



Digital Auditions

This option is for auditionees who were unable to attend the in-person audition for *The Witches of Pendle Hill*.

Deadline: 9:00pm on Thursday 23rd April 2026.

What to include in your video:

1. Introduction

Please introduce yourself by sharing:

- Your name
- Your top 3 choices of roles.

2. Audition Sides (30–60 seconds)

Please prepare and perform one of the audition sides provided on the following pages. You may ask someone to read the other lines opposite you if needed.

You're very welcome to learn your lines or read from the page — whichever helps you feel most confident.

This doesn't need to be perfect at all — we're much more interested in effort, characterisation, and how you react to the script.

Video guidelines

- Please film in landscape (hold your phone on its side)
- Make sure we can clearly see you and hear your voice
- You should be visible from waist up

How to submit your video

You can submit your audition in either of the following ways:

- 1. Upload via our website:** Simply use the online form to upload your video directly.
- 2. Email submission:** Please send your video, using the subject line: Young Drama Audition, to cambridge@nationalperformingacademy.co.uk.

Elizabeth and Jennet

THE WITCHES OF PENDLE HILL

ELIZABETH sits, tired but composed. JENNET sits beside her, close.

- Jennet** When will they come back?
- Elizabeth** Soon.
- Jennet** Today?
- Elizabeth** No. Not today.
- Jennet** Why did they take them?
- Elizabeth** They have questions to ask.
- Jennet** Did Alizon do something wrong?
- Elizabeth** No.
- Jennet** She said she did.
- Elizabeth** She was frightened.
- Jennet** She didn't sound frightened.
- Elizabeth** People don't always sound how they feel.
- Jennet** Is Grandma with her?
- Elizabeth** Yes.
- Jennet** Then she'll be all right.
- Elizabeth** Yes
- Jennet** You promise?
- Elizabeth** I promise.

JENNET nods. Satisfied, or trying to be.

Potts, Chattox, Nowell.

- Potts** The examination of Anne Whittle, called Chattox.
- Nowell** You have given a statement.
- Chattox** I have.
- Potts** *(reading)* That she was persuaded by one Elizabeth Southernns—
- Chattox** Demdike.
- Potts** —to enter into the practice of witchcraft.
- Nowell** Did you?
- Chattox** At first, no.
- Nowell** And after?
- Chattox** After... I did.
- Potts** *(reading)* That the Devil appeared to her in the likeness of a man—
- Chattox** At night.
- Nowell** Where?
- Chattox** At her house. We went out to him.
- Nowell** And what did he ask of you?
- Chattox** My soul.
- Nowell** And you gave it?
- Chattox** Not then. She told me to. She said I would have what I needed.

Demdike and Alizon

THE WITCHES OF PENDLE HILL

- Demdike** You're thinking too loud.
- Alizon** I didn't say anything.
- Demdike** You don't have to.
- Alizon** They look at us.
- Demdike** They've always looked. That's nothing new.
- Alizon** They think—
- Demdike** They've already decided. That's the trouble of it. So you learn how to live with it. That's all there is.
- Alizon** How?
- Demdike** You keep your head down. You mind what you say, and who hears it. And when you feel something rise in you—anger, or hurt—you swallow it. Because once it's spoken, it's no longer yours.
- Alizon** I do.
- Demdike** Not always. You feel it, and out it comes — before you've had time to think what it might cost you. That's how it begins for most.
- Alizon** They don't like me.
- Demdike** They don't need to. Liking has nothing to do with it. Once people have set their minds, they'll make you fit it one way or another.
- Alizon** What if they say things?
- Demdike** They will. They always have. And once it's said enough times, it settles. Doesn't matter how it started.

THE WITCHES OF PENDLE HILL

Alice / Katherine

- Katherine** They've begun to name people properly now. Not just whispers—names written down, passed from house to house.
- Alice** Then it's past the point of stopping.
- Katherine** I told them I wasn't there. I said it plainly. More than once. They kept looking as though I'd only just begun.
- Alice** They're not listening for what you say. Only for what confirms what they already believe.
- Katherine** If I speak, they write it down. If I refuse, they mark that too. There's no way to stand in it.
- Alice** No.
- Katherine** They want names. Who was there. Who spoke –
- Alice** And if you give them that, they'll build something from it. Something larger than what it was.
- Katherine** It was nothing. People came and went. There was food. Talk. That was all.
- Alice** It doesn't need to be more than that. It only needs to resemble it.
- Katherine** You're very calm.
- Alice** No. I'm just clear.
- Katherine** And if they ask you?
- Alice** I'll answer as I have done.
- Katherine** Which is?
- Alice** As little as possible.

James / Alizon

THE WITCHES OF PENDLE HILL

- James** You have been gone a long while.
- Alizon** I know.
- James** Where have you been?
- Alizon** On the road toward Trawden.
- James** Begging again?
- Alizon** No. I met a pedlar there, a man with a pack on his back. He had pins among his goods.
- James** Pins are dear things.
- Alizon** I asked if he might spare me a few.
- James** Spare them? Pins are not charity.
- Alizon** I know that well enough. But I thought he might open his pack.
- James** And did he?
- Alizon** No. He looked at me as though I meant to steal from him. You know how people look at us in this parish. As though every ill wind must blow from our door. A cow sickens, a child falls fevered, and straightaway someone mutters the name Deuce.
- James** So what did you do?
- Alizon** I spoke in anger. I told him the Devil might lame him for his cruelty.
- James** God save us. Did anyone see?

THE WITCHES OF PENDLE HILL

Chattox / Anne

Anne You shouldn't have said it.

Chattox It was already said. It was only a matter of who said it first.

Anne Not by you.

Chattox That doesn't matter now.

Anne It matters to me.

Chattox They'll use whatever they have. A word. A look. Silence. It makes no difference.

Anne Then why give them more?

Chattox Because they were already looking. Because once they start, they don't stop.

Anne I won't say it.

Chattox You will.

Anne No.

Chattox You think you won't. You think you can hold to it. They'll ask you again. Slowly. Kindly. Then not kindly at all. And after a while, it won't feel like giving anything away.

Anne I'll say nothing.

Chattox That is something.

Anne You named her.

Chattox She named me.

Anne That doesn't make it right.

Chattox It makes it finished.

Nowell and Alizon

THE WITCHES OF PENDLE HILL

Nowell And how do such spirits come?

Alizon If they are called.

Nowell By whom?

Alizon By those who have need of them.

Nowell And had you such need?

Alizon No.

Nowell No?

Alizon I was angry.

Nowell Anger is often need by another name. What else did she teach you?

Alizon That a spirit must be fed.

Nowell Fed how?

Alizon With blood.

Nowell Yours?

Alizon Yes.

Nowell Show your arm.

Alizon hesitates.

Nowell Show it.

She does. NOWELL takes her arm. He turns the arm. Searches. The COMPANY lean in almost imperceptibly.

Nowell Here. (to POTTS) Mark that. About your grandmother. Did beasts not sicken? Did children not die? Did no mischief follow where she bore malice?