

Audition Pieces for *Playhouse Creatures*

Please select an audition piece according to the character(s) you would like to be considered for, after looking at the character breakdown in the pack.

I leave it up to you to choose whether you wish to learn the piece.

DOLL

Before this place turned playhouse it was a bear pit. They hated to dance for a whip. My dad was the bear keeper. One day this bear turned on him. The whip came down and down on her and still she came. She slashed his chest, here to here. That night they took out her claws and teeth. Ripped em out, and she howled and screamed and rocked in pain. It woke me and I ran in. There was blood on the floor. "No, dad, no," I says. And he said " You let one of them get away with it and tomorrow none of them bears'll dance." The bear had gone still and her head was hanging and I said "Why should you whip her?" He took my hand and put it in the blood that was on the floor and then he wiped more on my face. "She dances and we eat meat." He said. " Never let me hear you speak on it again." The blood was warm at first and then it started turning cold on me and it seemed turn me cold. I never did say nothing again.

Pause

Playhouse creatures they called you, like you was animals.

NELL GWYN

I could not do it. You lot buggered off and left me.

Everything swayed as if it was wind in a forest and people were hissing and that was like the sound of the wind. And I felt like a small thing that the wind was carrying, carrying somewhere, away, far away... Then a thought came into my head like a shout. It said do something and fucking hurry up about it. So I danced a little jig which I made up on the spot out of my head and slowly all the whistling, hissing, stopped, and then someone started to clap, and then they all clapped. Laughed and clapped.

I felt like I had fire inside me or whiskey.

MRS BETTERTON

After that we did it on a regular basis. My fool to his Lear, his Falstaff to my Hal. And then, of course, the day came when everything hanged and for the first time we women were permitted by Royal decree to act upon a stage. A great stir it caused. And I was one of the first ever and when I spoke, a great hush descended on the house, and it was as if the men and women gathered there were watching a miracle, like water turning to wine or a sick man coming to health.

Pause

It was then I knew I had done a terrible thing and that nothing would ever be the same for me again. I had tasted a forbidden fruit and its poisons had sunk deep into my soul. You see, Iago is like a whip that drives the life around him, when Hal makes a choice the whole world holds its breath. I never forgot that feeling. The poison's still in my blood. Like a longing. I looked for that poison everywhere and couldn't find it. Not in the Desdemonas or Ophelias. Only in her, the dark woman.

MRS FARLEY

I laughed and laughed and laughed. I couldn't stop laughing. He drank down a whole flask, and the rest of them beat the tables with their fists, and the noise was deafening, and then this woman came in, and you should have seen the state of her: she had a black eye, and her hair was matted, and she had bare feet, and they got her to sing in front of the King; only, she couldn't sing a note, and I laughed so much I cried; I don't know where they got her; off the streets – I think – and I never went home last night – I stayed away all night. What did you do?