

Measure For Measure

Additional Audition Info:

Actors: Please be prepared to move during the audition by wearing comfortable movement-appropriate clothing and shoes/sneakers. **Please try to avoid slippers or heels.** We will provide **audition sides** to read from. Please be prepared to work with a reader or with assigned scene partners.

Setting and Basic Plot:

1623 Vienna - Holy Roman Empire - Seat of the Hapsburg Dynasty.
Duke Vincentio has skipped town and left Angelo (a man of authoritarian tendencies) to suddenly and strictly enforce all of the theocratic morality laws that have gone unenforced for the past 14 years. All houses of ill-repute have been ordered closed and all fornication (pre, post, and non-marital sex) is now punishable by death.
A young man, Claudio has got his intended, Julietta, with child, and as such has been arrested and sentenced to die. At Claudio's request, his friend Lucio persuades Claudio's sister Isabella, a young nun, to beg Angelo for her brother's pardon. Angelo is suddenly overcome by lust for Isabella, and offers to save Claudio's life if Isabella will sleep with him. And there begins the major conflict of this "problem" play.

Casting:

10-12 Actors. Flexible casting. Most actors will play multiple roles.
Actors with dance and music training are strongly encouraged to audition. If you play an instrument, please bring it to the audition.

Characters:

Duke Vincentio - The play's main manipulator, also Friar Lodowick

Isabella - A young nun, sister to the condemned Claudio

Angelo - An authoritarian

Provost - An honest officer & prison guard

Mariana - A young woman wronged by Angelo (must sing)

Escalus - An elderly judge

Claudio - Condemned brother of Isabella, fiancé to Julietta

Lucio - Friend to Claudio, a lecher & fool

Pompey - A tapster & bawd

Overdone - A madam

Julietta - A young woman, pregnant fiancé to Claudio

Froth - A soldier, friend to Lucio & Claudio

Elbow - A constable, none too bright

Barnardine - A condemned prisoner and boorish drunk

Friar Peter - Advisor to the Duke & Isabella

Abhorson - An executioner

Townspeople & Servants

Content Warning:

Shakespeare's *Measure For Measure* is technically a comedy, but most contemporary audiences accurately find it dark, troubling, and problematic. It is bawdy at times, and also attempts to seriously address adult-themes. There are frank and explicit depictions of violence, sexuality, prostitution, and sexual harassment. For obvious reasons, none of these moments will be explored during the audition. In addition, **there will be no nudity in this production.** However, **this production may contain moments of simulated violence, simulated sexual intimacy, and simulated sexual assault.** We will approach staging these moments with care, respect, and sensitivity through the use of **consent-based practices** at all times; all such moments will be specifically choreographed, staged, rehearsed and performed in collaboration with the actors involved, the director, the intimacy coordinator, the fight choreographer, and the choreography captain. **If you do not consent to act in such scenes, please state this on your audition form where asked. Not all roles require participation in such scenes or moments.**

Importantly, if you feel this content is inappropriate for you for any reason, please take caution and be strongly advised to reconsider your participation with the production.

Mahalo for auditioning!