

The Thanksgiving Play by Larissa FastHorse

1. Choose your preferred monologue and prepare it for your audition.
 - Because there are only 4 characters total, you may be asked, if you have interest, to read another monologue *if needed and as time allows*, but only one reading is certain.
 - Unless you specify otherwise, you will be considered for any applicable part, regardless of your choice of monologue.
2. Familiarize yourself with the sides. You'll have a volunteer scene partner. If time allows and if needed, you may be asked to read against another auditioner.

While the material need not be memorized, you should feel comfortable enough to look away from the paper at times, be in-the-moment, present, and make strong, playable choices. A line stumble will not affect decision-making, so no stress there! We'll be looking at your overall approach to the character and lines.

LOGAN- The dedicated high school drama teacher, community organizer, and self-appointed champion of social justice. She is intelligent, passionate, and relentlessly determined. She genuinely wants to do the right thing but often pushes the envelope too far.

JAXTON- The yoga practitioner / actor. He is politically correct to a fault, a big one. He's that confident guy everyone loves, but his logical PC thinking takes weird turns.

ALICIA- The pretty, brunette, professional actress whose appearance leads others to make assumptions about her identity in a way that would have meant she was cast as ethnic in 1950s era Hollywood. She is without guile, a bit naive, and not the most analytical of people.

CADEN- The academic / actor. He's an awkward elementary school history teacher with dramatic aspirations, but no experience.

Monologues:

Logan

This is far more than a Thanksgiving play now. I got the Gender Equity in History grant, the Excellence in Educational Theater fellowship, a municipal arts grant and the Go! Girls! Scholastic Leadership mentorship. Now is a good time to mention that in the interest of full disclosure, there are many factors, grant and school board requirements that we need to fulfill with this piece, including Thanksgiving. I am a vegan so that subject is especially sensitive for me. However I want to lift up the acknowledgement that although my sensitivity about the slaughter of millions of animals, including forty-five million turkeys, is valid, I am conscious of not allowing my personal issues to take up more space in the room than the justified anger of the Native people around this idea of Thanksgiving in our post-colonial society. I want to make that crystal clear.

Jaxton

Here we go with Los Angeles again. It's not the center of the acting world, Logan. The "commercial" acting world. Be grateful you didn't make it there. It shows what kind of person you are. We value talent and art here, not looks. Oh! I mean... you are a talented actress. What is beauty? A social construct. You can't reach new lands until you let go of the shore. Or in this case return to old lands, but as a more enlightened person because of the journey to the other land that was new but is now old and needs to be let go of. I just do my best and hope to Buddha that my karma makes up for the rest of it. Oh... but it's almost time for rehearsal. We should decouple. Nothing but gender-neutral actor / director respect from here on. Should I get rid of the cheese?

Alicia

So sorry I'm late. My Uber app disappeared and the place where I'm staying has terrible reception and I couldn't find the internet password, so I had to take a bus. Have you ever taken a bus? It's impossible. I mean LITERALLY, it is not possible. Wait. Figurately? Anyway... are you the director? I'm Alicia [Ah-lee-cee-a]. So, are you planning to improv things and then put the parts together later and type it up? If so... could I come back when there's a script? I just got to town and have a hundred things to do. And then there's the bus. Figuratively? Oh also... did you know the Pilgrims landed in Florida? I did not know that. So that's probably why Disney World is there? Oh! And I might be a little bit Spanish! Para Espanol, oprima numero dos. I'm from Texas. OMG. Where the Pilgrims in Texas, too?

Caden

I know that I was assigned by the school district as your history specialist, but I want to assure you my studies in American History go deeper than the elementary school level. I'm an amateur actor and writer on the side so it is a real thrill to work with professionals like yourselves. This is a dream come true for me. I combed through all my research from grad school. Did my homework. I suggest we begin four thousand years ago when the ancient northern Europeans joined the agricultural revolution and reaped their first organized harvest as farmers. To give thanks to the gods for this new way of life they feasted with ceremonies. See... I propose that we open on a huge bonfire with ancient Northern European ancestors dancing and feasting on one side and... and this is the exciting part... ancient Native American people doing the exact same thing on the other side! Of course they weren't called "Native American" then. History is so dynamic. I mean it's perfect for theater.

Sides:

Logan/Jaxton

LOGAN: I've already screwed this up.

JAXTON: We can fix it. I looked over your Native American Heritage Month grant, and it doesn't explicitly say you have to use it for a Native American person.

LOGAN: Really?

JAXTON: If we do something that honors Native Americans for November, you're good to keep the money.

LOGAN: That doesn't seem right. Besides I really wanted to have a Native American voice in this play.

JAXTON: Didn't you check her enrollment card or something?

LOGAN: It's illegal to ask about ethnic, gender or religious identification in the hiring process. Which I totally support.

JAXTON: But it was pretty obvious that she's not Native.

LOGAN: You thought she was.

JAXTON: I could tell something was off. She's not centered enough. She does have a ton of conventional beauty and sex appeal.

LOGAN: Jaxton!

JAXTON: I'm not saying I'm into that. I'm saying she has a lot to overcome.

LOGAN: Despite that, do you think we could still use her and call it color-blind casting?

JAXTON: I think we could get away with using her a few years ago, but now we're post the post-racial society. We can't be blind to differences.

LOGAN: Right. Before we were blind to race but now, we totally see it. It's our duty as allies.

JAXTON: Yes. And as allies we need to say something for those who can't be here to speak for themselves.

LOGAN: Or is it as allies we need to be sure they are here to speak for themselves?

JAXTON: That's what I'm saying.

LOGAN: So, if they aren't here, does anyone speak for them?

JAXTON: I don't think we're supposed to speak for anyone but ourselves.

LOGAN: Right. So, we just speak for white people?

JAXTON: I think so.

Caden/Alicia

ALICIA: Whatever, it's theater. We don't need actual Native Americans to tell a Native American story. I mean, none of us are actual Pilgrims, are we?

CADEN: Interestingly they didn't call themselves Pilgrims at all. That's a name given to them...

ALICIA: The point is, we're actors. We act. That's the job. Is Lumiere a real candlestick?

CADEN: Actually, he kind of was.

ALICIA: Was Grandmother Willow a real willow?

CADEN: She's animated so -

ALICIA: In the Disneyland show?

CADEN: No?

ALICIA: Exactly. And that whole Pocahontas cast was Filipino. We shared a green room.

CADEN: I don't think you playing Native will be a problem with the school district. There are schools that are nearly all black, all Hispanic. If they tried to find ethnic-specific roles for everyone to play, they wouldn't be able to produce anything.

(ALICIA and CADEN have snacks.)

CADEN: So, you just moved here?

ALICIA: Yeah.

CADEN: What part of town are you in?

ALICIA: I don't know.

CADEN: I grew up here. If you want to know anything about anything I can probably tell you.

ALICIA: Anything?

CADEN: Anything about this town.

ALICIA: Oh.

CADEN: But if there's anything else you want to know about, I could look it up for you. I'm really good at research.

ALICIA: That's sweet.

CADEN: Do you want my number or whatever?

ALICIA: I don't know if I'll be here long.

CADEN: Don't like to count your chickens before they hatch?

ALICIA: I thought we're doing turkeys.