

# Commedia dell'arte Character Tree Notes

**Character Name:** Magnifico  
**Personality Traits:** looks down on everyone, the head (thinker), most powerful. replaced when they die, commanding, knows they are powerful/highest social status, demanding  
**Physical Traits:** masked

**Character Name:** First Actor  
**Personality Traits:** very grand, dangerous and serious, even deadly, aristocratic, powerful, live in a dangerous world  
**Physical Traits:** take up lots of space with grandness, big and bold gesturing, unmasked

**Character Name:** First Actress  
**Personality Traits:** very grand, dangerous and serious, even deadly, aristocratic, powerful, live in a dangerous world, not above killing, sophisticated  
**Physical Traits:** take up lots of space with grandness, unmasked, well mannered and gracefully grand gestures and movement

**Character Name:** Second Actor  
**Personality Traits:** well-educated, new to the grownup world, privileged, in love with each other, can be quick-tempered  
**Physical Traits:** youthful, trusting, becoming adults, light confident manly movement

**Character Name:** The Witch  
**Personality Traits:** dark, powerful, supernatural element, earthy, A Magnifico of the countryside  
**Physical Traits:** moves in figure 8s, freedom in movement

**Character Name:** Second Actress  
**Personality Traits:** well-educated, new to the grownup world, privileged, in love with 2nd Actor, with the 2nd Actor they make up the innamorati  
**Physical Traits:** youthful, trusting, becoming adults, light movement, movement is ballet-like

**Character Name:** Pantalone  
**Personality Traits:** miserly old man, mean, needy  
**Physical Traits:** hunched, moves slowly, possibly shuffles feet

**Character Name:** The Doctor (Il Dottore)  
**Personality Traits:** knows a lot of things, but understands nothing (can't use their knowledge)  
**Physical Traits:** rotund and chubby, waddles and lead with belly when walking

**Character Name:** Colombina  
**Personality Traits:** cunning as Brighella, playful Harlequino, smart The Doctor, As good with money as Pantalone, a servant, doesn't marry up, knows she's beautiful, but does not show off  
**Physical Traits:** unmasked, moves with confidence (what this looks like can vary)

**Character Name:** Harlequino (Arlecchino)  
**Personality Traits:** illogical, naive and slow, amoral, the body, vain (thinks he's gorgeous), happy-go-lucky  
**Physical Traits:** physically acrobatic, uses body to express things a lot

**Character Name:** Brighella  
**Personality Traits:** cunning, the brains, master of servants and servant to the masters, welcomes guests, worked hard to get position, women fall in love with him, a taskmaster. Knows their place but would use cunning to make others look foolish  
**Physical Traits:**

**Character Name:** The Captain (Il Capitano)  
**Personality Traits:** foreigner, not from where the story is set, full of swagger, coward, braggart  
**Physical Traits:** big with arms and movements, moves with swagger

**Character Name:** Zanni  
**Personality Traits:** impressed by everything, wants to please everyone, peasant, energetic, loyal, usually foreign (or from a small countryside and new to the city, servant  
**Physical Traits:** leads with the nose, movement is pigeon like, arms out at sides