

# *The Illusion*

*by Tony Kushner*

*freely adapted from  
Pierre Corneille's L'Illusion Comique*

Directed by Paul de Freitas  
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Producer: Fay Anne de Freitas  
Stage Manager: Erica Ebanks  
Choreographer: Sophie Connolly

## **Audition Packet**

### **Audition Dates:**

Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2019

### **Callback Date:**

Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2019

### **Rehearsals:**

November 2019 – January 2020

### **Production Dates:**

February 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 2020

March 5, 6, 7, 2020

## SUMMARY

The play opens as **Pridamant** arrives at **Alcandre**'s cave, hoping that the sorcerer's magic can help reveal his runaway son's whereabouts. Alcandre agrees to show Pridamant illusions that depict his son's life after his disappearance, but warns him that he can only view the illusions, and not participate in them.

As the first illusion commences, Pridamant sees his son (named **Calisto** in the first illusion) attempting to woo the beautiful noblewoman **Melibea**. Though at first Melibea shuns Calisto's advances, Calisto asks for the help of her maid **Elicia** to win her heart, and is eventually able to win her affections. Just as the lovers have kissed for the first time, Elicia returns to warn them that **Pleribo**, a rival suitor, has told Melibea's father of their illicit affair. Fearing Melibea's father will kill Calisto, the lovers flee as the illusion comes to an abrupt end. Alcandre calms Pridamant, who is anxious to know his son's fate, and assures him that he will learn more in the next illusion.

The second starts as Pridamant's son, now named **Clindor**, accompanies his master **Matamore** as his lord wins the heart of the lovely **Isabelle**, named Melibea in the last illusion. It is immediately evident that Matamore is boisterous fool, and that Isabelle's heart belongs to Clindor instead. Clindor's rival **Adraste** (formerly Pleribo) discovers Isabelle and Clindor's love, and demands Clindor's immediate departure. After Adraste has stormed off, Clindor remains behind and converses with **Lyse** (formerly Elicia), who is discovered to be his lover. Because Clindor chooses Isabelle over her, Lyse tells both Matamore and Adraste of the lovers' plan to meet at the arbor. Matamore's cowardice prevents him from fighting for Isabelle; Adraste, on the other hand, is slain in a duel over the right to wed Isabelle.

Soon Lyse begins to regret informing the rival suitors of the lovers' plan, for Adraste's resulting murder has sent Clindor to prison. She obtains the key to Clindor's cell to give to Isabelle in exchange for gold stolen from Lyse's father. Having been set free, Clindor decides to run away with Isabelle instead of Lyse, and as the three make their escape, the second illusion draws to a close.

The third illusion begins several years later with **Hippolyta** (formerly Isabelle) and **Clarina** (formerly Lyse) discussing the infidelity of **Theogenes** (formerly Clindor). They are walking in the Prince's garden, where they hope to discover Theogenes making love to the Princess. Though Hippolyta despises her unfaithful husband, she can not bring herself to leave him. Clarina sympathizes with her mistress, but no longer loves Theogenes, nor wishes to remain a part of their sordid affairs. When Theogenes enters, having just left the Princess, Hippolyta confronts him about his infidelity. Theogenes professes his love for Hippolyta and begs for forgiveness. Before she can make a decision, the Prince **Florilame** enters unexpectedly and stabs Theogenes for the affair with his wife. As Theogenes lays dying, Hippolyta collapses in Lyse's arms, for as her husband dies, so does she.

Pridamant is devastated by the death of his son, and though he knows he can not enter the illusion to save him, he attempts to do so. As the futility of his efforts become apparent, Pridamant sheds a single tear, and Alcandre reveals that this emotional outburst is what he wished the illusions to produce all along.

While the nobleman mourns the loss of his son, Alcandre informs him of the deception of the illusions: the illusions were replications of plays his son performed in, not events that occurred in real life. Pridamant receives the address of a theatre in Paris where he can find his son, yet he remains indecisive about whether or not to visit him.

The play is in two Acts each comprising one Scene.

Name:

Gender:

Age:

Home:

Cell:

E-mail:

Are you willing to accept any role? Yes/No

If “No”, which roles are you willing to accept? Indicate with a “Yes”...

Character	Role	Yes/No
Pridamant	Male, 65-75. Pridamant is the father of Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes, who he drove away from home at a young age. He seeks out Alcandre so that he can discover what happened to his son since he ran away from home years ago. A rich lawyer, in his old age Pridamant has become ill and knows that this may be the last chance he has to reconnect with his son. Though it is evident he cares for his son, he is not a likeable character, for he is egotistic and demanding.	
The Amanuensis:	Male or female, ageless. The Amanuensis is the slave to Alcandre. Brutalized by his master, he is forced to enter the illusions for his master’s benefit, which causes him great physical pain and psychological duress. The Amanuensis is treated as less than human, as Alcandre pierces his eardrums and cuts out his tongue in order to assure his inferiority and silence.	
Alcandre:	Male or female, of negotiable age. As a sorcerer, Alcandre allows men, such as Pridamant to live vicariously through the illusions that he creates by dark magic. Alcandre never enters the visions himself, instead preferring to watch the reactions of his clients as they view the lives of others unfold before them.	
Calisto:	<b>Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes:</b> Male, approximately 20/20/40. He is the son of Pridamant who is fled from to escape his father’s tyranny. In the illusions, he is in love with Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta, though he lusts for Elicia/Lyse/Clarina, as well as other women. He is a passionate romantic who sometimes gets carried away with his stories, exaggerations, and lyricism.	
Clindor:	See above	
Theogenes:	See above	
Melibea:	<b>Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta:</b> Female, approximately 16/16/36. She is the lover and later wife of Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes. She is a noblewoman whose dysfunctional relationship with her cruel father mirrors that of Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes and Pridamant. She falls madly in love with Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes, rejecting her other wealthy suitors despite the fact that it is unprecedented for a woman of her	

	class to wed a man of seemingly humble birth. Though her husband is unfaithful, she remains by his side	
Isabelle:	See above	
Hippolyta:	See above	
Elicia:	<b>Elicia/Lyse/Clarina:</b> Female, approximately 18/18/38. She is the maid of Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta and the occasional lover of Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes. She is crafty, conniving, and, though she resorts to trickery to gain wealth, she cares for both her mistress and her lover.	
Lyse:	See above	
Clarina:	See above	
Pleribo:	<b>Pleribo/Adraste/Prince Florilame:</b> Male, 30-40. He is the rival of Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes and the suitor of Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta. Pleribo's and Adraste's attempts at chivalry fall flat in comparison to Calisto's/Clindor's, thus causing great jealousy and malicious retaliations. Throughout the illusions, the valor of Pleribo/Adraste/Prince Florilame progresses, and at length the Prince kills Theogenes.	
Adraste:	See above	
Florilame:	See above	
Matamore:	<b>Matamore:</b> Male, 40-50. Matamore is boisterous, crude and egotistical. As a suitor of Isabelle's, he is never a true threat to Clindor due to his preposterous attempts at romance. Considered to be the fool of the show, Matamore provides for much of its comedy.	

***The Illusion* can be cast in a variety of ways.**

The roles of Alcandre and the Amanuensis can be cast as either male or female. Also, the roles of Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes, Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta and Elicia/Lyse/Clarina may be played by either one or three actors.

The decision as to how the play is cast will depend on the auditions.

**Please note that *The Illusion* timetable may conflict with rehearsals for the CDS May 2020 production. You can be in one or the other but not both. If you have any questions about conflicts, please contact Paul de Freitas.**

Have you read the script of or seen *The Illusion*? Yes /No

Are you comfortable cutting your hair for this production? Yes /No

Are you comfortable dying your hair for this production? Yes /No

Are you comfortable kissing onstage? Yes /No

Would you be able and willing to attend evening  
rehearsals (from 7pm to 9pm or later)? Yes /No

If not cast, are you interested in working backstage? Yes /No

Check all positions of interest:

Props:            Publicity:            Costumes:            Stage Crew:            Make-Up:

List all previous theatre experience (on and offstage). Feel free to attach a  
resumé if you have one:

Please list all time conflicts between November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> (i.e. work travel, vacations, etc.). Conflicts from  
January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 to March 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 will not be accepted.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you for helping the Cayman Drama Society to SHARE THE SHOW!