



**NORTHMEAD**  
CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL  
**DRAMA**

# Drama Audition Female Senior Monologues



Northmead Creative &  
Performing Arts High School

NSW, Department of  
Education and Training NSW,  
Department of Education and  
Training

Classical and contemporary audition pieces.

*Imagine, Endeavour,  
Achieve*

Northmead CAPAHS  
Campbell Street Northmead  
NSW 2152

02 96304116

Principal – N.Vazquez



# Northmead Creative & Performing Arts High- Drama Audition

The following pieces have been chosen from standard editions of the works.

You may use the equivalent monologue from a different edition of the play, for example, if you have access to a different edition of the Shakespeare plays.

For translated works, we have chosen a particular translation. However, you may use another translation if that is the version available to you.

If you cannot access the Australian plays through your local library, bookshop or bookshops on our suggested list, published editions of the Australian plays are generally available through Currency Press.

## AUDITION PROCESS

You will be required to choose one monologue from the list provided to perform. Please note the delivery time of a monologue may vary depending on your interpretation of the chosen piece. Usual estimated time is between three to eight minutes. So please make sure your monologue is within this time frame. You may be asked to deliver your chosen piece more than once. You will also be tested for improvisation skills. So be prepared to use your imagination and creativity. A script may be handed to you during the audition. So be prepared for a cold read and once again use your imagination in showing how you would interpret the script reading.

## SUMMARY

1. Viola - Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare
2. Juliet – Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
3. Hermione – The Winter’s Tale by William Shakespeare
4. Rosalind – As You Like It by William Shakespeare
5. Helena – A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare
6. Beatrice – Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare
7. Portia – Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
8. Irena – Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov
9. Anna – Wild Honey by Anton Chekhov
10. Cherie – Blackrock by Nick Enright
11. Patsy – Little Murders by Jules Feiffer
12. Rita – Educating Rita by Willy Russell
13. Carol – Oleanna by David Mamet
14. Heavenly – Sweet Bird of Youth by Tennessee Williams
15. Brit in New York – Stuff Happens by David Hare
16. Secretary – Special Offer by Harold Pinter
17. Elizabeth Barry – The Libertine by Stephen Jeffries
18. Margot – The Female of the species by Joanna Murray – Smith
19. Emilia – Othello by William Shakespeare
20. Vittoria – The White Devil by John Webster

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## 1. VIOLA - TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare

**VIOLA:** I left no ring with her: what means this lady?  
Fortune forbid my outside have not charmed her!  
She made good view of me, indeed so much,  
That methought her eyes had lost her tongue,  
For she did speak in starts distractedly.  
She loves me, sure; the cunning of her passion  
Invites me in this churlish messenger.  
None of my lord's ring? Why, he sent her none.  
I am the man: if it be so, as 'tis,  
Poor lady, she were better love a dream.  
Disguise, I see thou art a wickedness,  
Wherein the pregnant enemy does much.  
How easy is it for the proper-false  
In women's waxen hearts to set their forms!  
Alas, our frailty is the cause, not we,  
For such as we are made of, such we be.  
How will this fadge? My master loves her dearly,  
And I, poor monster, fond as much on him,  
And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me:  
What will become of this? As I am man,  
My state is desperate for my master's love:  
As I am woman (now alas the day!)  
What thriftless sighs shall poor Olivia breathe?  
O time, thou must untangle this, not I,  
It is too hard a knot for me t'untie.



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## 2. JULIET - ROMEO AND JULIET by William Shakespeare

**JULIET:** Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,  
Towards Phoebus' lodging. Such a waggoner  
As Phaeton would whip you to the west  
And bring in cloudy night immediately.  
Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,  
That runaway's eyes may wink, and Romeo  
Leap to these arms, untalk'd-of and unseen.  
Lovers can see to do their amorous rites  
By their own beauties; or, if love be blind,  
It best agrees with night. Come, civil Night,  
Thou sober-suited matron, all in black,  
And learn me how to lose a winning match  
Play'd for a pair of stainless maidenhoods.  
Hood my unmann'd blood, bating in my cheeks,  
With thy black mantle, till strange love grown bold,  
Think true love acted simple modesty.  
Come night, come Romeo, come, thou day in night;  
For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night  
Whiter than snow upon a raven's back.  
Come gentle night, come loving black-brow'd night,  
Give me my Romeo; and when I shall die  
Take him and cut him out in little stars,  
And he will make the face of heaven so fine  
That all the world will be in love with night,  
And pay no worship to the garish sun.  
O, I have bought the mansion of a love  
But not possessed it, and though I am sold,  
Not yet enjoy'd. So tedious is this day  
As is the night before some festival  
To an impatient child that hath new robes  
And may not wear them. O, here comes my Nurse.

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## 3. HERMIONE - THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare

**HERMIONE:** Sir, spare your threats:

The bug which you would fright me with, I seek.

To me can life be no commodity;

The crown and comfort of my life, your favour,

I do give lost, for I do feel it gone,

But know not how it went. My second joy,

And first-fruits of my body, from his presence

I am barred, like one infectious. My third comfort

(Starred most unluckily is from my breast,

The innocent milk in its most innocent mouth)

Haled out to murder: myself on every post

Proclaimed a strumpet; with immodest hatred

The child-bed privilege denied, which 'longs

To women of all fashion; Lastly, hurried

Here, to this place, i'th'open air, before

I have got strength of limit. Now, my liege,

Tell me what blessings I have here alive,

That I should fear to die? Therefore proceed.

But yet hear this: mistake me not: no life,

I prize it not a straw, but for mine honour,

Which I would free: if I shall be condemned

Upon surmises all proofs sleeping else

But what your jealousies awake, I tell you,

'Tis rigour and not law. Your honours all,

I do refer me to the Oracle:

Apollo be my judge!



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## 4. ROSALIND - AS YOU LIKE IT by William Shakespeare

**ROSALIND:** And why I pray you? Who might be your mother,  
That you insult, exult, and all at once,  
Over the wretched? What though you have no beauty -  
As by my faith I see no more in you  
Than without candle may go dark to bed -  
Must you be therefore proud and pitiless?  
Why what means this? Why do you look on me?  
I see no more in you than in the ordinary  
Of Nature's sale-work. 'Od's my little life,  
I think she means to tangle my eyes too!  
No faith proud mistress, hope not after it.  
'Tis not your inky brows, your black silk hair,  
Your bugle eyeballs, nor your cheek of cream  
That can entame my spirits to your worship.  
You foolish shepherd, wherefore do you follow her  
Like foggy South puffing with wind and rain?  
You are a thousand times a properer man  
Than she a woman. 'Tis such fools as you  
That makes the world full of ill-favour'd children.  
'Tis not her glass but you that flatters her,  
And out of you she sees herself more proper  
Than any of her lineaments can show her.  
But mistress, know yourself. Down on your knees  
And thank heaven, fasting, for a good man's love;  
For I must tell you friendly in your ear,  
Sell when you can, you are not for all markets.  
Cry the man mercy, love him, take his offer;  
Foul is most foul, being foul to be a scoffer.

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## 5. HELENA - A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare

**HELENA:** Lo, she is one of this confederacy!  
Now I perceive they have conjoined all three  
To fashion this false sport in spite of me.  
Injurious Hermia! Most ungrateful maid!  
Have you conspired, have you with these contrived,  
To bait me with this foul derision?  
Is all the counsel that we two have shared,  
The sisters' vows, the hours that we have spent  
When we have chid the hasty-footed time  
For parting us – O! is all forgot?  
All school-days' friendship, childhood innocence?  
We, Hermia, like two artificial gods,  
Have with our needles created both one flower,  
Both on one sampler, sitting on one cushion,  
Both warbling of one song, both in one key,  
As if our hands, our sides, voices and minds,  
Had been incorporate. So we grew together,  
Like a double cherry, seeming parted,  
But yet an union in partition,  
Two lovely berries moulded on one stem;  
So, with two seeming bodies, but one heart;  
Two of the first, like coats in heraldry,  
Due but to one, and crowned with one crest.  
And will you rent our ancient love asunder  
To join with men in scorning your poor friend?  
It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly;  
Our sex, as well as I, may chide you for it,  
Though I alone do feel the injury.

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## 6. BEATRICE - MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING by William Shakespeare

**BEATRICE:** Kill Claudio!

You kill me to deny it. Farewell.

I am gone, though I am here; there is no love in you; nay I pray you let me go.

In faith, I will go.

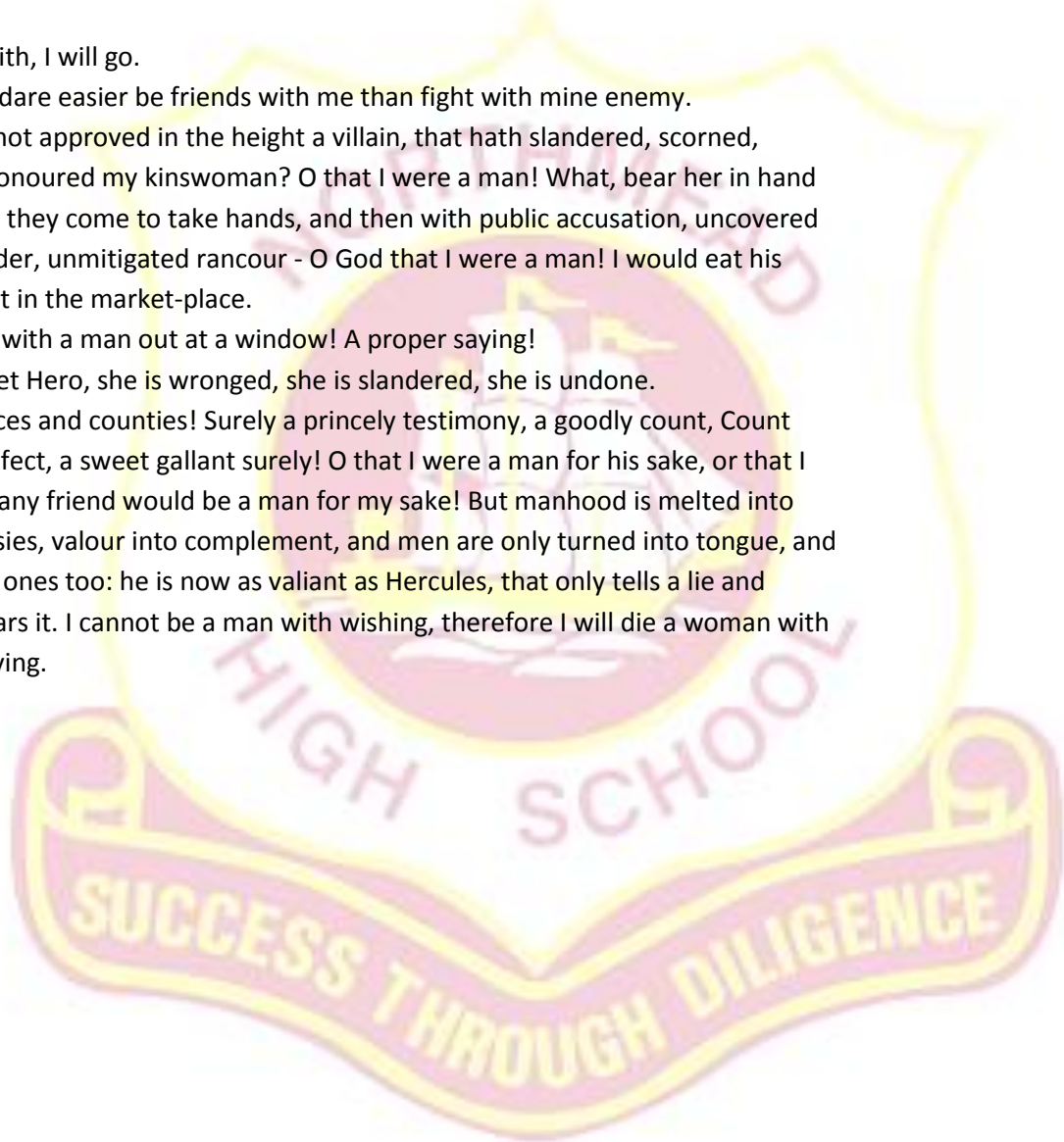
You dare easier be friends with me than fight with mine enemy.

Is a not approved in the height a villain, that hath slandered, scorned, dishonoured my kinswoman? O that I were a man! What, bear her in hand until they come to take hands, and then with public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated rancour - O God that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the market-place.

Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying!

Sweet Hero, she is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone.

Princes and counties! Surely a princely testimony, a goodly count, Count Comfect, a sweet gallant surely! O that I were a man for his sake, or that I had any friend would be a man for my sake! But manhood is melted into curtsies, valour into complement, and men are only turned into tongue, and trim ones too: he is now as valiant as Hercules, that only tells a lie and swears it. I cannot be a man with wishing, therefore I will die a woman with grieving.



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## 7. PORTIA – JULIUS CAESAR by William Shakespeare (adapted)

PORTIA: Y' have ungently, Brutus,  
Stole from my bed; and yesternight at supper  
You suddenly arose and walked about,  
Musing, and sighing, with your arms across;  
And when I asked you what the matter was,  
You star'd upon me with ungentle looks:  
I urged you further; then you scratched your head,  
And too impatiently stamped with your foot:  
Yet I insisted, yet you answered not,  
But with an angry wafture of your hand  
Gave sign for me to leave you: so I did,  
Fearing to strengthen that impatience  
Which seemed too much enkindled, and withal  
Hoping it was but an effect of humour,  
Which sometime hath his hour with every man.  
It will not let you eat, nor talk, nor sleep;  
And, could it work so much upon your shape  
As it hath much prevailed on your condition,  
I should not know you Brutus. Dear my lord,  
Make me acquainted with your cause of grief.  
Is Brutus sick, and is it physical  
To walk unbraced and suck up the humours  
Of the dank morning? What, is Brutus sick?  
And will he steal out of his wholesome bed  
To dare the vile contagion of the night,  
And tempt the rheumy and unpurged air  
To add unto his sickness? No, my Brutus;  
You have some sick offence within your mind,  
Which, by the right and virtue of my place,  
I ought to know of; and, upon my knees,  
I charm you, by my once commended beauty,  
By all your vows of love, and that great vow  
Which did incorporate and make us one,  
That you unfold to me, your self, your half,  
Why you are heavy, and what men to-night  
Have had resort to you; for here have been  
Some six or seven, who did hide their faces  
Even from darkness.  
I should not need, if you were gentle Brutus.  
Within the bond of marriage, tell me, Brutus,  
Is it excepted I should know no secrets  
That appertain to you? Am I your self  
But, as it were, in sort or limitation,  
To keep with you at meals, comfort your bed,  
And talk to you sometimes? Dwell I but in the suburbs  
Of your good pleasure? If it be no more,  
Portia is Brutus' harlot, not his wife.

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## 8. IRENA - THREE SISTERS by Anton Chekhov

**IRENA:** Tell me, why is it I'm so happy today? As if I were sailing, with the wide, blue sky above me, and great white birds soaring in the wind. Why is it? Why? I woke up this morning, I got up, I washed - and suddenly I felt everything in this world was clear to me - I felt I knew how life had to be lived. Dear Ivan Romanich, I can see it all. A human being has to labour, whoever he happens to be, he has to toil in the sweat of his face; that's the only way he can find the sense and purpose of his life, his happiness, his delight. How fine to be a working man who rises at first light and breaks stones on the road, or a shepherd, or a teacher, or an engine driver on the railway... Lord, never mind being human even - better to be an ox, better to be a simple horse, just so long as you work - anything rather than a young lady who rises at noon, then drinks her coffee in bed, then takes two hours to dress... that's terrible! In hot weather sometimes you long to drink the way I began longing to work. And if I don't start getting up early and working, then shut your heart against me, Ivan Romanich.

THIS IS A TRANSLATION BY MICHAEL FRAYN. YOU MAY USE OTHER TRANSLATIONS OF THE SAME PIECE.



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## 9. ANNA PETROVNA - WILD HONEY by Anton Chekhov

**ANNA:** How can you say that? How can you lie to me, on such a night as this, beneath such a sky? Tell your lies in autumn, if you must, in the gloom and the mud, but not now, not here. You're being watched! Look up, you absurd man! A thousand eyes, all shining with indignation! You must be good and true, just as all this is good and true. Don't break this silence with your little words! There's no man in the world I could ever love as I love you. There's no woman in the world you could ever love as you love me. Let's take that love; and all the rest, that so torments you – we'll leave that to others to worry about. Are you really such a terrible Don Juan? You look so handsome in the moonlight! Such a solemn face! It's a woman who's come to call, not a wild animal! All right – if you really hate it all so much I'll go away again. Is that what you want? I'll go away, and everything will be just as it was before. Yes...? (she laughs) Idiot! Take it! Snatch it! Seize it! What more do you want? Smoke it to the end, like a cigarette – pinch it out – tread it under your heel. Be human! You funny creature! A woman loves you – a woman you love – fine summer weather. What could be simpler than that? You don't realise how hard life is for me. And yet life is what I long for. Everything is alive, nothing is ever still. We're surrounded by life. We must live, too, Misha! Leave all the problems for tomorrow. Tonight, on this night of nights, we'll simply live!



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## 10. CHERIE – BLACKROCK by Nick Enright

**CHERIE:** It was my fault. If we stuck together like we said, you and me and Leanne, you wouldn't be here. But I lost youse all. Now I've lost you. And no-one knows how. You should hear the rumours. Someone seen a black Torana with Victorian number plates. It was a stranger in a Megadeath T-shirt, it was a maddie from the hospital, even your stepdad. All these ideas about who did it, who did it, like it was a TV show. It is a TV show. Every night on the news. I want to yell out, this is not a body, this is Tracy you're talking about. Someone who was here last week, going to netball, working at the Pizza Hut, getting the ferry, hanging out. You were alive. Now you're dead. But I know you can hear me. I can hear you.

She plays a bit of the song.

Your song. Times we danced to that, you and me and Shana, Shana singing dirty words, remember? Mum hearing and throwing a mental.... I shouldn't laugh, should I? Not here. But all I can think of is the other words.

She turns off the tape.

You were wearing my earrings. You looked so great.

And some guy took you off and did those things to you.

Wish I knew who. You know, Trace. Nobody else does.

If I knew, but I'd go and kill him. I'd smash his head in. I'd cut his balls off.

I'd make him die slowly for what he did to you.



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## 11. PATSY - LITTLE MURDERS by Jules Feiffer

**PATSY:** Honey, I don't want to hurt you. I want to change you. I want to make you see that there is some value in life, that there is some beauty, some tenderness, some things worth reacting to. Some things worth feeling. But you've got to take some chances some time! What do you want out of life? Just survival? It's not enough! It's not, not, not enough! I am not going to have a surviving marriage. I'm going to have a flourishing marriage! I'm a woman! Or, by Jesus, it's about time I became one. I want a family! Oh, Christ, Alfred, this is my wedding day. I want – want to be married to a big, strong, protective, vital, virile, self-assured man. Who I can protect and take care of. Alfred, honey, you're the first man I've ever gone to bed with where I didn't feel he was a lot more likely to get pregnant than I was. You owe me something! I've invested everything I believe in you. You've got to let me mould you. Please let me mould you. You've got me whining, begging and crying. I've never behaved like this in my life. Will you look at this? That's a tear. I never cried in my life.



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## 12. RITA – EDUCATING RITA by Willy Russell

**RITA:** But I don't wanna be charming and delightful:

funny. What's funny? I don't wanna be funny. I wanna talk seriously with the rest of you, I don't wanna spend the night takin' the piss, comin' on with the funnies because that's the only way I can get into the conversation. I didn't want to come to your house just to play the court jester.

I don't want to be myself. Me? What's me? Some stupid woman who gives us all a laugh because she thinks she can learn, because she thinks that one day she'll be like the rest of them, talking seriously, confidently, with knowledge, livin' a civilised life. Well, she can't be like that really but bring her in because she's good for a laugh!

I'm all right with you, here in this room; but when I saw those people you were with I couldn't come in. I would have seized up. Because I'm a freak. I can't talk to the people I live with any more. An' I can't talk to likes of them on Saturday, or them out here, because I can't learn the language. I'm a half-caste. I went back to the pub where Denny was, an' me mother, an' our Sandra, an' her mates. I'd decided I wasn't comin' here again.

I went into the pub an' they were singin', all of them singin' some song they'd learnt from the juke box. An' I stood in that pub an' thought, just what the frig am I trying to do? Why don't I just pack it in an' stay with them, an' join in the singin'?

You think I can, don't you? Just because you pass a pub doorway an' hear the singin', you think we're all O.K., that we're all survivin', with the spirit intact. Well I did join in with the singin, I didn't ask any question, I just went along with it.

But when I looked around me mother had stopped singin, an' she was cryin', but no one could get it out of her why she was crying'. Everyone just said she was pissed an' we should get her home. So we did, an' on the way I asked her why. I said, 'Why are y' cryin', Mother?' She said, 'Because – because we could sing better songs than those'. Ten minutes later, Denny had her laughing and singing again, pretending she hadn't said it. But she had. And that's why I came back. And that's why I'm staying.

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## 13. CAROL - OLEANNA by David Mamet

**CAROL:** Professor, I came here as a favour. At your personal request. Perhaps I should not have done so. But I did. On my behalf, and on behalf of my group. And you speak of the tenure committee, one of whose members is a woman, as you know. And though you might call it Good Fun, or An Historical Phrase, or An Oversight, or All of the Above, to refer to the committee as Good Men and True, it is a demeaning remark. It is a sexist remark, and to overlook it is to countenance continuation of that method of thought. You love the Power. I'm sorry. You feel yourself empowered ... you say so yourself. To strut. To posture. To "perform." To "Call me in here..." Eh? You say that higher education is a joke. And treat it as such, you treat it as such. And confess to a taste to play the Patriarch in your class. To grant this. To deny that. To embrace your students. And you think it's charming to "question" in yourself this taste to mock and destroy. But you should question it. Professor. And you pick those things which you feel advance you: publication, tenure, and the steps to get them you call "harmless rituals." And you perform those steps. Although you say it is hypocrisy. But to the aspirations of your students. Of hardworking students, who come here, who slave to come here – you have no idea what it cost me to come to this school – you mock us. You call education "hazing" and from your so-protected, so-elitist seat you hold our confusion as a joke, and hopes and efforts with it. Then you sit there and say "what have I done?" And ask me to understand that you have aspirations too. But I tell you. I tell you. That you are vile. And that you are exploitative. And if you possess one ounce of that inner honesty you describe in your book, you can look in yourself and see those things that I see. And you can find revulsion equal to my own. Good Day. (she prepares to leave the room)

PLEASE DO NOT IMPERSONATE THE ACTOR'S REPRESENTATION OF THE ABOVE CHARACTER IN THE FILM VERSION

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## 14. HEAVENLY - SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH by Tennessee Williams

**HEAVENLY:** Don't give me your "Voice of God" speech. Papa, there was a time when you could have saved me, by letting me marry a boy that was still young and clean, but instead you drove him away, drove him out of St. Cloud. And when he came back, you took me out of St. Cloud, and tried to force me to marry a fifty-year-old money bag that you wanted something out of - and then another, another, all of them ones you wanted something out of. I'd gone, so Chance went away. Tried to compete, make himself big as these big-shots you wanted to use me for a bond with. He went. He tried. The right doors wouldn't open, and so he went in the wrong ones, and - Papa, you married for love, why wouldn't you let me do it, while I was alive, inside, and the boy was still clean, still decent? You married for love, but you wouldn't let me do it, and even though you'd done it, you broke Mama's heart. Miss Lucy was your mistress long before Mama died. And Mama was just in front of you. (pause) Can I go in now, Papa? Can I go in now, Papa? I'm sorry my operation has brought this embarrassment on you, but can you imagine it, Papa? I felt worse than embarrassed when I found out that Dr George Scudder's knife had cut the youth out of my body, made me a childless woman. Dry, cold, empty, like an old woman. I feel as if I ought to rattle like a dead dried-up vine when the Gulf Wind blows, but, Papa - I won't embarrass you any more.



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## 15. BRIT IN NEW YORK - STUFF HAPPENS By David Hare

**BRIT:** 'America changed.' That's what we're told. 'On September 11th everything changed.' 'If you're not American, you can't understand.' The infantile psychobabble of popular culture is grafted opportunistically onto America's politics. The language of childish entitlement becomes the lethal rhetoric of global wealth and privilege. Asked how you are as President, on the first day of a war which will kill around thirty thousand people:

'I feel good.'

I was in Saks Fifth Avenue the morning they bombed Baghdad. 'Isn't it wonderful?' says the saleswoman. 'At last we're hitting back.' 'Yes,' I reply. 'At the wrong people. Somebody steals your handbag, so you kill their second cousin, on the grounds they live close. Explain to me,' I say, 'Saudi Arabia is financing Al Qaeda. Iran, Lebanon and Syria are known to shelter terrorists. North Korea is developing a nuclear weapons programme. All these you leave alone. No, you go to war with the one place in the region admitted to have no connection with terrorism.' 'You're not American,' says the saleswoman. 'You don't understand.'

Oh, a question, then. If 'You're not American. You don't understand' is the new dispensation, then why not 'You're not Chechen'? Are the Chechens also now licensed? Are Basques? Theatres, restaurants, public squares?

Do Israeli milk-bars filled with women and children become fair game on the grounds that 'You don't understand. We're Palestinian, we're Chechen, we're Irish, we're Basque'? If the principle of international conduct is now to be that you may go against anyone you like on the grounds that you've been hurt by somebody else, does that apply to everyone? Or just to America?

On September 11th, America changed. Yes. It got much stupider.



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## 16. SECRETARY - SPECIAL OFFER by Harold Pinter

### SECRETARY:

(at a desk in an office)

Yes, I was in the rest room at Swan and Edgars, having a little rest. Just sitting there, interfering with nobody, when this old crone suddenly came right up to me and sat beside me. You're on the staff of the B.B.C. she said, aren't you? I've got just the thing for you, she said, and put a little card into my hand. Do you know what was written on it? MEN FOR SALE! What on earth do you mean? I said. Men, she said, all sorts shapes and sizes, for sale. What on earth can you possibly mean? I said. It's an international congress, she said, got up for the entertainment and relief of lady members of the civil service. You can hear some of the boys we've got speak through a microphone, especially for your pleasure, singing little folk tunes we're sure you've never heard before. Tea is on the house and every day we have the very best pastries. For the cabaret at teatime the boys do a rare dance imported all the way from Buenos Aires, dressed in nothing but a pair of cricket pads. Every single one of them is tried and tested, very best quality, and at very reasonable rates. If you like one of them by any of his individual characteristics you can buy him, but for you not at retail price. As you work for the B.B.C. we'll be glad to make a special reduction. If you're at all dissatisfied you can send him back within seven days and have your money refunded. That's very kind of you, I said, but as a matter of fact I've just been on leave, I start work tomorrow and am perfectly refreshed. And I left her where she was. Men for Sale! What an extraordinary idea! I've never heard of anything so outrageous, have you? Look - here's the card.

Pause.

Do you think it's a joke. . . or serious ?

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# Northmead Creative & Performing Arts High- Drama Audition

## 17. ELIZABETH BARRY - THE LIBERTINE by Stephen Jeffries

**ELIZABETH:** You have no understanding, do you? You have comprehended – just – that I am tired of being your mistress and your solution is to conscript me into becoming your wife. It is not being a mistress I am tired of, John. I am tired of you. I do not wish to be your wife. I do not wish to be anyone’s wife. I wish to continue being the creature I am. I am no Nell Gwyn, I will not give up the stage as soon as a King or a Lord has seen me on it and, wishing me to be his and his alone, will then pay a fortune to keep me off it. I am not the sparrow you picked up in the roadside, my love. London walks into this theatre to see me – not George’s play nor Mr. Betterton. They want me and they want me over and over again. And when people desire you in such a manner, then you can envisage a steady river of gold lapping at your doorstep, not five pound here or there for pity or bed favours, not a noble’s ransom for holding you hostage from the thing you love, but a lifetime of money amassed through your own endeavours. That is riches. ‘Leave this gaudy, gilded stage’. You’re right, this stage is gilded. It is gilded with my future earnings. And I will not trade those for a dependency on you. I will not swap my certain glory for your undependable love.

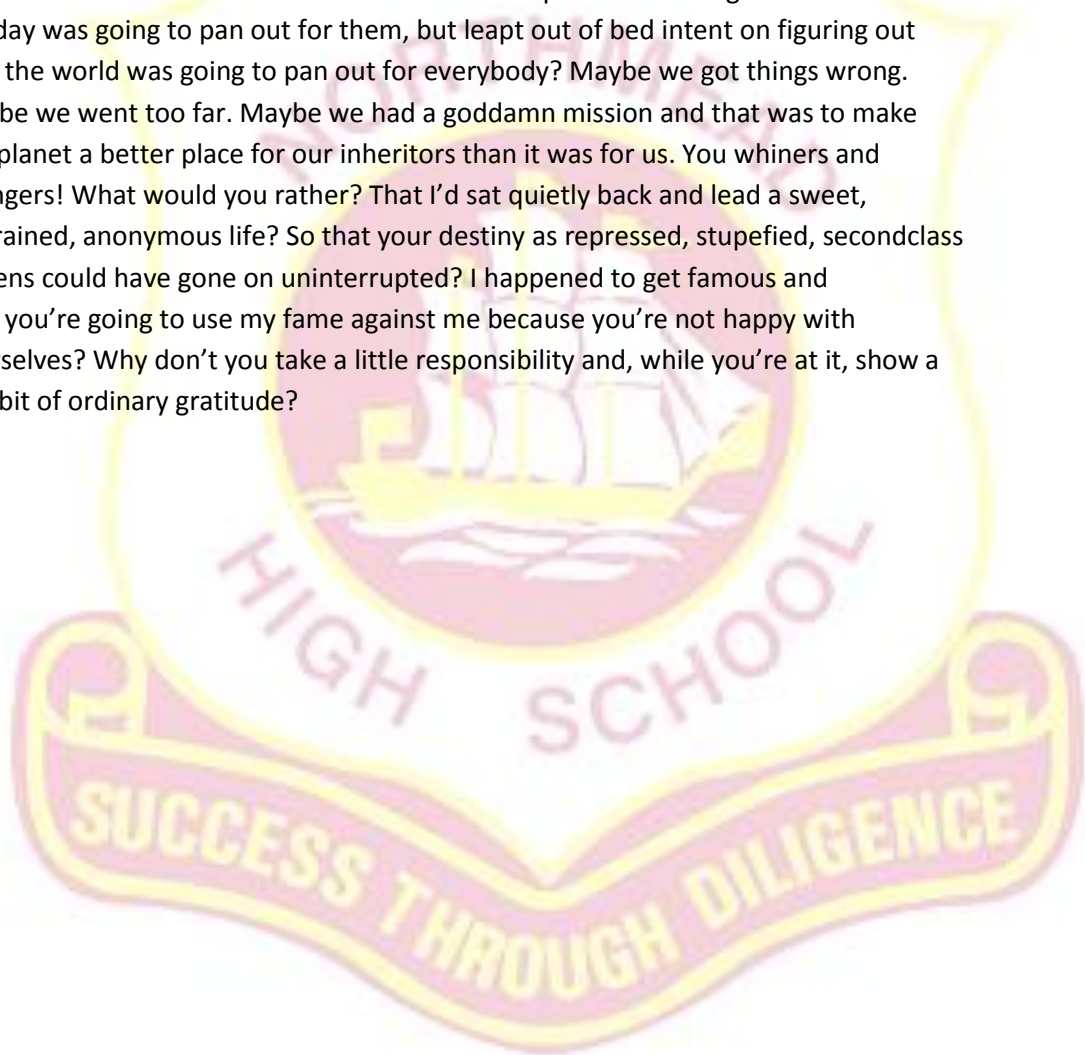


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## 18. MARGOT – THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES by Joanna Murray – Smith

**MARGOT:** I'm not to blame for every thing that's gone wrong in your lives. I'm a thinker! It's my job to think. Because that's something I do better than other people. You're all spoiled brats. Go on, shoot me, but that's the truth! Talk about the Me Generation! All this nonsense about personal identity and self-growth and being fulfilled! What a load of self-indulgent crap. Has it ever occurred to any of you that there was a generation of men and women who didn't wake up in the morning and wonder how the day was going to pan out for them, but leapt out of bed intent on figuring out how the world was going to pan out for everybody? Maybe we got things wrong. Maybe we went too far. Maybe we had a goddamn mission and that was to make this planet a better place for our inheritors than it was for us. You whiners and whingers! What would you rather? That I'd sat quietly back and lead a sweet, restrained, anonymous life? So that your destiny as repressed, stupefied, secondclass citizens could have gone on uninterrupted? I happened to get famous and now you're going to use my fame against me because you're not happy with yourselves? Why don't you take a little responsibility and, while you're at it, show a tiny bit of ordinary gratitude?



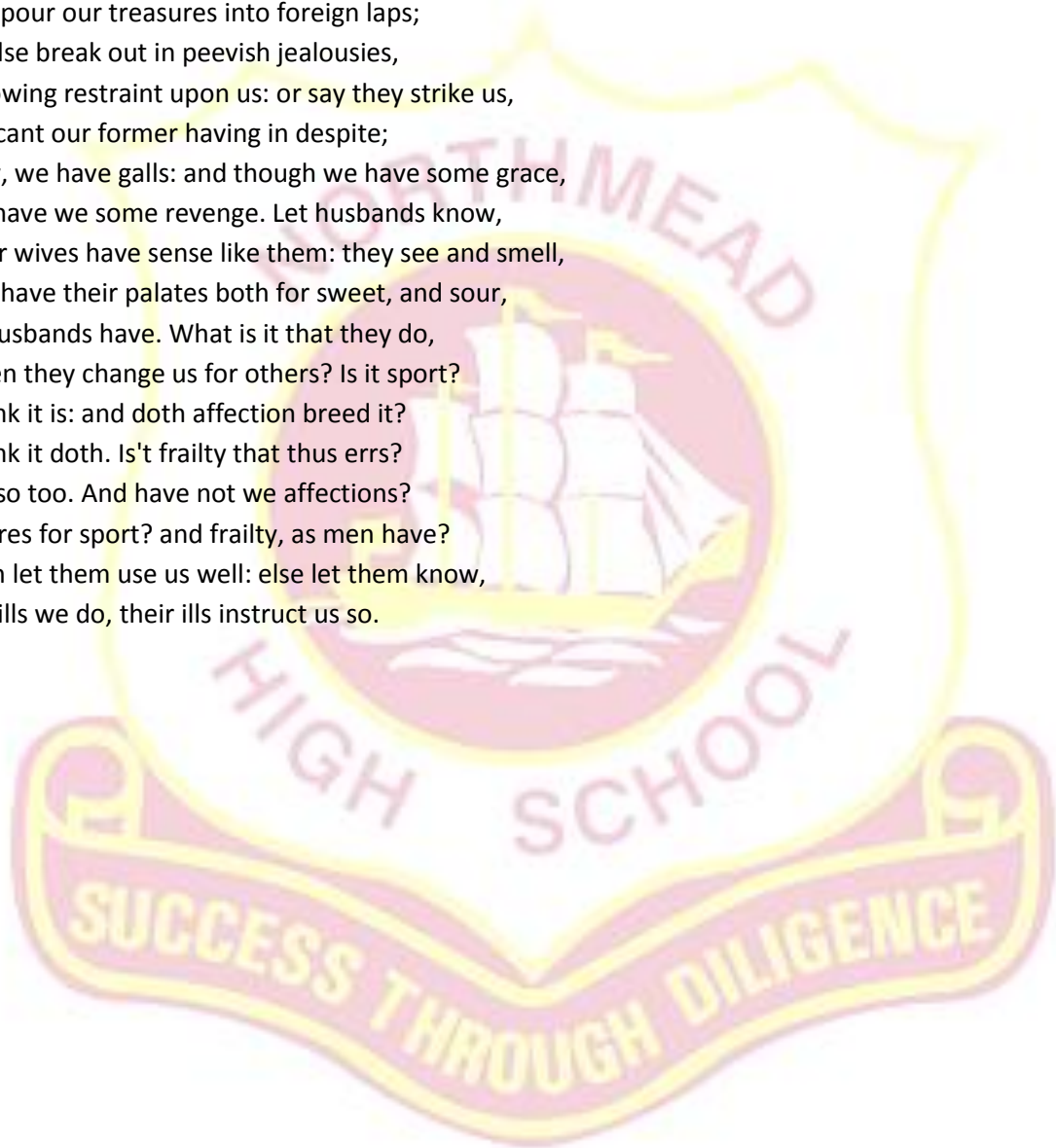
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## 19. EMILIA – OTHELLO by William Shakespeare

**EMILIA:** Yes, a dozen, and as many to the vantage, as would store the world they played for.

But I do think it is their husbands' faults  
If wives do fall: say, that they slack their duties,  
And pour our treasures into foreign laps;  
Or else break out in peevish jealousies,  
Throwing restraint upon us: or say they strike us,  
Or scant our former having in despite;  
Why, we have galls: and though we have some grace,  
Yet have we some revenge. Let husbands know,  
Their wives have sense like them: they see and smell,  
And have their palates both for sweet, and sour,  
As husbands have. What is it that they do,  
When they change us for others? Is it sport?  
I think it is: and doth affection breed it?  
I think it doth. Is't frailty that thus errs?  
It is so too. And have not we affections?  
Desires for sport? and frailty, as men have?  
Then let them use us well: else let them know,  
The ills we do, their ills instruct us so.



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## 20. VITTORIA – The White Devil by John Webster

**VITTORIA:** What have I gained by thee but infamy?  
Thou hast stained the spotless honour of my house,  
And frightened thence noble society:  
Like those, which sick o'th'palsy, and retain  
Ill-scenting foxes 'bout them, are still shunned  
By those of choicer nostrils. What do you call this house?  
Is this your palace? Did not the judge style it  
A house of penitent whores? Who sent me to it?  
Who hath the honour to advance Vittoria  
To this incontinent college? Is't not you?  
Is't not your high preferment? Go, go brag  
How many ladies you have undone, like me.  
Fare you well sir; let me hear no more of you.  
I had a limb corrupted to an ulcer,  
But I have cut it off: and now I'll go  
Weeping to heaven on crutches. For your gifts,  
I will return them all; and I do wish  
That I could make you full executor  
To all my sins - O that I could toss myself  
Into a grave as quickly: for all thou art worth  
I'll not shed one tear more - I'll burst first.



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