Traveling Players

WILEY AND THE HAIRY MAN

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 *Wiley and the Hairy Man* or *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. 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 3rd – 6th graders, we are also offering classes in Improv as well as 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. If you have a phone, 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 know the story of the play. You certainly don't need to be an expert! Read the sides listed below and become familiar with 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!

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WILEY AND THE HAIRY MAN

Side 1 – 1st, Chorus, 2nd, Mama, Wiley

This is the opening scene, when we learn that the Hairy Man lives in the swamp by Wiley's house. Wiley lives with his Mama. The Hairy Man killed Wiley's Papa.

1st Now this here the story of the Hairy Man,
How Wiley and his mama made the Hairy Man
Stomp
And rage
And guh-nash his teeth.

CHORUS Guh-nash his teeth**.**

1st Poor Wiley's papa had a-fallen in the hands of the Hairy Man.

2nd A dancer and a dreamer Wiley's papa was he,
And he fell in the hands of the Hairy Man

CHORUS (*Terrified whisper*) Hairy Mannnn.

1st (*Building on his previous line*). In the hairy, scary hands of the Hairy Mannnn.

CHORUS (*Building on their previous speech*) Hairy Mannnn.

1st And Wiley's mama said to Wiley, "Wiley, Wiley!" said she.

MAMA Wiley.

WILEY Yasm.

MAMA Wiley!

WILEY Yasm.

MAMA He done got yo papa.

2nd Said Mama said she,

MAMA You better be keerful–

WILEY Or he gonna git me…Yasm.

Wiley's DOGS playd by two CHORUS MEMBERS, bound about WILEY

1st So Wiley, whereever he went, took his dogs,

2nd Cause the Hairy Man sho cain't stand no dogs.

Dogs growl fiercley, but wag their tails as WILEY pets them.

CHORUS (*Exuberantly*) Everybody knows that.

(*Hushed; shrinking together, frightened.)* Everybody knows that.

WILEY AND THE HAIRY MAN

Side 2 – Chorus, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Wiley sees the Hairy Man for the first time. The Chorus becomes the Hairy Man.

CHORUS Oh, lookee there, Wiley.

2nd And then he looked up –

As heads snap up, and eyes and mouths make three great "O"s as they stare in horror out over AUDIENCE.

CHORUS A-comin through the trees, a-comin through the trees.

1st What did he see a-comin through the trees?

CHORUS He saw the Hairy Man,

3rd The Hairy Man,

CHORUS (*Reaching the first climax.*) He saw the scary face of the Hairy Man!
(Suddenly soft then building to face)
He saw the scary, stary, very hairy and unmerry, most unordinary face (*Coming down.*)
Of the Hairy Man, the Hairy Man.

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Side 3 – Wiley, Hairy Man, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Mama

If you trick the hairy Man three times, then he leaves you alone forever. Wiley has tricked him once. Now Mama and the Chorus help try to trick him a second time.

WILEY Can you take a thing that's really here
And make that thing plumb disappear?

HAIRY MAN Huh!

2nd Said the Hairy Man, blowin on his nails
And shinin 'em real stuck up, on his chest

HAIRY MAN That there is my spe-ci-a-li-ty!
Take a look at that ole birdnest there!

CHORUS follows his gesture, then gasp at what they see.

CHORUS And sho nuff
When Wiley looked,
It was gone.

MAMA But Wiley he looked skepatickle.

HAIRY MAN Now take a look at yo shirt.

CHORUS And sho nuff,
When Wiley looked,
It was gone.

MAMA But Wiley he looked skepatickle.

HAIRY MAN Wiley, you a-lookin mighty skepatickle.

WILEY Hairy Man, ah *is* mighty skepatickle.

HAIRY MAN What ah gotta do to make you *un*skepatickle?

WILEY Well–

1st Said Wiley,

WILEY You see this rope tied round my pants?

HAIRY MAN Mm-hmm.

WILEY Ah know it's here.
Ah bet you cain't make this rope here disappear!

HAIRY MAN Huh! Ah can make the rope for miles around go way,
Cause this my country, and what ah says goes!

WILEY *Ah – is skepatickle!*

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Side 4 – Wiley, Hairy Man, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Hairy Man comes to grab Wiley, and Mama challenges the Hairy Man to a magic conjuring duel.

HAIRY MAN enters, and CHORUS hide behind MAMA and WILEY, who is in the attic, behind the CHORUS.

HAIRY MAN Mama! Ah is come!

CHORUS (*Softly, as though reminiscing*).
He done got you papa
And he gonna git –

HAIRY MAN (*Almost as if completing the CHORUS's statement, because it is MAMA he is really after; but the speech is purposely ambiguous.*) Mama! Come for you baby, Mama!

MAMA Well, you ain't a-gittin him!

HAIRY MAN Ah better git him,

2nd Said the Hairy Man,
Lookin as mean as the Hairy Man can,

HAIRY MAN Or: Ah'll turn into a spider and bite you.

MAMA Ah'll turn into a flice water and smite you.

HAIRY MAN Ah'll make the lightnin burn yo house.

MAMA Ah'll call the rain the house to douse.

HAIRY MAN Some mighty fancy rhymes there, Mama. (*At a loss.*)