

AUDITION READINGS

Choose ONE monologue. You may choose ANY monologue, ignoring gender and age.
It doesn't have to be a character you hope to play. Not all characters in the play have monologues here.
(We're looking at your acting skills, not your words.)

Choices:

LEX or CONNIE

ROBERTO or FELICIA or EDITH or MILTON or SEBILLA

AURORA

PHILIP

KING AUDRIC

QUEEN ELEANOR

KING HUBERT or QUEEN HILDEGARDE

SAGE, JASMINE, PERIWINKLE, or MISTLETOE

EPHEDRA

SKULLION

LAVENDER, HOLLY, or HEATHER*

GABRIEL/GABRIELA*

ODIE the skunk*

*These monologues are especially good choices for children, but they can choose any monologue.

LEX or CONNIE

(Lex and Connie are the narrators, and they start the show by speaking to the audience.)

Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, fans of fantasy and fairytales, welcome to our show! We are your storytellers for this performance. Now, there have been many versions of the tale you're about to see – in storybooks, in ballet, and there was even a movie.

(gets excited thinking about the movie)

A very cool movie!

(calms down again)

Oh, excuse me, must focus. Every adaptation has been different – different names, different scenes, different details. But the basic story has been pretty much the same. And now we present our version.

(clears throat)

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... Sorry, couldn't resist. Once upon a time in a far-off land, there was a King and Queen, and together they ruled a small but prosperous kingdom.

(as characters enter the stage, Lex/Connie walks among them)

This is the King... and this is the Queen. They are a warm and loving couple, with a loyal staff. It was a happy time for the kingdom – or so it seemed. You see, there was one thing that the King and Queen wished for, more than anything else – a child. A son or daughter of their own, who would rule the kingdom in the years to come.

ROBERTO/ROBERTA, FELICIA/FLORIAN, EDITH/EDWARD, MILDRED/MILTON, or SEBILLA/SEBASTIAN

(Each of these characters is part of the royal staff. They're anxiously waiting in the castle, outside the room where the Queen is giving birth to the new baby. YOU MAY PLAY THESE AS ANY GENDER.)

The baby is coming! Today is the day! Does the doctor need any help in there? Water, food, something to read? Oh, the King must be a royal mess. He's probably pacing, worrying, getting in the way. I wonder what the Queen's doing. Oh, that's right, she's having the baby.... Well, I'm sure everything will be fine. I'm not nervous or anything. Why should I be? It's not my child. I'm not nervous. I'm not nervous. I'm not nervous. Ow! Who's squeezing my hand so hard? Oh, it's me.

(pacing, trying to get his/her mind on something else)

Oh, I wonder what they'll name her. Or him. Could be a girl, could be a boy. Hmm. I hope they name her Bucky. Isn't that a great name? Okay, it's a great name for a squirrel. Never mind, that's a dumb name.... I think it'll be a boy. Do you think it'll be a boy? I think it'll be a boy. I will bet ten shillings that it's a boy. Any takers? Any takers? Come on, cough it up. Ten shillings. A young prince, yes. And oh, will he be spoiled! He'll enjoy the finest foods, the most expensive clothing, the most beautiful... Oh, here they come! Doctor, what's the news?...

(disappointed at first:)

Aww, it's a girl. I mean, yay, it's a girl! A princess! That's such good news! Hooray! What's her name?... Aurora, you say? What a beautiful name!

(aside, to someone nearby)

Who names their kid "Aurora"?

AURORA

(Aurora has been living in a cottage with her seven aunts for sixteen years. She's talking to her pet skunk, Odie, about how much she wishes she could see more of the world.)

It's the same old, same old, every day, Odie. I wake up to this same forest every morning. I never get the chance to experience any place new. I know my guardians mean well, but they're so... I don't know... overprotective. They just don't trust me on my own. They never let me wander far from the house. I'm sixteen now and I should be able to do whatever I want.

(sigh)

Why can't they understand that, Odie? There's got to be more to life than, well, this tree... or this bush... or these rocks. I want to explore. I want to head out into the woods and see what I can find. I've read that there are whole cities out there in the world, filled with people. And huge mansions and castles, rich people, poor people. Do you realize that I've never actually seen a man?

(makes a decision)

You know what, Odie? I'm gonna do it. I'm going exploring -- beyond that tree line, beyond the creek that they never let me cross. Just for a short time, mind you, but long enough to see something beyond the tiny world I've known all my life. Do you want to come with me? I'd be glad to have someone to talk to -- yes, even if it's a skunk.

PHILIP

(Prince Philip has just met Aurora, but he thinks she's just a mysterious girl in the forest. It's love at first sight.)

Oh! Hello there. I'm... sorry if I startled you. I just... I mean... I... I... So beautiful.

(pause, staring at her, then realizes he's staring so he turns away)

I mean, um... This forest is beautiful. Lovely, um, trees, lovely bushes, lovely hair. Air! I meant air! The air just smells so lovely... doesn't it?

(sigh)

I'm really messing this up, aren't I? I'm very sorry. You caught me off guard. If you're willing, I'd like to try again. Please, fair maiden.

(steps back, then steps forward again)

Oh! Hello there. I'm sorry if I startled you. I was out here hunting, and I didn't expect to see another human being. Do you live around here?... You do? Not by yourself, I hope.... With your seven aunts, you say? Wait a minute. Seven aunts? That's... that's just like in the stories I used to hear. Are you... Are you Princess Arugula? No, wait, that's not right. What was it again? Princess Aroma? No, that's not it either.... I'm sorry, what did you say? Your name is "Briar Rose"? Oh, then you're not a princess, and certainly not the princess I was thinking of. Then again, that's be quite a coincidence.

(laugh)

Well, Rose, if I may be so bold, may this humble gentleman ask this fair lady for a dance?

KING AUDRIC

(The King is looking out the window, knowing his daughter is soon to return after 16 years. The King tries to be pleasant as the Queen walks in, but he is feeling guilty.)

Good evening, my dear. You're looking lovely this evening. Oh... except for your cape. It seems a bit ragged. We'll have to have the royal seamstress weave a new one as soon as... Oh, that's right. We had all the spinning wheels burned, didn't we? Well... after tonight we can start restocking.

(sigh)

Sixteen years. Sixteen long years. Eleanor, I'm so sorry for this, for all this. If only I had... That is, sixteen years ago, when we held that party for Aurora's birth, if only I'd thought about the consequences...

(turns away from her, sadly)

It was all my fault. I made the decision not to invite Ephedra, the dark sorceress. It's my fault she laid that curse on our child. One brief misjudgment on my part has cost us sixteen years of our daughter's life. Eleanor, I'm amazed you can even look me in the eye after what I've done.

(sigh)

I suppose it's useless to dwell on it. Eleanor, I'm so thankful I married you. For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. In a few short hours, Aurora will be back, and nothing in the past will matter.

QUEEN ELEANOR

(King Audric is blaming himself for the curse that the Ephedra placed on their daughter. Queen Eleanor is trying to change the subject.)

Well, Audric, you missed it. That Duchess Anabel! She sent word insisting that she would like to visit and see our daughter today. I told her the same thing I've been telling everyone: That the princess is asleep and does not wish to be disturbed.

(pause)

Oh, in other news, I believe it's time for another trip to Paris to buy clothes. Ever since you had all the spinning wheels burned, our outfits have been showing more holes than the bull's-eye in an archery tournament. On a good day, of course.

(notices KING AUDRIC is distracted)

Audric? Are you all right, darling? You're standing there staring out the window. Your lovely and devoted wife is standing here next to you, and you've barely looked at her. That had better be one spectacular view.

(sigh)

Audric, you're not still blaming yourself for this curse on our daughter. We share that responsibility, and we cannot be held responsible for Ephedra's reaction. That was years in the past, darling. It's forgiven, over, and done. When Aurora returns tonight, let's start building a new future. That's an order from your queen.

KING HUBERT or QUEEN HILDEGARDE

(Hubert and Hildegard rule Galinor and are the parents of Prince Philip. They are also practical jokers.)

Philip! Philip! Where have you been, son? Haven't you heard? The Duke of Burgundy has attacked our Western border. His soldiers are marching toward us, even as we speak. We are rallying out troops in defense. But you've got to go into hiding. If anything happens to us, you'll have to take the throne. We've figured out the perfect hiding place. It's about halfway between the provinces of Just-a-Joke and Gotcha-Good.

(laughs)

Oh, Philip, my dear son, I do wish you'd inherited your parents' sense of humor. Although I've no idea where you inherited that sense of gullibility. Oh, probably from Larry or Ethel.... You know, Larry and Ethel? You're real parents? We told you about them, remember? Peasants from that little town in near the Riviera. They run a joke shop.

(laughs)

I'm sorry, son. I've stressed you out. Why don't you sit down, relax? I'll have the servants bring you a drink. How about a nice burgundy?

(laughs)

SAGE, JASMINE, PERIWINKLE, or MISTLETOE

(These are the four older members of the Seven Sisters, who are magical wood sprites. They've come to the castle to celebrate the birth of the Princess Aurora, and they have each brought a magical powder as a gift.)

Well, Sisters, here we are outside the castle. Come along, don't dawdle. We don't want to be late bringing our gifts to the baby princess. One, two, three, four, five, six... Oh, dear, we're missing a sister. Oh, wait, there she is.

(calls to her:)

Well, what are you waiting for? Catch up, please.

(under her breath:)

At this rate, the princess will be a teenager before we get inside.

(normal voice again)

All right, are we all present and accounted for? Satisfactory. Now let's enter the castle in conjunction... Um, that means "together". We're all going in together. Much better. And remember to be on your best behavior. Bow to the King and Queen, use proper table manners, and if a gentleman asks you to dance, be modest and reserved.

(thinking fondly)

Ohh, if a gentleman asks us to dance! Do you know how long it's been since I've danced? Perhaps I'll meet someone my age who takes a fancy to me. Oh... wait... I forgot I'm two hundred years old. Yes, I think if I met a man two hundred years old, he'd be... well... undead. And not my type.

EPHEDRA

(The evil sorceress Ephedra has crashed the party for Aurora's birth.)

Well, isn't this delightful? All seven of my sisters in one place. Come to make up for all those family reunions we never had, eh?... How are you, Jasmine? How's that personality coming along? And Periwinkle, still trying to change the world? And you, Sage – have you realized yet that I'm superior to all of you in every way? Yes, dear Sisters, I've been busy these past decades. I've been perfecting a little something called the Dark Arts. And compared to that, your herbs and spells look like nothing more than sleight-of-hand. Allow me to demonstrate... on an appropriate target.

(she turns to the King and Queen)

Your Majesties, I was quite disturbed to learn that I'd not been invited to the celebration. It appears that your disdain for me has not softened over the years. Perhaps this is the moment when we should sever any chance to salvage our... professional relationship. And with that thought, let me leave you with this farewell gift...

(voice becomes more forceful)

... a gift of a curse on your precious child – a curse which guarantees that before the sun sets on her sixteenth birthday, she will prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel. And in that instant, she will die.

SKULLION

(Skullion has just caught up to his evil boss Ephedra, outside the King and Queen's castle. YOU MAY PLAY THIS AS ANY GENDER.)

Mistress Ephedra! Mistress Ephedra! I have something to tell you! It's really important! I know you're about to sneak inside the castle and crash the party, but this is really, really important. You ready?... Okay, here it is: When you leave, can you bring me a piece of cake?... Ow! What'd you hit me for? You didn't have to- Ow! Wow, somebody missed her anger management class. I'm sorry, I'm sorry! Please don't hit me with those well-manicured nails again. I guess I messed up your concentration. You go ahead with your evil plan, I'll just wait right here.

(pause)

Just go ahead.

(pause)

I won't get in your way.

(pause, then starts singing random syllables:)

Doo-bee-doo-doo, doo-be-doo-be-doo. Oh, I'm sorry, Mistress. I was messing you up again, wasn't I? I'll be quiet. You go inside.

(pause, then shout:)

Good luck!

(quietly)

I mean, good luck.

(pause)

And don't forget my cake.

LAVENDER, HOLLY, or HEATHER

(These are the younger members of the Seven Sisters, who are magical wood sprites. They're a little silly and clueless. They've come with magical powders for the baby Princess, but they arrived late.)

Hi, Sisters! Sorry I'm late for the party. But at least I'm fashionably late, right?

(laugh)

So anyway, the reason I'm late is, well, I dropped my vial of powder – it's my gift for the princess -- and it rolled under a table, and when I bent down to pick it up, I saw this mouse, and the mouse was creepy cute – that means it was creepy but also cute. Okay, more cute than creepy. And then it ran away when I tried to pet it. Actually, that's not true. It bit me and then it ran away. And now my finger's got a boo-boo. And then I tried to find the creepy cute mouse and... What was I talking about again? I seem to have lost track. Oh, right, fashionably late. So anyway, the reason I'm late is... well, I dropped my vial of powder. Did I say that already? I did, didn't I? So how's the party, Sisters? Any great snacks? How about some music? Oh, wait, I forgot! I have a gift for the baby. Now, where is the little darling? Is she in?

GABRIEL/GABRIELA

(A young boy or girl who thinks of the Prince as his/her big brother. In this scene, he/she is searching the castle for him when he suddenly finds him.)

Your Highness? Your Highness? Prince Philip? Oh, there you are. Wait, what are you doing, climbing out the window? Are you chasing pigeons or something? Or... could it possibly be that you're sneaking out? Your Highness, I'm surprised. What will the King and Queen say? Hmm, maybe I should tell them. Oh, I'm just kidding, Your Highness. I sneak off from my Mom and Dad all the time. But wait, you can't go now. You promised to give me another archery lesson. Look, my father made me a new bow. Isn't it beautiful? So much nicer than my old one. And you owe me an archery lesson, Your Highness. But if you really want to sneak out of the castle... and if you really want me NOT to tell anyone... then maybe you'll let me come with you? Please, please, please, please, pleeeeeease?

ODIE the skunk

(ODIE is a talking skunk. He's actually a puppet. The actor who plays him will have to duck down behind bushes and rocks so only the puppet is visible. Here, he greets Aurora, who goes by the name Rose.)

Good morning, Rose. What are you doing sitting on this stump? Actually, what are you doing sitting on my house? I hope you brought me some bread for breakfast. Otherwise I'll have to raise a stink. You get it? Raise a stink?

(clears his throat)

Are you okay, Rose? You seem a little down. Are those guardians ordering you around again? You know they only do that because they care about you. Oh, I almost forgot: Happy birthday. You didn't think I'd remember, did you? You're sixteen today. That's probably a hundred and twelve in my years. Yeah, I can see me being that old.

(talks like an old man:)

Hey, you kids, get out of my yard!