

TRAVELING PLAYERS ENSEMBLE THESPIAN ENSEMBLE

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 perform a memorized monologue, play improvisation games, and participate in group discussions as well as talk to the director one on one.

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 MONOLOGUE:

- **Choose one** (1) of the three (3) monologues below to prepare. (Note: Any actor of any gender may choose to perform any of the three monologues)
- This monologue **must be memorized**. You won't be able to read it from the paper when you perform it.
- You'll perform your monologue to the rest the auditionees plus Morgan Shotwell & Katie Elliott, the Thespian Ensemble Directors
- 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?

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 outreach@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. Relax and have fun -- you're going to do great! You could very likely learn new skills and make new friends!

The monologues are from the play *Sganarelle*, a comedy by Moliere. It is one of two plays that the Thespian Ensemble will be performing this summer.

Summary: Sganarelle thinks his wife loves another man. His wife thinks her husband loves another woman. And the other man and the other woman actually love each other – not either of the married folks. An innocent mistake and a mysterious locket land two couples on a rollercoaster ride of mistakes, confusion, threats, counter-threats, and jumping to conclusions.

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Monologue Option #1

Gorgibus lays down the law and tells his (or her) daughter, Celie, who she must marry.

GORGIBUS: In other words, Miss Mutineer, be wise,
Forget this nonsense, and accept the prize
We're offering you. You think I've no idea
What sort of man comes with it? Have no fear.
I'm told Valere is well provided for —
A private fortune — who could ask for more?
The thousands he'll inherit
Are yours for love, provided you can spare it.
Who cares about his faults when every taint
Is worth its weight in gold? The boy's a saint.

Monologue Option #2

Gros-Rene tries to convince his boss, Lelie, to take a rest and grab a bite of food before they
continue on to find his love, Celie.

GROS-RENE: Yes, but to get you in the proper mood
To check on her you need a plate of food
Inside you. Then, Sir, if the news is bleak
It won't be such a strain on your physique.
I find myself that when I haven't eaten
The slightest misadventure leaves me beaten.
But when I've had a decent meal, together
With some fine sack to wash it down, I weather
The roughest storms of destiny. So stuff
Your stomach, Sir; too much is not enough.
And if you want to shut out troubles, line
Your heart with twenty brimming mugs of wine.

Monologue Option #3

Martine believes that she has just caught her husband cheating on her with a younger woman.

MARTINE: Now I'm convinced he's up to something — what?
The little that I saw explains a lot.
At last I understand the freezing glances
I get in answer to my warm advances.
He's saving his embraces for some younger
Acquaintance while I, poor woman, hunger.
They're all alike, these husbands in captivity:
Give them their freedom and they take a liberty.