

# Traveling Players

## WOMEN OF TROY

### 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. If cast, you will participate in another round of auditions during the first weekend of rehearsals to assign roles.

### 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!

### 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](mailto:outreach@travelingplayers.org).

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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. 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 know the characters and plot. Then relax and have fun – you'll do great!

### 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

## WOMEN OF TROY

Side 1 – POSEIDON and ATHENE, POSEIDON is on stage, saying farewell to Troy

*Enter ATHENE*

**ATHENE** May it please you, Majesty,  
Brother of Zeus my father,  
May I lay old enmity aside, and speak?

**POSEIDON** Athene, queen of heaven! Close kin –  
All enmity's charmed away. Speak on.

**ATHENE** Your majesty is gracious. Lord,  
What I say concerns us both.

**POSEIDON** New word from heaven? From Zeus?  
Some other god...?

**ATHENE** I ask your help, your power. For Troy,  
This ground we walk on. Help me, lord.

**POSEIDON** You hated Troy before. Have you come  
To weep, now, when it's burnt to ash?

**ATHENE** Will you hear me, lord,  
Hear me and help?

**POSEIDON** First, answer: have you come  
To help Greeks or Trojans?

**ATHENE** My former enemies, the Trojans:  
I'll gladden them, and prick the Greeks.

**POSEIDON** You prance from mind to mind...  
You hate, you love. What reason - ?

**ATHENE** My shrine was trampled too.

**POSEIDON** When Ajax snatched Cassandra.

**ATHENE** And no Greek punished him.

**POSEIDON** Though your cunning gave them Troy.

**ATHENE** Will you help me to hurt them now?

**POSEIDON** What do you want for them?

**ATHENE** Sour homecoming. Bitter joy.

**POSEIDON** On land, or on salty sea?

**ATHENE** As they sail away from Troy.  
Lord Zeus will send rainstorms,  
Hailstones like boulders, hurricanes.  
He'll lend me thunderbolts  
To hurl at them, to char their ships.  
Your part:  
Flay all the sea to foam, pile waves,  
Stir whirlpools, choke every bay  
With drowned Greek flesh.  
They'll learn – they must learn –  
To accept my yoke, to smile as they bow,  
To me and all other gods.

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## WOMEN OF TROY

### POSEIDON

Ask no more. Your prayer is granted.  
I'll stir the sea. I'll glut the shores  
With corpse-flesh: beaches of Mykonos,  
Headlands of Caphereus,  
Reefs of Lemnos, Delos, Skyros.  
Climb the sky,  
Take Zeus' thunderbolts,  
Watch for Greeks, full sail.  
When mortals rape cities, temples,  
Graves, they condemn themselves.  
They destroy; they die.

*Exeunt POSEIDON and ATHENE. Music.*

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## WOMEN OF TROY

Side 2: CHORUS (3), TALTHYBIUS, HECUBA

**CHORUS** Someone's coming. Some spokesman  
From the Greeks. Falling over himself  
With news. What more can he tell us?  
We know we're slaves.

*Enter Talthybius, attended*

**TALBYTHIUS** Hecuba...woman...you know me.  
You've seen me before, often,  
Carrying messages  
From the Greek commanders.  
Talbythius, with news.

**HECUBA** Women, friends, our fears come true.

**TALBYTHIUS** You've been allocated.  
Was that what you feared?

**HECUBA** Aee aee!  
Where must they go?  
Is it joy, or tears?

**TALTHYBIUS** Name one at a time.  
I'll tell each fate in turn.

**HECUBA** Cassandra first, my daughter:  
Daughter of grief. Whose...lot was she?

**TALTHYBIUS** Lord Agamemnon's:  
Selected, not allotted.

**HECUBA** To be Clytemnestra's slave.  
Omee mee.

**TALTHYBIUS** To be his majesty's bedmate,  
His concubine.

**HECUBA** Apollo's virgin? Eternal chastity  
her gift from the gold-haired god!

**TALTHYBIUS** Divine possession.  
To...possess that...fired the king.

**HECUBA** Your garlands, child,  
Your crown, your laurels:  
Strip them, hurl them down.

**TALTHYBIUS** It's no light honour  
To share a prince's bed.

**HECUBA** My youngest child,  
My chick you stole,  
Where, where?

**TALTHYBIUS** Polyxena, you mean?

**HECUBA** Whose...luck was she?

**TALTHYBIUS** She...tends Achilles' tomb.

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**HECUBA**

It was decreed.  
Oee moee.  
My daughter, a tomb-attendant!  
What justice, sir, is this?

**TALTHYBIUS**

Be glad for her.  
Your daughter's pain is done.

**HECUBA**

What d'you mean?  
She's still alive? She sees the Sun?

**TALTHYBIUS**

Her destiny cradles her.  
Her pain is done.

**HECUBA**

And Hector's wife, our warlord's wife?  
Unhappy Andromache, what of her?

**TALTHYBIUS**

Prince Neoptolemus chose her.  
A royal prize.

**HECUBA**

And what of me? Tottering...  
Propped on a stick...whose slave am I?

**TALTHYBIUS**

Lord Odysseus of Ithaca has chosen you.

**HECUBA**

E! E!  
Tear your shorn head,  
Rake your cheeks.  
Eeoh meemee!  
To be that man's slave.  
I spit on him,  
Deceiver, monster, liar.  
True, false, love, hate,  
He twists them,  
Writhes, the serpent tongue.  
Weep for me, women:  
Weep for your queen defiled,  
Debased, destroyed.

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## WOMEN OF TROY

### Side 3: CHORUS

#### CHORUS

My song is a song of Troy,  
New song, death song,  
Song of grief for Troy.  
Then we died,  
Spear-booty, died,  
When that four-wheeled beast  
Faced gates of Troy,  
Gold-chink, spear-roar,  
Greek spears that filled the sky.  
High on the heights  
Our people cried,  
'Troy's wars are done!  
Fetch it inside, the wonder,  
Offer it, give it to Our Lady Athene,  
Daughter of Zeus on high.'  
So they sang, they ran,  
Girls, old women,  
Shouting for joy,  
Tricked, doomed.

[*strophe*]

They swarmed to the gates,  
Whole generations,  
The seed of Troy.  
They dragged it –  
Pine, polished, womb of Greeks –  
To offer it in Athene's shrine,  
Virgin lady who loves the horse.  
Like a ship, dark-hulled,  
Woven ropes bound tight,  
It swam through Troy  
Till they moored it on temple floor:  
Stone anchorage, the death of Troy.  
Night fell. Darkness.  
Whistle of flutes,  
Beat of dancing feet:  
Troy's maidens danced and sang.  
Torches in every house  
Scattered the darkness,  
Flickered in sleep.

[*antistrophe*]

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### Side 4: CASSANDRA

#### CASSANDRA

Rejoice, mother.  
Crown me with flowers. I've won.  
I'm marrying a king. Take me to him;  
Make me, give me no choice.  
Trust Apollo. If God is god,  
This marriage will ruin His Lordship.  
Agamemnon, grand admiral of Greece!  
I'll hurt him more than Helen did.  
I'll kill him, strip all his house  
Till the price is paid  
For my father and brothers dead.  
Cassandra, hush! Don't tell it all:  
Don't sing of knives, necks chopped,  
Mine and those others',  
Blood-feud, the mother dead,  
The dynasty destroyed.  
My marriage-price!  
Sane now, no madness,  
I tell you this: God's words.  
We outrank the Greeks. We win.  
What did they do?  
For one woman's sake, one fuck,  
They hunted Helen,  
Squandered a million lives.  
Agamemnon –  
So experienced, so worldly-wise –  
Killed what he loved for what he hated,  
Threw away happiness, children, home,  
For his brother's woman,  
The wife who left  
Of her own free choice,  
Whom no one forced.



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### Side 5: ANDROMACHE and HECUBA

**ANDROMACHE** Your daughter's dead. Polyxena.  
They cut her throat,  
To drench Achilles' grave.

**HECUBA** Oee! Talthybius' riddle – clear at last!

**ANDROMACHE** I saw her. I climbed from the cart;  
I covered her; I beat my breast for her.

**HECUBA** Aee aee. Polyxena, child, I weep for you.  
Human sacrifice, unjust.

**ANDROMACHE** She's dead. It's done. She's lucky now.  
Far luckier than me. They make me live.

**HECUBA** You're wrong, child.  
To put death before life!  
Death's emptiness. To live is hope.

**ANDROMACHE** Mother, listen. Be comforted.  
When we die, it's like never being born,  
Far better than living  
On hands and knees. Who suffers  
After death? Who still feels pain?  
To fall from wealth, from power – to fall,  
Live on, remember –  
That racks the mind. She's dead.  
It's as if she'd never seen the Sun.  
Her suffering's forgotten. Gone.  
But I! I bent my bow at happiness.  
I hit the target. Hit, and hit – and missed.  
I was Hector's wife. I kept my place,  
Did my duty, stayed indoors  
As women should. No loose talk,  
No market chatter. All I knew  
I learned from my own quiet thoughts,  
At home. When Hector spoke,  
I listened. Downcast eyes. I knew  
When to let him have his way,  
When to insist. My reputation spread,  
Through all the Greeks –  
And brought me this.  
As soon as the city fell,  
As soon as I was taken,  
Achilles' son chose me for consort.  
I'm to serve as salve  
In the house of the man  
Who killed my husband. What shall I do?

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Blot out my Hector's face, fling wide  
My heart to a second husband –  
And betray the dead?  
Or scorn Achilles' son,  
Pull down my master's rage  
About my head? One night of love  
Unstrings a woman's hate,  
Makes her dote on the man she loathed.  
Men say.  
Men say.

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## WOMEN OF TROY

### Side 6: TALTHYBIUS and ANDROMACHE

*Enter TALTHYBIUS*

<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	My lady, noble wife of Hector, I come unwillingly. Don't blame me. I bring a unanimous decree: Agamemnon, Menelaus, the other lords, I speak their words.
<b>ANDROMACHE</b>	What is it? You begin so carefully...
<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	Your son...How can I say it?
<b>ANDROMACHE</b>	Different masters? They're separating us?
<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	No Greek will own this child.
<b>ANDROMACHE</b>	He's to stay here, last trace of Troy?
<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	There's no good way To tell the news I bring.
<b>ANDROMACHE</b>	Such reluctance. What is it? Some disaster?
<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	They've condemned your son to die.
<b>ANDROMACHE</b>	Oee moee. Marriage I could bear. Not this.
<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	Odysseus' plan, but every lord agreed.
<b>ANDROMACHE</b>	Aee aee, aee aee. Beyond all bearing. Pain.
<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	No hero's son, he said, should thrive.
<b>ANDROMACHE</b>	His own sons too. Let them not...thrive.
<b>TALTHYBIUS</b>	He's to be dashed From the highest tower. Give way, lady. Be wise. Give up your son. Shed royal tears, show dignity, But give him up. You can't prevent it.

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## WOMEN OF TROY

### Side 7: HECUBA

#### HECUBA

Put down the shield, my Hector's shield.  
I should smile to see it; it tears my heart.  
O Greeks, how big you are, how brave!  
Why murder him? A child!  
Were you afraid?  
That he'd pile up Troy again,  
Make it great again? We're dead.  
We were dying even then,  
When Hector swam  
In his glory, in all that sea of spears.  
We were dying even then –  
A million men! –  
And now our city's gone.  
You're afraid of one tiny child.  
It's beyond belief: I spit on you.  
My little one, why did you die like this?  
You could have died for Troy,  
A grown man, a husband,  
In majesty like the gods:  
Fulfilled, if such things bring fulfillment.  
Your inheritance! You saw it every day,  
You knew it in your heart,  
And it's snatched away.  
Poor little boy. Your curls, your mother  
Kissed them, tended them,  
Flowers in a garden.  
Now they're ripped away,  
The hard stones,  
Troy's stones, Apollo's stones.  
Blood grins in broken bone.  
How can I bear it?  
Such sweet hands, your father's hands,  
Dangling. Lips, dear lips.  
How they chattered,  
What promises they made.  
D'you remember? How you hugged me?  
'Granny, when you die  
I'll cut off all my hair.  
I'll come to your grave  
With all my friends.  
We'll sing and sing for you.' Not so.  
Old buries young.

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### Side 7: MENELAUS

*Music ends. Enter MENELAUS.*

**MENELAUS**      Bright sunshine! Happy day,  
When Menelaus lay hands on...  
Her again.  
To suffer so, for such a wife!  
They think I came to Troy for her.  
Not so. I came for him,  
That guest no-guest  
Who lodged in my palace  
And stole my wife.  
The price is paid, God saw to that:  
That man and his country,  
By Greek spears dead.  
Now I came for her, the Spartan –  
I still can't speak her name and smile.  
She's mine, tagged here  
With all the other spoil.  
The men who risked their lives for her  
Have handed her to me.  
I can kill her here or ship her home.  
Helen! Hell to her native land!  
I'll cargo her home  
To death, to pay the price  
For so many friends,  
So many loved ones, lost.  
Bring her out here. Drag her: that hair,  
Scabbed with dead men's blood.  
As soon as the winds blow fair,  
We'll take her home.

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## WOMEN OF TROY

### Side 8: HELEN

#### HELEN

You think I'm your enemy.  
Good arguments or bad,  
You won't discuss with me,  
Not face to face. Never mind.  
I'll imagine your part, your charges,  
And I'll answer them one by one.  
She began it, began disaster, giving birth  
To Paris – the firebrand, the torch  
She dreamt would topple Troy.  
Her husband, his ancient majesty,  
Changed the baby's name,  
Let 'Alexander' live –  
Disaster for Troy, for me.  
Hear what happened next.  
Three goddesses appeared,  
Asked Paris to judge between them.  
'Choose me,' Athene said,  
'And your armies will sack great Greece.'  
'Choose me,' said Hera, 'and all Asia,  
All Europe, will be yours.'  
Aphrodite next.  
She admired my beauty, promised me  
To Paris – as soon as she won the prize.  
She won – and all that followed,  
All I and Paris did,  
Was to benefit Greece, not Troy.  
Is it you that strangers rule, spearlords  
From overseas? Greece rose; I fell.  
I should be wearing a victor's crown.  
Instead, I'm sold for my beauty,  
Spat upon.

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### Side 9: CHORUS, MENELAUS, HELEN, HECUBA

<b>CHORUS</b>	Kill her, Menelaus. Your ancestors, Your royal house, demand it. Greeks call you a coward, a woman: Prove them wrong By what you do here, today.
<b>MENELAUS</b>	I agree with you. She chose it. She went to that stranger's bed Of her own free will. She blames Aphrodite – Nonsense! Go. They're waiting to stone you. Pay for my disgrace, For ten long years of war.
<b>HELEN</b>	I'm on my knees. God's fault, not mine.
<b>HECUBA</b>	Don't kill me. Spare me. Remember your friends, Your allies, their children, Dead for her. In all their names, I beg you –
<b>MENELAUS</b>	Enough, old woman. I'm ignoring her. I'm giving the orders. She'll be shipped aboard, Be cargoed home.
<b>HECUBA</b>	Not in your ship!
<b>MENELAUS</b>	Why not? She's put on weight?
<b>HECUBA</b>	Lust, lord. It never dies.
<b>MENELAUS</b>	That depends who lusts. Still, as you wish. It's reasonable. A different ship. And when she's home, A dishonourable death To match her life, to show All women what duty means. Hard – But a lesson they all must learn, Even the stupid ones, even those More shameless than she is. She dies; they learn.