

***Park Players Theatre Company***

**Audition Packet**

*The Comedy of Errors*

by

William Shakespeare

**Auditions**

September 17th-18th (Tues. - Wed.) 3:00 - 6:00 pm

**Callbacks**

September 19th (Th.) 3:00 - 7:00 pm

*You may audition either Tuesday or Wednesday, but you should plan on arriving promptly at 2:50 pm and staying until 6:00 pm. There is a possibility of getting out early, but don't plan on it.*

**Bring copies of all of the audition scenes with you to your auditions please!**

**Performances**

December 6-7 and 13-14, 2019

DuBois Little Theatre

7:00pm

*There will be a \$150.00 cast fee for this show due to the cost of costumes. There will be a mandatory Parent/Company Meeting on Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm.*

**Please read this packet in its entirety.**

***The Comedy of Errors* is a super fast paced, kinda bawdy, and really, really funny play! Rehearsals will be exhausting once lines are memorized, because the show requires so much energy. Characters literally run from scene to scene.**

**Characters run around, get tossed around, crawl around, get beaten up, and trip and fall throughout the play. It is a very physical play. I will be looking for how well animated you are in your audition. It's better to try and feel weird, rather than to make no attempt at all. Just go for it vocally and physically!**

**The Comedy of Errors** is one of William Shakespeare's early plays. It is his shortest and one of his most farcical comedies, with a major part of the humour coming from slapstick and mistaken identity, in addition to puns and word play (lots of rhyme!). Set in the Greek city of Ephesus, *The Comedy of Errors* tells the story of two sets of identical twins who were accidentally separated at birth. Antipholus of Syracuse and his servant, Dromio of Syracuse, arrive in Ephesus, which turns out to be the home of their twin brothers, Antipholus of Ephesus and his servant, Dromio of Ephesus. When the Syracusans encounter the friends and families of their twins, a series of wild mishaps based on mistaken identities lead to wrongful beatings, a near-seduction, the arrest of Antipholus of Ephesus, and false accusations of infidelity, theft, madness, and demonic possession!!

I will be editing a few parts of this play (where the monologues are rather long) to keep it running smoothly:) This play requires a solid ensemble!!

## **Characters**

**Antipholus of Syracuse** (ann-tiff'-ah-lus) - The twin brother of Antipholus of Ephesus and the son of Egeon; he has been traveling the world with his slave, Dromio of Syracuse, trying to find his long-lost brother and mother.

**Antipholus of Ephesus** (eh'-fah-sus)- The twin brother of Antipholus of Syracuse and the son of Egeon; he is a well-respected merchant in Ephesus and Adriana's husband.

**Dromio Of Syracuse** (droh-mee-oh) - female or male - The bumbling, comical slave of Antipholus of Syracuse. He is the twin brother of Dromio of Ephesus.

**Dromio Of Ephesus** - female or male -The bumbling, comical slave of Antipholus of Ephesus. He is the Syracusan Dromio's twin brother.

*\* If Dromio is cast female, the role/s will still identify as male.*

**Adriana** (aaa'-dree-ah-nah - The wife of Antipholus of Ephesus, she is a fierce, jealous woman.

**Luciana** (loo-shee-ah-nah) - Adriana's unmarried sister and the object of Antipholus of Syracuse's affections.

**Solinus** (male or female) - The Duke of Ephesus; a just but merciful ruler.

**Egeon** - A Syracusan merchant, husband of the Abbess (Emilia), and the father of the two Antipholi. He is, like his Syracusan son, in search of the missing half of his family; he has been sentenced to death as the play begins.

**Abbess** - Emilia, the long-lost wife of Egeon and the mother of the two Antipholi.

**Balthasar** (male or female) - A merchant in Syracuse.

**Angelo** - A goldsmith in Syracuse and a friend to Antipholus of Ephesus.

**Merchant** (male or female) - An Ephesian friend of Antipholus of Syracuse.

**Second Merchant** (male or female) - A tradesman to whom Angelo is in debt.

**Doctor Pinch** (male or female) - A schoolteacher, conjurer, and would-be exorcist.

**Luce** (loo-chay) - Also called Nell. Antipholus of Ephesus' prodigiously curvy maid and Dromio of Ephesus' wife.

**Courtesan** - An expensive prostitute and friend of Antipholus of Ephesus.

**Townspeople** - 2-6 people

McNut

**Synopsis** (story takes place in one day)

### **Act I**

That same day, Antipholus arrives in Ephesus, searching for his brother. He sends Dromio to deposit some money at *The Centaur*, an inn. He is confounded when the identical Dromio of Ephesus appears almost immediately, denying any knowledge of the money and asking him home to dinner, where his wife is waiting. Antipholus, thinking his servant is making insubordinate jokes, beats Dromio of Ephesus.

### **Act II**

Dromio of Ephesus returns to his mistress, Adriana, saying that her "husband" refused to come back to his house, and even pretended not to know her. Adriana, concerned that her husband's eye is straying, takes this news as confirmation of her suspicions.

Antipholus of Syracuse, who complains, "I could not speak with Dromio since at first, I sent him from the mart," meets up with Dromio of Syracuse who now denies making a "joke" about Antipholus having a wife. Antipholus begins beating him. Suddenly, Adriana rushes up to Antipholus of Syracuse and begs him not to leave her. The Syracusans cannot but attribute these strange events to witchcraft, remarking that Ephesus is known as a warren for witches. Antipholus and Dromio go off with this strange woman, the one to eat dinner and the other to keep the gate.

### **Act III**

Antipholus of Ephesus returns home for dinner and is enraged to find that he is rudely refused entry to his own house by Dromio of Syracuse, who is keeping the gate. He is ready to break down the door, but his friends persuade him not to make a scene. He decides, instead, to dine with a courtesan.

Inside the house, Antipholus of Syracuse discovers that he is very attracted to his "wife's" sister, Luciana of Smyrna, telling her "train me not, sweet mermaid, with thy note / To drown me in thy sister's flood of tears." She is flattered by his attention but worried about their moral implications. After she exits, Dromio of Syracuse announces that he has discovered that he has a wife: Nell, a hideous kitchen-maid. He describes her as "spherical, like a globe; I could find out countries in her". Antipholus jokingly asks him to identify the countries, leading to a witty exchange in which parts of her body are identified with nations. Ireland is her buttocks: "I found it out by the bogs". He claims he has discovered America and the Indies "upon her nose all o'er embellished with rubies, carbuncles, sapphires, declining their rich aspect to the hot breath of Spain; who sent whole armadas of crabs to be ballast at her nose." The Syracusans decide to leave as soon as possible, and Dromio runs off to make travel plans. Antipholus of Syracuse is then confronted by Angelo of Ephesus, a goldsmith, who claims that Antipholus ordered a chain from him. Antipholus is forced to accept the chain, and Angelo says that he will return for payment.

### **Act IV**

Antipholus of Ephesus dispatches Dromio of Ephesus to purchase a rope so that he can beat his wife Adriana for locking him out, then is accosted by Angelo, who tells him, "I thought to have ta'en you at the Porpentine" and asks to be reimbursed for the chain. He denies ever seeing it and is promptly arrested. As he is being led away, Dromio of Syracuse arrives,

whereupon Antipholus dispatches him back to Adriana's house to get money for his bail. After completing this errand, Dromio of Syracuse mistakenly delivers the money to Antipholus of Syracuse. The Courtesan spies Antipholus wearing the gold chain, and says he promised it to her in exchange for her ring. The Syracusans deny this and flee.

### **Act V**

The Courtesan resolves to tell Adriana that her husband is insane. Dromio of Ephesus returns to the arrested Antipholus of Ephesus, with the rope. Antipholus is infuriated. Adriana, Luciana, and the Courtesan enter with a conjurer named Pinch, who tries to exorcize the Ephesians, who are bound and taken to Adriana's house. The Syracusans enter, carrying swords, and everybody runs off for fear: believing that they are the Ephesians, out for vengeance after somehow escaping their bonds. Adriana reappears with henchmen, who attempt to bind the Syracusans. They take sanctuary in a nearby priory, where the Abbess resolutely protects them. Suddenly, the Abbess enters with the Syracusan twins, and everyone begins to understand the confused events of the day. Not only are the two sets of twins reunited, but the Abbess reveals that she is Egeon's wife, Emilia of Babylon. The Duke pardons Egeon. All exit into the abbey to celebrate the reunification of the family.

Happily Ever After for All.

**The roles of Antipholus of Ephesus and Antipholus of Syracuse can be played by two male actors depending on the similarity of their physical features. The two roles can also be cast to be played by one male actor.**

**The roles of Dromio of Ephesus and Dromio of Syracuse can be played by either two female or two male actors depending on the similarity of their physical features. The two roles can also be cast to be played by one female or one male actor. \* If Dromio is cast female, the role/s will still identify as male.**

### **Audition Tips**

1. Have your Audition Form *completed and ready to turn in* when you arrive at the theatre!
2. Show this packet and rehearsal schedule to your parent or guardian and be sure to list all your conflicts on the audition form.
3. **Power off** your cell phone. You *really do not* want me to hear it, or see you using it.
4. Do not speak or engage in distracting behavior during auditions.
5. Wear attractive, but comfortable clothes that you can move freely in.
6. I need to see your face! Style your hair so that it is completely off your face. Makeup helps me to see your face better too (if you have it).
7. Be hydrated when you come to auditions. Bring a water bottle. No food.
8. **Bring copies of all** of the audition scenes with you to your audition please!
9. **SPEAK LOUD and ENUNCIATE.** I do not know how else to make this clear. If we can't hear, or understand you --- it doesn't matter how talented you are. If I ask you to *project* during your audition --- you have a problem. Triple your volume. Do not be fooled by the size of the theatre.

10. Do not try to sound "British." Use your own voice, but with really awesome volume and enunciation!!!! It may feel awkward to you, but if you practice enough --- it will feel natural!
11. ANIMATE your body!! Think of the words you are saying. Shakespeare's language tells you what to do physically.
12. You should be completely familiar with the script. *Read the play.* Look at Sparknotes. I've seen a few YouTube clips, but they were pretty bad....
13. You should be very familiar with the audition scenes --- ALL of them. Know what you are saying --- look at the footnotes or Google the meaning of words. Know what the other character is saying as well. This way you can focus on demonstrating a character and interpreting the lines with meaning.
14. "Doth" is pronounced "duhth."
15. Speak the words from your heart. Shakespeare's language is quite easy once you get the hang of it --- and I promise you will!! Work with me guys. Trust me.
16. Have a question about the scene before you read? Ask me.
17. Remember that we are on your side! We want you to do well!!!
18. Remember to breathe! Lift your rib cage.
19. Don't pay any attention to my face and try to figure out what I'm thinking. It's mostly just a resting face. Just focus on your own fabuloussssssnesssss!
20. This is a comedy. Comic timing is important. Please remember that.
21. Have fun!!!

### **Rehearsal Schedule**

**The following are the times we have booked to work on our show. It does not mean that you will have to be at all of the rehearsals; however, you should list your conflicts as if you had to be at all of them. We will rarely --- if at all --- rehearse on Fridays. I listed them in case we have need of them (which I doubt).**

Monday-Friday, Sept 16 - Nov 22 2:30-7:00 pm

Monday-Tuesday, Nov. 25-26 2:30-7:00 pm

***Tech Saturday***, Nov. 23 10 am-10 pm (no one excused from this)

***Tech Week***, Monday-Thursday, Dec. 2-5 2:30-8:00 pm (no one excused from this)

***Strike***, Monday-Tuesday, Dec.16-17 2:30-6:30 pm

**The entire company will be required to work a *total* of 6 general tech hours on Saturday(s) of your choosing (Saturday --- 10/26, 11/1, 11/9, 11/16). These hours will count toward your Thespian points. We will also have crew calls on some Fridays.**

**Audition Form**  
*The Comedy of Errors*

(print neatly please)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you auditioning for both shows? Yes or No If you were to be considered for casting in both shows, which would be your 1st choice? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a role you will not accept?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please list conflicts on the back of this form.** Please remember that just because you have a conflict, it does not mean that we can honor it. We do our best to accommodate, but too many conflicts could impact casting.

**Performance Experience:**

**Please do not write below this line**

**V**

**S**

**P**