

Traveling Players

ATALANTA

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 COULD BE IN?

6th grade is a swing year, which means you can be cast in either *Atalanta* or *The Odyssey*. 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 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

ATALANTA

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 and research 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 a Greek god/goddess or a mortal? 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!

Traveling Players

ATALANTA

Side 1 – Artemis, Imp, and Arcturus

The goddess Artemis tells the story of how she rescued baby Atalanta by entrusting her with a loving bear, Arcturus.

ARTEMIS

I knew instantly who should take care of this little new baby girl.

Now, Bears are sacred to me. They're big and burly, and bring me honey out of the tallest trees. Plus, they make wonderful parents. I heard that little one crying – and immediately sent for my friend Arcturus, who ran as fast as she could to the windy mountain–

ARCTURUS (*sees baby*) What a tiny mite you are – not exactly a bear cub but a mammal, close enough. And hungry. And cold! No wonder! *You hardly have any fur!* And strong! – just listen to that cry! (SERVANT *crying*) How in the world did you end up here, baby girl?

IMP

In many stories, animals are kinder than humans. Arcturus was an example... She–

ARCTURUS

–gently gathered the tiny human baby in her arms, and nursed her, wrapped her close, and rocked her, gently licked the tears from her eyes –and took her new baby – home to *Our* cave. Atalanta was a bright, beautiful, fierce human–cub! And I was a strong, loving, protective mother! I raised Atalanta right alongside my own frisky cubs.

Traveling Players

ATALANTA

Side 2 – Aphrodite and Artemis

Aphrodite, the goddess of love, is enraged by what she sees as her sister's meddling after Atalanta rejects a marriage proposal from a prince.

APHRODITE (confronting ARTEMIS) Artemis! My dear half-sister! You just never give up trying, do you? To convert women to your cult!

ARTEMIS Not as long as I'm winning. You heard for yourself: Atalanta has chosen never to marry – to remain pure – and everyone – that includes you, Aphrodite – must respect her choice.

APHRODITE Not likely! I could overlook it when she was just living in the wild like an animal – She was a nobody! But now– well, now, it's different! Meleager's fallen for her. He's a Prince – and Atalanta's refused him–! Word will get around! "I hate men" she said! That's an insult to me, half-sister – I will get even!

ARTEMIS Is this a threat?

APHRODITE It's a warning. Don't cross me! Don't stand between me – and something I want!

ARTEMIS If you mean Atalanta, she is my godchild. I will always protect her.

APHRODITE Don't underestimate me, Artemis! I'll either force Atalanta to marry – or kill her! – I have my magic–

ARTEMIS –And I have mine...

Traveling Players

ATALANTA

Side 3 – Imp, King Oeneus, Atalanta, Melegar, Hunters

King Oeneus has angered the Goddess Athena, and as punishment, she has summoned a great boar to terrorize his kingdom.

IMP All over Greece, the call went out summoning the greatest group of heroes since Jason's quest for the Golden Fleece: Castor and Pollux, Theseus, just back from his travels, Peleus and Hippomenes, members of the Argo's crew – even Jason, himself. Meleager's uncle, his mother's brother, also joined – and Meleager too. The trumpet sounded! The men rallied!

KING OENEUS (*As WARRIORS come forward*) To you brave men of Greece – Heroes, all! He who kills the Beast will receive the reward: its tusks, and its hide!

ALL Hurray!!!!

IMP Then, Atalanta stepped forth, shining, in her battle gear– (*Sudden silence*)

ATALANTA (*Stepping forward*) “Men”? “Heroes”? “He”? I don't fit your description, Majesty. – but even though I'd have to fight among men with their smelly feet and bad breath, I would like to rid your country of this monster.

IMP (*sound of revolt begins under his voice, just a rumble...*) Immediately, there was an uproar! (*The rumble grows...*)

ATALANTA I can fight harder, run faster, and use a bow and arrow better than any man in Greece!

HUNTERS No girls! No girls! No girls, No!
If she's in the battle, we won't go!
No girls, no girls, we'll fight alone!
If she fights the boar, we'll all go home!

MELEAGER Atalanta is a match for any of you – in ability and experience! If Atalanta would have me, I'd marry her, but she will not. Still, she is my friend. If you insult Atalanta, you insult me as well!

(*Drum, louder...*)

ATALANTA Warriors, if you're afraid of the monster – *if you want an excuse not to fight*, then go on home – go! All of you, go now! Meleager and I will fight the boar alone.

Traveling Players

ATALANTA

Side 4 – King Iasus, Atalanta

King Iasus wants his daughter to get married as soon as possible, but Atalanta has other plans.

IASUS –Now that you’ve had a snack, I think it’s time for a father to daughter talk about your marriage.

ATALANTA I’m not getting married. I am a child of Artemis. Didn’t you know that?

IASUS I’d heard rumors... But that was *before* you wounded that boar, and got your picture in all the papers. Men have been lining up from everywhere, wanting to marry you.

ATALANTA That doesn’t change anything. I don’t want to marry *them*.

IASUS Daughter, you obviously have forgotten your filial duty.

ATALANTA My *what*?

IASUS Your filial duty. Because you are my offspring – my flesh and blood – you have a duty – an *obligation* to me – you owe me.

ATALANTA I do?

IASUS Yes. And now that you’ve turned out so well, you owe me *Big* time!! I’m in a generous mood though. You can repay me by marrying a rich man who can support me in my old age– and by giving me an heir to my fortune.

ATALANTA Very well. I agree–

IASUS (*happy and surprised. He’d been ready for a fight.*) That’s terrific. I didn’t think you’d agree so easily–

ATALANTA –On one condition. Does this palace have a race-track?

IASUS Of course. And tennis courts and a bowling alley and a sauna–

ATALANTA Just the race-track. Beginning at first light tomorrow, we will hold a race!

IASUS No problem. You’re fast, true, but many of the contenders are certainly super-speedy runners. –Wait – I can see it: We’ll line them all up in a row, and the winner gets First Prize: *you*. I’ll just go spread the word, daughter– Let’s see, we’ll need food trucks, and betting stalls – maybe ‘bingo’–!

ATALANTA –No, no, no, no, no, Dad – you don’t understand! I myself will race against *each man. One on One*. And I will marry any man who can beat me!

Traveling Players

ATALANTA

Side 5 – Hippomenes, Atalanta

Hippomenes, another warrior, comforts Atalanta after the death of Melegar.

HIPPOMENES Hi... I thought I'd see how you're doing. *(She doesn't answer.)* I heard what happened to your friend Meleager. It was really terrible... *(she doesn't respond. He tries again.)* I saw you by yourself and I thought maybe you'd want to talk to somebody.

ATALANTA I don't. Go away.

HIPPOMENES Okay. *(He doesn't.)*

ATALANTA *(after a moment, then angrily, to cover her tears.)* I said 'go away'! Leave me alone! *(crying, but trying not to.)*

HIPPOMENES *(after a silence)* I cried once, at camp, when my friend got killed. He was thrown from a horse.

ATALANTA *(crying, but trying not to.)* I'm not crying. I don't cry. It's a sign of weakness.

HIPPOMENES I don't think so. Chiron didn't think so, and he's the wisest man I ever knew. He ran this camp I went to. It was a really cool camp.

ATALANTA Who cares what he thinks? Camps are stupid. That sounds stupid. What kind of person says it's okay to cry--?? Cry-on! *(An angry laugh)* His name should be "Cry-on" – not –whatever you said–

HIPPOMENES *(After a moment. He understands feelings.)* His name was Chiron, and he was a centaur—and a philosopher. He liked to think. *(a pause.)* I know you're sad. And mad. But it won't make you feel any better to say mean things about people.

(long silence.)

You were great in the hunt. You and Meleager both. But *you*...! You deserved to win. When the boar ran out of the woods that way and killed all those people, everybody panicked but you.

You were cool.

You kept your head. Impressive.

ATALANTA *(accusing him)* Why don't you just shut up and leave me alone! *(pause)* How do you know so much anyway? You weren't even there!–

HIPPOMENES I was. *(She looks at him for the first time.)* I was. *(More emphatically.)* I was with the twins – Castor and Pollux. We all three came together with Jason. We were with him on "the Argosy." "The Golden Fleece"?

Traveling Players

ATALANTA

(Side 5 – continued)

ATALANTA (*stung by this reference.*) I know what the Golden Fleece is! (*Pause.*) Were you,— in the battle just now, I mean? – were you the one in the tree? Who shot his arrow over my head—

HIPPOMENES Yep. That was me. I thought I might get in one good shot – but no such luck. I saw you knock that boar to the ground— make that killing shot – right in the spine! Wow! Really awesome!!

ATALANTA Then that was *you*, right behind me – in the woods? If you were right behind me, you're a fast runner.

HIPPOMENES Pretty fast.

ATALANTA (*after a moment*) Why do you run?

HIPPOMENES Hmm. Never thought about it. I guess— (*Music - Running Cut*)

I run – to feel my heart beat.

I run – to make my blood race.

I run – because it makes me know I'm alive –

ATALANTA Me too. I run because of that, too. (*Beat.*) You might as well tell me your name.

HIPPOMENES It's 'Hippomenes,' but that's so long. My friends call me 'Pom.' Funny sound. 'Pom.'

ATALANTA I'm not your friend.

HIPPOMENES Not yet.