

**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 four (4) monologues below to prepare.
- 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 of the auditionees plus Morgan Shotwell, the Thespian Ensemble Director, and Jeanne Harrison, the Artistic Director.

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 words 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 info@travelingplayers.org.

ON AUDITION DAY:

Before arriving: Please be sure to eat. Dress in clothes that will allow you to move comfortably. Bring a water bottle. Now relax and have fun -- you're going to do great! You could very likely learn new skills and make new friends!

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Monologue Option #1 – *Green Bird*

Barbarina explains to her twin brother Renzo the philosophical dangers of love.

BARBARINA

Love is the wellspring of warped desires. It breeds a mania for dressing in elaborate clothes and for playing at gallantry. It makes lovers look foolish and merchants sweat with worry if they've extended credit to anyone in love. I am not in love, and so my good fortune outweighs my poverty. Renzo, we must never fall in love, never contract friendships. Let us hold to the conclusion that men and women in general are proud, greedy, vain, vindictive and antisocial. Let us root out every trace of love and we will be happy!

Monologue Option #2 – *Green Bird*

Renzo apologizes to his adopted mother Columbia -- for rejecting her in favor of a life of grandeur and wealth.

RENZO

Leave me here. I deserve your hatred not your help. I've been so unkind to you. You rescued me from downing. You took care of me. In your unpretentious way, you gave me love and safety, and I rejected it in favor of my own selfish philosophy. Then when I became rich, I became insatiable, buffeted by a thousand conflicting desires. Now it is too late. I can see my errors. I have enough reason to loathe myself and my vanity. But reason, which calms others, only torments me.

Monologue Option #3 – *The Miser*

Harpagone, a wealthy old man, plots the best hiding spot for his money.

HARPAGONE

Where could I stow away those fifty thousand crowns, I took in yesterday? One hundred gold coins, legal tender, very tender. Very plump. In a cash box? Locked up? And buried? Aha! In the garden! It seemed logical at the time. But last night -- oh, what a night! -- I tossed, I fretted, I wept. Suppose some dog comes sniffing by and uproots the whole box? Or the gardeners start planting bulbs? Or somebody notices that the earth is soft, even though I stamped it down so that the spot is invisible? Invisible! Will I ever find it again? Fifty thousand little crowns, alone, lost out there, growing old...

Monologue Option #4 – *The Miser*

Frosine, a matchmaker, convinces her client Harpagone, a wealthy old man, that she has just the match for him.

FROSINE

And here's one more benefit I didn't mention. She hates young men. I wish you'd heard her on that subject. She admitted that the very sight of a young fellow grates on her. The older a man is, the more he charms her. Several months ago, she broke off an engagement when her fiancé confessed he was only fifty-six and didn't wear glasses. She enjoys looking at a man's nose when it has a pair of spectacles perched on it.