



SAMPLE POEMS FROM

INFINITE AUDITION

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Altar Boy

To be performed while playing "Ave Maria" by Franz Schubert on the musical saw between stanzas.

I carry the Body of Christ onstage
a little plate with two wafers
I wonder what part of Jesus
is going into their mouths

I learn to kneel without fainting
I ring the bells too loud they say
I am always volunteering for funerals
they are during school hours

Ave ave ave Mariiii iiiiahh
I sing harmony a heavenly high
I think maybe Jesus will notice me
thank me for the banners I made

or maybe he's pissed I keep giving
his blood away feeding priests his
body holding up a gospel so big for
my small arms as they reframe him

three girls and I fought to be here
they say 'Altar Server' now
though something in me prefers 'Altar Boy'
breasts betray me and grow beneath robe

I lose my faith by grade eight but stay for feminism
my catholic school calls me druggie and
slut and Satan—at church I am cherished
the catholic women's league thanks me for fighting

it will be a decade before another girl
is allowed to be an altar server this was
part of the deal they say and hide us
when the bishop visits

church becomes a stage much like my gender
I am only here because it feels safer
because I need a place where I'm valued
because Jesus was also a radical

Medusa's Serpent Speaks

Monologue for: Trans women, femmes, women, cis women, gender non-conforming and non-binary actors, and opera singers.

From: Medusa's Children

Setting: One of the serpents from Medusa's famous head of hair addresses the audience.

I thought men wanted to be rock hard
isn't that the centre of every war
isn't that why Medusa was punished for chastity
isn't that why she was cursed for saying no
now look at me
just a lock of what I used to be

I am what's left of Medusa
she was just a simple Gorgon
dedicated to worship in Athena's temple
to remain chaste despite what men wanted
Poseidon didn't like her no and took her
jealous Athena made her mortal a thing to kill
and Perseus stole her head for a prize

her babies Pegasus and Chrysaor
born of murder birthed out of severed neck
think their mother a monster a weapon

ask yourself this Perseus
what is it to be raped into existence
was that the poison in your brain?
we all know your father is Zeus
and your mother was forced
how sad this normality
that here in Greece
rape is considered godlike behaviour

Medusa's sweet children
may you be better dear loves,
may you find the strength of your mother
rather than the cowardice of your father