

***Steel Magnolias* Monologue Options**

MONOLOGUE PREP TIPS

Choosing your piece is an important part of the audition preparation. A polished monologue gives you the opportunity to showcase your acting skills and demonstrate your connection to specific characters. Here are some suggestions to get you started.

- 1) Familiarize yourself with the show. Read the script, watch YouTube clips, and read all of the audition information that is provided...including all monologues provided (this will give you a sense for the tone of the show and each character).
 - 2) Think through it: Which role(s) do I see myself in? Which role(s) do I think the directors will see me in? Consider all the possibilities - and don't limit yourself! Be open to discovery and trying something new.
 - 3) Choose monologues that capture the essence of the characters that you would like to be considered for, but understand that the audition team will consider you for all roles unless you state you are not interested in specific parts.
 - a) Preparing two contrasting pieces allows you to showcase your range and depth as a performer.
 - b) Make strong choices based on your understanding of the character. What do you know about them from the character descriptions? What is important in this specific monologue—who is the character speaking to and why are they saying this?
 - 4) Rehearse! Get comfortable with the character and your piece. Memorization is preferred, but **not** required. Bring your script if it will allow you to better show the character.
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Important Notes/Instructions

From the Author: *The women in this play are witty, intelligent, and above all, real characters. They in no way, shape, or form are meant to be portrayed as cartoons or caricatures.*

Using a dialect for auditions is **not** required/expected, but if you choose to audition with a dialect we are seeking a Natchitoches, Louisiana accent (see audition page for resources).

Memorization is encouraged but not required. If you are more confident with script-in-hand, please use your script.

Please prepare **two contrasting monologues** from the options provided.

Truvy Option 1

Honey, there's so much static electricity in here, I pick up everything except boys and money ... Annelle? This is the most successful shop in town. Wanna know why? Because I have a strict philosophy that I have stuck to for fifteen years ... "There is no such thing as natural beauty." That's why I've never lost a client to the Kut and Kurl or the Beauty Box.

Truvy Option 2 *(Regarding ANNELLE's excessive praying)*

Got me. Maybe she was praying for Marshall and Drew and Belle. Maybe she was praying for us because we were gossiping. Maybe she was praying because the elastic is shot in her pantyhose. Who knows? She prays at the drop of a hat these days – and has ever since Mardi Gras. She had her choice of going to a Bible weekend with her Sunday school class or to New Orleans with me and two other sinners. She left that Friday a pleasant, well-adjusted young lady and she returned that next Tuesday a Christian ... Her boyfriend Sammy's so confused he doesn't know whether to scratch his watch or wind his butt. He's crazy about her. He says he could deal with another man in her life, but he has trouble with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ... I'm torn. I've got two sons that I'm afraid are going to hell in a handcart and a semi-daughter that strives to be the kind of girl Jesus would bring home to Mama. I don't know what to think. I don't understand those people ... but they sometimes seem to have a peace about things that I've never had. Maybe I'm just jealous.

Annelle Option 1

I'm not sure if I'm married or not ... He's gone! Everything is horrible. Bunkie – that's my husband – he left. We only moved here a month ago. He just vanished last week. Nobody knows where he went. He took all my money, my jewelry, the car. Most of my clothes were in the trunk ... The police have been to see me. He's in big trouble with the law. Drugs or something. He never paid the rent so I got thrown out of our house and had to move in at crazy old Mrs. Robeline's. The police keep questioning me. But I don't know anything. They say my marriage may not be legal ... I should've said something, but I was scared to. I need a job in the worst way and I didn't know if you'd hire someone who may or may not be married to someone that might be a dangerous criminal. But I swear to you that my personal tragedy will not interfere with my ability to do good hair.

Annelle Option 2 *(Regarding SHELBY's recent death)*

In a way Shelby was right. Maybe she knew she was going to be with her king. We should be rejoicing ... Miss M'Lynn, I don't mean to upset you by saying that. You see, when something like this happens, I pray very hard to make heads or tails of it. I think in Shelby's case, she wanted to take care of that baby, of you, of everybody she knew ... and her poor body was just worn out. It wouldn't let her do everything she wanted to do. So she went on to a place where she could be a guardian angel. She will always be young. She will always be beautiful. And I personally feel much safer knowing she's up there on my side. I know some people might think that sounds real simple and stupid ... and maybe I am. But that's how I get through things like this.

Clairee Option 1

Lloyd and I missed being married for fifty years by three months. That stinker. Bless his heart. He tried. He just couldn't make it ... I remember everything about my wedding. The flowers, the food. Ouiser was my maid of honor. Shelby, I hope you and Jackson will be as happy as Lloyd and I were. We had such a good time. Until last November ... At least he hung on through the state playoffs ... I miss the whirlwind of being a mayor's wife. It's not easy being just one. I don't like going to things by myself. If I go with another couple, I'm a third wheel. If I go with a friend, we're just a couple of old biddies ...

Clairee Option 2

My brother can be very hotheaded when he wants to be. But he really didn't throw Marshall out. Marshall just came over to my house while his daddy cooled off. I adore Marshall. We stayed up half the night talking ... I think it'll all blow over. I have to admit, Marshall did go about it the wrong way. He marched in unexpected from Los Angeles while Drew and Belle were preparing for the annual Marmillion shrimp boil. Marshall without so much as a hello says, "Mama and Daddy, I have something to tell you. I have a brain tumor. I have three months to live." Well, naturally Drew and Belle became hysterical. Then Marshall says, "Hey folks, I'm just kidding. I'm only gay." Drew became incredibly distraught and started throwing wet shrimp at Marshall, screaming at him to get out of his sight. And Marshall came to my house smelling like a can of cat food ... I want you to know Marshall's always welcome at my house. I'm very proud of him.

Shelby Option 1

Jackson's pretty swell. I thought he was a pest at first, but then he kind of grew on me. And now I love him. We met at a party at the Petroleum Club in Shreveport. I had no idea who he was, but I was getting a big kick out of watching him on the dance floor. It was painfully obvious he had never taken the time to dance in front of a mirror. There was something so attractive about how stupid he looked ... He's not really romantic. But he does give me flowers. And little presents if I bug him enough. He has promised to give me a red rose on every anniversary corresponding to the number of that anniversary. I think that's so sweet...

Shelby Option 2

Mama, I want a child ... It didn't take us long to see the handwriting on the wall. No judge is going to give a baby to someone with my medical track record. Jackson even put some feelers out about buying one ... I think a child of my own would help things a lot ... Mama, I know. Don't think I haven't thought this through. You can't live a life if all you do is worry. And you worry too much. In some ways it's a comfort to me. I never worry because I know you're worrying enough for the both of us. Jackson and I have given this a lot of thought ... Diabetics have healthy babies all the time. I have it all planned. I'm going to be very careful. And this time next year, I'm going to be bringing your big healthy grandbaby to the Christmas festival. No one is going to be hurt or disappointed, or even inconvenienced.

M'Lynn Option 1

Last week was our 30th anniversary. We've never considered it a major occasion before ... Drum prides himself on never having any tension. Which is amazing considering the amount he has created over the years ... Hmm. Listen to me. I've got to stop taking pot shots at Drum all the time. He's a good man. He's crazy, but he's a good man ... The most bizarre thing has happened. Drum and I seem to be rediscovering those things that brought us together in the first place. I don't know if we buried them or became blind to them ... Every now and then Drum and I seem to find these moments of magic. I don't know. I don't know if I'm lucky to have what I have – or lucky to know what I have.

M'Lynn Option 2 *(Regarding SHELBY's recent death)*

... I couldn't leave my Shelby. It's interesting. Both the boys were very difficult births. I almost died when Jonathan was born. Very difficult births. Shelby was a breeze. I could've gone home that afternoon I had her. I was thinking about that as I sat next to Shelby while she was in a coma. I would work her legs and arms to keep the circulation going. I told the ICU nurse we were doing our Jane Fonda. I stayed there. I kept on pushing – just like I always have where Shelby was concerned – hoping she'd sit up and argue with me. But finally we all realized there was no hope. At that point I panicked. I was very afraid that I would not survive the next few minutes while they turned off the machines. Drum couldn't take it. He left. Jackson couldn't take it. He left. It struck me as amusing. Men are supposed to be made of steel or something. But I could not leave. I just sat there ... holding Shelby's hand while the sounds got softer and the beeps got further apart until all was quiet. There was no noise, no tremble ... just peace. I realized as a woman how lucky I was. I was there when this wonderful person drifted into my world and I was there when she drifted out. It was the most precious moment of my life thus far.

Ouiser Option 1

This is it. I've found it. I am in hell ... Don't try to get on my good side. I no longer have one ... I have to cancel. I have to take my poor dog to the vet before he has a nervous breakdown. My dog I mean. The vet is perfectly healthy ... M'Lynn, I used to think you were crazy for marrying that man. Then I thought for a few years that you were a glutton for punishment. Now I realize that you must be on some mission from God. I have not slept in days. I look like a dog's dinner. However, when I got up this morning, I decided I would try to rise above it. I would start anew. Whatever that man has done, I would overlook it in honor of your wedding day, Shelby.

Ouiser Option 2

I have plans next Friday. I'm going to Shreveport to have my colors done. I'm going to find out if I'm a summer or spring or fall or winter. It's a present from Owen. Every person has a particular coloring – summer, spring, so on. You determine what season you are, then you know what colors look best on you. Then you're given samples of the colors that are in your palette.

It's most helpful when you shop for clothes. It gives you fashion courage ... And, Clairee, I'll write a check for the little theatre. I will support art. I just don't want to see it. Let's get one thing straight. I don't see plays because I can nap at home for free. I don't see movies because they're all trash and full of naked people. And I don't read books because if they're any good, they'll be made into a mini-series.