

# AUDITION PROCESS

We hope to mix script based audition with improvisation. We need to see how people can handle Shakespeare's language, but we realise that might be an obstacle at audition time when we also need to see how you create the character.

## HANDLING SHAKESPEAREAN TEXT

NOTE: **Shakespeare's words are not meant to be recited as poetry.** Treat them as words of everyday conversation but of another era.

**You should not speak with a plum in your mouth.** If your character is angry, spit the words out...

**Do not pause at the end of a line** unless the punctuation tells you to. Fullstops, question marks, commas etc tell you where to pause

**Do not rush your words.** Give them the same weight and pace you would in normal conversation.

### Consider an extract

**Read** it through a few times in your mind.

Step 1:

Ask yourself: Who am I as a **character**?

What is my **intention** in this scene? What do I want?

What do the words I say **mean**? (Check the meanings of any unfamiliar words or phrases)

Step 2:

In your mind, **translate** the idea behind these words into modern English.

**Act** the scene in modern English.

Note **how** you act the scene - how you move; where you place emphasis in your words, your tone of voice...

Step 3:

Do the same scene in Shakespearean text, script in hand.

Do not forget to **act!** Remember your character, intention, meaning, movement, tone, emphasis...

Step 4:

Get **feedback** from someone else. How could you present this scene more effectively?

### Demonstrate as well as tell

Audience members may have difficult understanding some of what you say because of the archaic language. Use body language / mime etc to show what you mean as you say it. If you **act** a story out even a little child will get the idea.