

AUDITION SIDES

* Line numbers throughout refer to the Folger Shakespeare Library edition.

PALAMON

(please read both sides)

#1

Traitor kinsman,
Thou shouldst perceive my passion if these signs
Of prisonment were off me, and this hand
But owner of a sword. By all oaths in one,
I and the justice of my love would make thee
A confessed traitor. [...] Call'st thou her thine?
I'll prove it in my shackles, with these hands,
Void of appointment, that thou liest, and art
A very thief in love, a chaffy lord,
Nor worth the name of villain. Had I a sword,
And these house clogs away—

[III.i.32-37,40-45]

#2

Nay, pray you,
You talk of feeding me to breed me strength.
You are going now to look upon a sun
That strengthens what it looks on; there
You have a vantage o'er me, but enjoy 't till
I may enforce my remedy. Farewell.

[III.i.139-144]

ARCITE

Banish'd the kingdom? 'Tis a benefit,
A mercy I must thank 'em for; but banish'd
The free enjoying of that face I die for,
O, 'twas a studied punishment[...] Palamon,
Thou hast the start now; thou shalt stay and see
Her bright eyes break each morning 'gainst thy window
And let in life into thee; thou shalt feed
Upon the sweetness of a noble beauty
That nature ne'er exceeded nor ne'er shall.
Good gods, what happiness has Palamon!
Twenty to one he'll come to speak to her,
And if she be as gentle as she's fair,
I know she's his. He has a tongue will tame
Tempests and make the wild rocks wanton.
Come what can come,
The worst is death. I will not leave the kingdom. [...]

[II.iii.1-4,7-20]

THESEUS

(please read the first side;
the second side is optional)

#1

You are a right woman, sister: you have pity,
But want the understanding where to use it.
If you desire their lives, invent a way
Safer than banishment. Can these two live,
And have the agony of love about 'em,
And not kill one another? Every day
They'd fight about you, hourly bring your honor
In public question with their swords. Be wise, then,
And here forget 'em; it concerns your credit
And my oath equally. I have said they die.
Better they fall by th' law than one another.
Bow not my honor.

[III.vi.273-284]

#2

[...] you shall both to your country,
And each within this month, accompanied
With three fair knights, appear again in this place,
In which I'll plant a pyramid; and whether,
Before us that are here, can force his cousin
By fair and knightly strength to touch the pillar,
He shall enjoy her; the other lose his head[...]

[III.vi.360-366]

HIPPOLYTA

(please read both sides)

#1

 Though much unlike
You should be so transported, as much sorry
I should be such a suitor, yet I think
Did I not, by th' abstaining of my joy—
Which breeds a deeper longing — cure their surfeit
That craves a present med'cine, I should pluck
All ladies' scandal on me. Therefore, sir,
As I shall here make trial of my prayers,
Either presuming them to have some force,
Or sentencing for aye their vigor dumb,
Prorogue this business we are going about, and hang
Your shield afore your heart — about that neck
Which is my fee, and which I freely lend
To do these poor queens service.

[I.i.216-231]

#2

[...]
We have been soldiers, and we cannot weep
When our friends don their helms or put to sea,
Or tell of babes broach'd on the lance[...] Then if
You stay to see of us such spinsters, we
Should hold you here forever.

[I.iii.22-24,26-28]

EMILIA

(please read both sides)

#1

[...] But I,
And she I sigh and spoke of, were things innocent,
Lov'd for we did, and like the elements
That know not what nor why, yet do effect
Rare issues by their operance, our souls
Did so to one another. What she lik'd
Was then of me approv'd, what not, condemn'd,
No more arraignment. The flower that I would pluck
And put between my breasts — O then but beginning
To swell about the blossom — she would long
Till she had such another, and commit it
To the like innocent cradle, where, Phoenix-like,
They died in perfume. On my head no toy
But was her pattern[...] This rehearsal—
Which fury-innocent wots well comes in
Like old importment's bastard — has this end,
That the true love 'tween maid and maid may be
More than in sex individual.

[I.iii.69-82,89-93]

#2

[...] This is my last
Of vestal office. I am bride-habited
But maiden-hearted. A husband I have 'pointed,
But do not know him. Out of two I should
Choose one, and pray for his success, but I
Am guiltless of election. Of mine eyes,
Were I to lose one — they are equal precious—
I could doom neither; that which perish'd should
Go to 't unsentenc'd. Therefore, most modest queen,
He of the two pretenders that best loves me
And has the truest title in't, let him
Take off my wheaten garland, or else grant
The file and quality I hold I may
Continue in thy band. [...]

[V.i.158-171]

PIRITHOUS

List then: your cousin,
Mounted upon a steed that Emily
Did first bestow on him[...] As he thus went counting
The flinty pavement, dancing, as 'twere, to th' music
His own hooves made — for, as they say, from iron
Came music's origin — what envious flint,
Cold as old Saturn, and like him possess'd
With fire malevolent, darted a spark,
Or what fierce sulphur else, to this end made,
I comment not; the hot horse, hot as fire,
Took toy at this and fell to what disorder
His power could give his will; bounds, comes on end,
Forgets school-doing[...] seeks all foul means
Of boist'rous and rough jadery to disseat
His lord that kept it bravely. [...]

[V.iv.62-65,73-83,86-88]

JAILER

I may depart with little while I live; something I may cast to you, not much. Alas, the prison I keep, though it be for great ones, yet they seldom come; before one salmon you shall take a number of minnows. I am given out to be better lined than it can appear to me report is a true speaker. I would I were really that I am delivered to be. Marry, what I have, be it what it will, I will assure upon my daughter at the day of my death. [...] Well, we will talk more of this when the solemnity is past. But have you a full promise of her? When that shall be seen, I tender my consent.

[II.i.1-9,13-15]

JAILER'S DAUGHTER

(please read both sides)

#1

Why should I love this gentleman? 'Tis odds
He never will affect me. I am base,
My father the mean keeper of his prison,
And he a prince. To marry him is hopeless;
To be his whore is witless. [...] First, I saw him;
I, seeing, thought he was a goodly man;
He has as much to please a woman in him,
If he please to bestow it so, as ever
These eyes yet look'd on. Next, I pitied him,
And so would any young wench, o' my conscience,
That ever dream'd, or vow'd her maidenhead
To a young handsome man. Then I lov'd him,
Extremely lov'd him, infinitely lov'd him!
And yet he had a cousin, fair as he too.
But in my heart was Palamon [...] When I come in
To bring him water in a morning, first
He bows his noble body, then salutes me thus:
"Fair, gentle maid, good morrow. May thy goodness
Get thee a happy husband." Once he kiss'd me;
I lov'd my lips the better ten days after.
Would he would do so ev'ry day! He grieves much—
And me as much to see his misery.
What should I do to make him know I love him?
For I would fain enjoy him. Say I ventur'd
To set him free? What says the law then?
Thus much for law or kindred! I will do it,
And this night, or tomorrow, he shall love me.

[II.iv.1-5,7-17,21-33]

#2

Good e'en, good men. Pray, did you ever hear of one young Palamon? [...] You have a sister. [...] But she shall never have him — tell her so — for a trick that I know; you'd best look to her, for if she see him once, she's gone, she's done and undone in an hour. All the young maids of our town are in love with him [...]

[IV.i.154-155,163,165-169]

WOOER

She sung much, but no sense; only I heard her
Repeat this often: "Palamon is gone,
Is gone to th' wood to gather mulberries;
I'll find him out tomorrow." [...] Then she talked of you, sir—
That you must lose your head tomorrow morning,
And she must gather flowers to bury you,
And see the house made handsome. Then she sung
Nothing but "Willow, willow, willow," and between
Ever was "Palamon, fair Palamon,"
And "Palamon was a tall young man." [...]

[IV.i.94-97,105-111]

The Two Noble Kinsmen

ENSEMBLE* (page 1 of 2)

(please choose TWO, if only auditioning for ensemble;
or choose ONE, if also auditioning for a lead)

* Please note that “ensemble” for this show entails playing multiple (smaller) speaking roles.

#1 [*Chorus*]

New plays and maidenheads are near akin:
Much follow'd both, for both much money giv'n,
If they stand sound and well. And a good play,
Whose modest scenes blush on his marriage day
And shake to lose his honor, is like her
That after holy tie and first night's stir
Yet still is modesty, and still retains
More of the maid, to sight, than husband's pains.
We pray our play may be so, for I am sure
It has a noble breeder and a pure,
A learnèd, and a poet never went
More famous yet 'twixt Po and silver Trent.
Chaucer, of all admired, the story gives;
There, constant to eternity it lives. [...]

[*Pro.1-14*]

#2 [*First Queen*]

We are three queens whose sovereigns fell before
The wrath of cruel Creon; who endur'd
The beaks of ravens, talons of the kites,
And pecks of crows in the foul fields of Thebes.
He will not suffer us to burn their bones,
To urn their ashes, [...] but infects the winds
With stench of our slain lords. O, pity, duke!
Thou purger of the earth, draw thy fear'd sword
That does good turns to th' world; give us the bones
Of our dead kings, that we may chapel them[...]

[*I.i.43-48,50-54*]

