



BATTLE OF THE BARDS 2024

SHAKESPEARE4ALL

AUDITION SCRIPTS: ENSEMBLE

Audition Video Guidelines 試鏡視頻指引

1. Please submit a short video in English of between 5-15 minutes, including a short introduction of yourself in English, the character you are playing, the piece you have chosen, why you would like to join the Battle of the Bards, and then the audition piece.
請準備一段長約5-15分鐘的英文短片，短片需包括簡短的自我介紹，所揀選的選段，角色，為什麼參加詩人遊戰，以及選段的試鏡演出。
 2. The selections offer a variety of pieces and students may select any script regardless of gender. Choose a script that will best showcase your abilities with the intention of no alterations. If alterations are needed, please inform Shakespeare4All for approval or consultation.
香港小莎翁提供多項作品選段以供選擇，學生可不分性別自由選擇適合他們的選段進行試鏡演出。參賽者不得擅自更改劇本，並須按提供之選段一字不漏原文演出。
 3. Please send your video to battleofthebards.s4a@gmail.com in either .MP4 or .MOV format on or before 31th March 2024.
請在2024年3月31日或之前以MP4或.MOV格式將視頻發送至 battleofthebards.s4a@gmail.com
 4. Please indicate the contestant's name, age and competition applying in your email.
請您在電子郵件中顯示參賽者的姓名，歲數及參賽項目。
 5. There will be Q&A Zoom Sessions held by Shakespeare4All to answer questions and give advice for the application. Please refer to the website for dates and to register. You can also contact Shakespeare4All via email with questions.,
香港小莎翁將舉辦網上Zoom資訊會以解答及提供意見給各參賽者。有關資訊會日期，詳情及登記方式，請查閱網站。您亦可透過電郵聯絡香港小莎翁查詢。
1. Announcement of Finalists 5th April 2024. If selected to compete in the finals, there will be feedback given from the judges.
決賽名單將於2024年4月5日公佈。如成功被挑選躋身決賽，將得到評判提供表演建議。

ENSEMBLE SCRIPTS

THEATRE PIECE: Hamlet, (Act 5 Scene 2)

Characters:

Note: One Actor can play more than 1 character

- Hamlet
- Horatio
- A Lord
- King Claudius
- Queen Gertrude
- Osric
- Officers
- Laertes

[Enter Hamlet and Horatio.]

[Enter a Lord.]

LORD

My lord, his Majesty commended him to you by young Osric, who brings back to him that you attend him in the hall. He sends to know if your pleasure hold to play with Laertes, or that you will take longer time.

HAMLET

I am constant to my purposes. They follow the King's pleasure. If his fitness speaks, mine is ready now or whensoever, provided I be so able as now.

LORD

The King and Queen and all are coming down.

HAMLET

In happy time.

LORD

The Queen desires you to use some gentle entertainment to Laertes before you fall to play.

HAMLET
She well instructs me.

[Lord exits.]

HORATIO
You will lose, my lord.

HAMLET
I do not think so. Since he went into France,
I have been in continual practice. I shall win at the odds;
but thou wouldst not think how ill all's here
about my heart. But it is no matter.

HORATIO
Nay, good my lord—

HAMLET
It is but foolery, but it is such a kind of
gaingiving as would perhaps trouble a woman.

HORATIO
If your mind dislike anything, obey it.
I will forestall their repair hither and say you are not fit.

HAMLET
Not a whit. We defy augury. There is a
special providence in the fall of a sparrow.
If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come,
it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come.
Thereadiness is all. Since no man of aught he leaves
knows, what is 't to leave betimes? Let be.

[A table prepared.]

*[Enter Trumpets, Drums, and Officers
with cushions, King, Queen, Osric, and all the state,
foils, daggers, flagons of wine, and Laertes.]*

KING
Come, Hamlet, come and take this hand from me.

[He puts Laertes' hand into Hamlet's.]

HAMLET

(to Laertes)

Give me your pardon, sir. I have done you wrong;
But pardon 't as you are a gentleman. This presence knows,
And you must needs have heard, how I am punished
With a sore distraction. What I have done
That might your nature, honor, and exception
Roughly awake, I here proclaim was madness.
Was 't Hamlet wronged Laertes? Never Hamlet.
If Hamlet from himself be ta'en away,
And when he's not himself does wrong Laertes,
Then Hamlet does it not; Hamlet denies it.
Who does it, then? His madness. If 't be so,
Hamlet is of the faction that is wronged;
His madness is poor Hamlet's enemy.
Sir, in this audience
Let my disclaiming from a purposed evil
Free me so far in your most generous thoughts
That I have shot my arrow o'er the house
And hurt my brother.

LAERTES

I am satisfied in nature,
Whose motive in this case should stir me most
To my revenge; but in my terms of honor
I stand aloof and will no reconciliation
Till by some elder masters of known honor
I have a voice and precedent of peace
To keep my name ungored. But till that time
I do receive your offered love like love
And will not wrong it.

HAMLET

I embrace it freely
And will this brothers' wager frankly play.—
Give us the foils. Come on.

LAERTES

Come, one for me.

HAMLET

I'll be your foil, Laertes; in mine ignorance
Your skill shall, like a star i' th' darkest night,
Stick fiery off indeed.

LAERTES

You mock me, sir.

HAMLET

No, by this hand.

KING

Give them the foils, young Osric. Cousin Hamlet,
You know the wager?

HAMLET

Very well, my lord.

Your Grace has laid the odds o' th' weaker side.

KING

I do not fear it; I have seen you both.

But, since he is better, we have therefore odds.

LAERTES

This is too heavy. Let me see another.

HAMLET

This likes me well. These foils have all a length?

OSRIC

Ay, my good lord.

[Prepare to play.]

KING

Set me the stoups of wine upon that table.—
If Hamlet give the first or second hit
Or quit in answer of the third exchange,
Let all the battlements their ordnance fire.
The King shall drink to Hamlet's better breath,
And in the cup an union shall he throw,
Richer than that which four successive kings
In Denmark's crown have worn. Give me the cups,
And let the kettle to the trumpet speak,
The trumpet to the cannoneer without,
The cannons to the heavens, the heaven to earth,
"Now the King drinks to Hamlet." Come, begin.
And you, the judges, bear a wary eye.

[Trumpets the while.]

HAMLET
Come on, sir.

LAERTES
Come, my lord.

[They play.]

HAMLET
One.

LAERTES
No.

HAMLET
Judgment!

OSRIC
A hit, a very palpable hit.

LAERTES
Well, again.

KING
Stay, give me drink.—Hamlet, this pearl is thine.
Here's to thy health.

[He drinks and then drops the pearl in the cup]

KING
Give him the cup.

HAMLET
I'll play this bout first. Set it by awhile.
Come.

[They play.]

HAMLET
Another hit. What say you?

LAERTES

A touch, a touch. I do confess 't.

KING

Our son shall win.

QUEEN

He's fat and scant of breath.—

Here, Hamlet, take my napkin; rub thy brows.

The Queen carouses to thy fortune, Hamlet.

[She lifts the cup.]

HAMLET

Good madam.

KING

Gertrude, do not drink.

QUEEN

I will, my lord; I pray you pardon me.

[She drinks.]

KING

(aside)

It is the poisoned cup. It is too late.

HAMLET

I dare not drink yet, madam—by and by.

QUEEN

Come, let me wipe thy face.

LAERTES

(to Claudius)

My lord, I'll hit him now.

KING

I do not think 't.

LAERTES

(aside)

And yet it is almost against my conscience.

HAMLET

Come, for the third, Laertes. You do but dally.
I pray you pass with your best violence.
I am afeard you make a wanton of me.

LAERTES

Say you so? Come on.

[Play.]

OSRIC

Nothing neither way.

LAERTES

Have at you now!

[Laertes wounds Hamlet.

Then in scuffling they change swords, and Hamlet wounds Laertes.]

KING

Part them. They are incensed.

HAMLET

Nay, come again.

[The Queen falls.]

OSRIC

Look to the Queen there, ho!

HORATIO

They bleed on both sides.—How is it, my lord?

OSRIC

How is 't, Laertes?

LAERTES

Why as a woodcock to mine own springe, Osric.

[He falls.]

I am justly killed with mine own treachery.

HAMLET

How does the Queen?

KING

She swoons to see them bleed.

QUEEN

No, no, the drink, the drink! O, my dear Hamlet!
The drink, the drink! I am poisoned.

[She dies.]

HAMLET

O villainy! Ho! Let the door be locked.

[Osric exits.]

Treachery! Seek it out.

LAERTES

It is here, Hamlet. Hamlet, thou art slain.
No med'cine in the world can do thee good.
In thee there is not half an hour's life.
The treacherous instrument is in thy hand,
Unbated and envenomed. The foul practice
Hath turned itself on me. Lo, here I lie,
Never to rise again. Thy mother's poisoned.
I can no more. The King, the King's to blame.

HAMLET

The point envenomed too! Then, venom, to thy work.

[Hurts the King.]

ALL

Treason, treason!

KING

O, yet defend me, friends! I am but hurt.

HAMLET

Here, thou incestuous, murd'rous, damnèd Dane,
Drink off this potion. Is thy union here?

[Forcing him to drink the poison.]

HAMLET

Follow my mother.

[King dies.]

LAERTES

He is justly served.

It is a poison tempered by himself.

Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet.

Mine and my father's death come not upon thee,

Nor thine on me.

[Laertes Dies.]

HAMLET

Heaven make thee free of it. I follow thee.—

I am dead, Horatio.—Wretched queen, adieu.—

You that look pale and tremble at this chance,

That are but mutes or audience to this act,

Had I but time (as this fell sergeant, Death,

Is strict in his arrest), O, I could tell you—

But let it be.—Horatio, I am dead.

Thou livest; report me and my cause aright

To the unsatisfied.

HORATIO

Never believe it.

I am more an antique Roman than a Dane.

Here's yet some liquor left.

[He picks up the cup.]

HAMLET

As thou 'rt a man,

Give me the cup. Let go! By heaven, I'll ha't.

O God, Horatio, what a wounded name,

Things standing thus unknown, shall I leave behind me!

If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart,

Absent thee from felicity awhile

And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain

To tell my story.

[A march afar off and shot within.]

What warlike noise is this?

[Enter Osríc.]

OSRIC

Young Fortinbras, with conquest come from Poland,
To th' ambassadors of England gives
This warlike volley.

HAMLET

O, I die, Horatio!
The potent poison quite o'ercrows my spirit.
I cannot live to hear the news from England.
But I do prophesy th' election lights
On Fortinbras; he has my dying voice.
So tell him, with th' occurrents, more and less,
Which have solicited—the rest is silence.

[Hamlet Dies.]

HORATIO

Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince,
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.