

Gifted and Talented Drama Program

John Curtin College of the Arts

Monologues – Year 9 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: *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare

Act 3 Scene 1

SHYLOCK:

To bait fish withal. If it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me, and hindered me half a million; laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies, and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility? Revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example? Why, revenge. The villainy you teach me, I will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction.

2. Scene from: *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

Act 5 Scene 2

KATHERINA:

Fie, fie! unknit that threatening unkind brow,
And dart not scornful glances from those eyes
To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor.
Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,
Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,
And for thy maintenance commits his body
To painful labour both by sea and land,
To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,
Whilst thou liest warm at home, secure and safe;
And craves no other tribute at thy hands
But love, fair looks, and true obedience-
Too little payment for so great a debt.
And when she is froward, peevish, sullen, sour,
And not obedient to his honest will,
What is she but a foul contending rebel
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?
I am asham'd that women are so simple
To offer war where they should kneel for peace;
Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway,
When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.
Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?

3. Scene from: *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco

Scene 1

MRS/MR SMITH:

Goodness! Nine o'clock! This evening for supper we had soup, fish, cold ham and mashed potatoes and a good English salad, and we had English beer to drink. The children drank English water. We had a very good meal this evening. And that's because we are English, because we live in the suburb of London and because our name is Smith. Mashed potatoes are very nice with cold ham. The mayonnaise was quite fresh. The mayonnaise from the grocer round the corner is much better quality than the mayonnaise from the grocer opposite, it's even better than the mayonnaise from the grocer at the bottom of the hill. Of course, I don't mean to say his mayonnaise is bad- yet the fact remains that the mayonnaise from the grocer round the corner is the best. Mary did the potatoes very well for once. Last time she didn't do them well at all. I only like them when they're done nicely. The fish was nice and fresh. It makes my mouth water to think of it. *I* took two helpings. No, three. And it always gives me the collywobbles. *You* took three helpings, too. But the third time you took less than the first two times, and *I* took a lot more. I had more to eat than you did this evening. How did that come about? You don't usually suffer from lack of appetite.

4. Scene from: What Made Lesley Pratchett so Mad? by Donna Hughes

NIX. 14 years old. Their family has just moved to a country town and they are starting at a new school. NIX is a bright, over-enthusiastic kid who excels in every subject but the social arena. They talk too much and tends to focus on things that other kids find a little bit weird. To survive high school, NIX needs to learn how to shut up and listen. In this scene, NIX returns to Franks place hoping to help out in the garden and possibly...make a friend.

NIX: Mr Fernando, I wanted to say sorry for intruding on your property - and I wanted to offer my services. To make up for any inconvenience or unnecessary distress. I'm Nix. It's a family name. Mr Fernando – I'd like to –

FRANK ignores NIX and walks back into the shed. NIX follows uninvited.

Mr Fernando? I understand. You've got things to do and I reckon I can help?

NIX: Am I listening? I'm working on that. My old school counsellor told me that my listening skills are subpar. (*Beat*) I reckon I can help. In the garden. I think that would be the right thing to do. For breaking into your shed?

FRANK grabs a bag of fertiliser and NIX grabs a rake and follows FRANK out to a lush garden.

I live next door. We just moved in. The others. Lesley Pratchett, Troy and Neil? They hate my guts. LESLEY especially. She's ropable. It's a long story. What's most important is that I've identified some incidents and possible reasons why LESLEY is so mad. It's complicated but I've narrowed it down to three main events. I've given them titles and recorded them in a book. The first one is titled: "Should've played footy", the second is, "Don't use big words" and the third is called, "Tampons are a private matter". Mrs Tilbot says that recognising where you went wrong is the most important step to becoming more self-aware.

Pause. NIX stares at FRANK who is quite bewildered.

In the honesty session, Mrs Tilbot, told me that I have a tendency to talk non-stop. I have issues self-regulating. Sometimes I don't know how much, is too much. Mrs Tilbot taught me this technique called, stop, look and listen. I find the "stop" bit particularly hard. (*Pause*) So...Can I help out?