

Audition Monologue Options:

Everybody

by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

directed by Andy Head

***Please Note*: this production asks some cast members to be ready to play multiple roles and will require a lot of memorization.**

We would like to see you present one of these monologues memorized, if possible, for your audition.

Usher:

Now, the original play, *Everyman*, purported to be about Life and its transience, which is to say it was really, I guess, about Death. It was also—"in manner" of a "morality play," which means that there was a moral to it. Originally, this message was sort of like, "Hey, everybody. Don't be so crazy in life. Like, you may think all that 'craziness' is great initially because it's really fun but, when you die, you may sort of regret all that fun, because—though we honestly don't know what happens when you die—we have this *hunch* that you could wind up someplace which is objectively worse than this one—and let's call that 'Hell', this state of eternal, unfathomable suffering. And this craziness—let's call it 'sin'—this 'sin', or at least too much of it, is our idea of how you wind up there. We think.

God:

HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I SIT BY
AND WITNESS ALL MY CREATURES
IN THEIR HEARTS
GROW MORE AND MORE UNKIND TO ME?
FOR WHY SHOULD LAUGHTER COME WHEN I REVEAL MYSELF?
BECAUSE OF THE VESSEL I HAVE CHOSEN?
BECAUSE I HAVE NO EYES?
WHAT NEED WOULD I HAVE FOR THESE PUNY ORGANS?
TO APPREHEND THIS MINOR PLANE OF MATTER
AND ILLUSION
THAT I'VE LET YOU INHABIT?
I, WHO HAVE USHERED EVERY DETAIL OF THIS WORLD
INTO BEING—
AND MOVE IT FORWARD WITH MY VERY BREATH,
WHICH IS TIME?
I, THE ALL-SEEING,
I, THE ALL-FEELING,
THE OMNISCIANT,
THE OMNIPOTENT,
THE OMNIPRESENT?
I NEED NO EYES!
I POSSESS THE VANTAGE OF DIVINITY...
...INSTEAD OF LAUGHTER,
HOW ABOUT A THANK YOU

FOR THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER?
OR THE GIFT OF PLEASURE ITSELF?
OR OF BEING ITSELF—
AN EXPERIENCE TO YOU WHICH I HAVE MERELY LOANED!

Everybody 1:

Was that a dream or was that a vision? Were you even asleep? Are you still asleep? Or are you really dying? Is this how Death comes to you? In a dream? Though if Death really is just a matter of taking a trip and giving some sort of presentation at the end, then it might not be that bad. You've definitely imagined worse. Like Nothingness... (*beat*)

Still this presentation also seems really involved because it's like: are you supposed to have this memorized? And you've done a terrible job keep track of your life. And, in your defense, it's not like anyone told you that you should be paying so much attention to the details of your life!

Death:

I WILL NOT HAVE A HEART FOR IT IS HEARTS THAT I STOP WHEN I PLEASE AND NOW YOU'VE GOT ME SCREAMING AND UPSET AND I DO NOT LIKE DOING THINGS LIKE THIS! (*beat*)

This is already hard enough work without everyone thinking you're some sort of a bitch! (*beat*)

But you know what? Who am I? I've only been doing this since the Beginning of the Beginning! I don't know why in the world you wouldn't think that I have seen and heard and know it all but, sure, go ahead, why don't you go try and "find someone" to come along with you. Maybe they will help with this mysterious account. Who knows? I have to go get into my traveling clothes anyway.

Friendship:

I was just thinking about you, too! Oh, man! I miss you! What's going on? You seem a little depressed! Is it still the election? It is the weather? Is it Global Warming? Is it the impending threat of Nuclear War? Or is it just politics? Is it identity politics? Or is it your job? Is it your career slash lack of a career? Is it that person we both hate? Oh no! It's not that person we both love, is it? Is it your relationship slash lack of a relationship? Is it our relationship? Remember that time we sort of hooked up? That was weird, right? But it's good we got over it, right? Right? We got over it, right?

Cousin:

Don't you think what you're doing is sort of selfish? Like you can't just decide I'm a garbage person based on whether or not I want to die with you. I mean, you just *just* confirmed this whole "God" thing for me but it sounds like everybody's got some sort of presentation they're expected to deliver, so it's like how am I supposed to go with you but also get myself ready, too? You know what I mean? There's only so much time in the world and everyone knows multitasking leads to diminished quality in the overall work and honestly, like, it's not all about you, Everybody. You know what I mean? Maybe the point of life is that everyone has to wrestle with it on their own terms.

Stuff:

Oh, man. (*beat*) I guess I did it again...

How do I put this? Okay, Everybody. I...I sort of have a problem where, without really being aware of it, I apparently just like...*destroy humans*? Does that make sense? It's like something I'm working through but like, at the end of the day, I guess I'm just so enchanting or comforting or beautiful or there's some sort of Object Relational Thing in your programming that I exploit or something but, at the end of the day, I just...ruin you. I've done it again and again and I'm sorry. Because, honestly, what's going to

happen is that, when you're dead, some other helpless Somebody is just going to come along and I'm just going to wind up doing the same cruel thing to them that I've done to you and...It's a horrible cycle.

Everybody 2:

You have been living your whole life completely wrong. Everything has been a lie! And now it's too late to do anything about that. Death will be back here any moment. This is a disaster! Why do your last moments on this Earth have to be so miserable? What was the point of it all—of the good feelings? Of joy, relief, excitement, happiness, belonging? Of feeling anything in the first place? Why make you so acquainted with the world and its treasure and then take it all away? But maybe it's not your place to know why. But then why were you given the ability to wonder why? Ugh!