

***Antony and Cleopatra* Cast List**

4 Male and 2 Female

ANTONY (M) a formerly wily and astute soldier and politician, until his love of Cleopatra knocks several dozen IQ points out of him. Part of the triumvirate.

CLEOPATRA (F) sultry and self-absorbed, she's an empire-wrecker.

OCTAVIUS (M) conniving and power hungry. Part of the triumvirate.

LEPIDUS (M) a wimpy peacemaker. Part of the triumvirate.

SOOTHSAYER (F) predicts Antony's downfall.

ENOBARBUS (M) a loyal officer to Antony.

Sample Pages

(Lights up. Enter SOOTHSAYER.)

SOOTHSAYER: I am the Soothsayer; I see the future. And I will predict that you will soon see a play about Antony and Cleopatra *(ENOBARBUS and ANTONY enter from opposite sides of the stage.)* Told you. But I thought Cleopatra was more of a looker. *(ENOBARBUS glares at SOOTHSAYER. SOOTHSAYER smiles weakly.)* Sorry. *(Exits.)*

ENOBARBUS: Hail, Antony.

ANTONY: Enobarbus. What's the word?

ENOBARBUS: It appears that Octavius is plotting to dissolve the triumvirate and rule the empire alone.

ANTONY: I suspected as much. We cannot strike openly just yet. That is exactly what Octavius wants. His opening gambit is to lure us to commit our forces in a politically- divisive move that would allow him to manipulate the current economic depression in Sicily to . . . *(CLEOPATRA enters, to va-va-va-voom drum beats. ANTONY's jaw drops.)* to . . .

ENOBARBUS: Antony? *(ANTONY continues to stare at CLEOPATRA.)* Antony?

ANTONY: Wow. So that's how you walk like an Egyptian.

ENOBARBUS: Antony?

ANTONY: *(Continues to stare at CLEOPATRA)* What?

ENOBARBUS: You were explaining your strategy?

ANTONY: Strategy, right. I'll use one of my pick-up lines.

ENOBARBUS: To defeat Octavius?

ANTONY: Octavius who? You wait here and watch me at work. Take notes. *(Saunters over to CLEOPATRA.)* Hi.

CLEOPATRA: Hello.

ANTONY: *(Laughs brainlessly and then gives the thumbs up to ENOBARBUS.)* I'm Antony. I rule one third of the Roman Empire. I'm an Aquarius.

CLEOPATRA: I'm Cleopatra. I rule all of the Egyptian Empire. I'm a tyrant.

ANTONY: Tyrant, huh. Well, you are the tyrant . . . of my heart.

(ENOBARBUS reacts to the terrible line by hitting his forehead.)

CLEOPATRA: Ooh, you smooth talker, you. Marry me and be my co-tyrant. You would rule 5/6's of an empire.

ANTONY: Huh?

CLEOPATRA: It's simple math. You see, 1/3 of the Roman Empire plus 1/2 of the Egyptian Empire –

ENOBARBUS: If I may interrupt. Antony, you still have to deal with Octavius Caesar.

CLEOPATRA: Caesar? Any relation to Julius?

ENOBARBUS: Nephew. You knew Julius?

CLEOPATRA: Oh, no, not really. An older gentleman. Before my time, really.

(SOOTHSAYER enters.)

ENOBARBUS: But I heard rumors that you and he –

CLEOPATRA: Come Antony. Let me show you my barge. We'll take a cruise.

SOOTHSAYER: Beware the Ides of March!

ENOBARBUS: Wrong play.

SOOTHSAYER: Oh. Beware of Greeks bearing gifts!

ENOBARBUS: Still wrong play.

SOOTHSAYER: Oh. *(Beat.)* Oh, oh. Here she comes. Watch out boy, she'll chew you up. Oh, oh here she comes. She's a man eater.

ENOBARBUS: That's appropriate. Meanwhile, back in Rome— *(ALL stop and stare at ENOBARBUS.)* Transition. . . .