



# Speak the Speech!: Shakespeare's Monologues Illuminated

By Rhona Silverbush, Sami Plotkin

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A detailed guide to approaching Shakespearean text, *Speak the Speech!* contains everything an actor needs to select and prepare a Shakespeare monologue for classwork, auditions, or performance.

Included herein are over 150 monologues. Each one is placed in context with a brief introduction, is carefully punctuated in the manner that best illustrates its meaning, and is painstakingly and thoroughly annotated. Each is also accompanied by commentary that will spark the actor's imagination by exploring how the interrelationship of meter and the choice of words and sounds yields clues to character and performance. And throughout the book sidebars relate historical, topical, technical, and other useful and entertaining information relevant to the text. In addition, the authors include an overview of poetic and rhetorical elements, brief synopses of all the plays, and a comprehensive index along with other guidelines that will help readers locate the perfect monologue for their needs.

More than just an actor's toolkit, *Speak the Speech!* is also an entertaining resource that will help demystify Shakespeare's language for the student and theater lover alike.

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### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Over 150 of the Bard's monologues are reprinted and explained for the aspiring actor or director in *Speak the Speech! Shakespeare's Monologues Illuminated*. The knowledgeable and breezy commentary ("Dial Lady M for Murder," reads one section heading) by acting coach Rhona Silverbush and playwright Sami Plotkin offers a brief context for each monologue, explains unfamiliar vocabulary and expressions, examines the relationship between mood and meter and even reminds readers what words to elide or expand. Boxed asides offer historical background and describe literary controversies over various lines and passages. There's also a general discussion of rhetorical elements.

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From Library Journal

This handbook provides easy access to information needed by actors or students preparing a monolog drawn from Shakespeare. Acting coach Silverbush and actor Plotkin offer synopses of Shakespeare's plays and cover his use of iambic pentameter, poetic and rhetorical elements, and historical and social context. They also include the full, modernized text of 150 monologs, arranged by genre. The monologs are identified by play title, act and scene, name of character speaking, character's gender and age range, and frequency of use in auditions. Brief introductions place the monologs in context, and extensive glosses of unfamiliar vocabulary are followed by an analysis aimed at helping an actor interpret the text. No other volume treating Shakespeare's monologs is as complete as this one. Recommended for public and academic libraries. Shana C. Fair, Ohio Univ. Lib., Zanesville

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Review

"I celebrate all things that demystify Shakespeare so that artists and audiences alike can breathe and live inside his wondrous words. *Speak the Speech!* does just that. It is a great resource not just for actors but for anyone who loves the Bard." ?George C. Wolfe, Producer, the Joseph Papp Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Todd Grossi:**

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**Bertha Davis:**

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