

## Acting Company Scenes: Cinna the Poet

**CINNA:** I dreamt tonight that I did feast with  
Caesar,  
And things unluckily charge my fantasy.  
I have no will to wander forth of doors,  
Yet something leads me forth.

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLEBEIAN:** What is your name?

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Whither are you going?

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Where do you dwell?

**4<sup>TH</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Are you a married man or a bachelor?

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Answer every man directly.

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Ay, and briefly.

**4<sup>TH</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Ay, and wisely.

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Ay, and truly, you were best.

**CINNA:** What is my name? Whither am I going?  
Where do I dwell? Am I a married man  
or a bachelor? Then to answer every  
man directly and briefly, wisely and  
truly: wisely I say, I am a bachelor.

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLEBEIAN:** That's as much as to say they are fools  
that marry. You'll bear me a bang for  
that, I fear. Proceed directly.

**CINNA:** Directly, I am going to Caesar's funeral.

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLEBEIAN:** As a friend or an enemy?

**CINNA:** As a friend.

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLEBEIAN:** That matter is answered directly.

**4<sup>TH</sup> PLEBEIAN:** For your dwelling—briefly.

**CINNA:** Briefly, I dwell by the Capitol.

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Your name, sir, truly.

**CINNA:** Truly, my name is Cinna.

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Tear him to pieces! He's a conspirator.

**CINNA:** I am Cinna the poet, I am Cinna the  
poet!

**4<sup>TH</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Tear him for his bad verses, tear him for  
his bad verses!

**CINNA:** I am not Cinna the conspirator.

**4<sup>TH</sup> PLEBEIAN:** It is no matter. His name's Cinna. Pluck  
but his name out of his heart, and turn  
him going.

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLEBEIAN:** Tear him, tear him! Come, brands, ho,  
firebrands! To Brutus', to Cassius', burn  
all! Some to Decius' house, and some to  
Casca's, some to Ligarius'. Away, go!