

"The Crucible" Audition Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for "The Crucible" at Central Kentucky Theatre! I'm looking forward to seeing you and wish you the very best of luck. Whether you are a seasoned thespian or this is your first audition I want to encourage you and let you know you have someone behind the table rooting for your success (hint: it's me). Please read over the audition guidelines in preparation for your audition. Break a leg!

-Daniel Bannister; Executive Artistic Director, Director: *The Crucible*

Auditions will consist of 2 parts:

- 30 second to 1 minute Dramatic Memorized Monologue

Choose one of the attached monologues to memorize OR select your own

- Cold Readings from the script (as needed - in person only)

Cold reading (reading scenes from the play without preparation) is a great opportunity to demonstrate your ability to work with direction, with others, and to make choices

Auditions will be held at Central Kentucky Theatre (124 W Main Street Springfield, KY) on March 7th and 8th at 6:30 PM. Doors to the Opera House will open at 6:00. Please arrive prior to 6:30 to sign in and complete the audition form. If you have an acting resume, please bring it with you. You need to only attend 1 night of auditions. Please come with your a schedule ready to give your "conflicts" (dates during the rehearsal process where you have prior engagements/ work schedule/ anything that we need to take into consideration when creating our rehearsal schedule)

Register to Audition

Please fill out the audition registration/ video submission form on our website prior to your audition if possible (Not filling this out before auditions does not disqualify you - it just saves you a step on the audition night)

Virtual Auditions

If you are unable to attend in person - please submit a video submission by no later than March 8th at 8pm via the audition registration link on our website. Take your video with a stable setup with adequate lighting. In your video, please tell us your name, age, a little bit about yourself, and perform your monologue.

Rehearsal Schedule

We aim to begin rehearsals on or around March 22nd 2026. the performances are June 5/6/7/12/13/14 of 2026. Tech week is May 31st through June 4th. A rehearsal schedule will be made based on everyone's availability. Rehearsals are typically at night or Sunday afternoons. (Note: based on the cast availability, we will make a rehearsal schedule that best fits everyone's needs - this is why it is very important that you provide your conflicts to the best of your knowledge when registering to audition)

The Following Pages Contain Character descriptions and sample monologues from the show. Age ranges are flexible. If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at daniel.bannister@springfieldky.org

The Crucible Character Descriptions

Reverend Samuel Parris - minister of the church in Salem; a widower, with no interest in children, he has been left to raise a young daughter; self-righteous, austere. and controlling; protective of his reputation and assets; paranoid that his enemies are attempting to overthrow him; his power and status within the community are irrevocably undermined when his young daughter is seemingly possessed by the devil.

Betty Parris - youngest of the afflicted girls and Abigail's adopted sister; joins the group of girls crying witchcraft; fearful, nervous, easily intimidated by Abigail.

Tituba - Reverend Parris's slave, born in Barbados and brought to Salem; wary and cautious, she is aware of the tenuousness of her situation and her lack of agency or power, exhausted and worn down after years of abuse; spiritual; rooted in a cultural tradition that is perceived as completely foreign by the small, insular Salem community. Black / African Descent.

Abigail Williams - Reverend Parris's 17-year-old niece and the antagonist. Impulsive, strong-willed, passionate, with a present sexuality and a fiery temper; keenly aware of her own power, she is ruthless in her pursuit of getting what she wants.

Susanna Walcott - one of the girls who joins Abigail in crying witchcraft; nervous and worried.

Ann Putnam - wife of Thomas Putnam; brittle, fretful, and anxious; haunted by the loss of her seven children, her grief has left her embittered and resentful of others' good fortunes; role will likely double with Sarah Good.

Thomas Putnam - wealthy landowner in Salem; savvy, politic, shrewd; even in the furore and chaos of the trials, he is able to see opportunity for profit.

Mercy Lewis - Putnam's serving girl and one of the girls who joins the group crying witchcraft; clever and sly; friend and confidant of Abigail's, she functions as Abigail's lieutenant and second in command.

Mary Warren - A timid 17-year-old servant in the Proctor household and a member of Abigail's group of girls. Easily influenced by those around her, she tries unsuccessfully to expose the hoax, but is thwarted by Abigail and the other girls. In order to save herself from their accusations of witchcraft, Mary ultimately recants her confession and turns on John Proctor.

John Proctor - A local farmer; independent, forthright, opinionated; deeply complicated; despises hypocrisy, most especially in himself; has little patience for the pretense and duplicity of the church or for making a show of his devotion; tormented by guilt over his recent affair with Abigail Williams; his combination of skepticism and outspokenness makes him especially dangerous in the eyes of his righteous neighbors.

Rebecca Nurse - Francis Nurse's wife and an elder of the Salem community. Pious, kind, patient and virtuous; her age, combined with the respect she has earned from the community, has made

her unafraid to voice her opinions; appalled by the behavior of the court, she stands solidly in the path of the tidal wave of fear, hatred and bigotry until it engulfs her.

Giles Corey - a farmer; salt of the earth, plainspoken, hardworking; man of the land, who is still physically powerful; straightforward and unrefined; has little formal education and relies on his 'common sense' which he finds more relevant than the dominant public opinion; provocative and easily proved, speaks before thinking; underneath this rebellious attitude resides a good heart.

Reverend John Hale - respected minister and expert on witchcraft; brought to Salem to judge the veracity of the girl's claims; observant, judicious, rational; a man of faith; he truly believes in his power to heal and return individuals to God; believes honestly in the trials until they begin to veer out of control.

Elizabeth Proctor - John Proctor's wife; honest, proud, faithful, and principled; a person who sees little or no latitude when it comes to what is right; at times, her rigid austerity tips toward coldness; deeply hurt by her husband's infidelity, but still loves him fiercely.

Francis Nurse - elder of Salem and the husband of Rebecca Nurse; an upstanding member of the community; honest and straightforward; when his wife is accused he comes to her aid and attempts to reason with the court for her release.

Ezekiel Cheever – officer of the court; takes his responsibilities to the court extremely seriously and does its bidding even when it involves arresting friends and neighbors; torn between duty and humanity; role will likely double with George Herrick and Hopkins.

Judge Hathorne - judge presiding over the trials, second in command to Judge Danforth; confident and resolute; believes strongly in his own authority and importance; willfully ignorant to any dissent voiced by the community.

Judge Danforth - Deputy Governor of Massachusetts; called to Salem to preside over the trials; imperious, absolute, commanding; relishes his own power; knows the law and is unwilling to deviate from it or entertain exceptions or opposing views; not afraid to use his position and authority to bully suspects and dissenters.

Martha Corey - Giles Corey's third wife. Only her voice is heard from offstage as she testifies before the court.

George Herrick - age 40; marshal of the court; sympathetic and kind to the accused who are under his watch; attentive to his duties, but not overzealous

Sarah Good – age 40-49; a homeless woman and one of the first accused of witchcraft; eccentric, slovenly, and prone to inappropriate outbursts, her unbecoming behaviour sets her apart from the rest of the community. She appears only briefly in the last scene.

Hopkins – guard in Salem prison; appears briefly in the last scene but does not speak.

Monologues from “The Crucible”

MARY WARREN – I never knew it before. I never knew anything before. When she come into the court I say to myself, I must not accuse this woman, for she sleep in ditches, and so very old and poor ... but then ... then she sit there, denying and denying, and I feel a misty coldness climbin’ up my back, and the skin on my skull begin to creep, and I feel a clamp around my neck and I cannot breath air, and then ... I hear a voice, a screamin’ voice, and it were my voice ... and all at once I remembered everything she done to me!!! So many time, Mister Proctor, she come to this very door beggin’ bread and cider ... and mark this ... whenever I turned her away empty ... she mumbled! You must remember Goody Proctor — last month — a Monday I think ... she walked away and I thought my guts would burst for two days after. Do you remember it?

ELIZABETH PROCTOR – Spoke or silent, a promise is surely made. And she may dote on it now- --I am sure she does—and thinks to kill me, then to take my place. It is her dearest hope, John, I know it. There be a thousand names, why does she call mine? There be a certain danger in calling such a name---I am no Goody Good that sleeps in ditches, nor Osburn drunk and half-witted. She’s dare not call out such a farmer’s wife but there be monstrous profit in it. She thinks to take my place, John. John, have you ever shown her somewhat of contempt? She cannot pass you in the church but you will blush ... and I think she sees another meaning in that blush. I think you be somewhat ashamed, for I am there, and she so close. Go and tell her she’s a whore. Whatever promise she may sense break it John! Break it!!

ABIGAIL WILLIAMS – Why, you taught me goodness, therefore you are good. It were a fire you walked me through, and all my ignorance was burned away. It were a fire, John, we lay in fire. And from that night no woman dare call me wicked any more but I knew my answer. I used to weep for my sins when the wind lifted up my skirts; and blushed for shame because some old Rebecca called me loose. And then you burned my ignorance away. As bare as some December tree I saw them all – walking like saints to church, running to feed the sick, and hypocrites in their hearts! And God gave me strength to call them liars, and God made men to listen to me, and by God I will scrub the world clean for the love of God. Oh John, I will make you such a wife when the world is white again! You will be amazed to see me every day, a light of heaven in your house, a ... Why are you cold?!

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REV. JOHN HALE – Proctor, I cannot think God be provoked so grandly by such a petty cause. The jails are packed, our greatest judges sit in Salem now – and hangin’s promised. Man, we must look to cause proportionate. Were there murder done perhaps, and never brought to light? Abomination? Some secret blasphemy that stinks to heaven? Think on cause, man, and let you help me to discover it. For there’s your way, believe it, there is your only way, when such confusion strikes upon the world. Let you counsel among yourselves; think on your village and what may have drawn from heaven such thundering wrath upon you all. I shall pray to God open up our eyes.

JUDGE DANFORTH – Mister Hale, believe me; for a man of such terrible learning you are most bewildered—I hope you will forgive me. I have been thirty-two year at the bar, sire, and I should be confounded were I called upon to defend these people. Let you consider, now, and I bid you all do likewise: in an ordinary crime, how does one defend these people? Let you consider, now – and I bid you all do likewise – in an ordinary crime, how does one defend the accused? One calls up witnesses to prove his innocence. But witchcraft is ipso facto, on its face and by its nature, an invisible crime. Therefore, we must rely upon her victims – and they do testify, the children certainly do testify. As for the witches, none will deny that we are most eager for their confessions. Therefore, what is left for a lawyer to bring out? I think I have made my point. Have I not?

REV. SAMUEL PARRIS – I cannot blink what I saw, Abigail, for my enemies will not blink it. I saw a dress lying in the grass and I thought I saw someone naked running through the trees. I saw it! Now tell me true, Abigail. Now my ministry's at stake; my ministry and perhaps your cousin's life ... whatever abomination you have done, give me all of it now, for I dare not be taken unaware when I go before them down there. Abigail, I have fought here three long years to bend these stiff-necked people to me, and now, just now when there must be some good respect for me in the parish, you compromise my very character. I have given you a home, child, I have put clothes upon your back – now give me upright answer: your name in the town – it is entirely white, is it not? Abigail, is there any other cause than you have told me, for Goody Proctor discharging you? It has troubled me that you are now seven months out of their house, and in all this time no other family has ever called for your service.

JOHN PROCTOR – In what time and place? In the proper place, where my beasts are bedded. Eight months now, sir, it is eight months. She used to serve me in my house, sir. A man may think God sleeps, but God sees everything. I know it now. I beg you, sir, I beg you – see her what she is. My wife, my dear good wife took this girl soon after, sir, and put her out on the high road. And being what she is, a lump of vanity, sir (he starts to weep) Excellency, forgive me, forgive me. She thinks to dance with me on my wife's grave! And well she might! For I thought of her softly. God help me, I lusted, and there is a promise in such sweat! But it is a whore's vengeance, and you must see it; I set myself entirely in your hands, I know you must see it now. My wife is innocent, except she know a harlot when she see one!!