

LTA Announces Auditions for the January Staged Reading Series

Bold Stroke for a Husband

by Hannah Cowley (abridged by Hedgepig Ensemble)

Directed by Rebecca Grutz

Produced by Eleanore Tapscott

and

Fuente Ovejuna

by Lope deVega (translation by Adian Mitchell)

Directed by Jessie Roberts

Produced by Eleanore Tapscott

**Audition Location & Dates:**

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

December 14: 12 pm -3 pm

December 15: 6 pm- 9 pm

Please download, complete, and bring your [audition form](#), as well as a headshot and resume if you have them. Please also be ready to provide all conflicts between December 17-January 15, 2025. There will be no rehearsals December 24-26 or the New Year's holiday.

Performance Dates: Fuenteovejuna, Thursday, January 16, 2025

Bold Stroke for a Husband, Friday, January 17, 2025

For questions regarding this production and auditions, please email [asklta@thelittletheatre.com](mailto:asklta@thelittletheatre.com)

**Bold Stroke for a Husband Summary and Characters**

Hannah Cowley's BOLD STROKE FOR A HUSBAND is a comedy of manners featuring women determined to outwit their circumstances and win the husbands of their choice. In 18<sup>th</sup> century Madrid, Olivia bamboozles her father and navigates society's mores to secure Julio as her mate. Meanwhile Victoria must manage her faithless husband, Carlos, who has strayed into an affair with Laura and bankrupted his family. All the women cleverly advance their goals and flip expectations through disguises and fabrications. Echoing Shakespeare and Restoration Comedy, this is a chance for actors to engage the audience in the intimacy of LTA's Green Room with the play's witty language and brisk pacing.

Casting 5 female presenting actors, 20s-50s and 5 male presenting actors 20s-50s+

CHARACTERS

**DONNA OLIVIA** (female presenting, 20s - 30s) – Reputation as a “difficult” woman. An heiress whose father (Caesar) wants to marry her off. Has her eyes on Julio. Victoria's cousin.

**DONNA VICTORIA** (female presenting, 30s - 50s) – Reputation as a gentle, meek woman. Disguises herself as Florio to woo Laura in order to save her household from ruin and win back her husband, Carlos. Olivia's cousin.

**DONNA LAURA** (female presenting, 20's - 50's) – Strong-willed and seeking a mate who is true. Former lover of Carlos but now in love with Florio (Victoria in disguise).

**MINETTE** (female presenting, 20's - 50's) – Loyal lady's maid to Olivia. Knows everyone's secrets, but can be hard-pressed to keep them. Has romantic ambitions of her own.

**MARCELLA/INIS** (female presenting, 20's) – Prospective fiancée to Caesar, but she is not interested/Maid to Victoria.

**DON JULIO** - (male presenting, 20's - 30's) A flirty, man about town, a confirmed bachelor. In Madrid to meet a bewitching woman (Olivia) for the first time.

**DON CARLOS** (male presenting, 30's - 50's) – Victoria's unfaithful husband and Laura's former lover. Needs to retrieve his wife's lands, which he gave to Laura in a drunken bout of passion.

**DON CAESAR** (male presenting, 50's - 70's) – Father to Olivia. Anxious to her marry her off. At the end of his rope.

**DON VINCENTIO** (male presenting, 20's - 40's) – Suitor to Olivia. Obsessive musician.

**DON GARCIA** (male presenting, 20's - 40's) – Suitor to Olivia. Self-righteous and traditional.

**DON VASQUEZ/GASPAR/PEDRO** (male presenting, 30's - 60's) – Need multi-faceted actor to play match-making father to Marcella, counselor to Don Caesar and supporter of Victoria's scheme as Don Sancho, and disloyal manservant to Laura.

## **FUENTE OVEJUAN SUMMARY AND CHARACTERS**

The villagers of Fuente Ovejuna all join together to kill their tyrannous overlord and are ultimately "justified" in their rebellion by receiving a free pardon from the king. The message of this political play, whose meaning is still valid today is "the duty of all governments to give to no man placed in a position of authority the opportunity to gratify his greed for power."

CASTING 3 female presenting actors, 20s-30s) and 8 male presenting actors (30s-50s). With the exception of Guzman, Laurencia, and Frondoso, actors will play multiple roles.

### **CHARACTERS**

**COMMANDER FERNANDO GOMEZ DE GUZMAN** – (lead role) Dynamic, in his early 40s. A successful and ruthless soldier

**CAPTAIN FLORES** – Young man – aid to Guzman

**SERGEANT ORTUNO** – Veteran soldier – aide to Guzman

**GRAND MASTER RODRIGO TELLEZ GIRON** – Adult male - Judge

**LAURENCIA** - young peasant woman (lead role)

**PASCUALA** – young peasant woman

**JACINTA** – young peasant woman

**FRONDOSO** – young peasant man in love with Laurencia (lead role)

**MENGO** – friend of Frondoso

**BARRILDO** – friend of Frondoso

**JUAN ROJO** – Local Councillor

**ESTEBAN** – Joint mayor of Fuente and Chief magistrate. Father of Laurencia

**ALONSO** – Joint mayor of Fuente

**LEONELO** – University student

**CIMBRANOS** - Messenger

**QUEEN ISABELLA OF CASTILE**

**KING FERDINAND OF ARAGON**

**DON MANRIQUE** – Minister to the King and Queen

**FIRST ALDERMAN**

**SECOND ALDERMAN**

**THE FARMER**

**SOLDIER**

**BOY**

**WOMEN (2)**

## LTA Policies

LTA is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. As such, we encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, gender identities, sexualities, abilities, and ages to attend auditions.

Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, for volunteers inside LTA's facilities. However, all auditionees must provide proof of full vaccination, including the most recent CDC-recommended booster, against COVID-19. This policy allows us to avoid quarantining, in most cases, should someone be exposed to COVID, and to keep rehearsals and performances on schedule. Proof of vaccination can be a physical copy or digital photograph of your vaccination record. Though masks will not be worn on stage, the LTA Safety Committee may, in coordination with the production team, require the use of masks or other safety measures if community transmission rates of COVID-19 rise above a certain level. Those cast must be, or must become, members of the Little Theatre of Alexandria at the performers rate (\$20), or higher if desired. If this membership presents a financial hardship, please notify the producers, as exceptions can be made.