

River Stage Fall 2024 General Auditions

Sample Monologues

Play It Straight

Ross

Control the classroom. That's it. If control is lost, nothing else really matters. The new state standards - the district mandates for cross-subject curriculum - the updated guidelines regarding parental engagement which was introduced after the last lawsuit – all the collaborative scaffolding with corresponding rubrics which seamlessly leads each student upwards towards mastery - the constant checking for understanding - the awareness of racial and social sensitivity - the high academic standards. All that turns to crap without control. This— (jerks a thumb toward the student corpses) This is the ideal. A perfect teaching moment. Everyone's fully engaged, yet completely under control. It won't last.

(brightens) Of course, the class is an exponentially more creative place when a little chaos creeps in! That's when the magic happens! But "a little chaos" is also the portal to profanity, sexual tension, defiance, and the flaunting of social taboos. And that's where I'm supposed to come in. To maintain constant control, while also being spontaneous and open and caring and entertaining and wise and humble. To be in charge without being in charge. And to do it for 35 years. That's what a great teacher does!

(beat)

I am not a great teacher.

Jenny

Hi. My name's Jenny Galloway, and my monologue is called "Shut Up and Listen!" When I first started acting, back in junior high, I thought it was so fun, even though back then, all I was doing was learning the lines, and figuring out how to say them. Usually in front of a mirror. I thought that was all there was to it. But then I got into Ross's cla— Mr. Ross's class - and Mr. Ross likes to say "Acting is like Life - it's best if you mostly just listen." Mr. Ross says even when you're playing a lead role, saying your lines is usually less than half of your performance. Listening is what

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separates the great ones from everyone else. And that was The Moment that really opened my eyes. And more importantly, my ears. The end.

Urinetown

Officer Lockstock

Well, hello there. And welcome-to Urinetown! Not the place, of course. The musical. Urinetown "the place" is ... well, it's a place you'll hear people referring to a lot throughout the show. It's kind of a mythical place, you understand. A bad place. A place you won't see until Act Two. And then ... ? Well, let's just say it's filled with symbolism and things like that.

But Urinetown "the musical," well, here we are. Welcome. It takes place in a town like any town ... that you might find in a musical. This here's the first setting for the show. As the sign says, it's a "public amenity," meaning public toilet. These people have been waiting for hours to get in; it's the only amenity they can afford to get into.

Well, suffice it to say that in Urinetown (the musical) everyone has to use public bathrooms in order to take care of their private business. That's the central conceit of the show! Later on you'll learn that these public bathrooms are controlled by a private company. They keep admission high, generally, so if you're down on your luck, you have to come to a place like this-one of the poorest, filthiest urinals in town. Well, we've talked on long enough, I imagine. Enjoy the show. And welcome - to Urinetown (the musical)!

Penelope Pennywise

Quiet back there! No one's gettin' anywhere for free! Don't you think I have bills of my own to pay?! Don't you think I have taxes and tariffs and payoffs to meet, too?! Well, I do! And I don't pay them with promises, see. I pay them with cash! Cold hard cash. Every morning you all come here. And every morning some of you got reasons why ya ain't gonna pay. And I'm here to tell ya, ya is gonna pay! "Times are hard. " "Our cash is tight. " "You've got no right!" I've heard it all before. 'Just this once' Is once too much, For once they've onced, they'll want to once once more. I run the only toilet in this part of town, you see. So, if you've got to go, You've got to go through me. It's a privilege to pee.