

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

## Commedia dell'arte

### Scenario Performance Project

To wrap our unit on Commedia dell'arte, you will be required to select and perform **1** of the scenarios listed on the back of this handout with your group. This piece must demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the aspects of playing physical comedy as well as the stock characters that make up Commedia dell'arte.

**Note:** *Grammelot* is the only acceptable form of verbal communication you may use in your final performance.

This is considered your **Semester 1 Showcase Performance**, so please be reminded that it will heavily impact your grade in Theatre. ***This will count as a Summative Assessment, which means that this grade will count for 80%.*** It is extremely important that you not only focus on your own success, but the success of your group as well.

#### Project Timeline:

- Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Introduction to project. Determine groups and group guidelines. Select scenario.
  - Intention/Invention Worksheets
- Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Completion of Intention/Invention worksheet by all members of each group.
  - Begin scripting scenario.
- Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Continue scripting scenario.
- Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>
  - ***Deadline for script approval.***
  - Begin rehearsal.
- Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Continue rehearsal.
- Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - ***Copy of script to be turned in today.***
  - Continue rehearsal.
- Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> & Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Rehearsals for teacher feedback.
- Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
  - FINAL REHEARSALS.
- Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Final Dress Rehearsals (in class)
  - ***Semester 1 Showcase Performance (6:30 p.m. in Creativity Center)***

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## List of Commedia scenarios

- The Lovers wish to be married but their fathers (Pantalone and/or Dottore) deny their wish. This leads one of the servants to trick the old men into allowing the marriage.
- Arlecchino or Brighella tries to trick Pantalone out of his money.
- Arlecchino is starving but keeps getting pulled away from his favorite food by his master (Pantalone or Dottore), then one of the Lovers, then another one of the servants.
- Pantalone wants to date Isabella and turns to Arlecchino for advice, who gives the worst advice possible.
- Capitano is new in town. He hears there's a rich widow and turns to one of the servants to get help.
- Pantalone has a new young wife, Isabella. He's very jealous and instructs Arlecchino to keep all men away from her. Arlecchino does the opposite.
- Pantalone has sent Arlecchino to his lawyer with some money. On the way, Brighella tries to get the money. The same type of scene could be played with food or various combinations of characters.
- Colombina is taking a bowl of food to Dottore and Arlecchino tries to get it from her.
- Pulcinella has just baked a pie, and he's trying to keep it out of the hands of Arlecchino because Arlecchino wants to eat the whole thing.
- Dottore tells his daughter that he's arranged for her to marry Pantalone. He's going to get free dinners for the rest of his life if she does. His daughter is one of the Lovers. She doesn't want to marry Pantalone because she's in love with somebody else, but she doesn't want to tell her father that.
- Pantalone wants his daughter, one of the Lovers, to marry Dottore, so he'll get free medical care for the rest of his life, but she objects.
- A Lover is expecting a message from their beloved, which Arlecchino is supposed to deliver, but he can't remember the message. How does the lover go ahead and try and convince Arlecchino to remember what was in the message? Does Arlecchino make up lies? Does the Lover hypnotize Arlecchino into remembering? What was in the letter? Arlecchino remembers everything else in his life except the letter.
- Brighella is Capitano's servant and they've been called up to war. Brighella needs to convince Arlecchino to join the army, so he doesn't have to go.
- Capitano wants service from the waiter, Arlecchino. Arlecchino wants to take a nap.