

A message from the playwright:

Trammel and Avont is a play for the stage with a little music intended for secondary schools (high schools, grades 9 through 12, ages 14 to 18) to produce. I suppose a college theater program or a professional group could produce this play, but it was written for teenagers to perform with a little help from a few younger students and teachers who could plausibly be their parents.

The tagline for this show is: Two strangers arrive in a village devastated by a plague and their lying and deception leads to comedic chaos and tragic loss until unlikely heroes return to save the village.

I wrote this play for student actors. This was motivated primarily from my years as a parent of a theater student. Yes, I'm a theater parent. Too often the students were put in circumstances as actors that were a bad fit (trouble in their marriage; playing someone in their 40s invariably played with a cane, white hair and bent over with a shaky voice; or problems at work). This play is written for these students to plausibly be medieval villagers. In addition, there are a number of characters who are written without a gender assigned which allows the greatest flexibility in casting and character creation. There are abundant written directions for the student actors to help them learn about what I had envisioned. I live in Southern California and it was natural for my writing to be primarily in English but also have a section of the play that is also in Spanish. This play is designed to be performed in any two languages that would make sense for your audience.

The cast is rather large and although there are larger and smaller roles, this is an ensemble piece. There are also a few roles for younger students (to recruit future secondary school actors for upcoming years) and a few roles for adults old enough to be a teenager's parent (intended to be played by teachers at the school). Unlike professional productions where a large cast may be costly, the opposite is true for schools. "Hiring" the actors has no cost and money is made when parents, family members and friends come see their student on stage. I wrote this play with theater department fund raising and ticket sales in mind.

All of the music is from the public domain and the sheet music was created and written by me in Notion 6. The music is written for piano and flute but could be orchestrated differently by a motivated music director. The entire work is licensed under Creative Commons with the main condition being credit must be given to the creators when all or part of the work is used. I expect the music to be live for a performance but I have computer generated files that are available in a YouTube link from this website (see Downloads – recorded music). These are files from my musical notation software and I think these would be most useful for assessing to see if this is a play you want to perform and for rehearsals.

I want to thank Madison Brown for her Spanish translation for Act Two Scene Two and for her input on the play as a whole.

I would love an email letting me know of your performance dates. It is exciting to put on a new production and I would love to share that excitement with you. Unlike many licensed shows, you may record your performance and display it on any platform deemed appropriate. Parents, in particular, love to post about their children performing.

Thank you so much for considering our work. Feel free to text me or contact me by email with any questions or comments you have.

Yours,

Lance

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