

Tips

Dare to be different! With hundreds of applicants, try to stand out by exploring a monologue, or a play, or a character that isn't so well known. Try and find a monologue that really speaks to you, that you enjoy reading, and that you want to learn more about.

Performances

- Voice, gesture and intonation are all really important to make your monologue come alive!
- Make sure you warm yourself up before you perform. Try humming to warm up your vocals, deep breathing to relax yourself, and stretching to loosen your muscles and joints for a lovely physical performance.
- Try 'chunking' up your monologue into bits. Give each chunk a title, linked to the emotion and desire of your character in that section. The chunks will make the speech easier to learn, and by thinking about emotions and desires for each chunk, you will avoid a flat delivery!
- Look at Shakespeare's language. Sometimes he gives clues about which words to stress. He often uses antithesis, where he places one word against a word of opposite meaning. Look for *opposite* words and really 'punch' them to stress how important they are! (e.g. *FAIR is FOUL and FOUL is FAIR*).
- Look at Shakespeare's rhythm. He often uses ten syllable lines in his verse (known as iambic pentameter). e.g. *If music be the food of love play on! Or A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse*).
The rhythm might suggest confidence and passion. When the rhythm differs from the ten-syllable pattern, it might suggest your character is uncertain, worried or pausing for thought on the missing beat. Be a detective and find clues to tell you how to deliver your line.
- Research your character and their journey. Are they good or evil? Are they content or miserable? Really throw caution to the wind and *become* your character for three minutes in front of the camera.
- For learnt monologues, see if you can find examples on YouTube of other actors performing your monologue. What do you like about their performance? What would you change about it?

Writing a Monologue

Write your own monologue inspired by Shakespeare. Be creative and use your imagination.

You could write a monologue from the point of view of one of Shakespeare's characters and show how they feel about person or event that they don't get to speak about in the original play.

You could imagine what happens next to a character, or what happened to them when they were younger. You could write in the voice of one of the smaller characters in a Shakespeare play, or you could invent an entirely new character and tell us how they feel about what is happening.

You might want to write about the world from the perspective of someone in Shakespeare's own life, or someone from the present day who is inspired by Shakespeare, or you could even create a monologue for an alien from the future who has just read one of his plays for the first time...the possibilities are endless!

- Don't make your monologue too long. Most of Shakespeare's monologues are around 10 – 20 lines.
- Think about the character – who are they, what do they want, how do they speak?
- Think about when the character is living – how does this affect their thoughts and language?
- Think about how the character feels, and how they talk to the audience – are they whispering a secret, sharing something sad, trying to convince the audience of something, discussing something exciting, or even shouting in anger?
- Think about how you want your monologue sound – will it rhyme, is there a rhythm, or will you write in prose?
- Keep reading your monologue out loud or ask a friend to read it to you. Hearing your monologue will help you understand how it sounds and how it makes an audience feel.
- Once you have finished your monologue, learn it off by heart and create a performance to send to us.