

**With all my pieces:** My past professors taught me helpful criteria when it comes to picking monologues. I always consider the following:

1. Does the piece resonate with you? Can you find a way to connect to it?
2. Is it age-appropriate? Would a casting director consider me for the role I am presenting?
3. Does the piece give emotional diversity and tell a story relevant to the character? Avoid pieces that yap on about inanimate objects and give no insight into how the character is feeling.
4. Quality over quantity; As long as the monologue has a proper emotional arch, most casting directors won't mind a shorter piece. It's better to have a short, emotionally rich piece than a long speech that is irrelevant to what the character is feeling.
5. READ THE PLAY. Have a full understanding of the story and the character's arc throughout the story. Use Uta Hagen's nine questions to solidify the character and ground yourself into the role.
6. Consider the reputation of the monologue's author, whose work you chose to present can be a useful (or not so useful) insight into your style as an actor. For example: women who consider themselves feminists should stay away from Neil LaBute's plays due to his misogynistic depiction of women.

### **Theresa's monologue from Boy Gets Girl by Rebecca Gilman**

This monologue was recommended to me by actor Galilea Salinas. The piece takes place in Theresa's office where she is accompanied by a female detective after filing a restraining order against a guy Theresa rejects and later gets heavily stocked by. In this piece, Theresa recalls some accounts from her freshman year of college when being a woman was particularly difficult, one being when an older drunken man manipulated her into kissing him after she expressed her sympathies to him. Another account was when Theresa was approached by a woman while covering an event for the school paper for being a reporter instead of a protestor. During her speech, Theresa shares her train of thought as to why women feel responsible for other people's faults. Even though she is a feminist and defends herself, she reveals that sometimes, taking the blame comes subconsciously, almost as if in an act of politeness.

I chose this piece because I understand the struggles of determining where the line between politeness and overstepping is supposed to be drawn. Like Theresa, I have experienced plenty of post-encounter reflections where I realize that a man was being creepy towards me or I put up with a backhanded compliment from a stranger. It is important to bring awareness to this topic since it happens to plenty of women, not just those who are considered "clueless" or "pushovers". I also enjoy the emotional diversity the piece provides with Theresa's mini story time and how the text can be interpreted and presented in a variety of ways. The piece's relevance to how women are made to feel in today's society and the creative storytelling dialogue are the reasons why I chose this piece as my main monologue.

### **Libby's monologue from I Ought to Be in Pictures by Neil Simon**

This piece is a classic for many young women in the US. Written by influential playwright Neil Simon, this piece perfectly blends the plot's hyper-specific conflicts with universal frustration for absent fathers

In this piece, Libby admits to her dad that the only reason she travelled across the country to his doorstep unannounced wasn't for his help to break her into the movies like she originally stated, what she really wanted was to meet her father. To get answers as to why he never attempted to keep in touch with her. Libby could no longer bear to live with the heaviness of her absent father, so she felt no choice but to chase him down herself and demand he give her the love and attention he owes her.

I relate to this piece because although my father was present in my life while growing up, I never felt like I truly knew him due to how much of our lives we withheld from each other. It wasn't until I left for college that we started having surface-level conversations about our lives outside our careers. To this day I still feel like my dad and I are trying our best to make up for lost time, but it is hard when we simply do not understand or share interest in each other's worlds just like Libby and her dad.

This piece was my second runner-up due to its parallels to my relationship with my dad and how easy it is to connect to the piece using emotional recall. I would consider this piece my safety piece since I know it well and most casting directors have a liking towards it.

### **Lucia's Monologue from Fade by Tanya Saracho**

This piece gives insight into the classism and colourism embedded in Mexican-American culture as well as being hired not on qualifications, but as a diversity hire. Lucia, a Mexican immigrant, came from a well-off family in Mexico and was sent to the US to obtain her undergraduate degree. Upon completion and a few years of experience, she is offered her dream career: a writer on a television show. Eager to accept the position, she shows up thinking her ideas and contributions would be seriously considered only to find out she is the diversity hire. She attempts to befriend the only other Latino in the building who happens to be the janitor: Abel. Lucia attempts to prove to Abel that she is "one of them" referring to working-class Mexicans and Abel is quick to say that Lucia may be Mexican by birth, but she is ignorant of the treatment of Mexicans with darker features in the workplace. Little by little, Abel becomes closer to Lucia, even opening up to her about his rough life. In the end, Lucia betrays Abel and their friendship by using Abel's life story as a plot in the television show; exposing his life to his boss and colleagues.

This piece is usually my go-to. Because of environmental circumstances and cultural differences, I put it in my back pocket. This piece uses lots of Spanglish (English mixed with Spanish) and uses lots of cultural references specific to Mexican Americans. This piece would be difficult to understand without basic knowledge of Spanish or Chicano culture. Additionally, this piece contains vulgar language which some audience members may find inappropriate.

### **Gillian's Monologue from Dags by Debra Oswald**

In this piece, Gillian admits that she has a crush on Adam, one of the more popular boys in school. She thinks she doesn't have a chance with him because she is a "Dag" and he would never fall for someone like her. She explains how she hates the feeling of having a crush because it makes her do things like miss her bus just to see him. She describes that it "feels like a disease" and that crushes are icky.

I relate to how Gillian feels about crushes. Logically, I hate crushes because I also think they are diseases. They are awkward imbalances where our hearts and minds don't align and make our

emotions go crazy. In my opinion, crushes are inconveniences that get in the way of our daily routines. I did not pick this piece since the other two pieces that I picked provided more audition substance for me at this moment in time.