

## Monologue Selection

Monologues should:

- Be around 45-60 seconds in performed length.
- Come from any length play, including 10-minute or one-act plays. Do NOT use monologues from screenplays.
- Feature a character who is appropriate for your age and type.
- Choose active material. The character should be speaking to another character in the play. Your character should want something in the moment and be using varying tactics to get that goal. Avoid story-telling monologues or memory based pieces that tell the story of a past event.
- Contemporary monologues should be from a play written roughly from 1950 through today.
- Shakespeare monologues should be in verse (not prose) and roughly 12 lines in length.

Suggestions for finding a monologue:

- Anthologies, including those from the Humana Festival at the Actors Theatre of Louisville
- Monologue selection books (find in library or at a bookstore).
- You can often find titles on the internet, but you **cannot** use monologues for which you cannot find the full play, so avoid monologue websites.
- Single-volume plays
- Some playwrights to look for (in no particular order):

Arthur Miller  
Tennessee Williams  
Mark Ravenhill  
Joe Penhall  
Brian Friel  
Martin McDonagh  
Craig Lucas  
Donald Margulies  
Caryl Churchill

Edward Albee  
Paula Vogel  
David Lindsay-Abaire  
Sarah Ruhl  
Tom Stoppard  
Harold Pinter  
Sam Shepard  
Tony Kushner  
Martin McDonagh

Richard Greenberg  
Lanford Wilson  
Neil Simon  
Terrence McNally  
Marsha Norman  
Nicky Silver  
Theresa Rebeck  
Wendy Wasserstein