

# THE CRUCIBLE - 2025

## SIDES

For Auditions, you may choose a side from the following seven options. You will see that you may perform alone, as in Side Two, or a side scene with a partner.

**Memorization is highly encouraged, but not required.** Sides should be memorized so that you can focus on your character. Memorization is not required also because the language is of older Puritan New England, and not our today's English.

**A note on the character of Tituba** - The casting for the Crucible is, for the most part, "colorblind"; in other words, actors of all ethnicities can be casted in roles for this production.

Because of the sensitive and important nature of her experiences, Tituba is the only character in the play who should be an actor of color. Tituba's status in Puritan society was that of an unwilling servant, abused and held against her will and was considered to have no social status.

Tituba was an enslaved person; she was denied the rights and dignity that all humans deserve and innately possess. Arguably it was her fear of her captors that motivates her to go along with Abigail's deception. The historical truth of Tituba's experiences should serve as a potent reminder and historical lesson to be presented to the audience; therefore, "colorblind" casting would be inappropriate for such an important role in this case.

Young women actors of color are especially invited to consider accepting this role, telling this crucial part of the historical and dramatic story. Conversation and discussion of this character is both welcome and appropriate as we work to bring all aspects of the frightening story of *The Crucible* to the stage.

## SIDE ONE: Abigail and Proctor

PROCTOR: Abby, you'll put it out of mind. I'll not be comin' for you more.

ABIGAIL: You're surely sportin' with me.

PROCTOR: You know me better.

ABIGAIL: I know how you clutched my back behind your house and sweated like a stallion whenever I come near! Or did I dream that? It's she put me out, you cannot pretend it were you. I saw your face when she put me out, and you loved me then and you do now!

PROCTOR: Abby, that's a wild thing to say—

ABIGAIL: A wild thing may say wild things. But not so wild, I think. I have seen you since she put me out; I have seen you nights.

PROCTOR: I have hardly stepped off my farm this sevenmonth.

ABIGAIL: I have a sense for heat, John, and yours has drawn me to my window, and I have seen you looking up, burning in your loneliness. Do you tell me you've never looked up at my window?

PROCTOR: I may have looked up.

ABIGAIL, *now softening*: And you must. You are no wintry man. I know you, John. I *know* you. *She is weeping*. I cannot sleep for dreamin'; I cannot dream but I wake and walk about the house as though I'd find you comin' through some door. *She clutches him desperately*.

PROCTOR, *gently pressing her from him, with great sympathy but firmly*: Child—

ABIGAIL, *with a flash of anger*: How do you call me child!

PROCTOR: Abby, I may think of you softly from time to time. But I will cut off my hand before I'll ever reach for you again. Wipe it out of mind. We never touched, Abby.

ABIGAIL: Aye, but we did.

PROCTOR: Aye, but we did not.

ABIGAIL, *with a bitter anger*: Oh, I marvel how such a strong man may let such a sickly wife be—

PROCTOR, *angered—at himself as well*: You'll speak nothin' of Elizabeth!

ABIGAIL: She is blackening my name in the village! She is telling lies about me! She is a cold, sniveling woman, and you bend to her! Let her turn you like a—

PROCTOR, *shaking her*: Do you look for whippin'?

## SIDE TWO: Abigail

ABIGAIL, *in tears*: I look for John Proctor that took me from my sleep and put knowledge in my heart! I never knew what pretense Salem was, I never knew the lying lessons I was taught by all these Christian women and their covenanted men! And now you bid me tear the light out of my eyes? I will not, I cannot! You loved me, John Proctor, and whatever sin it is, you love me yet! *He turns abruptly to go out. She rushes to him.* John, pity me, pity me!

### SIDE THREE: Reverend Hale

HALE, *with a tasty love of intellectual pursuit*: Here is all the invisible world, caught, defined, and calculated. In these books the Devil stands stripped of all his brute disguises. Here are all your familiar spirits—your incubi and succubi; your witches that go by land, by air, and by sea; your wizards of the night and of the day. Have no fear now—we shall find him out if he has come among us, and I mean to crush him utterly if he has shown his face! *He starts for the bed.*

## **SIDE FOUR:** **Proctor and Hale**

ELIZABETH: I couldn't stop her.

PROCTOR, *holding back a full condemnation of her*: It is a fault, it is a fault, Elizabeth—you're the mistress here, not Mary Warren.

ELIZABETH: She frightened all my strength away.

PROCTOR: How may that mouse frighten you, Elizabeth? You—

ELIZABETH : It is a mouse no more. I forbid her go, and she raises up her chin like the daughter of a prince and says to me, "I must go to Salem, Goody Proctor; I am an official of the court!"

PROCTOR: Court! What court?

ELIZABETH: Aye, it is a proper court they have now. They've sent four judges out of Boston, she says, weighty magistrates of the General Court, and at the head sits the Deputy Governor of the Province.

PROCTOR, *astounded*: Why, she's mad.

ELIZABETH: I would to God she were. There be

fourteen people in the jail now, she says. *Proctor simply looks at her, unable to grasp it*. And they'll be tried, and the court have power to hang them too, she says.

PROCTOR, *scoffing, but without conviction*: Ah, they'd never hang—

ELIZABETH : The Deputy Governor promise hangin' if they'll not confess, John. The town's gone wild, I think. She speak of Abigail, and I thought she were a saint, to hear her. Abigail brings the other girls into the court, and where she walks the crowd will part like the sea for Israel. And folks are brought before them, and if they scream and howl and fall to the floor—the person's clapped in the jail for bewitchin' them.

PROCTOR, *wide-eyed*: Oh, it is a black mischief.

ELIZABETH: I think you must go to Salem, John. *He turns to her*. I think so. You must tell them it is a fraud.

PROCTOR, *thinking beyond this*: Aye, it is, it is sure-

## SIDE FIVE: Judge Danforth

DANFORTH: Mr. 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, sir, and I should be confounded were I called upon to defend these people. Let you consider, now—*To Proctor and the others:* 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, is it not? Therefore, who may possibly be witness to it? The witch and the victim. None other. Now we cannot hope the witch will accuse herself; granted? 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 all their confessions. Therefore, what is left for a lawyer to bring out? I think I have made my point. Have I not?

**SIDE SIX:**  
**Proctor**

PROCTOR, *with a cry of his whole soul*: Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang!

How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave me my name!

And there's your first marvel, that I can. You have made your magic now, for now I do think I see some shred of goodness in John Proctor. Not enough to weave a banner with, but white enough to keep it from such dogs. *Elizabeth, in a burst of terror, rushes to him and weeps against his hand.* Give them no tear! Tears please them! Show honor now, show a stony heart and sink them with it! *He has lifted her, and kisses her now with great passion.*

**SIDE SEVEN:**  
**Elizabeth**

ELIZABETH: Giles is dead.

ELIZABETH, *quietly, factually*: He were not hanged. He would not answer aye or nay to his indictment; for if he denied the charge they'd hang him surely, and auction out his property. So he stand mute, and died Christian under the law. And so his sons will have his farm. It is the law, for he could not be condemned a wizard without he answer the indictment, aye or nay.

ELIZABETH, *gently*: They press him, John.

ELIZABETH: Great stones they lay upon his chest until he plead aye or nay. *With a tender smile for the old man*: They say he give them but two words. "More weight," he says. And died.

ELIZABETH: Aye. It were a fearsome man, Giles Corey.

# CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

**John Proctor** - A local farmer who lives just outside town; Elizabeth Proctor's husband. A stern, harsh-tongued man, John hates hypocrisy. Nevertheless, he has a hidden sin—his affair with Abigail Williams—that proves his downfall. When the hysteria begins, he hesitates to expose Abigail as a fraud because he worries that his secret will be revealed and his good name ruined.

**Abigail Williams** - Reverend Parris's niece. Abigail was once the servant for the Proctor household, but Elizabeth Proctor fired her after she discovered that Abigail was having an affair with her husband, John Proctor. Abigail is smart, wily, a good liar, and vindictive when crossed.

**Reverend John Hale** - A young minister reputed to be an expert on witchcraft. Reverend Hale is called in to Salem to examine Parris's daughter Betty. Hale is a committed Christian and hater of witchcraft. His critical mind and intelligence save him from falling into blind fervor. His arrival sets the hysteria in motion, although he later regrets his actions and attempts to save the lives of those accused.

**Elizabeth Proctor** - John Proctor's wife. Elizabeth fired Abigail when she discovered that her husband was having an affair with Abigail. Elizabeth is supremely virtuous, but often cold.

**Reverend Parris** - The minister of Salem's church. Reverend Parris is a paranoid, power-hungry, yet oddly self-pitying figure. Many of the townsfolk, especially John Proctor, dislike him, and Parris is very concerned with building his position in the community.

**Rebecca Nurse** - Francis Nurse's wife. Rebecca is a wise, sensible, and upright woman, held in tremendous regard by most of the Salem community. However, she falls victim to the hysteria when the Putnams accuse her of witchcraft and she refuses to confess.

**Francis Nurse** - A wealthy, influential man in Salem. Nurse is well respected by most people in Salem, but is an enemy of Thomas Putnam and his wife.

**Judge Danforth** - The deputy governor of Massachusetts and the presiding judge at the witch trials. Honest and scrupulous, at least in his own mind, Danforth is convinced that he is doing right in rooting out witchcraft.

**Giles Corey** - An elderly but feisty farmer in Salem, famous for his tendency to file lawsuits. Giles's wife, Martha, is accused of witchcraft, and he himself is eventually held in contempt of court and pressed to death with large stones.

**Thomas Putnam** - A wealthy, influential citizen of Salem, Putnam holds a grudge against Francis Nurse for preventing Putnam's brother-in-law from being elected to the office of minister. He uses the witch trials to increase his own wealth by accusing people of witchcraft and then buying up their land.

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS *continued*

**Ann Putnam** - Thomas Putnam's wife. Ann Putnam has given birth to eight children, but only Ruth Putnam survived. The other seven died before they were a day old, and Ann is convinced that they were murdered by supernatural means.

**Ruth Putnam** - The Putnams' lone surviving child out of eight. Like Betty Parris, Ruth falls into a strange stupor after Reverend Parris catches her and the other girls dancing in the woods at night.

**Tituba** - Reverend Parris's servant from Barbados. Tituba agrees to perform voodoo at Abigail's request. Tituba should be played by an actor of color to best honor her experiences and culture, and reflect the character and her challenges of the time.

**Mary Warren** - The servant in the Proctor household and a member of Abigail's group of girls. She is a timid girl, easily influenced by those around her, who tried unsuccessfully to expose the hoax and ultimately recanted her confession.

**Betty Parris** - Reverend Parris's ten-year-old daughter. Betty falls into a strange stupor after Parris catches her and the other girls dancing in the forest with Tituba. Her illness and that of Ruth Putnam fuel the first rumors of witchcraft.

**Martha Corey** - Giles Corey's third wife. Martha's reading habits lead to her arrest and conviction for witchcraft.

**Ezekiel Cheever** - A man from Salem who acts as clerk of the court during the witch trials. He is upright and determined to do his duty for justice.

**Judge Hathorne** - A judge who presides, along with Danforth, over the witch trials.

**Herrick** - The marshal of Salem.

**Mercy Lewis** - One of the girls in Abigail's group.

### ENSEMBLE:

Other girls in Abigail's group of accusers

Other citizens of Salem