Kalamazoo Civic

Auditon Info

THE TEMPEST

In This Issue:

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Terms to Know

- Jove: Roman god of thunder, hurls lightning
- Neptune: Roman god of the sea
- Naples: Ferdinand and Alonso's kingdom; a past enemy of Milan
- Milan: Prospero's rightful dukedom, taken from him by his brother
- Prithee: means "please" or "I ask you to"
- Sycorax: (seh-curr-axe) the witch of the island, Caliban's mother, died years before the start of the play
- Nymph: a mythological spirit of nature

Pronunciation

Traditional Shakespeare pronunciation unless otherwise stated by the director.

- Bade/badest: should be pronounced "bad" and "bad'st" (one syllable)
- Dost should be pronounced DOES-t instead of daw-st
- No need for an English accent unless the director asks for it

Shakespeare & Performance

Breath & Thought

- Breath signifies thought - which means one thought should be carried through with one breath. A change in thought should be physically marked by a change in breath.
- Since energy and thought must be carried through to the end, it is important to know **where** to breathe. Typically, a breath mark is usually where there is 1) punctuation that signifies a stop or pause or 2) a clear change in idea. If you breathe too much or too little, it muddies the meaning.
- Does this line not make sense to you? Try moving where you breathe!

Rhythm & Rhetoric

- Shakespearean verse is traditionally written in **iambic pentameter**. Iambic pentameter is a pattern of unstressed and stressed syllables. A common way to understand this pattern is it's like a heart beat: da DUM da DUM da DUM.
- Rhetoric also creates different acting decisions and choices. Taken from the American Shakespeare Center:
  - **Repetition**: What words, sounds, and even lines are repeated? Repetition can be used for emphasis, irony, humor, etc.
  - **Omission**: Lines can allude to something without directly mentioning it. Why? Is this humor? Irony? Are they failing to address an elephant in the room?
  - **Addition**: superfluous words/phrases; overstatements, elaboration, parentheticals
  - **Direction**: the arrangement (can illuminate or confuse meaning), antithesis
  - **Substitution**: not saying what you really mean; "nicknames"

Scansion & Paraphrase

- Scanning or scansion is marking the text for rhythm (meter) and punctuation marks. Meter can affect memorization, action, and thought. Punctuation hints where natural shifts in though occur as well as where to breathe.
- Paraphrase your lines before memorizing. You should be able to share what your character is saying. Pull out that No Fear Shakespeare! The best way to paraphrase is to go through the script line by line, writing out your paraphrase, and looking up any words you might not know.

Virtual Audition Tips & Tricks

The following are only suggestions, not requirements, to help make your audition process smoother. At the end of the day, you can decide what helps you feel confident and readty for audition!

Camera Setup

- Make sure you can securely set up your camera where it will not fall or lean
- It is suggested to use a laptop or computer camera for stability, but if you are using a phone or tablet, make sure to set up a secure spot for it
- The camera should frame the mid-chest to the top of the head
- The camera should be facing you flat out instead of being tilted upwards or downwards
- For eyeline, it is recommended to look at the camera instead of the screen or down at a script. If you still need your script, it is recommended to either print the sides and tape them above the camera or to pull up a digital copy on your screen to follow along.

Mic Setup

- If you have an external mic that can be plugged into your device and set up outside the frame, this is suggested so we can hear you clearer. If not, many phone headsets have a mic built in.
- If you do not have or decide to not use an external mic, locate where the mic is situated on your device. Make sure during set up that the mic is not blocked or covered. Also make sure to clearly project to the mic.

Background

- You will want to choose a well lit area so we can clearly see your facial expressions. If you own a ring light, it would be a good idea to use it.
- It is recommended to set up your space in front of a blank wall. You would want your background to be clean and not distracting.
- You would want to set up your audition in a space where background noise would be limited, people would not be able to accidentally interrupt, and you feel confidnet and ready!

Helpful Tip: Make sure all of your devices are ready to go at least 10 minutes before your audition. If you experience any tech issues, feel free to contact us and we can walk you through it. Break a leg!