOS is about to throw EDWARD, ABILENE tackles AMOS. EDWARD flies over the railing.

Side 6 – Traveler, Edward

Edward is thrown overboard the Queen Mary and ends up on the ocean floor.

TRAVELER Abilene disappeared from view, as Edward Tulane hit the water.

And he began to sink. He went down and down. Finally he landed on the ocean floor, facedown in the muck.

EDWARD I don't like this. I don't like this one bit.

TRAVELER Hours passed.

EDWARD Abilene will come and find me. It's just like waiting for her to come home from school. If only I had my watch

TRAVELER Days passed. And Abilene didn't come.

EDWARD As bright as the stars on a moonless night. I'll never see the stars again.

TRAVELER Weeks passed.

EDWARD Why did the beautiful princess become a warthog?

TRAVELER And then months. Then a powerful storm came.

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Side 7 – Lawrence

Lawrence, an old fisherman, pulls Edward out of the ocean with his daily catch.

LAWRENCE You ain't no fish, that's for sure. You're a rabbit I reckon. A toy rabbit. I'll take you home to Nellie. She'll fix you up.

Wait till Nellie gets sight of you. You'll like Nellie. She's had her sadness, but she's an all-right girl. Now, look up there. That's your North Star. You don't never have to be lost when you know where that fella is.

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SIDE 8 – Edward, Nellie

Edward (who has been renamed Susanna) gets to know his new home and Lawrence's wife, Nellie.

EDWARD No. Don't set me by the window. Anyone walking by will see me in this ridiculous dress.

NELLIE It gets lonely here all day while Lawrence is at sea. Back when the children were little, I had my hands full. But now the days can seem awful empty.

EDWARD At least you're not on the bottom of the ocean with your head in the muck.

NELLIE I guess you know a thing or two about loneliness yourself.

EDWARD Loneliness. Yes.

NELLIE But now you're here, Susanna from the sea. Do you like the dress? My daughter, Lolly, is our oldest. Then there is Ralph. Then there was Raymond. He died when he was just five years old. Pneumonia. It is the worst thing – to watch somebody you love die right in front of you, and not be able to do nothing about it.

EDWARD You've had your sadness.

NELLIE I suppose you think I'm daft, talking to a toy. But it seems to me that you're listening, Susanna.

EDWARD I am, Nellie. I am.

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SIDE 9 – Bull, Jack, Edward

Edward (now renamed Malone) has been rescued from the dump and refashioned into an outlaw by the hobo Bull. He now travels with Bull and his dog Lucy, getting to know the other people on the road.

BULL Hello there, Jack.

JACK Hey, Bull. Hey, Malone. Hello, Lucy.

LUCY barks happily.

JACK I used to have a dog. His name was Bullet.

BULL What happened to Bullet?

JACK He's watching after my family back in North Carolina.

EDWARD North Carolina.

JACK Look at Malone. He's listening to every dang word we're saying.

BULL He's a great listener. He helps me to remember.

JACK Does he? Say, do you think I could have a word with Malone?

BULL Of course you can.

JACK takes EDWARD and moves a little away from the others. He whispers to EDWARD. BULL plays a harmonica under the following.

JACK I want to tell you about my kids. Helen and Jack Junior, and Taffy. I had to leave them. I had to. There was no work, and I had to find some. Now, something could happen to me, and then… Helen, Jack Junior, and Taffy. You remember their names, OK Malone?

EDWARD Helen, Jack Junior, and Taffy. I'll remember Jack.

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SIDE 10 – Edward, Watchman, Bull, Lucy

Edward, Bull, and Lucy go to sleep in a boxcar. Edward is left to keep watch.

EDWARD Bull! Someone's coming! Bull!

The WATCHMAN jumps into the railcar and, seeing BULL kicks him.

WATCHMAN Hey, you bum! Wake up! You think this is a motel?

The train starts to move.

WATCHMAN You just got lucky. They don't let us throw you out of moving trains no more.

The WATCHMAN sees EDWARD. He picks him up.

WATCHMAN What's this?

BULL That's Malone.

WATCHMAN Malone, hun? Now I've seen everything. A bum with a toy rabbit.

LUCY growls

EDWARD It's alright, Lucy.

BULL It's alright, Lucy.

WATCHMAN Sure it's all right. Hey, Lucy, you ever see a rabbit fly? Watch. Better yet, fetch!

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SIDE 11 – Bryce

Bryce, a young boy, rescues Edward from an Old Woman who has been using him as a scarecrow.

BRYCE My little sister had herself a baby doll that was made out of china just like you. She loved that baby doll, but he broke it. He come home drunk, stepped on the doll's head and smashed it into a hundred million pieces.

BRYCE stops and wipes his nose.

Sarah Ruth ain't had nothing to play with since. He says she don't need nothing because she's sick and ain't gonna live. But he don't know.

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Side 12 – Edward

Edward thinks about Sarah Ruth, Bryce's sick little sister.

EDWARD If I had wings, I would fly high up to the stars, where the air is clear and sweet. I would hold Sarah Ruth in my arms, and there, high above the world she could breathe and laugh and talk, and she wouldn't have to cough again.

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Side 13 – Old Doll, Edward

Edward, who has once again lost his family, finds himself newly repaired in a toy shop on a shelf next to another doll.

OLD DOLL Hello. Have you been here long?

EDWARD Yes, months and months. But I don't care. One place is the same as the other.

OLD DOLL But that's not true! I've lived for a hundred years, and I've been in countless places and they are never the same. And I am never the same either. In every place, I become a different doll.

EDWARD One hundred years?

OLD DOLL At least. That's what the doll mender said. And from the cracks on your face, I would guess that you have seen a bit of life as well, yes?

EDWARD Yes.

OLD DOLL My face has its share of cracks. We both have had the chance to learn some of life's lessons.

EDWARD Hard lessons.

OLD DOLL Wonderful lessons. And we keep learning, don't we? Every time a new person comes into our lives. We start on a new adventure. I wonder who will come for me this time.

EDWARD I don't care if anyone comes for me. I'm done with being loved. I'm done with loving. It's too painful.

OLD DOLL Pish! Where's your courage?

EDWARD I guess I'm done with that too.

OLD DOLL You disappoint me.

EDWARD What did you say?

OLD DOLL You heard me. You disappoint me. If you have no intention to love and be loved, then the whole journey is pointless. You might as well leap from this shelf right now and get it over with.

EDWARD I would leap if I were able.

OLD DOLL Shall I push you?

EDWARD No, thank you. Not that you could, anyway.

OLD DOLL Open your heart. Someone will come. But first, you must open your heart.

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Side 14 – Traveler

The Traveler tells a story.

TRAVELER Once there was a china rabbit who was loved by a little girl. On an ocean journey, the rabbit fell overboard and was rescued by a fisherman who gave the rabbit to his wife. The rabbit was buried under garbage and unburied by a dog. He traveled with hobos and, for a short time, was a scarecrow.

Once there was a rabbit who loved a little girl and watched her die. The rabbit danced on the streets of Memphis to the music of a sad little boy. The rabbit's head was broken in a diner and put together again by a doll mender. And the rabbit swore that he would not make the mistake of loving again.

Once there was a rabbit who danced in a garden with the daughter of the woman who had loved him at the beginning of his journey. As they danced in circles it was almost as if they had wings and were flying.

Once, oh marvelous once, there was a rabbit who found his way home.