

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

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?

Yes, you are. Due to the compressed nature of the rehearsal process the remount is cast before rehearsals begin. You will be asked to read for a wide variety of roles and considered in many parts.

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 welcome 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 a class in Acting & Improv this winter. You could take the 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 the Acting & Improv 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!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

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. 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. If you were not in the play this summer and would like to read it, please send me an email. You certainly don't need to be an expert! Read the sides listed below and know 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?
 - 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.

Because this play is a remount of our summer camp production with a very limited rehearsal window, some priority will be given to actors who are returning to the cast, but everyone who auditions is eligible to play every role.

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!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT CHARACTER BREAKDOWN – THE BLUE MONSTER

In the Real World

LUCY/LUKE	Age 12-13. A young storyteller and master of the fictional world of Tilan. A sometimes cruel and capricious creator.
MOTHER	Their Mother
FATHER	Their Father

In the Hills of Tilan

SAGES OF THE SACRED HILL	All powerful deities and the source of magic in Tilan. They punish the kingdom in times of strife.
ZELOU	The Blue Monster and secretly a young mortal under a 1000-year curse.
DARDANE	A princess with a heart of gold, who has lived a sheltered and pampered life. Deeply in love with her new husband, Taer. She is transformed into FIDELE – a young servant boy.
TAER	A prince who is well known throughout the realms for heroism. Deeply in love with his new wife Dardane. He is transformed into THE BLUE MONSTER
SMERALDINA	Dardane's feisty lady in waiting. In love with Truffaldino
TRUFFALDINO	Taer's loyal man servant. In love with Smeraldina
GIANT KNIGHT	A terrifying monster roaming the hills. – Parade style puppet that requires 3 puppeteers.
HYDRA	A terrifying monster roaming the hills. Requires 7 puppeteers.

In the Court of Tilan

FANFUR	Taer's doddering ancient father. The King of Tilan
GULINIDI	Fanfur's cunning second wife. The new Queen of Tilan
PANTALONE	Fanfur's sardonic Minister of Culture
TARTAGLIA	Fanfur's excitable Minister of War
BRIGHELLA	Captain of the Royal Guard. He is deeply emotional. Long lost brother of Smeraldina.
BURATINO	Member of the royal guard. Serious and determined to do a good job.
GULIBILIA	Member of the royal guard. Sweet and trying her best.
STUPINO	Member of the royal guard. Mischievous and determined to do as little work as possible.
LINETTA	Lady of the Court and sacrificial maiden contestant
TITTETA	Lady of the Court and sacrificial maiden contestant

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 1 – Mother, Father, Lucy/Luke

The sounds of muffled shouting and arguing are heard. LUCY/LUKE sits center stage on their bed.

MOTHER (O/S) Slaved! I slaved all day in the kitchen over these crab balls –!
FATHER (O/S) I only speak one language; how many different ways can I say I’m sorry–?
MOTHER (O/S) You said you’d be home by seven!
FATHER (O/S) Look, I –
MOTHER (O/S) When you say “home by seven”, I expect you to be home by seven!

FATHER (O/S) I didn’t mean to–
MOTHER (O/S) Crabs balls, Darryl!! Crab balls!!! If you don’t appreciate all I do around here, then I suppose I’ll just have to–

LUCY/LUKE quickly covers their ears. Takes a deep breath. Maybe it’s ok now...

MOTHER (O/S; cont’d) –with my lemon zester!

Nope. LUCY/LUKE begins to rummage through their things until they finds their notebook. They reverently opens it and begins to write.

LUCY/LUKE Once upon a time...

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 2 – Zelou

ZELOÙ

Ye heavenly powers, I thank you! Now at last
My thousand years of punishment are past.
The immortal Sages of the Sacred Hill,
For that I once rebelled against their will,
Decreed that I should wear this loathsome shape,
From which their sentence grants me no escape
Until amongst the race of human kind
One faithful pair of lovers I could find,
Whose constant ardor and devoted faith
Would stand unshaken in the face of death.
And I have found them: Dardanè the fair
Princess of Calva and the Prince Taèr.
Oh cruel fate! Before I can obtain
My long awaited liberty again,
I am compelled to make them undergo
Trials undreamt of, suffering, grief and woe.
I fain would help them, but my lips are sealed;
What lies before them may not be revealed.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 3 – Zelou, Dardane

Enter DARDANÈ, terrified and distracted.

DARDANÈ My own adored Taèr, Taèr, Taèr!

ZELOÙ *(advancing)* Dardanè, beware!

DARDANÈ *(terrified)* Who spoke? What's this?
Dreadful homunculus! What is it you crave?

ZELOÙ I am—*(taken aback)* wait, Homunculus? What's a--?

DARDANÈ How can I save myself? Oh heavens!

ZELOÙ *(Recovers himself)* Stay!
I pity you. Taèr is still alive,
But you no more will see him.

DARDANÈ *(despairingly).* But Taèr—
Shall I see him no more?

ZELOÙ Yes, you will see him,
And yet you will not see him. Your cruel fate
Lays harsh conditions on you, dreadful trials,
To test your courage and your constancy;
Yes, you must face your almost certain death,
Ere you may see each other once again.

DARDANÈ *(forcing herself to courage).* Then tell me, monster,
What the conditions laid upon me are.

ZELOÙ The first I give you now, as you shall see.

ZELOÙ stamps on the ground. DARDANÈ is swept offstage.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 4 – Zelou, Taer

TAÈR Oh Dardanè, am I to lose you now?
My lovely Dardanè!

ZELOÙ (*advancing*). Prince, weep no more.
TAÈR What art thou, foul homunculus? Take care!
ZELOÙ (*taken aback*) I don't even know what a homunculus is...(*recovers himself*)
You seek your young wife Dardanè?

TAÈR I do!
ZELOÙ Be not so hasty. Here you must remain,
If Dardanè you hope to find again.
I must instruct your ignorance. The King,
Your father, whom you left five years ago,
Has in your absence taken a new wife:
A poor girl, Gulindi, outwardly fair,
But false of heart and filled with vile desires.
Her cruel deeds and foul iniquities
have roused the Gods to anger. For *her* sins
I am sent to be the scourge of all the realm.
I ravage crops and harvests, flocks and herds,
While from the city's tower a Giant Knight
Comes forth each day to slaughter all he sees.
And worst of all, the seven-headed Hydra
Infects the kingdom with its poisonous breath,
Requiring one pure maiden every day,
To be the victim of its ravenous maw.

TAÈR Alas! My father's kingdom fallen so far?
I'll soon deliver him from these persecutions.
Devour this land no further, or you fall
The first beneath my sword.

ZELOÙ seizes him by the hand

ZELOÙ Let go my hand,
And show me where to find my Dardanè.
You soon will see her, but in aspect changed,
And you alone, and no one else, will know her.
When next you meet your darling Dardanè,
Use all the arts you can to melt her heart
And make her love you.

TAÈR O most foolish monster!
ZELOÙ Shall I have need of arts to make her love me?
Taèr, you soon will find to your distress
That I am not so foolish.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 5 – Zelou, Smerldina, Truffaldino

Enter TRUFFALDINO and SMERALDINA, buffeted by the storm. TRUFFALDINO holds a broken umbrella over SMERALDINA's head.

SMERALDINA Oh, I'm wet, I'm tired, I'm afraid! What can have become of my lady?

TRUFFALDINO Come closer Smeraldina, so that I can shelter you under my umbrella.

SMERALDINA Truffaldino, that umbrella wouldn't keep spit off the sidewalk.

TRUFFALDINO In that case, my love will keep you warm.

SMERALDINA Your love? Ha! Your love is more threadbare than the umbrella. If we ever get to Tilan, you'll forget all about Smeraldina.

TRUFFALDINO *(with mock chivalry)*. Forget about my adored Smeraldina! I am the servant of the Prince Taèr. Like master, like man. He's in love with Princess Dardanè; she's the only woman in the world for him, just as Smeraldina is for me. There, don't you feel warmer now?

ZELOÙ emerges from hiding.

ZELOÙ Oh, good and trusty servants –

SMERALDINA Oh, frightful homunculus!

ZELOÙ *(taken aback)* What the - since when is that word in common usage?

(recovering) Truffaldino and Smeraldina, tremble not!

TRUFFALDINO That's easy for you to say; you're wearing a fur coat.

ZELOÙ Your master and mistress are nearby, but you

No more shall see them.

SMERALDINA Oh! We must see them no more?

ZELOÙ Why is this so hard for everyone to grasp? Yes, you shall see them, but *not* see them.

TRUFFALDINO See them, but not see them? You sound like a politician.

ZELOÙ All will become clear. Trials heavy, leaden,

And of great weight –

SMERALDINA Those are all the same thing.

ZELOÙ *(annoyed)* - Go with it – are laid upon them both.

TRUFFALDINO You mean they have to carry their own luggage?

ZELOÙ WILL YOU LET ME FINISH?

SMERALDINA Now you've done it, you idiot. He's going to eat us for sure.

ZELOÙ I lay this spell upon you both: to seem

To have forgot, as if it were a dream,

Who were your masters, whence it was you came,

Who you yourselves are, or what is your name.

TRUFFALDINO Make me forget my Smeraldina? I'd like to see you try!

ZELOÙ stamps his foot. SMERALDINA and TRUFFALDINO forget everything.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 5 – Fanfur, Pantalone, Tartaglia

King FANFÜR, very old and decrepit, enters. PANTALONE and TARTAGLIA, slightly less old and slightly less decrepit, as his Ministers of State, stand at his right and left hand.

FANFÜR My lord and gentlewoman, all too well I know
How little reverence or love you bear
To your decrepit –
PANTALONE *(with sympathy)* Aged -
TARTAGLIA Palsied -
PANTALONE Incontinent –
TARTAGLIA Useless –
FANFÜR *(annoyed)* King.
A fearsome Monster devastates my lands,
A Giant Knight in armor holds my tower
And massacres my citizens, a Hydra
Poisons the air with pestilential breath,
And every day requires a virtuous maid
To satisfy its hunger. What crimes of mine
Have brought upon my head such fell disasters?
PANTALONE Poor leadership skills?
TARTAGLIA A basic contempt for the common people?
PANTALONE A weak and vacillating nature?
FANFÜR *(not listening)* I have lashed maids together like cordwood,
Delivered them in bulk to drop down
The Hydra's bottomless throat!
Blood has cascaded in rivers down my ramparts
Yet still am I afflicted with these sorrows!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 6 – Pantalone, Tartaglia, Linetta, Titetta

PANTALONE It passes my understanding, Tartaglia, that His Majesty has never realized that all these appalling horrors have come upon us through the iniquities of his wife.

TARTAGLIA I am horrified at the feebleness of Fanfür. A slobbering old man married to a very pretty young woman who's as astute as the devil.

PANTALONE And she insists on filling the palace with witless young men, like that idiot Truffaldino. And have you seen her new page, Fidele?

TARTAGLIA Seen him? I should think so. Why, he only arrived in town yesterday, and already she's got her claws into him.

PANTALONE (*very seriously*). Tartaglia. There's something on my mind. (*More and more reluctantly dragging it out of himself*) I've begun to be haunted—by a most horrible suspicion. I can't bear to think of it, but I feel sure—somehow—that that woman Gulindi—means to *poison* the King.

TARTAGLIA (*quite nonchalantly*). Means to poison him? Why, she probably started on that game six months ago, by the look of him. He won't last much longer.

PANTALONE Poison the King—then seize the crown and marry Fidele!

TARTAGLIA (*shaking his head*) The Blue Monster, the price of leeches—

PANTALONE An evil Giant Knight, repainting the moat—

TARTAGLIA False proclamations, the seven-headed Hydra--

PANTALONE Now is a time of great decision.

TARTAGLIA Indeed. Are we to stay, or up and quit?

PANTALONE There's no avoiding this conclusion:

TARTAGLIA Our land is turning into--

He is interrupted by the re-entrance of TITETTA and LINETTA.

LINETTA I would have won, if it hadn't been for you!

TITETTA Oh, yeah? Prove it.

They begin to fight.

PANTALONE Ladies, ladies! The contest is over. There's no need for this kind of behavior.

BOTH Oh.

LINETTA and TITETTA relax into a very genteel, aristocratic posture.

LINETTA He's right. Violence begets nothing but more violence.

TITETTA What kind of mockery of the human spirit have we become?

LINETTA We're stronger united than separated. We must stop the cycle of bloodshed.

TITETTA Let's go...write a pamphlet.

LINETTA (*Invoking Hamilton*) Work!

They exit, arm in arm.

PANTALONE I tell you, the whole kingdom has lost its mind!

Exit shaking his head despairingly.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 7 – Gulindi, Fanfur, Buratino, Gulabilia, Stupino

GULINDÌ and FANFÙR enter; FANFÙR is in tears.

GULINDÌ I pray you, sweetest consort, weep no more.

FANFÙR Ah, Gulindì, age is a heavy burden.
I have no strength to bear the unending torment
Of my misfortunes.

GULINDÌ Your unending tears
Deprive me of all my strength to give you comfort.
My heart is bleeding—oh, I faint! *(Pretends to faint)*
FANFÙR *(trying to hold her up)*. Adored one!
(Calling) Servants, soldiers, help!

The SOLDIERS rush in and support the “fainting” GULINDÌ

FANFÙR I’ll leave you and vent my grief in solitude.

FANFUR Exits

GULINDÌ *(recovering, to the SOLDIERS)* Leave me.

GULIBILIA We’ll attend your majesty anon.

STUPINO And anoff.

BURATINO Just go.

They exit

GULINDÌ How wonderful it is to be a woman!
And with a jest, a smile, a merest glance
To make men lose their heads! How I exult
When stern proud heroes, wise philosophers,
And solemn councilors of state fall headlong
To be the adoring vassal of my caprice,
While I remain heartwhole!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 8 – Gulindi, Truffaldino

GULINDÌ *(Calling)* Ho, Truffaldino!
 TRUFFALDINO enters, bearing a goblet.

TRUFFALDINO *(to audience)* I'm so lucky to have been given such a good position on my arrival in Tilan. I can't remember ever being so lucky. Of course, I can't remember anything at all.

GULINDÌ Have you prepared the King's drink as I told you, boy?

TRUFFALDINO Just as you requested, my mistress.

GULINDÌ You followed my instructions exactly?

TRUFFALDINO In every way.

GULINDÌ You left no room for error?

TRUFFALDINO Error? Me?

GULINDÌ You could not be mistaken?

TRUFFALDINO Probably not.

GULINDÌ You're sure?

TRUFFALDINO Eighty percent, easy. Maybe seventy-five.

GULINDÌ If you fail at this task, I shall have you flayed alive.

TRUFFALDINO That might not happen.

GULINDÌ Then go. Deliver the old fool his dreadful drink, and leave me alone with Fidele.

TRUFFALDINO I go, I go.
 TRUFFALDINO exits.

GULINDÌ Oh, withered king, this drink will be your doom.
 And once you are gone, I will raise another in your place:
 One who will be obedient to me alone!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 9 – Gulindi, Dardane

GULINDÌ (Sweetly) Come hither, Fidele.
Enter DARDANÈ (as FIDELE); she stands near the door, with downcast eyes, and bows.

GULINDÌ Why do you stand apart, with downcast eye?
DARDANÈ I fear the royal presence of my Queen,
GULINDÌ Come, quit this fear. Why do you look so sad?
DARDANÈ The sight of this fair kingdom laid to ruin
Makes my heart sad, and most of all, the sight
Of your illustrious consort King Fanfür,
Oppressed by grief.

GULINDÌ Come, sit by me.
DARDANÈ I ask your pardon; my respect and duty—
GULINDÌ Must I command you?
DARDANÈ Then I must obey. (Sits)
GULINDÌ You feel the generous impulses of youth;
I too am young. How *can* I, at my age,
Force myself to embrace that aged king?

DARDANÈ I have seen many wives devoted
To aged husbands; for a generous heart,
A noble mind, even in a wasting body,
Is always lovable.

GULINDÌ Then teach me how;
I'll be your pupil in the art of love.
DARDANÈ Gulindi, remember
That you were basely born, till King Fanfür,
Forgetful of your past and low estate,
Raised you to be his Queen.

GULINDÌ Fidele, have mercy!
DARDANÈ I am the voice of your own conscience.
Have you no gratitude towards the King
For all his bounties and for all his love?
If you cannot love *him*, then love at least
Yourself, your honor and your queenly state,
Show forth to all the world that a woman
Born in the vilest depth of infamy
Can by a virtuous life prove herself worthy
To wield a scepter and to wear a crown.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 10 – Gulindi

GULINDÌ (*very sweetly*) My lord,
Forbear your anger. This incautious youth
Would rashly risk his life in the attempt
To slay that dreadful Monster of the Cavern.
In vain would I dissuade him; he implored me
To gain your sanction for this wild adventure,
And when I laughed at his foolhardiness,
Besought me on his knees to grant my favor.
You know what braggarts all these young men are,
And how they boast their valor before us women.
You must decide, my lord. Do not expose him
To such grave peril; but if he insists,
Then let him go.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 11 – Truffaldino, Smeraldina

TRUFFALDINO That's strange. I thought I heard the King's voice a moment ago. I bet if I hurry, I can catch him and give him his drink. It's not as if he moves very fast.

SMERALDINA enters.

SMERALDINA Who are you? Haven't I seen you before somewhere?

TRUFFALDINO *(vaguely remembering)*. Oh yes, you're the girl who smacked my face.

SMERALDINA *(vaguely remembering)*. Smacked your face, did I? Served you right, too. Have you got a job here in the palace?

TRUFFALDINO *(importantly)* Of course I have.

SMERALDINA Then perhaps you could show me the quickest way out of here. They're planning to feed me to the seven-headed hydra.

TRUFFALDINO Ah you've come to the right man! I'm a person of great influence at Court, *very* great influence, I can assure you. I have the private ear of Her Majesty, Queen Gulindi – *(Trailing off remembering. Beat. Horror. Now honest and apologetic)* I'm sorry, I would love to help, but I've got problems of my own. If I don't give this drink to the king, the queen will have me flayed alive.

SMERALDINA All you have to do is give an old man a drink. How hard can that be?

TRUFFALDINO Well, I haven't managed it yet.

BRIGHELLA enters.

Ah. Here's Captain Brighella. He'll show you the way out.

TRUFFALDINO exits.

SMERALDINA Brighella? But he's the one who's supposed to take me to the hydra!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 12 – Smeraldina, Brighella

BRIGHELLA (*looking at SMERALDINA*). Oh Lord, oh Lord, this is a bad business!

SMERALDINA (*frightened*) Your humble servant, my lord.

BRIGHELLA (*aside*). Just the same as my little sister, only a few sizes larger. Oh, I'm all of a palpitation! Have I got to find her, and recognize her, pile agonies on agonies, one atop of another? Obey my orders blindly, carry out her appalling sentence, and suffer a torture yet more appalling myself? Oh humanity! Oh miserable humanity! (*Weeps*)

SMERALDINA (*aside*). He's in tears! I suppose he weeps for my misfortune.

BRIGHELLA (*aside*). Pull yourself together, Brighella, remember you're a soldier, an officer and a gentleman. (*To SMERALDINA*) What's your name, my pretty lass?

SMERALDINA Smeraldina, my lord.

BRIGHELLA (*aside*). Be strong, Brighella! (*To SMERALDINA*) Where do you come from?

SMERALDINA From Bergamo, my lord.

BRIGHELLA (*aside*). Oh, we're there, we're there! (*To SMERALDINA*) Have you by any chance got a strawberry mark on the pit of your stomach?

SMERALDINA (*aside, much astonished*). He must be an astrologer! (*To BRIGHELLA*) Yes, yes, Your Excellency, a purple one.

BRIGHELLA (*aside*). Oh fatal strawberry! What more is wanting to this recognition-scene? Come, let us play out this tragedy to the bitter end! (*To SMERALDINA*) I am Brighella, your own brother, who left Bergamo when I was twelve years old and have now attained the rank of Captain of the royal bodyguard at this Court of Tilan.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 13 – Buratino, Gulibilia, Stupino

Enter DARDANÈ, armed led in by BURATINO, GULIBILIA, and STUPINO.

BURATINO Welp, here we are.

STUPINO Welp.

GULIBILIA Welp.

A horrible silence

GULIBILIA I'm sure you'll be fine

STUPINO I am not sure

GULIBILIA Well, not *sure* sure, but...

BURATINO Eighty percent fine?

GULIBILIA Maybe sixty

STUPINO I'm thinking twenty would be generous

They look to DARDANE who glares back; this is not going well.

BURATINO Oh come on, look alive!

STUPINO For as long as you can

BURATINO Quiet! There's nothing to be afraid of. *(Beat.)* Well, not much at least.

(Beat.) You know, we must never let fear control us!

GULIBILIA *(Backing away as if not in control of her legs)* Fear will never control me!

BURATINO I'm sure there's nothing to be afraid of.

GULIBILIA Nothing at all!

BURATINO No big, tall monster

GULIBILIA With big sharp teeth

STUPINO And long sharp claws

BURATINO And dark red eyes!

GULIBILIA And a fearsome roar!

They listen intently

BURATINO I don't hear it.

STUPINO What did it sound like again?

GULIBILIA *(a pathetic roar)*

BURATINO No, I think it's more like *(a committed, theatrical roar)*

STUPINO Isn't it more of a *(a ferocious terrifying roar, perhaps a sound effect)*

BURATINO, GULIBILIA, and STUPINO run away in fear. DARDANE watches on disgusted.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 14 – Dardane, Taer, Lucy/Luke

DARDANÈ (*ready to fight*). Monster, come on! To mortal combat
I challenge you. I'll slay you if I can.

TAÈR comes out of the cave.

TAÈR (*gently*). Stay, Dardanè. What have I done to you?

DARDANÈ What have you done? You tore Taèr away,
You changed my outward shape, you threaten'd me
With direst peril, yes, with certain death;
And then you ask, what have you done to me?

TAÈR. (*To LUCY*). And I must never say, I am not Zeloù! (*Weeps*)

DARDANÈ You weep? (*To LUCY*) I cannot understand. (*To TAÈR*) Oh Monster,
Where is Taèr? What pains must he endure?

TAÈR I may not tell you, I may only say
His fate's in darkness. Oh most noble soul,
If you, before tomorrow's sun goes down,
Cannot surmount your last extremes of danger,
Taèr a dreadful death is doom'd to die.
You hate the sight of me; but I must warn you,
The hardest trial of all is still to come.
Look on my features; conquer your abhorrence.
Know, that Taèr will nevermore be yours,
Until your heart can melt and feel affection
And tender love for this most hateful form.

DARDANÈ Great heavens! what is this? must I feel love
For your revolting horror?

TAÈR Dardanè -

DARDANÈ (*furious*). O vile and loathsome effigy of horror,
Now doubly odious to my tortured sight!
How can my heart melt for a thing so foul?
Taèr, Taèr, lost, lost to me forever! (*Collapses*)

TAÈR (*in despair*). Dear Dardanè, weep not! (*To LUCY*). Oh, my grief
Will make me break my vow! (*To DARDANÈ*) Be not distracted,
Sweet maid, in this your danger. I would help you.
And surely gratitude can move your heart,
And touch some answering chord of tenderness.
Here, take this chain, tie up my hands behind me;
I make myself your willing prisoner.

DARDANÈ (*To LUCY*). How can such cruelty, such gentleness,
Such human pity, and such harsh decrees
Be found together in such monstrous aspect?
(*She looks at him*)

TAÈR Look on me, Dardanè. Oh, could I change
My outward shape, I *know* that you would love me.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 15 – Dardane, Taer, Fanfur, Gulindi

DARDANÈ My lord, this monster never more shall roam
Your realm, nor devastate your lands.

TAÈR My lord, behold me vanquish'd. These my chains,
Make mute assurance to your Majesty
That all my rage is tamed. But I beseech you,
Condemn me not to death, or you'll commit
A most atrocious crime.
Oh, grant me only this one day to live,
And when tomorrow's sun sinks to his rest,
Then let me die—I care for life no more. *(He weeps)*

FANFÜR Foul beast, we grant your wish. One day alone
You have before you face the headsman's axe.
(to GULINDÌ). Consort, rejoice with me. Behold this brave
And gallant youth, who sets my kingdom free.

GULINDÌ *(Meaningfully, to DARDANÈ)*
Yes, Fidele, you have proved yourself a man
Worthy, perhaps, to wear a crown someday.

DARDANÈ *(with a warning look at GULINDÌ)*
My lord, although this monster's rage is tamed,
I warn you that another danger lurks
Much closer to yourself, and even now
Prepares to do you harm. *(pointing)* The queen your wife -
(hurriedly) Oh, gallant man! My husband, this heroic youth
Refers to giant knight and hydra dire!
Accept his offer to slay them both, I pray!

FANFÜR Oh, happy day! My realm is saved!

DARDANÈ My lord,
I never mentioned -

FANFÜR *(to BRIGHELLA)* Take this lad away
And lock him in the dungeons with his prisoner.
(to DARDANÈ) My boy, tomorrow you will face the knight
And hydra both, as is your wish.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 16 – Brighella, Smeraldina, Buratino Gulibilia, Stupino, Dardane

Enter BRIGHELLA dragging in SMERALDINA weeping. She is bound with cords GULIBILIA, and STUPINO follow warily.

SMERALDINA You black-hearted villain! Oh you infamous hound, you abominable scoundrel!

BRIGHELLA Beloved sister, flesh of my own blood, you must make an effort to lock up your troubles inside your heart, and do your best, for your own reputation and for mine, to keep up an appearance of heroism in despite of frail humanity. *(to the SOLDIERS)* Hi there, lads, keep a look-out on the tower, for if the Knight appears, he will split my head open.

BURATINO, GULIBILIA, and STUPINO fan out into an action ready watch formation

SMERALDINA Ye gods, comfort me at least with a thunderbolt to shrivel up my brother!

BRIGHELLA Come, come, sister, don't get yourself into such a state. *(To SOLDIERS)* Hi there, keep an eye on the tower!

GULIBILIA We are!

STUPINO It hasn't gone anywhere.

BRIGHELLA *(To SMERALDINA)* Have you heard that a slip of a boy has offered to go and kill the Knight and Hydra too? *(Shrugs his shoulders)* Well, you never know. Fortune favors madmen.

Enter DARDANÈ

Here comes your champion—hero of antiquity! Hurry up, boys, we retreat in good order.

DARDANÈ *(to BRIGHELLA)* Proceed into the town, and shut the gates Secure behind you. Oh, you coward souls, I'll die alone, for I am desperate And care not for my life.

BRIGHELLA Your Desperation's most obedient servant.

BRIGHELLA, BURATINO, GULIBILIA, and STUPINO exit

DARDANÈ *(sees SMERALDINA and recognizes her. Aside).* Poor Smeraldina! If she knew who I was, she'd weep the more, I think, for love of me. *(To SMERALDINA)* Weep not, poor woman.

SMERALDINA *(ungraciously).* What have I got to laugh at?

DARDANÈ You have a friend in death you do not know.

SMERALDINA *(rudely and sarcastically).* Oh, that makes me feel so much better!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 17 – Dardane, Giant Knight

DARDANÈ I challenge the Giant knight to single combat!
The GIANT KNIGHT enters.

KNIGHT Ho there! You stripling, would you challenge me?
I do not deign to fight with such small fry. *(Turning back)*

DARDANE I come to slay you, Giant, or to die.

KNIGHT Go, braggart boy, I will not fight with you;
Go, tell the world that I was merciful.

DARDANÈ I want no mercy. What I seek is death.
Either you slay me, or you die yourself.

KNIGHT Then death is ready for you. Stand, and die!
DARDANE blows a blast on the horn. The KNIGHT shivers.

KNIGHT *(aside)*. What is this blast? it makes my limbs to tremble!

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 18 – Buratino, Gulibilia, Stupino

BURATINO (to *GULIBILIA*) Tell me solider, how does our glorious queen?
GULIBILIA (to *STUPINO*) How does our glorious queen?
STUPINO (to *BURATINO*) How does our glorious queen what?
BURATINO (to *GULIBILIA*) What, what?
GULABILIA (to *STUPINO*) What, what?
STUPINO (to *GULIBILIA*) Yes.
GULIBILIA (to *BURATINO*) Yes, what?
BURATINO (to *GULIBILIA*) No. I was asking, “How does our glorious queen?”
GULIBILIA (to *STUPINO*) How does our glorious queen?
STUPINO (to *BURATINO*) Yes, “How does our glorious queen” what?
GULIBILIA I don’t understand.
STUPINO I can’t help you until you finish your sentence. “How does our glorious queen”...eat dumplings? With her fingers.
GULIBILIA (*Catching on*) “How does our glorious queen”...play ping pong? Pretty poorly, I can assure you, although she’s discovered some clever uses for that paddle...(GULIBILIA rubs her sore behind, remembering...)
BURTATINO I’m not asking how she plays ping pong.
STUPINO Of course not, because we’ve just told you.
BURATINO All I’m asking is, “How does our glorious queen?”
GULIBILIA & STUPINO How does she *what*?
BURATINO It’s heightened speech, you ninnies. Your problem is, you can’t understand heightened speech.
STUPINO No, but I sure can overstand lowered speech.
GULINDI screams again.
BURTATINO Here comes our queen. She’ll understand. She’s got class.

Traveling Players

THE BLUE MONSTER REMOUNT

Side 19 – Fanfur

FANFUR

Thou traitorous wretch!

Behold, behold and shudder! I know all.

(pointing at DARDANE) This base and treacherous enemy of Our honor
Assailed in vain the virtue of Our Queen,

And then procur'd her death, oh crime atrocious!

My senses fail me—rage obscures my sight!

Load him with chains, into a dungeon hurl him,

Strike off his head and tear him limb from limb.

(To SOLDIERS) Take hence that body, that I may bathe it with my tears.

(To PANTALONE and TARTAGLIA) My lords,

You follow me. *(To BRIGHELLA)* Captain, you will remain,

And take this man to share the Monster's dungeon.