

DIONYSUS' Speech at the beginning of the play. It's mostly exposition, but will give me an idea of your voice and acting style.

DIONYSUS:

I, Dionysus, son of Zeus,  
Have come to Thebes, city of Greeks,  
only after I've set the eastern lands  
dancing in the mysteries I established,  
making known to men my own divinity.  
Thebes is the first city of the Greeks  
where I've roused people to shout out my cries,  
with this deerskin draped around my body,  
this ivy spear, a thyrsus, in my hand.  
For my mother's sisters have acted badly,  
something they, of all people, should avoid.  
They boasted aloud that I, Dionysus,  
was no child of Zeus, claiming Semele,  
once she was pregnant by some mortal man,  
attributed her bad luck in bed to Zeus,  
a story made up (they said) to trick Cadmus.  
So I've driven those women from their homes  
in a frenzy—they now live in the mountains,  
out of their minds. I've made them put on costumes,  
outfits appropriate for my mysteries.  
All Theban offspring—or, at least, all women—  
I've driven in a crazed fit from their homes.  
Now they sit out there among the rocks,  
underneath green pine trees, no roof overhead,  
Cadmus' daughters in their company as well.  
For this city has to learn, though against its will,  
that it has yet to be initiated  
into my Dionysian rites.