

**TRAVELING PLAYERS WINTER '22**  
*THE ODYSSEY – AUDITION SIDES*

**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 read a few scenes, play improvisation games, and participate in ensemble building activities. 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 SIDES:**

- Familiarize yourself with the scenes below and their source mythologies to prepare.
- These scenes **do not need to be memorized.**
- You'll read these scenes as part of your audition with Emma Mearns and Morgan Shotwell.
- Some helpful guidelines as you prepare:
  - Do I understand all the words? Have I looked up any words or phrases I don't understand?
  - Do I understand why these characters say 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 [info@travelingplayers.org](mailto:info@travelingplayers.org).**

**ON AUDITION DAY:**

Eat before you come to the Studio. 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 WINTER '22**  
*THE ODYSSEY – AUDITION SIDES*

**Side 1 – Pallas Athena**

**The goddess Athena introduces the audience to the world of the play.**

**PALLAS ATHENA**

I, Pallas Athena, speak of Odysseus  
Whom the whole world knows  
Because of his famous journey.

I tell the story of resplendent Penelope,  
And of the many young suitors  
Who demand that she marry.

I tell the story of wandering Odysseus  
Whom father Zeus calls the cleverest man alive.

Ten years of war against the mighty Trojans  
Nine years of wandering and captivity  
Even to the point of despair  
Until I, Pallas Athena, lead him home.  
Home to Ithaca, to his wife Penelope,  
to his son Telemachus  
to wreak vengeance on the spoilers.

Even now, I go there myself disguised  
As an old poet, singing my songs and begging food,  
While Odysseus struggles in vain  
To sail back to his home.

**TRAVELING PLAYERS WINTER '22**  
*THE ODYSSEY – AUDITION SIDES*

**Side 2 Penelope, Antinous**

**Penelope's husband Odysseus has been away for many years, Antinous believes that she should remarry (so that he can be king of Ithaca). Penelope hopes her husband is still alive.**

**ANTINOUS**

Then I shall speak prudently, and to fairest Penelope.

**PENELOPE**

Speak, Antinous, I shall listen.

**ANTINOUS**

As long as there was any hope that your husband would return, none of us could blame you for waiting. Daughter of Icarus, the time for waiting is over. Odysseus is gone forever. All the men in Argos will fill this house, for in beauty there is no one to match you.

**PENELOPE**

Alas, all beauty that I had was destroyed when Odysseus embarked for Troy. Now I am alone, and my house is cursed with strangers.

**ANTINOUS**

Madam, your husband has been gone for nineteen years. Some wave has washed him into the sea. He is either dead or lost forever. Therefore, you must pick the best, most generous of your suitors, marry him and go live in his house. Then Telemachus can enjoy his natural inheritance. It is the custom fair Penelope.

**PENELOPE**

The custom? None of you observe the custom! Surely it is the oldest of customs for suitors to entertain the lady, bring her gifts, not carouse at her expense.

**ANTINOUS**

You speak true. That is our custom, but we shall not leave your palace until you agree to choose a husband.

**PENELOPE**

I see. Very well, you have driven me to this moment. Antinous, we may both observe the custom. If all the suitors will bring their traditional matrimonial gifts to the palace, I shall select one to be my husband. Will you accept my choice?

**ANTINOUS**

I will!

**TRAVELING PLAYERS WINTER '22**  
*THE ODYSSEY – AUDITION SIDES*

**Side 3 – Old Man, Hylax, Perites, Eurylochus, Peremides, Odysseus**

**Odysseus and his sailors come upon Ithaca, after having been gone for 11 years.**

**HYLAX**

Land ahead! Ithaca!

**PERITES**

Rocky Ithaca! We're home! We're home!

**HYLAX**

I'll wake Odysseus.

**EURYLOCHUS**

No, don't wake him yet. It will be at least an hour before we reach shore.

**HYLAX**

I can't wait.

**EURYLOCHUS**

Then start bringing our cargo on deck.

**PERITES**

Well, this is the biggest pouch.

*(He has the large bag of wind King Aeolous gave them)*

**PEREMIDES**

Wherever we go they always gave him costly treasures, but they never gave anything to us. We ought to have a share in all these treasures.

**HYLAX**

If we want any of this, we had better take it for ourselves – and now!

*(They all open the sack, which begins to tremble and make an increasingly loud humming sound until it whirls all of them about, wakes ODYSSEUS and they are in a terrible storm, all clinging to the mast which almost blows over. Eventually the storm subsides)*

**ODYSSEUS**

Hear my words men. We are fortunate to escape from those winds, but they have blown us I-know-not-where. We are lost. I cannot even tell which is east and which is west.

**TRAVELING PLAYERS WINTER '22**  
*THE ODYSSEY – AUDITION SIDES*

**Side 4 – Circe, Peremides, Hylax**

**While exploring the island, Peremides and Hylax come upon the enchantress Circe.**

**CIRCE**

Sweetly, sweet, let darkness come,  
Sad night sings in hollow tones,  
Rest is near and sorrow gone.  
Lay thy swords upon the earth,  
Voyager, whose weeping wakes  
The forest with thy human tale.

**PEREMIDES**

Have mercy upon us, goddess or woman, whichever you are.

**CIRCE**

Strangers you are welcome to the Island of Aea.

**HYLAX**

Thank you, lovely lady. We are Greeks searching our way home to Ithaca. And I ask, who are you?

**CIRCE**

I am the goddess, Circe. My father is the Sun who lights the earth, and my mother is Perse, Daughter of the Ocean. You are welcome, refresh yourselves from your journey with this honey-wine in its golden bowl.

*(As they drink the wine, the men are magically transformed into pigs. When CIRCE touches them, they drop to all fours – the transformation complete)*

**HYLAX**

Hmmm. What a splendid taste. Oink, oink.

**PEREMIDES** *(Giggling and drifting into oinks)*

This is delicious. Hylax, your nose. It's beginning to look just like an oink– I mean a pig!

**HYLAX**

Well, oink yourself, you old oink, oink, oink, oink.

**CIRCE**

And now, sailors, my powerful drug steals away your memory of home in Ithaca. You are pigs! You grunt like pigs, but your minds are human. You eat like pigs, some acorns, eat acorns. Come piggies, follow me...

**TRAVELING PLAYERS WINTER '22**  
*THE ODYSSEY – AUDITION SIDES*

**Side 5 – Odysseus, Hermes**

**Odysseus meets the god Hermes.**

**ODYSSEUS**

Ha! Who are you!

**HERMES**

Wouldn't you like to know!

**ODYSSEUS**

Watch your tongue, man. I do not like your insolence either. I have killed men for less.

**HERMES**

To kill me you would have to catch me. To catch me, you'd have to run to Mount Olympus and back as fast as this!

*(HERMES makes as though he leaps into space at incredible speed; ODYSSEUS' eyes follow this imagined journey with amazement. Finally, HERMES taps him on the shoulder.)*

Hello, there. I'm back.

**ODYSSEUS**

I know who you are. You must be Hermes.

**HERMES** *(Simultaneously with him)*

Hermes! Son of Zeus and his messenger on earth to you silly mortals.

**ODYSSEUS**

I heard you were something of a trickster.

**HERMES**

Ah, well, you need a master trickster, Odysseus, Circe will turn you into a pig, too.

**ODYSSEUS**

Please do, Hermes. Help me rescue my men.

**HERMES**

That is the reason Pallas Athena asked me to come to you. Well, all right with this. Take this flower-herb, called Moly, with its white flower and black root. It is the antidote to the drug Circe will give you. Come closer, even the leaves in the forest have Circe's ears.

Now, do what I have told you and no harm will come to you.

**ODYSSEUS**

Hermes, guardian of the wayfarer, I thank you.

**TRAVELING PLAYERS WINTER '22**  
*THE ODYSSEY – AUDITION SIDES*

**Side 6 – Odysseus, Anticlea**

**Odysseus meets his dead mother, Anticlea, while traveling in the Underworld.**

**ANTICLEA**

Nobel son... Odysseus, my boy...

**ODYSSEUS**

Who is it that calls my name?

**ANTICLEA**

I am your mother, Anticlea. Give me but one drink that I may speak with you.

**ODYSSEUS**

Alas, dear mother! Here, drink one sip and tell me what has brought you to this place.

**ANTICLEA**

My son, it was no disease that brought me to this place of darkness. It was my longing for you to return from Troy that brought my life to an end.

**ODYSSEUS**

We are now reunited. Let me embrace you once more. Why do you avoid me? May I not hold you in my arms once more?

**ANTICLEA**

You can't. I am only a spirit now. It is the fate of mankind. I have no flesh, no bones. You must fly from this black place. It is no place for you, the living. Go back...go back... go back to the lighted world.

*(She exits)*

**ODYSSEUS**

I cannot go until I see Teiresias. Oh, mother, please return. What a terrible place this is. Lord Hades, I beseech you send the blind prophet Teiresias, that I may speak with him.