



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis seeks a diverse and versatile company of Equity and non-Equity actors to perform *Henry IV* and *Henry V* in Forest Park from May 15 - June 15, 2014 (rehearsals begin April 1, 2014). Auditions will be held in St. Louis from December 6 & 7, at the Old Orchard Studios at Webster University. Callbacks will be held December 7 & 8.

Please note:

- There are not sides for every character. Many actors will play multiple roles. And the sides that are here should be enough to evaluate who should be cast where.
- Those auditioning for Chorus should read both the Chorus side and the Montjoy side.
- Those auditioning for Hostess Quickly should read both Hostess Quickly sides and the Alice side.
- Those auditioning for Bardolph should read the Bardolph side and the Burgundy side.
- Those auditioning for Orleans or Dauphin should read also read the Williams side.
- The following roles have already been cast: Hal, Henry IV, Henry V, Lady Percy.

To sign up for an audition, please email casting@sfstl.com requesting a time slot, which are given on a first come-first served basis. Auditions in NYC are by invitation only.

Character Breakdowns for Henry IV / Henry V: Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis

All actors in the company will be cast in both shows. Many will play more than one part in a show. Some parts have been cast, and breakdowns for those roles do not appear below.

Exeter: Henry V's uncle, 40-55. Formidable warrior, grounded, authoritative, a man to trust and an opponent to fear.

Constable of France: 30-40; courtier/warrior: politically astute, calculating, haughty, sophisticated, cultured, intelligent; dislikes and distrusts the Dauphin.

Dauphin: 20's. Young, brash, hot-headed, arrogant and quick-tempered; a braggart. **Rambures:** 20's-30's. Courtier/warrior; the mediator in the French group.

Orleans: 30's. Courtier/warrior; powerful and grounded; likes and supports the Dauphin.

Burgundy: 30's-40's. Sophisticated, smooth, politician; mediates the peace between England and France, a statesman with charm and brains.

Westmoreland: 30's-50's. Warrior/statesman. Grounded, solid, someone you'd feel good about going into battle with; one of King Henry IV's closest friends and advisors; part of the royal family as an uncle/authority figure to Henry's sons.

Sir Walter Blunt / Sir Richard Vernon: 30's-40's – Military officers; trustworthy; well spoken; fair; civil; courageous; practical; proud; honorable.

Hostess Quickly: 40's-50's. Grounded, earthy, lower class/uneducated. Has a great spirit; feisty and strong. Shrewd. Will double as Alice.

Alice: Princess Katherine's maid; 40's-50's. A mother figure, protector and guide. Doubles as Hostess Quickly. Speaks French, and English in a French accent.

Chorus: 30's-50's. Great with verse; great ability to connect with audience, as all lines are direct address. A storyteller: someone who can paint images, charm, challenge, engage and excite.

Montjoy: the French Herald; 30's-50's. Dignified, contained, purposeful, well-spoken. Discovers great respect for Henry, much to his own surprise.

Boy (Falstaff's Page): teens-20's, needs to read 12-15yo. Small/Slight build. Smart, verbal; a keen observer of what goes on around him. Self-sufficient.

Bardolph: 30's-40's. Part of Falstaff's crew; alcoholic, dumpy, a hanger-on, not so bright but does his job. A scavenger.

John of Lancaster (Duke of Bedford in Henry V): 20's. Henry V's younger brother; competent and decisive, a leader-in-the-making; youthful and open. Serious; opinionated but respectful.

Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester: 17-21yo. Henry V's even younger brother; a good fighter; quiet; calm; dutiful.

Thomas, Duke of Clarence: Younger teen boy; 12-15yo. Henry V's youngest brother and his favorite. Honest, gentle, kind, respectful. Possibly doubles as Falstaff's Page

Williams: 20's, Youthful, working class, unafraid of speaking his mind and capable of doing so even in the face of great authority; afraid of going to war; aware of his position as pawn; the common man.

Gower: 30's-60's. Career soldier; solid, dependable, a little rough around the edges.

Queen Isabel: 40's-60's. Queen of France. Cultured, beautifully spoken, politically realistic. **Lady**

Northumberland: 40's-60's. Strong, practical, Hotspur's mother. Doubles as Queen Isabel.

Sir John Falstaff: 60's-70's. Fat, large, witty, full of the Joy of Living; shrewd; at times desperate; understands war; a practical survivor; a braggart and a glutton; befriends Prince Hal in the hopes of an easy life when Hal becomes king.

Fluellen: 30s-50s. A career soldier who has risen through the ranks as a result of good service; competent, with clear ideas as to how war should be waged in an honorable fashion. A trusted advisor of Henry's. Rough around the edges, grounded. Speaks with a Welsh dialect. A comic character but not a caricature.

Morton/Francis/The Watch/Fang/Snare/Travellers: 20's-50's. Servants, messengers, soldiers, citizens, policemen, and other useful tradespersons. Some educated, some not.

Salisbury, Erpingham, York, Governor of Harfleur, LeFer, Bates, Cambridge, Scroop, Grey, Attendants, Soldiers, Messengers: 20's-50's. Various English Lords, (either courageous and valorous, or traitors), English and French soldiers, Messengers, and one harried and besieged French Governor who yields his town because his Dauphin has left him unsupported.