

Intention/Invention Assignment

Intention: What a character wants

Invention: What a character comes up with to get what they want

ASSIGNMENT

Create a two commedia character scene in which one person tries to get something from another person.

- The invention must come out of the intention. Everything is about a character getting what they want, OR being the obstacle to that want.
- Sample inventions include: trickery, threats, force, bribery, cajoling, flirtation, manipulation, lying
- Character 2 can have a counter-intention, or be an obstacle to Character 1, or both!
- Keep it simple. Focus on the intention/invention
- Use masks, costumes and real props. If you don't have masks available, that's fine.
- Remember what you've learned so far with status, appetites, and character physicality.
- **Length: No longer than 5 minutes. KEEP IT SHORT!**

SUGGESTED SCENES

1. Pantalone has sent Arlecchino or Stupino 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.
2. Colombina is taking a bowl of food to Dottore and Arlecchino tries to get it from her.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 and Arlecchino remembers everything else in his life except for the letter.
7. 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.
8. Capitano wants service from the waiter, Arlecchino. Arlecchino wants to take a nap.