Auditions

William Shakespeare’s

Who: Actors and Backstage Crew needed! ANY ONE MAY AUDITION

What:

*Henry V* is a history play, probably written around 1599. It covers events during the Hundred Years' War, immediately before and after the Battle of Agincourt (1415).

Act I

A Chorus introduces the play and celebrates the life of England's King Henry V. Henry himself seeks for evidence of his right to rule over France. The Archbishop explains land laws to the King and his court. Then an ambassador arrives from the French King's son, the Dauphin, with a gift of tennis balls to humiliate Henry. His response to this challenge is to set in motion the invasion of France. The scene moves to Southampton where a fleet prepares to sail.
Act II

Henry has rejected many of his former friends in his ascension. Three of these former friends are caught plotting his death, and Henry condemns the conspirators to their own deaths in return. Meanwhile, Pistol, Nim, and Bardolph, three of Henry's former rambunctious comrades who appeared in Henry IV Parts 1 and 2, decide to join the army. They set off for the war after hearing of the death of their leader, Sir John Falstaff.

Act III

The French King receives Exeter as Henry's ambassador. Then the English lay siege to and take the town of Harfleur. He leaves a regiment of troops in Harfleur before travelling on towards Calais, gradually moving through the French countryside. Meanwhile, the French courtiers deride their invaders amongst themselves. Back at the French court, Princess Catherine has an English lesson with her waiting woman.

Act IV

In the English camp, Pistol, Henry's friend, ridicules the Welsh captain, Fluellen. After many battles, the two armies start to prepare for combat near Agincourt. The night before the battle, the King disguises himself and visits his soldiers to learn from them and give them comfort before the day ahead. As dawn approaches, the French generals are confident of their superior forces. Henry encourages his troops to fight for success and scorns another French envoy's invitation to surrender.

Act V

The French army is defeated with heavy losses, while few have died on the English side. Thanking God for his victory, Henry returns in triumph to London. But not before he, too, has an encounter with the Welsh captain, Fluellen. Henry makes peace with the French King and woos Princess Catherine before linking the two nations through marriage.

Where/When: Auditions are Sunday August 27 (by appointment from 1-3) and Tuesday August 29 from 3:00-4:30. If auditioning on Sunday please email derwin@priory.org for an audition time.
CALL BACKS if needed for specific roles will be on Wednesday August 30
The first cast meeting is Thursday August 31
Rehearsals will be weekdays from 3:00 until 4:30 pm as well as some Sunday
afternoons. Tech week will run until 8pm

Why: The show is a great Shakespearean history. Under two hours of battle and
political intrigue with LOTS of famous lines.

We perform October 26-29 (evening performances Thursday through Saturday, Sunday matinee)

The Characters

Many roles are gender neutral and could be played by any gender. There is
the option for doubling, enabling the show to be performed by a cast of 16.

CHARACTERS: HENRY V

Chorus: involves everyone. Lines will move throughout cast. We will
explore multiple ways to do these lines. Most choral narration occurs
during battle scenes so potentially this could be recorded and done
as voice over

ALL ACTORS WILL PARTICIPATE IN STAGE COMBAT AND BATTLE
SCENES

English Characters
King Henry V: The young, recently crowned kind of England. Kissing scene

Dukes of Clarence, Gloucester, and Bedford: Henry’s three younger brothers.


Earls of Salisbury, Westmoreland, and Warwick: Leaders of Henry’s military and
trusted advisors. ANY GENDER

Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Ely: Wealthy, powerful English clergymen.
ANY GENDER
Cambridge, Scroop, and Grey: English conspirators. ANY GENDER

York and Suffolk: Two of Henry’s noble cousins. ANY GENDER

Sir Thomas Erpingham: An officer in Henry’s army. ANY GENDER

Captain Gower: An English army captain. ANY GENDER

Captain Fluellen, Captain MacMorris, and Captain Jamy: The captains of Henry’s troops from Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, respectively. ANY GENDER

Michael Williams, John Bates, and Alexander Court: English soldiers. ANY GENDER

Pistol: friend of Henry’s from his days disguised as a commoner. Married to Hostess Nell Quickly. COMIC ROLE Kisses Quickly

Bardolph: friend of Henry’s from his days disguised as a commoner. ANY GENDER

Nym: friend of Henry’s from his days disguised as a commoner. ANY GENDER

Boy: works at the pub for Pistol. Joins army. Speaks French. ANY GENDER

A Herald: ANY GENDER

Hostess Nell Quickly: The hostess and keeper of the Boar’s Head Tavern in London. Married to Pistol. Kisses him

French Characters

King Charles VI of France

Lewis, the Dauphin: The son of King Charles and heir to the French throne.


Montjoy: A French herald ANY GENDER
Monsieur le Fer: A French soldier and gentleman. ANY GENDER

Ambassadors: From the French court to King Henry. ANY GENDER

Isabel: Queen of France, married to Charles VI.

Katherine: The daughter of King Charles and Queen Isabel. Has whole scene in French. Has kissing scene with Henry

Alice: Attendant to Katherine. Has whole scene in French

Lords, Ladies, Officers, Soldiers, Citizens, Messengers, and Attendants (both English and French)

TECHNICAL CREW

Stage Manager: runs the show. MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN AT LEAST TWO SHOWS.

Set Crew: build/paint the scenery. This show has very limited scenery

Props Crew: Build/make/control props. This show has a LOT of props.

Makeup/Costume/Hair Crew: Coordinate costumes and makeup. This show has a lot of costume pieces and bad wigs

Light and Sound: coordinate and run lights and sound during the show. This show is mostly music and a spotlight


ALL participants will be asked to pay a $100 fee to offset the costs of costumes, video recording and a cast T shirt or hoodie. If this is a hardship, talk to Dr. Erwin privately.

PLEASE NOTE: We are no longer able to provide food during the late rehearsals

HOW: Here’s what you do:
1. Print an audition packet and fill it out COMPLETELY. Return the audition/crew sheet to Dr. Erwin in his office off of the commons AS soon as possible. You will be given a number. DO NOT FORGET IT! If you need to bring it the day of auditions, that’s fine. You only need to come ONE day for auditions.

2. Auditions are blind. That means Dr. Erwin’s back is to you. On the day you choose to audition, you will be asked to come in and say your number.

   -- Perform the monologue. It does NOT need to be memorized. Read it expressively. **ONCE AGAIN: You do NOT have to have it memorized.**

   --You will be evaluated on volume, expression, and ability to take direction. You will probably not read the entire scene.

3. If you are called back, you will be asked to read specific scenes from the show when you arrive. Call backs are tough and will run late. However, it is worth it. **There may not BE call backs.**

4. If you are interested in Technical Crew ONLY there will be a short interview about why you want to work on the crew. These will be at the end of auditions. ALL CREW MEMBERS MUST INTERVIEW WITH DR. ERWIN. Crew must be at all tech rehearsals and performances.

If you have any questions--ask Dr. Erwin at [derwin@priory.org](mailto:derwin@priory.org)

Remember --relax and try your best! EVERYONE makes a mistake in an audition!

List ANY conflicts you have!

BREAK A LEG!!!
Audition Monologue:
Please look at the opening Choral speech from the start of the play. You will NOT read the whole thing. This does NOT need to be memorized

Act 1 Scene 1 (Chorus)

O for a Muse of fire, that would ascend
The brightest heaven of invention,
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!
Then should the warlike Harry, like himself,
Assume the port of Mars; and at his heels,
Leash’d in like hounds, should famine, sword and fire
Crouch for employment. But pardon, and gentles all,
The flat unraised spirits that have dared
On this unworthy scaffold to bring forth
So great an object: can this cockpit hold
The vasty fields of France? or may we cram
Within this wooden O the very casques
That did affright the air at Agincourt?
O, pardon! since a crooked figure may
Attest in little place a million;
And let us, ciphers to this great accompt,
On your imaginary forces work.
Suppose within the girdle of these walls
Are now confined two mighty monarchies,
Whose high upreared and abutting fronts
The perilous narrow ocean parts asunder:
Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts;
Into a thousand parts divide on man,
And make imaginary puissance;
Think when we talk of horses, that you see them
Printing their proud hoofs i’ the receiving earth;
For ’tis your thoughts that now must deck our kings,
Carry them here and there; jumping o’er times,
Turning the accomplishment of many years
Into an hour-glass: for the which supply,
Admit me Chorus to this history;
A play takes many hours of preparation, dedication and rehearsal. Your attendance at rehearsals is crucial to be sure that we are all making effective use of our time. With this in mind we have prepared this information for you and your parents to review. Both you and your parents will need to read and sign the last page of this document before you will be eligible to participate in a show. Please bring this signed document to the audition. **You must have it signed to be able to participate!**

Before committing to this production, here is a clear idea of what it involves. Generally speaking, the participant in the production must be able to…

- Spend one hour in auditions.
- Attend the call-back, if requested.
- Attend daily rehearsals as your role requires it (Monday through Friday and some Sundays). The actual times will vary within this depending on the role assigned, but you must have this time open for rehearsal. During the week before the production it will be essential for full cast rehearsals.
- Perform the show during the day if necessary.
- Perform the show in the evenings.
- Participate in strike.
Audition Sheet (turn this in). Number

Name

Grade Level

Address

Phone

Emergency Phone:

Email

Parent’s email

Are you planning on also playing a sport?
If yes, which one?

Roles you are interested in

Any role you are unwilling to play

Technical Crew interest

List ANY performance experience: (include acting, dance, and music). Feel free to attach theatre resume.

You will need to attend ALL rehearsals for scenes you are in. Please look at the schedule and list any conflicts you are aware of.
You will be required to maintain a B average or better in all classes at all times. In addition, inappropriate conduct or a negative attitude WILL result in your immediate removal from the show. You are expected to be the best and the brightest. We are a team.

You may be asked to provide specific costume pieces in specific colors (including shoes), or your own stage makeup items for the performance.

I agree to the above conditions and the attached guidelines.

Signed____________________________________

I have read the above and consent. I also consent to my child receiving text messages regarding rehearsal information. I agree to help provide snacks or part of a meal before the show

Parent/Guardian Signature _____________________________________

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PARENT HELPERS NEEDED DESPERATELY!!!
Parents or other adult helpers are needed to:
 * Help construct set/costumes
 * Plan and host an end of show cast/crew strike party
 * Plan dinners/lunches for technical and dress rehearsals (THIS CAN NO LONGER BE PROVIDED BY THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT)
 * Help with ironing costumes/ applying makeup/doing hair
 * Assorted last minute/“gofer” jobs
 * Coordinate parent volunteers!

*Help with set strike after the last performance
If you can help in ANY way, please respond below or email Dr. Erwin at derwin@priory.org

Name: 
Address: 
Phone: 
Alternate/ Work phone: 

I would be willing to help with: