Traveling Players

THESPIAN 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?
- Thespian Ensemble auditionees – performing a monologue
- Comedy Ensemble auditionees – performing a "non-ologue" (original rehearsed story)
- Morgan Shotwell, Director of Middle School Programs – hosting the audition

Interested in Thespian Ensemble & Comedy Ensemble- Jesters?
You only need one prepared piece. Prepare for your ***first-choice*** *Ensemble.*

8th graders: *Interested in Shakespeare Ensemble and/or Comedy Ensemble - Touchstones?*
Most of our 8th graders are accepted into Thespian ensembles, but if your ***first-choice*** *Ensemble is a High School program, then attend that audition. You only need to audition once.*

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 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 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. 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?
- Are my physical gestures connected to my words and character?
- How can I engage my whole body in the performance? (This doesn't necessarily mean *moving* your whole body.)
- Am I speaking loudly and clearly enough so my audience can understand me?

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. Then research the play a bit - you certainly don't need to be an expert! - but know the characters and plot.

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 Option #1:

Fata Morgana from *The Love for Three Oranges*

Fata Morgana, an all-powerful witch, has just been humiliated in front of the whole court. In revenge, she lays a curse on the heir to the throne, Prince Tartaglia.

FATA MORGANA You've never known love?
Here's a present from me.
You'll fall in love with an Orange
Better yet, make it three!
These three specific oranges
You'll chase round the globe
Cause I won't let you stop
Till you wear your death robe.
Nothing else will suffice
Not cheese or soda fizz
The cause of your death
Will be the love of three oranges!

Monologue Option #2:

Truffaldino from *The Love for Three Oranges*

Truffaldino and Prince Tartaglia have spent many days journeying through the desert in their cursed quest for the three oranges. With the oranges now acquired, they have stopped to take a rest. While Tartaglia sleeps, Truffaldino contemplates stealing a taste of their juicy prize.

TRUFFALDINO Sweet, juicy orbs! Three! Ah, treble bliss! Font of my bequenchment! What if–? No, I mustn't. And yet… just one? If I died of thirst, then the Prince, my poor Prince, my good Prince, my kind, understanding Prince would be left all alone. (*To the sleeping* TARTAGLIA*)* Oh my noble lord! If you wish me to live and remain ever your faithful squire, say absolutely nothing! (TARTAGLIA *does not respond.*) Thy will be done.

Monologue Option #3:

Tartaglia from *The Love for Three Oranges*

After rescuing Ninetta from her pulpy prison, Prince Tartaglia declares his love to her and regales his new bride with the tale of her rescue.

TARTAGLIA Nothing could have stopped me in my flight towards you, beloved! My love is stronger than cough drops, hotter than a compress. I did not flinch from tempests contrary; nor heed disasters culinary. I did not fear the frightful Creonta, I overcame that horrifying Cook! I ventured into the hell of her kitchen and felled her fatal ladle with the force of my love!