

Audition Form

Name _____

Preferred Pronouns _____

Email Address (student or other) _____

Preferred contact number _____

I prefer to be contacted by (please tick): Email Phone (SMS)

Please tick/identify your availability:

(if available for specific times please type this out inside the relevant box e.g., "only after 2.30pm")

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning (before 12pm)					
Afternoon (between 12pm and 5pm)					
Evening (After 5pm)					

Production dates TBC: (subject to change of specific date and time, but the two show weeks outlined will remain the same).

SHOW WEEK 1 11 th - 13 th June	Thursday 11 th June: Preview show 5pm - 7pm	Friday 12 th June: 5pm - 7pm	Saturday 13 th June: 5pm - 7pm	---
SHOW WEEK 2 18 th - 21 st June	Thursday 18 th June: 5pm - 7pm	Friday 19 th June: 5pm - 7pm	Saturday 20 th June: 12pm - 2pm and 5pm - 7pm	Sunday 21 st June (TBC): 5pm - 7pm

Rehearsals will take place 1-2 times a week determined by need and actor/crew availability. Smaller roles will not be required at every rehearsal.

Closer to the production dates we will require full-cast Sunday rehearsals. Please let us know now if this will be an issue for you.

Additionally, please note any known dates of conflict you may already have between now and June 22nd)

PDF download can be found on paanda.com.au/auditions.

Damon and Pythias

Written and directed by Murray Oversby

PLAY DESCRIPTION:

Based on the Greek Mythology of Damon and Pythias; legendary figures symbolizing absolute friendship, loyalty, and self-sacrifice. When Pythias is condemned to death by the tyrant Dionysius I of Syracuse, Damon offers his own life as collateral to let his friend settle his affairs. Pythias returns just in time to prevent Damon's execution, and Dionysius is so moved by the act of selflessness that pardons both men. The story has been adapted into a satirical comedy that is light-hearted, witty and abreast (with references to 'crash outs', dating apps, and communism).

The play is about 90-120 minutes long with an intermission.

CHARACTER LIST:

20 characters. Double ups can shorten actors required to 15.

In order of role importance (line and time commitment). Actors looking for a smaller role please select from the lower end of the list.

Leads

(Male presenting, late teens – late 20s)

- DAMON: A loveable oaf with a heart of gold, despite appearing dumb he's perhaps wiser than he realises.
- PYTHIAS: A very jolly, verbose, and optimistic man who wants to make the world a better place.
- DIONYSIUS: The villainous King of Syracuse, he is extremely self-centred and sees himself as superior but deep down he is insecure.

Secondary leads

(Non-gender-specific, late teens-late 20s)

- CHLOE: The King's "friend", Chloe lives to gossip, look down on people and will do anything to appease the king.
- ALEX: Like Chloe but just slightly less intelligent. Just as much of a bootlicker.
- JONES "BONES" MALONE: A stereotypical pirate who's really just trying to do some good in this world.
- JIMMY "TWO LEGS": Another stereotypical pirate who longs to be perceived as the good guy.
- KARRRRL MARRRRX: The most stereotypical pirate is literally just Karl Marx

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(female presenting, late teens-late 20s)

SIREN: *lonely, she longs for a meaningful connection. Stuck in a toxic cycle of luring sailors to her rock who always disappoint her.*

(Male presenting, 30s-40s)

POOR FARMER: *Appears to be a common farmer struggling to keep his herd alive, but he is secretly a god in disguise.*

FATHER: *Pythias' father. Kind and nurturing while remaining stern.*

(Male presenting, 10-15)

YOUNG DAMON: *A poor, hungry orphan from the street who's very honest but not too bright.*

YOUNG PYTHIAS: *Very smart for his age, he loves to play pretend but really wants someone to play with.*

Ensemble

(3-7 actors – no gender specified)

◇ Refugee 1	◇ Refugee 3	◇ Guard 2	◇ Local 2
◇ Refugee 2	◇ Guard 1	◇ Local 1	

NOTE FOR ACTORS:

Shows for this production will be running on the nights of the 11th-13th and 18th-21st of June (with show dates subject to change based on ticket sales). Actors will need to be available over these two weekends to be considered for a role.

Rehearsals will take place once a week, determined based on required cast availability (smaller roles will not be required every week). Lead actors' availability will be prioritised in determining the time for rehearsals.

Closer to show dates all cast will be required to attend Sunday rehearsal blocks (unless discussed with director and production supervisor).

AUDITION INFORMATION:

In person:

Friday 27th March: 5pm-7pm

and

Saturday 28th March: 10am-1pm

And

Tuesday 31st March: 5pm-6.30pm

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Auditioning actors will be given a 15-minute time slot allocated based on availability. You will be contacted with a confirmation of your time slot and any necessary information for your audition.

To receive an audition time slot please fill out the 'in person audition form' on our website: paanda.com.au/auditions

Self-tape:

To be submitted by April 1st.

Please film a self-tape audition of one of the excerpts provided using either a phone or digital camera (not computer).

Note that actors auditioning via self-tape will require someone to read lines out-of-frame if the scene is not a monologue.

Self-tapes should be submitted via paanda.com.au/auditions under the 'self-tape audition' form ***no later than 11.59pm on April 1st.***

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Please not you do *not* have to have your audition excerpt memorised.

The roles listed below can be auditioned for using the excerpts in this document. If you have preference for a role other than the below, please make sure you write this on your audition form where prompted.

DAMON

PYTHIAS

DIONYSIUS

POOR FARMER

CHLOE/ALEX

SIREN

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DAMON:

(For self-tape auditions please have someone off screen reading for Pythias)

DAMON: A loveable oaf with a heart of gold, despite appearing dumb he's perhaps wiser than he realises.

Pronunciation note: Pythias (pai-thee-uhs)

DAMON

Wait!!

Damon emerges from the crowd and pushes his way to the stage. Dionysius rolls his eyes.

Let me take his place!

...

Your grace, let me take his place for the five days. I'm his friend, we came here together to *help* people. You can detain me while he sets his affairs in order. If... if he doesn't come back within five days you can kill me instead.

PYTHIAS

I thought I told you to leave.

DAMON

I'm no good with no verbal instructions. Or any instructions.

PYTHIAS

You really didn't have to do this, Damon.

DAMON

I don't think I'd be no true friend if I just *left* you.

PYTHIAS

...I promise I'll come back as fast as possible. I'll make like Hermes with his winged sandals.

DAMON

You know, it's okay if you don't. You have your family, all your smart ideas, you have this... *spirit*. I'm just a pauper. I've always felt that...

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PYTHIAS

Damon...

DAMON

...Your life is worth more than mine.

PYTHIAS

That couldn't be further from truth. All men are brothers; we're all equal. You proved today that your life has just as much value as any King or hero or God. In fact, you've proved it every day I've ever known you- if everyone just *cared* like you- if everyone was as honest and compassionate as you Damon, this world would surely be the most beautiful place.

DAMON

I think similar things of you. Just... with less of the words.

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PYTHIAS: (monologue)

PYTHIAS: A very jolly, verbose and optimistic man who wants to make the world a better place. Of high education and decent wealth. Filled with 'great' ideas.

*Pronunciation notes: Dionysius (dy-uh-**nish**-ee-uhs); Pythias (**pai**-thee-uhs); Zeus (zoos); Prometheus (pruh-**mee**-thee-uhs); Bellerophon (buh-**leh**-ruh-fn); Thebes (theebz); Polynices (pah-**lih-nye**-seez); Antigone (an-**ti**-guh-nee).*

The poor farmer stands behind Pythias, facing the crowd and the gathered locals. Damon gives Pythias an encouraging nudge and a smile before doing the same. Pythias takes one last glance at his parchment before stepping to the front of stage. He clears his throat.

Uh, thank you all for taking the risk to come here. I understand that even *listening* to me might be considered treason. It is my intent that such oppression comes to an end. But I should introduce myself, my name is Pythias; I've come here with my friend Damon to help you revolt against Dionysius. To help you seize control over your own destinies.

You have the numbers. And the spirit. All you need is to work together, a united front. People of Syracuse, there *is* hope. See, I was raised on the stories of our people. Stories of heroes, legends, gods. Rebellion is a part of who we are, it's in our blood. When Zeus reined over Olympus, keeping all knowledge and power for himself, Prometheus *resisted*, stealing away fire and gifting it to humanity. When the Gods deemed themselves untouchable, Bellerophon *resisted* by riding the Pegasus to their domain. When the king of Thebes denied Polynices a burial, Antigone *resisted* and honoured her brother anyway. Think of what stories would be told if the people of *Syracuse* stand against Dionysius the Tyrant. Or will you simply yield and accept your lot?

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DIONYSIUS: (monologue)

DIONYSIUS: The villainous King of Syracuse, he is extremely self-centred and sees himself as superior but deep down he is insecure.

Pronunciation notes: Dionysius (dy-uh-nish-ee-uhs); Pythias (pai-thee-uhs)

Context lines: do not need to be read within the audition.

DAMON

Oh, don't worry about him. He don't got no friends.

CHLOE

Excuse me?

ALEX

He has *great* friends.

DIONYSIUS

[to Chloe and Alex] No, the fool is right. You are no true friends. You're just Sycophants. Boot lickers. *Gossips*. You just talk and talk but you never *mean* anything. I fear I do the same. But you're no friend to me, to Dionysius. You're only a friend to the King [*gesturing to his crown*], or to whoever has the most wealth and power. Damon, Pythias where does it come from? This dedication, this sacrifice, *kinship*. To willingly, freely die for each other: where does it come from?

There is a long pause. Dionysius looks like he's on the verge of tears.

I'm... I think- I don't think I'm happy. Somehow. Despite everything I have and everything you don't, I'm not happy. That shallowness and emptiness you speak of: "Imagine a world without your friend", that *is* my world. I don't have people I care for, nor people who care for me and that's *my* doing. It's my fault. I'm a terrible king- self-absorbed, uncaring. I can see that now, thanks to you. I'm... I'm sorry.

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CHLOE/ALEX:

(Actors are welcome to read for either character in this scene.

For self-tape auditions please have someone off screen reading for the other character)

Both Chloe and Alex are Non-gender-specific roles.

CHLOE: The King's "friend", Chloe lives to gossip, look down on people and will do anything to appease the king.

ALEX: Like Chloe but just slightly less intelligent. Just as much of a bootlicker.

In the throne room again. Chloe and Alex are in their usual positions, beside the king on each side.

CHLOE

Can you believe that?

ALEX

No way, I'm *so* gagged.

CHLOE

And then she was like, "I don't even know who you are" and I'm like [*gesturing to herself*] helloooo, literally one of the King's closest confidants.

ALEX

I'm getting like, second-hand embarrassment from this. Who *was* this woman?

CHLOE

She was like, the daughter of some noble, super dull expression. Like, maybe not all there.

ALEX

Chloe, you can't say that, but I *totally* get it.

CHLOE

No no no this is the worst part: after I explained who I was she was like "I don't even like the king, I think he's *greedy*". I. was. Stunned.

ALEX

No way she said that right in front of everyone. That's so awkward. Like, that's so uncomfortable.

CHLOE

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And I wasn't just going to stand there and let some nobody talk down to my King like that.

ALEX

You let her have it?

CHLOE

I so let her have it.

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SIREN:

(for self-tape auditions please have someone off screen reading for DAMON)

SIREN: lonely, she longs for a meaningful connection. Stuck in a toxic cycle of luring sailors to her rock who always disappoint her.

*Pronunciation notes: Pythias (**pai**-thee-uhs)*

SIREN

This... this doesn't normally happen.

DAMON

What normally happens?

SIREN

Normally after I sing, some sailor will clamber up these rocks, marvel at my beauty and profess their undying love for me.

DAMON

And then?

SIREN

Theen, well, it always starts off well. It seems like they really like me but... before long it kind of always becomes clear that, yes they're *infatuated* by me but they don't truly care. Or more like, they only care about me so far as it serves their own desires. Like they're not *truly* listening to me.

DAMON

[sits down cross-legged] Well you *have* lured them to a rock and charmed them with you're magical beauty and all... It's kind of a toxic framework from the get-go.

SIREN

Yeah and I get that, but it's in my nature: I *lure*, it's what I do. What I don't get is, if they're so in love with me why does it seem like they never make that effort to really understand *my* needs? To really care.

DAMON

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Might be that if someone truly cared about you, they'd leave you be; let you find out who you are *outside* all this luring business.

...

It might be your nature, but maybe that could change.

SIREN

No, you're right. It just feels like a leap of faith, y'know? I've spent my whole life sitting on a rock, singing, letting men drown. It's my whole identity. Thinking about anything else is... kind of scary.

...

You know I always liked the idea of tending to my own choral nurseries for endangered fish.

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