

Gifted and Talented Drama Program

John Curtin College of the Arts

Monologues – Year 8 students

Prepare and memorise **ONLY ONE** of the following monologues.

You can choose whichever monologue you prefer. Your monologue must be fully prepared and ready to perform during your session. Although you can bring the monologue text to your callback, you should try to memorise it. You will find tips to help you prepare on the Callback Information sheet.

1. Scene from: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

Act 1 Scene 1- Lysander is typically the softer of the two leading men and a bit of a romantic. In this scene Lysander and Demetrius are dragged before Duke Theseus to determine who should marry Hermia. Lysander truly loves Hermia but does not have her father's blessing. Demetrius simply loves the idea of marrying a powerful man's daughter.

LYSANDER:

You have her father's love, Demetrius;
Let me have Hermia's: do you marry him.

...

I am, my lord, as well derived as he,
As well possess'd; my love is more than his;
My fortunes every way as fairly rank'd,
If not with vantage, as Demetrius';
And, which is more than all these boasts can be,
I am beloved of beauteous Hermia:
Why should not I then prosecute my right?
Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head,
Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena,
And won her soul; and she, sweet lady, dotes,
Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry,
Upon this spotted and inconstant man.

2. Scene from: A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Act 3 Scene 2

HELENA:

How happy some o'er other some can be!
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;
He will not know what all but he do know.
And as he errs, doting on Hermia's eyes,
So I, admiring of his qualities.
Things base and vile, holding no quantity,
Love can transpose to form and dignity.
Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.
For ere Demetrius looked on Hermia's eyne,
He hailed down oaths that he was only mine;
And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,
So he dissolved, and show'rs of oaths did melt.
I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:
Then to the wood will he tomorrow night,
Pursue her; and for this intelligence
If I have thanks, it is a dear expense.

3. Scene from: A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Act 2 Scene 2- *This scene takes place in a forest. Puck has been instructed by the king of the Fairies, Oberon, to drop a magic potion on the eyelids of Lysander so he falls in love with Helena.*

PUCK:

Through the forest have I gone,
But Athenian found I none
On whose eyes I might approve
This flower's force in stirring love.
Night and silence.

[Viewing Lysander]

Who is here?

Weeds of Athens he doth wear.

This is he my master said
Despised the Athenian maid.

[Viewing Hermia]

And here the maiden, sleeping sound
On the dank and dirty ground.

Pretty soul, she durst not lie
Near this lack-love, this kill-courtesy.

Churl, upon thy eyes I throw
All the power this charm doth owe.

[He drops the juice on Lysander's eyelid]

When thou wakest, let love forbid

Sleep his seat on thy eyelid.

So, awake when I am gone.

For I must now to Oberon.

4. Scene from: *Disconnected* by Donna Hughes

Matilda/Matthew, a 15 year old high school student, they are academically bright but disengaged and bored with school. They are cynical and attitudinal. They love gaming. Tensions escalate between Matilda/Matthew and Rose in the detention room and a water fight breaks out. Following a blast from Mr Ward the group are instructed to clean up. In this scene, Matilda/Matthew turns their sour attention to the quietest person in the room (Emma Reynolds).

MATTHEW/MATILDA:

(sarcasm) You're right, Emma. Maybe we should just clean up. "Maybe" is a terrific word. It's a word that reeks of "I don't know", "I don't want to offend", "I don't have an opinion", "I'm not sure", "I'll just go along with the crowd". You're a bit of a "maybe" type of girl aren't you...Emma? Who the hell are you anyway?

What's your name again? Emma! That's right. I almost forgot. (*referring to Rose*)

At least Miss Squeaky Clean here has an opinion. Mostly, under researched, try hard, populist and an excuse to climb up on her soap box –

But all the same, she has an identity, a point of view, a personality. Unlike you who let others do the fighting for them. Are you just lazy or too gutless to speak your mind – Maybe that's your tactic? You've got everyone sticking up for you now.

Walking toward Emma.

Quite clever really. You become the victim right? (*Mocking*) Make them believe that you're the sad little girl who has nothing to say because she's shy and not sure of herself. Or, she knows what she would love to say but says nothing in the hope that everyone else will come to her rescue – that's it? Right?