

The Chorus

This part is open to anyone

(The actor playing this part will also play Montjoy)

The Chorus introduces the events of each act and has the final lines of the play.

In this speech from the opening of Act III, the Chorus asks the audience to imagine the English fleet sailing for France.

CHORUS

Thus with imagined wing our swift scene flies
In motion of no less celerity
Than that of thought. Suppose that you have seen
The well-appointed king at Dover pier
Embark his royalty, and his brave fleet
With silken streamers. Behold the threaden sails,
Borne with th' invisible and creeping wind,
Draw the huge bottoms through the furrowed sea,
Breasting the lofty surge. O, do but think
You stand upon the rivage and behold
A city on th' inconstant billows dancing,
For so appears this fleet majestic,
Holding due course to Harfleur. Follow, follow,
And leave your England.

King Henry

This is a part for a male 20-30

Obviously it's this!

In this scene from Act III Henry rouses his troops to charge through the broken defences of Harfleur.

King Henry

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more,
Or close the wall up with our English dead!
In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility,
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger:
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,
Disguise fair nature with hard-favored rage,
Then lend the eye a terrible aspect,
Let it pry through the portage of the head
Like the brass cannon, let the brow o'erwhelm it
As fearfully as doth a gallèd rock
O'erhang and jutty his confounded base
Swilled with the wild and wasteful ocean.
Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril wide,
Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit
To his full height. On, on, you noblest English,
Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof,
Fathers that, like so many Alexanders,
Have in these parts from morn till even fought,
And sheathed their swords for lack of argument.

The King of France

This is a part for an older male

(The actor playing this part will also play The Bishop of Canterbury and Erpingham)

In this scene from Act II, The King of France tells his lords to prepare for the English invasion

King of France

Thus comes the English with full power upon us,
And more than carefully it us concerns
To answer royally in our defenses.
Therefore the Dukes of Berri and of Brittany,
Of Brabant and of Orléans, shall make forth,
And you, Prince Dauphin, with all swift dispatch,
To line and new-repair our towns of war
With men of courage and with means defendant.
For England his approaches makes as fierce
As waters to the sucking of a gulf.
It fits us then to be as provident
As fear may teach us out of late examples
Left by the fatal and neglected English
Upon our fields.

The Dauphin

This is a part for a younger male 18-35

The Dauphin is the King of France's son. He is foolish and arrogant and massively underestimates the threat from England. In this scene he boasts that France has nothing to fear from a weak boy-king and his army of morris dancers.

DAUPHIN

My most redoubted father,
It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe,
For peace itself should not so dull a kingdom,
Though war nor no known quarrel were in question
But that defenses, musters, preparations
Should be maintained, assembled, and collected
As were a war in expectation.
Therefore I say 'tis meet we all go forth
To view the sick and feeble parts of France.
And let us do it with no show of fear,
No, with no more than if we heard that England
Were busied with a Whitsun morris-dance.
For, my good liege, she is so idly kinged,
Her scepter so fantastically borne
By a vain, giddy, shallow, humorous youth,
That fear attends her not.

The Duke of Exeter

M/F Age range for this part is 35+

Exeter is Henry's uncle and most loyal adviser.

In this scene from Act II Exeter warns the French King that Henry is coming.

KING OF FRANCE

From our brother of England?

EXETER

From him, and thus he greets your Majesty:
He wills you, in the name of God almighty,
That you divest yourself and lay apart
The borrowed glories that, by gift of heaven,
By law of nature and of nations, 'longs
To him and to his heirs, namely, the crown
And all wide-stretchèd honours that pertain
By custom and the ordinance of times
Unto the crown of France. That you may know
'Tis no sinister nor no awkward claim
Picked from the wormholes of long-vanished days
Nor from the dust of old oblivion raked,
Willing you overlook this pedigree,
And when you find him evenly derived
From his most famed of famous ancestors,
Edward the Third, he bids you then resign
Your crown and kingdom.

KING OF FRANCE

Or else what follows?

EXETER

Bloody constraint, for if you hide the crown
Even in your hearts, there will he rake for it.
Therefore in fierce tempest is he coming.

Pistol

This part is open to anyone.

Pistol is a cowardly English soldier. He avoids the action when he can, but takes every opportunity to con and steal.

In this scene from Act IV, he has just been humiliated by Lluellen and Gower, and vows to sneak quietly back to England where he will lie about how brave he was.

PISTOL

Doth Fortune play the huswife with me now?
News have I that my Nell is dead i' th' spital of a
malady of France, and there my rendezvous is quite
cut off. O! do wax, and from my weary limbs
honor is cudgeled. Well, bawd I'll turn, and something
lean to cutpurse of quick hand. To England
will I steal, and there I'll steal.
And patches will I get unto these cudgeled scars,
And swear I got them in the Gallia wars.

Queen Isabel

This part for an older female 35+.

Queen Isabel comes to England in Act V to seal the peace with the marriage of her daughter Katharine to King Henry.

(This actor will also play the roles of The Bishop of Ely in Act I, Hostess in Act II, and York in Act IV)

In this scene from Act V, Queen Isabel implores Henry to lay down his thoughts of war and become a King of peace.

QUEEN ISABEL

So happy be the issue, brother England,
Of this good day and of this gracious meeting,
As we are now glad to behold your eyes—
Your eyes which hitherto have borne in them
Against the French that met them in their bent
The fatal balls of murdering basilisks.
The venom of such looks, we fairly hope,
Have lost their quality, and that this day
Shall change all griefs and quarrels into love.

KING HENRY

To cry “Amen” to that, thus we appear.

QUEEN ISABEL

You English princes all, I do salute you.

Fluellen

This part is open to anyone, but does require a convincing Welsh accent.

Fluellen is a proud Welsh soldier. When his honour and national pride is insulted by Pistol, he decides to make him eat his words. And some leek. In this scene he tells Gower that he is waiting to confront Pistol.

GOWER

Nay, that's right. But why wear you your leek today? Saint Davy's day is past.

FLUELLEN

There is occasions and causes why and wherefore in all things. I will tell you as my friend, Captain Gower. The rascally, scald, beggarly, lousy, prugging knave Pistol, which you and yourself and all the world know to be no petter than a fellow, look you now, of no merits, he is come to me and prings me pread and salt yesterday, look you, and bid me eat my leek. It was in a place where I could not breed no contention with him, but I will be so bold as to wear it in my cap till I see him once again, and then I will tell him a little piece of my desires.

Enter Pistol.

GOWER

Why here he comes, swelling like turkey-cock.

FLUELLEN

'Tis no matter for his swellings, nor his turkey-cocks.—God pless you, Aunchient Pistol, you scurvy, lousy knave, God pless you!

Williams

This part is open to anyone.

Williams is a brave English soldier. This actor will also play Cambridge, one of the traitors charged with treason in Act II.

In this scene from Act IV, he expresses his fears before Agincourt, unaware that he is actually talking to the King.

WILLIAMS

But if the cause be not good, the King
himself hath a heavy reckoning to make, when all
those legs and arms and heads, chopped off in a
battle, shall join together at the latter day, and cry
all "We died at such a place," some swearing, some
crying for a surgeon, some upon their wives left
poor behind them, some upon the debts they owe,
some upon their children rawly left. I am afeard
there are few die well that die in a battle.
Now, if these men do not die well,
it will be a black matter for the king that led them to it,

Girl/Princess Katharine

This is a part for a younger female 18-30

(The actor playing this part will also play the lines allocated to the Boy(definitely a girl) and Princess Katherine)

In this scene from Act III, the Girl realises that her companions Pistol, Nym and Bardolph are dangerous company, and she needs to get away from their bad influence.

GIRL

They will steal anything! Bardolph stole a lute case, bore it twelve leagues, and sold it for three halfpence. Nym and Bardolph are sworn brothers in filching, and in Calais they stole a fire shovel. They would have me as familiar with men's pockets as their gloves or their handkerchers, which makes much against my honour, for it is plain pocketing up of wrongs. I must leave them and seek some better service. Their villainy goes against my weak stomach, and therefore I must cast it up.

And... Princess Katherine is French, and her English isn't great. Let's hear your cod-French!

PRINCESS KATHARINE

Your Majesty shall mock at me. I cannot speak your England.

Pardonnez-moi, I cannot tell wat is "like me."

Is it possible dat I sould love de enemy of France?

I cannot tell wat is dat.

Gower

This part is open to anyone.

Gower is a hardy and honourable English captain. This actor will also play Salisbury, an English Lord who appears in Act IV.

In this scene from Act V, Gower chastises Pistol for making fun of Lleullen.

GOWER

Go, go. You are a counterfeit cowardly knave.
Will you mock at an ancient tradition begun upon
an honorable respect and worn as a memorable
trophy of predeceased valor, and dare not avouch in
your deeds any of your words? I have seen you
gleeking and galling at this gentleman twice or
thrice. You thought because he could not speak
English in the native garb, he could not therefore
handle an English cudgel. You find it otherwise, and
henceforth let a Welsh correction teach you a good
English condition. Fare you well.