

## **CHAGRIN FALLS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY AUDITIONS**

Young men and women who wish to audition for the Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Academy should prepare two contrasting monologues or one monologue and a song. Below are a few suggested monologues as well as recommendations for reference books to help you choose a monologue that suits you well.

### **A FEW AUDITION TIPS**

Here are a few tips about auditioning:

- Choose a monologue that you understand and enjoy. For example, Shakespearean monologues can be tricky if you aren't comfortable with language – so don't do Shakespeare if you don't understand what you are saying. Choose a modern monologue instead – one that you really 'get'.
- A monologue should not be more than 1- 2 minutes in length.
- Remember that acting is about you. That's what you will spend most of your training to learn – how to utilize yourself to bring the character to life. It's very important to make the audition be about sharing yourself and your work. Be confident, take your time and relax.
- If you're going to sing, make sure you choose a song that is in your range. And please bring your sheet music with you to the audition.
- When you are auditioning, don't try to make the director your scene partner. Just create a 'second character' in your imagination somewhere to the right or left of the director. Using an empty chair as your scene partner is not a good idea as it tends to lower your eyes and turn your attention to the ground.
- If you have experience in the theatre. Please bring a typed resume. This will speak well about your professionalism. It makes it easier on everyone too.
- A headshot (photo) is not a requirement but it can be helpful if you have one. It helps the director remember you. If possible, bring an 8x10 headshot.
- If you have a cold or you feel you're not at your best, don't apologize. Just rise above it and do your best.
- Walk on stage confidently. We want you to succeed. We're on your side. So don't be shy. Come out, introduce yourself and enjoy your audition

## SAMPLE MONOLOGUES

Male Monologue 1  
Tom Joad  
The Grapes of Wrath  
By John Steinbeck

(Tom is on the run. He sneaks back into camp one night where his family is still staying to say good-bye to his Ma. )

(TOM leads MA to the bench and sits her down. He sits beside her.)

### TOM

They was some cops here, Ma. They was takin' down the license numbers. It looks like somebody knows sump'n. I'd like to stay. I'd like to be with ya – *(Smiling)* -- and see your face when you an' Pa get settled in a nice little place. I sure wish I could see you then. But – *(shaking his head)* – I guess I won't never be able to do that. Not now. *(Thoughtfully)* You know what I been thinkin' about, Ma? ... I been thinking about us... about our people livin' like pigs, an' good rich lan' layin' fallow, or maybe one fella with a million acres, while a hundred thousan' farmers is starvin'. An' I been wonderin' if all our folks got together and yelled -- But I ain't thought it out clear, Ma. I can't. I don't know enough. *(Laughing uneasily)* Well, maybe it's like Casey says, a fella ain't got a soul of his own, but on'y a piece of a soul – the big soul that belongs to every'body – an then ... Then it don't matter. There I'll be all aroun' in the dark. I'll be everywhere – wherever you look. Whenever there's a fight so hungry people can eat... I'll be there. Wherever there's a guy beatin' up a guy, I'll be there. I'll be in the way guys yell when they're mad an' I'll be in the way kids laugh when they're hungry an' they know supper's ready. An' when our people eat the stuff they raise, an' live in the houses they build, why, I'll be there too. *(Drily, rising)* It's just stuff I been thinkin' about. Give me your han', Ma. Good-bye.

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Male Monologue II  
Starbuck  
The Rainmaker  
By N.Richard Nash.

There is a terrible drought. Starbuck is a “rainmaker”. He's trying to make Lizzie, a woman he admires and even loves a little, believe that he's not a liar.

### STARBUCK

“I've seen better blessings, Lizzie Girl. I got a brother, Fred, who's a doctor. And you don't have to tell him where you ache or pain... he just comes in an lays his hand on your heart and pretty soon you're breathin' sweet again. And I got another brother, Arnie, who can sing. And when he's singin', that song is there and

it never leaves him. And I used to think to my self, ‘why ain’t I like Fred or Arnie, why am I just a nothin’ man with nothing special to my name?’. But then, one summer comes the drought. And Fred, he can’t heal it away, and Arnie, he can’t sing it way... but me... I go down to the hollow, and I look up to the sky and I say “Rain!, dammit. Please bring Rain!.... And the rain’s came, Lizzie, they came! And I knew then I was part of the family!

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Female Monologue I

Abra

East of Eden

John Steinbeck.

Having fallen deeply in love with Cal, Abra goes to Cals Father, Trask, who is paralyzed with a stroke, to speak with him about his relationship with is son, Cal.

**ABRA**

**Mr. Trask. (*She waits*)** Mr. Trask – can you hear me? Is it just Cal you won’t answer? Can you answer? (*Trask makes no sign*) I think you can understand me, though. I think behind your eyes you’re just as alert as ever and understand everything I say – only you can’s show it. (*She pauses*) Mr. Traks, it’s awful not to be loved. It’s the worst thing in the world. Don’t ask me – even if you could – how I know that. I just know it. It make you mean and violent – and cruel. And that’s the way Cal has always felt, Mr. Trask. All his life! Maybe you didn’t mean it that way, but it’s true. You never gave him your love. You never asked for his. You never asked him for one thing. Cal did something very bad and I’m not asking you to forgive him – or bless him or anything like that. Cal as got to forgive you – for not having loved him – or for not having shown your love. And he has forgiven you. I know he has. But you must give him some sign, Mr. Trask – some sign that you love him – or he’ll never be a man. All his life he’ll feel guilty and alone unless you release him. – I love Cal, Mr. Trask. And I want him to be happy and strong and whole. And only you can do it. Try! Please try! Find a way to show him! Ask for something. Let him help you, so he knows you love him. Let him do for you. --- (*She looks at him a moment more*) Excuse me, Mr. Trask, for daring to speak to you this way.. if you hear me.. but I had to! (*Upset, she hurries out of the room.*)

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Female Monologue #2

Nina

The Seagull

Anton Chekhov

Nina, a young country girl, has fallen in love with a famous but bitter writer, Trigorin. As they talk together by a lake, he tells her about his unhappy life and she tries to lift his spirits by trying to convince him how lucky he is.

**NINA**

Well, I'm sorry, but I refuse to sympathize. You've simply become jaded with your success... You're working so hard you've no time and no curiosity to realize who you are. You may be dissatisfied with yourself but for everyone else you're a great and important writer. If I were great like you, I'd dedicate my whole life to my public, but I'd always remember that it's the reaching up to me which is what make them happy – and they'd pull my chariot through the streets. ... *(She laughs)* To have that feeling – wither as a writer or an actress – I'd put up with family and friends turning against me. I'd endure poverty and disappointment – I'd live on black bread in a garrett – I'd suffer self-doubt and knowing I'm not good enough – but!, in return I would demand fame – real resounding fame! My head's whirling... oof! --

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*Male Shakespeare*

*Romeo*

*Romeo and Juliet*

*William Shakespeare*

*Romeo, having met and fallen in love with Juliet, sneaks into her garden and watches her on balcony. He marvels at her beauty in the moonlight.*

**ROMEO**

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

*JULIET appears above at a window*

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,

Who is already sick and pale with grief,

That thou her maid art far more fair than she:

Be not her maid, since she is envious;

Her vestal livery is but sick and green

And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.

It is my lady, O, it is my love!

O, that she knew she were!

She speaks yet she says nothing: what of that?

Her eye discourses; I will answer it.

I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:

Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes

To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,

As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven  
Would through the airy region stream so bright  
That birds would sing and think it were not night.  
See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!  
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,  
That I might touch that cheek!

**Other Male Shakespearean Monologues:** Check out this wonderful website:  
<http://www.shakespeare-monologues.org/menindex.shtml>

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*Shakespeare Female*  
Juliet  
Romeo and Juliet  
William Shakespeare

Juliet, having met and fallen in love with Romeo, comes out on to her balcony to dream about the boy she just met. Because their families are feuding, she wishes that Romeo was not a 'Montague' nor herself a "Capulet". Note: "Wherefore art thou, Romeo" does not mean "Where are you Romeo" but rather "WHY are you named Romeo?"

#### **JULIET**

**O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;  
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,  
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.**

**'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,  
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!  
What's in a name? that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,  
And for that name which is no part of thee  
Take all myself.**

**Other Women's Shakespearean Monologues.** Check out this wonderful web site:  
<http://www.shakespeare-monologues.org/womenindex.shtml>

**OTHER MODERN MONOLOGUES**

There are many books in the library that have wonderful monologues for young people. Here are just a few that could be used as a reference. Almost any library or bookstore will have similar titles:

- *Monologues for Young Actors* by Lorainne Cohen
- *The Ultimate Audition Book for Teens: 111 One-Minute Monologues* by Janet B. Milstein
- *Magnificent Monologues for Teens: The Teens' Monologue Source for Every Occasion* by Chambers Stevens
- Check your library or local bookstore for other monologue books for actors.

Note: If you choose a monologue from a book of monologues, you should read the entire play as well. It will make it much easier for you to understand and embody the character.