

Lady Washington - audition side for ages 11-15

1. Record yourself reading ALL of the characters from the following script selection.
2. Use character voices - each character should sound different in some way.
 - a. This means changing pitch, tone, speed, emphasis, etc.
 - b. Being mad doesn't always mean yelling - it could mean more diction! I want to see how creative you can be with the characters.
3. Change the tone of your voice based on the context of the line.
 - a. Are they happy, sad, angry, upset? What does that sound like?
 - b. Who are they talking to or talking about? How does that change their tone?
4. Add in additional elements to round out the characters.
 - a. Do they react to the other characters by using sounds? Gasps, sighs, grunts, etc.
 - b. If they have a physical action, how do they vocally react (thumb war struggle)?
5. Have fun & be creative, and if you send in a recording make sure to listen to it first so you know if it works!

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LADY WASHINGTON by Tyler Dwiggin

(Lights up on MARTHA and GEORGE WASHINGTON in the bedroom of their beautiful home. GEORGE holds up two suit jackets, one red, one blue.)

GEORGE. I don't know, is red too obvious? I want something that says, "I'm a capable leader" but also "I'm relatable." But still . . . intimidating? No, not intimidating. Imposing.

MARTHA. Can a jacket say all that?

GEORGE. It has to! But it needs to be slimming too

MARTHA. You're putting a lot of pressure on this, dear.

GEORGE. So you think go with the blue?

MARTHA. *(Beat.)* Sure.

GEORGE. Think about it, Martha. Other people will follow in my footsteps and . . .

MARTHA. And you want them to wear the same jacket as you?

GEORGE. Sort of! *(Beat.)* Do you know what you're wearing?

MARTHA. To the . . . ?

GEORGE. Yeah, to the . . . You have something ready, don't you?

MARTHA. Yeah, I have something ready.

GEORGE. Well let's see it then? What are you wearing to the Inauguration?

(MARTHA can't meet his gaze.)

MARTHA. Well . . . About that . . .

GEORGE. Yes?

MARTHA. You remember that time I went to Ben Franklin's surprise party by myself, because you didn't want to?

GEORGE. Yes.

MARTHA. And I wanted to make sure nobody was offended by your lack of attendance, so I told everyone you had explosive diarrhea?

GEORGE. You really didn't have to do that.

MARTHA. I had to say something!

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GEORGE. You could have just said I was “sick” or better yet, “busy.”

MARTHA. People like to be told a specific lie. They don’t take it as personally. They feel like you put some work into rejecting them.

GEORGE. Why are you bringing this up?

MARTHA. Because I need you to make up an excuse for my absence. I’m not going to the Inauguration, George.

GEORGE. You what?

MARTHA. I’m not going?

GEORGE. What do you mean you’re not going?

MARTHA. It means when everyone’s there, I’ll be somewhere else. I’ll be absent. Not present. Away. Predisposed. Unavailable—

GEORGE. I get that! Where in God’s name will you be?

MARTHA. That’s up to you. You can make something up.

GEORGE. You’re not coming on MY big day?

MARTHA. I’m not.

GEORGE. Why are you doing this to me? What will people think when I show up alone? I’m going look like such a fool!

MARTHA. Listen, George, I don’t want to embarrass you, but I don’t approve of this . . . job title.

GEORGE. You mean the President of the United States? You don’t like that sound of that?

MARTHA. I don’t. Why are we elevating ourselves above other people? Like we’re better than them? We’re no more equipped to rule over people than the King we just left behind.

GEORGE. Not rule. Govern.

MARTHA. Potato, potahto. Power corrupts.

GEORGE. But it’ll be me. And I’m really delightful. *(Beat.)* Right?

(MARTHA can see that GEORGE is feeling very insecure.)

MARTHA. You are delightful, dear. The most delightful. But we came all this way, started a revolution so that all people could have an equal voice. I believed in that, and I thought you did too.

GEORGE. C’mon, Martha.

MARTHA. We just got through a war together. Wouldn’t you like to relax for a while?

GEORGE. It’s my responsibility to guide this country.

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ANNOUNCER #1. In one corner we've got Mr. President himself! He's a fearless general and our new commander in chief! His teeth are wooden, but his heart is gold! Geooooorrrrrge Waaaaaaaashing-toooooon!

(The CROWD screams and applauds! We hear them scream things like: "Go George go!" "Crush her!" and "I'll marry you!")

ANNOUNCER #2. And in his opponent, we have a woman who needs no introduction! She's got powder in her wig and fire in her eyes! Maaaaaarthaaaaa Waaaaaashingtoooooon!

(MARTHA flexes her biceps and then does a formal curtsy. The CROWD screams and applauds! We hear shout of "YAS MARTHA!" "SLAY, QUEEN!" "WERK, MARTHA!" A stern REFEREE steps up to MARTHA and GEORGE.)

REFEREE. Now I want a good clean fight between you two, you understand me? You two know the rules?

GEORGE. Yes, sir.

REFEREE. Alright then, get in fighting stance.

(The REFEREE brings out some sort of podium. It can be an ornate marble post or just a simple bar stool. MARTHA and GEORGE crouch down and put get into position for their battle; a thumb war. They clasp their hands together and hold their thumbs aloft, with fiery glances in their eyes.)

MARTHA. 1, 2, 3, 4! I DECLARE A THUMB WAR

GEORGE. 5, 6, 7, 8! COME TO MY INAUGURA . . . tion

MARTHA. *(Disappointed:)* Oh George.

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GEORGE. You know, Martha, there's still time to back out of this. We don't need to make a spectacle of ourselves.

MARTHA. I was going to say the same thing to you.

ANNOUNCER #2. Now, we've never seen a thumb war quite like this between a public official and his wife. This is quite unprecedented isn't it?

ANNOUNCER #1. It is. But every couple finds their own way to settle disputes. My wife recently signed a declaration of independence from me!

ANNOUNCER #2. *(Laughs:)* Oh Chuck, you're such a kidder!

ANNOUNCER #1. *(Still laughing:)* I'm not! My wife moved out last week!

ANNOUNCER #2. Oh. Sorry to hear that, Chuck.

(We hear the "ding ding ding" of the bell.)

REFEREE. LET'S GET READY TO THUMBLE!!!

(MARTHA and GEORGE begin to thumb wrestle.)

ANNOUNCER #2. Now that's interesting, we're seeing Mr. Washington take strong offensive strides. He is really going after her.

ANNOUNCER #1. That's correct. Mrs. Washington seems to be on the defense.

MARTHA. George, I don't want to embarrass you . . . But I will.

GEORGE. Hardly! This is for my country!!!

(The CROWD roars. GEORGE makes a gain. He presses MARTHA's thumb down. The REFEREE swoops in for a closer look.)

REFEREE. One! Two! THREE!

MARTHA. Noooo!