

Schoolcraft Theatre

**Audition Information – A PAIR OF KINGS: New Adaptations of Sophocles’ OEDIPUS REX and
Jarry’s UBU ROI
Written and Directed by Paul Beer**

Audition Dates: September 16 & 17, 7 pm, LA500 (James R. Hartman Theatre)

THE PLAYS

A PAIR OF KINGS is a retelling of Oedipus and Ubu, each in a one-act play, in modern language. The plays satirize some of the most manic political behavior in today’s landscape, and the performances retain elements of their original form (classical tragedy and absurdism, respectively) but with modern humor and (in the case of Oedipus), music.

Oedipus tells the tragic story of the title character who, despite the efforts of his parents and himself, fails to outrun his fate foreseen by the gods to kill his father and marry his mother.

Ubu is an absurd parody of Macbeth in which Ma Ubu convinces her husband to overthrow the king, despite Pa Ubu’s complete lack of ability to run the kingdom.

THE CHARACTERS

We will cast the following 13 roles; some may be double-cast (that is, one actor in two parts):

Chorus Leader (will need to be able to sing and play ukulele (or perhaps guitar) – will be in both plays

Oedipus, the King of Thebes

Creon, his brother-in-law

Tiresias, the blind prophet

Jocasta, Oedipus’ wife (and mother)

Messenger from Corinth

Herdsman from Thebes

Pa Ubu

Ma Ubu

Bordure, a captain in Pa Ubu’s regiment

The Queen

The King

Bougrelas, their son

A Servant (played by the **Chorus Leader**)

No accents are required; no intimacy among any of the characters

THE REHEARSAL PLAN

We will begin rehearsals the week after auditions, and will rehearse at least three days a week – either Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday evenings (7-10) or two of those three and Saturday afternoons, depending on cast availability.

KEY DATES

- Auditions: September 16 & 17, 7 pm (come one night only; two hours)
- Cast list posted by Friday, September 19, latest
- Rehearsals begin September 23
- Tech rehearsal November 1, 11 am – 4 pm (actors' call probably at noon)
- Dress rehearsals November 4-6, 6-10 pm
- Performances November 7 & 8 – Evening performances at 7:30 (6 pm call); Saturday matinee at 2 pm (1230 call)

AUDITION MATERIAL

Please prepare a one-minute comedic monologue, and prepare to sing a song, unaccompanied. Your monologue should tell me a story and show a range of emotion in your character. Your song should be a ballad (tell a story), rather than be a "show tune." If you would like to accompany yourself on guitar or ukulele, you may do so.

You will also be asked to read with a partner from the attached sides, and to take direction during the audition.

Finally, there will be a movement portion of the audition, so you should dress accordingly.

SIDE 1 – From UBU, Scene 1

I am disgusting!

PA UBU

You are disgusting!

MA UBU

I do not bathe.

PA UBU

You do not bathe.

MA UBU

And so I stink.

PA UBU

And so you stink.

MA UBU

I am fat.

PA UBU

You are fat.

MA UBU

I am lazy.

PA UBU

You are lazy.

MA UBU

And yet, I am happy.

PA UBU

You are happy?

MA UBU

I am happy!

PA UBU

How are you happy? Here. In the middle of nowhere.

MA UBU

What middle of nowhere? PA UBU

No where! Where we are! MA UBU

Don't be ridiculous. We are not nowhere. PA UBU

No? Where are we then? MA UBU

(Thinking) We are... *(He's got it!)* ... here! PA UBU

Oh, pardon me! Pardon me! Of course, we are HERE! MA UBU

See? Not nowhere. PA UBU

You are mad. MA UBU

Not mad. Happy! PA UBU

Here? MA UBU

Here! PA UBU

SIDE 2, from KING OEDIPUS

OEDIPUS

What providence that you come now, when I need to counsel with you, Tiresias!

TIRESIAS

Really? It surprises you that I should come when you need me? You do remember that I am a prophet, don't you?

OEDIPUS

Wait a minute, Tiresias. That's very disrespectful, isn't it? I do know you are a prophet, Tiresias. Perhaps then you already know why I need to hear your counsel.

TIRESIAS

I do. And I know you do not want my counsel.

OEDIPUS

You know why I want to talk to you? Excellent. Wait. What do you mean I do not want your counsel? I just told you I do want your counsel. Why would I tell you I want your counsel if I don't want your counsel?

TIRESIAS

I tell you you don't. That is, you want to speak to me, but you do not want me to speak to you.

OEDIPUS

Why would I want to speak to you and not have you speak to me?

TIRESIAS

Why, indeed?

OEDIPUS

You make no sense.

TIRESIAS

It's quite the riddle, isn't it? You used to be good at those.

OEDIPUS

(Offended) I was good at those – I AM good at those – as you well know! It is I who /solved the Sphinx's riddle/ to save Thebes –

TIRESIAS

/who solved the Sphinx's riddle/ -- Yes, yes, we know! Everyone knows! Is there anyone who does not know? I don't see any hands.

OEDIPUS

-- to save Thebes when I first arrived here.

TIRESIAS

When? When you first arrived in Thebes?

OEDIPUS

Yes, when I first arrived in Thebes, when I solved the riddle, and when I married Jocasta.

TIRESIAS

And that was your first time in Thebes?

OEDIPUS

You know it was. I had never travelled to Thebes from Corinth before that day. You know it was when I first arrived in Thebes and found the city under a curse and solved the riddle and saved the city. I did it. I saved the city. I /solved the riddle/.

TIRESIAS

/Solved the riddle/. Yes, yes. And still, my little riddles are too hard for you to solve.

OEDIPUS

Your little riddle?

TIRESIAS

That you want to speak to me, but don't want me to speak to you.

OEDIPUS

That is not a riddle! You are not speaking in riddles. You are speaking in darkness. You speak without saying anything, saying I want to counsel with you but I don't want your counsel, and saying when I first arrived in Thebes was not when I first arrived in Thebes! Those are not riddles. They are nonsense! I swear you do this to vex me!

TIRESIAS

I wouldn't swear if I were you. And I wouldn't press this matter with me. You do not want to hear my answer.