

Joel Frohlich

The monologue that I selected, purely by chance, is from the play *The Drummer* (also known as *The Haunted House*) by a man by the name of Joseph Addison. After I did some research I found out that Joseph was, which should not come as a surprise, an English playwright. What was not so apparent to me is the fact that Addison was also an essayist, a poet, and even a politician! Adding to this plethora of titles, Joseph, alongside another man named Richard Steele, helped establish the Spectator Magazine which is a weekly British magazine that that discusses politics, culture, and current affairs. It was published in eighteen-twenty-eight and still is printed today, making it one of the oldest magazines in the world.

When I first began to memorize my monologue I assumed the play to be a drama. After all the subject matter I had to recite was rather sad, dealing with a widow being harassed by a man who is trying to convince her to engage herself now that her husband is dead. However, after more research I have come to find that *The Drummer* or *The Haunted House* is actually a comedy. I suppose this makes sense after further examination of my text because Mr. Tinsel (who is the person I shall be playing) is being ridiculous in trying to convince Lady Truman (Sir Gorge's wife who is now widowed) to engage herself after Geage's death. Not only is Mr. Tinsel trying to convince Lady

Truman to engage herself but he is specifically trying to convince her to engage herself with him!

Further research has also brought to my attention just why someone would want to marry a poor widow like Lady Truman. At first I assumed that Mr. Tinsel desperately loved the widow with whom he spoke so passionately too but that is hardly the case! As it turns out, Sir George (which I should have expected from his title) was a wealthy man with an adorned estate. His passing meant that all his wealth came into possession of his wife. Thus the play follows poor Lady Truman who is bombarded with new suitors (like Mr. Tinsel) who is not after her heart but her money! A ghostly drum also rings in the mansion, presumably from her dead husband which explains both titles of this play whether it be *The Drummer* or *The Haunted House*.

This new insight offered me a better understanding of who Mr. Tinsel is (a man willing to marry only for wealth) and his motives (to get rich). Despite this play being a comedy it is not to say that there are not dramatic elements, after all this is drama! I shall remember that though *The Drummer* is a comedy I will but I will still try to be as convincing and passionate as I would be in a drama. Though I may not intend on winning Lady Truman's heart, I need to convince her that I am if I have a shot at getting the estate and the wealth behind it. Thus I shall be as convincing as my skills will allow me.