

Performance Notes for Androcles and the Lion

THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

1. Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom. Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
2. Students can perform the play in the classroom. Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
3. Students can perform the play on stage. Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



COSTUMES

- NARRATOR – plain modern-day clothing.
- ANDROCLES – Raggedy clothing that is dirty, torn, etc. Though his clothes are dishevelled, they can be a bright color, in order to make him stand out as an important character.
- LION wears yellow clothing and a fur mane and/or paper lion mask.
To make the paper lion mask: There are several ways this can be done. The easiest way is to use a paper plate. Color the inside of the plate yellow, and the outer ring orange. Optional: On the outer ring, you can cut along the plate ridges to create a fringe look and give the mane more texture.

Cut eye holes, making sure they will line up with the actor's eyes. Draw the rest of the face on, or cut out pieces of construction paper for the nose and whiskers and glue on. You can also use pipe cleaners for the whiskers.

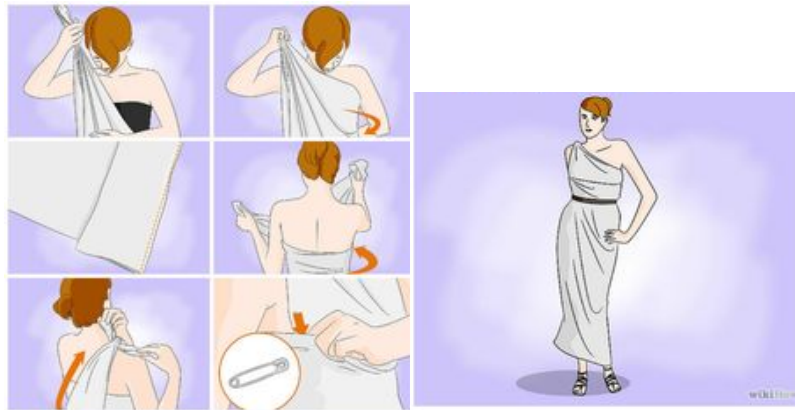
Punch holes on both sides, in the middle of the mask near the edge of the yellow face. Use string or yarn to tie the mask onto the actor's head.

Knot yarn in holes, and tie yarn together in back of head.



- DIANA wears a white toga (easily made from sheets) and an olive leaf crown/headband.

To make the toga: Start with a sheet, and wrap and pin like so:



To make the headband: Use green construction paper.

Cut a strip of paper about 1 1/2 inches wide. Measure it around the actor's head and cut to size, leaving a little bit of extra room.

Cut out lots of **leaf** shapes and glue them along the length of the strip, parallel to the strip. Leave a couple of inches at either end so that you can overlap ends and tape or staple together.



- CASSIUS, DEXIUS, QUINTUS and SENIOR OFFICER – Togas with armour- chest plate and soldier skirt (this could be made from cardboard, or taken from available Greek/Roman soldier costumes). They all have prop swords (made from cardboard) at their sides tucked into their skirts. They all wear sandals.

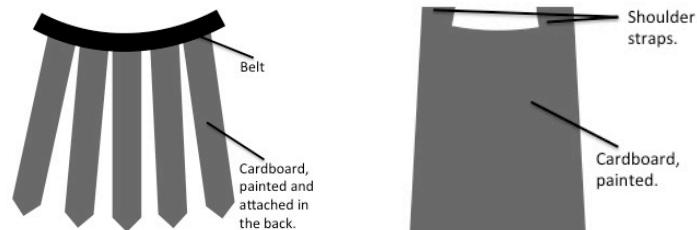
To make the armour: Use thin cardboard. Cut two equal-sized rectangles from the cardboard. (Measure the actor's torso and use those measurements to draw the rectangles on the cardboard, then cut them out.) These will be the chest plate and back plate.

Cut out two strips of cardboard, about three inches wide and a foot long. These will be the shoulder straps. Use these strips to attach the chest plate to the back plate, attaching them at the two corresponding top outer corners. You can use glue, tape, or brads, if the cardboard is thin enough. There should be enough room between the straps that the actor's head can fit. You can paint it or spray paint silver or gold.

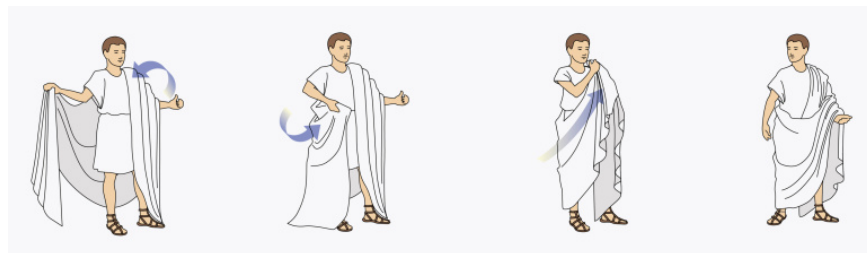
To make the soldier skirt: Use thin cardboard. Cut a long strip about 4 inches wide that will fit around the actor's waist, leaving a few extra inches. This will be the "belt" part of the skirt.

Cut several strips about 3 inches wide and 6 inches long. Cut one side of each strip into a triangular head. Attach these to the belt, leaving an inch or two between each one.

You can paint the same color as the plate, or paint black or brown. They can wear red clothes underneath, or red and white clothes.



- MASTER wears a bright blue toga.
To make the MASTER's toga: Start with a bright blue sheet, and wrap like so:



Optional: A brown belt or rope at the waist.

- EMPEROR wears white toga with a red shoulder sash and a gold olive leaf crown (Same as DIANA'S but use yellow paper or use white paper and paint it gold).

To make the EMPEROR'S toga: Start with a white sheet and wrap the same way as MASTER'S robe. Add a red sash that hangs on one shoulder and wraps around opposite hip.

Optional: A gold belt or sash around the waist.



PROPS

Scene 1

- Thorn (a piece of cardboard cut into a point on one end. LION can hold between fingers to give the appearance it is stuck in his hand.)

Scene 2

- Prison cell bars- this can be cut out of cardboard and held up by two stage hands.

To make the cell door/bars: Start with a piece of cardboard about 5ft tall and 4ft wide. Cut out a window, about 2.5 ft tall and 3 ft wide.

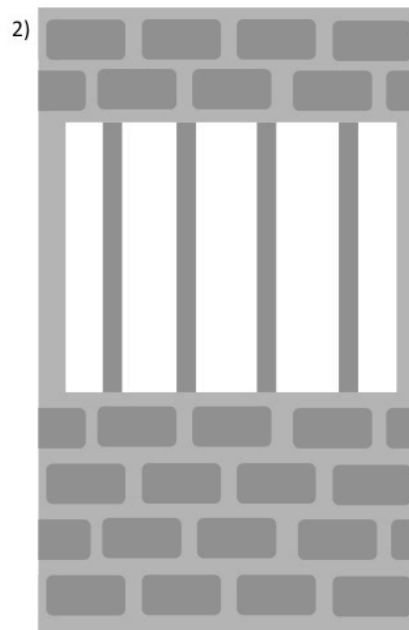
(Note: Make sure the window is situated so that when the actor playing ANDROCLES stands behind it, his upper torso and head will show.)

Cut strips of cardboard, about 1.5-2 inches wide and long enough so they can be laid length-wise across the window with some extra at each end. These will be the bars. Duct tape the bars to the frame. (Pic 1)

Paint the bars a dark silver/gray.

Paint the frame a lighter gray, and use a sponge to make bricks/stones in a darker gray or black. (Pic 2)

See pictures:



Scene 3

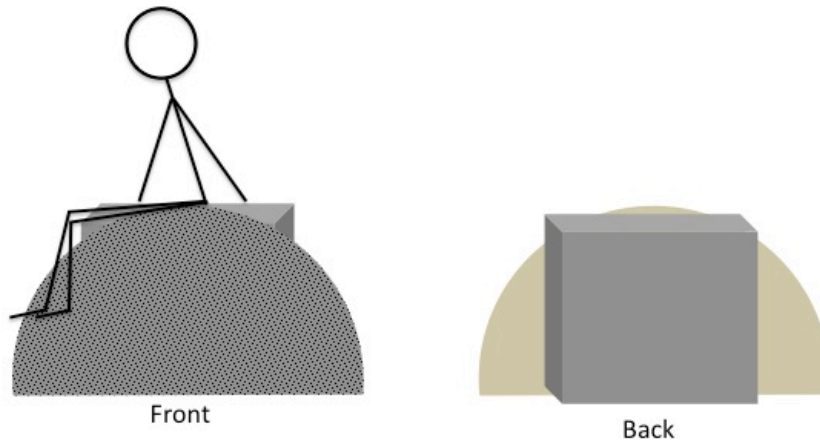
- A small spear- can be cut completely out of cardboard, or made by attaching a triangular piece of cardboard or poster board to the end of a stick.
- A cage door- You can use the same piece you made for the prison cell. If you want to create a different look for the cage door, you can paint the other side a different color, or you can make another separate piece.



SETS

If you have a backdrop, you can paint it to show a forest with many trees, flowers and bushes. This can stay up the whole time.

- **Scene 1** – You can cut out trees and leaves. You can cut a tree or two out of cardboard and stand against a chair or other object, or against the wall, if there is one. You can cut leaves out of construction paper and attach them to the trees.
If no trees, you can just cut leaves out of construction paper, and place them around the stage to give the essence of a forest.
Note: It may be good to make at least one leaf out of fabric, so that ANDROCLES can easily tie it around LION'S paw.
- A single flat rock sits on one side of the set, used as a seat by ANDROCLES. You can cut out of cardboard and paint. You can lean it against a stool, chair, or milk crate, and this way ANDROCLES can sit here, giving he appearance that he is sitting on the rock.
See picture:



- **Scene 2** – There is a table and single and chair on one side of the stage. A set of prison “bars” (see PROPS).
- **Scene 3** – A large throne for EMPEROR sits in the middle of the stage. You can use a regular chair and drape a piece of nice fabric over it, tying it in the back if needed. You can place a pillow or cushion on top of the fabric on the seat. A cage door (see PROPS.)
Optional: You can make a low “wall” by painting a long piece of cardboard, not too high, to place in front of the EMPEROR and other spectators. Have stage hands hold either end, so that it stands upright. The “audience” is behind the wall and the “fights” happen in front of it.