Hello dear volunteer!

Thank you for agreeing to help me portray my version of the Apostle Paul as he speaks about his prison experience to a group of dear visiting friends. The text of his talk is what we know in the Bible as the Letter to the Philippians.

Let me provide here a brief outline of what I need from you and what you might expect from me.

* No lines. I do not expect you to memorize or say any lines during the dramatized presentation. You may however, speak spontaneously here and there as you see fit if you are so moved. But mostly you will remain silent.
* No costume. I ask that you simply wear a black t-shirt and jeans or similar apparel. Please do not wear bright colors or a suit and tie. I will provide a simple costume piece which will suggest your identity as a Roman guard.
* Listen for your cues and act accordingly. Mostly you will be standing more or less in one position for about twenty minutes or so.
* Do not smile. You are supposed to be a gruff, uncaring guard. If you choose, you may respond to Paul when appropriate with a grunt or a sneer or with a roll of the eyes. But do not be overly dramatic. Otherwise, simply stand there with disinterest.

Here are the specifics of your part:

1. Meet me at least one hour prior to the event in the space where the presentation will take place. I will go over final details with you at this time and we can rehearse how I want you to handle me. We will be physically engaged but nothing too strenuous.
2. Put on the guard costume, which I provide, ten minutes before the event and be in place as the host of the event begins introductory remarks.
3. Accompany the “Prison Warden” to the front and stand nearby awaiting his/her instructions to bring Paul up out of his dungeon cell.
4. Come to my entry point. Offstage you will place a dark shroud over my head and covering my face. Then guide me gruffly to my position in front of the audience. Then remove the shroud and turn me to face the audience.
5. Stand back and wait. You may respond occasionally with facial reactions or just stare straight ahead as you wish. As Paul, I will make a few gestures to you and approach you but I will not actually engage you.
6. At the appropriate moment you will grab Paul by the arm to interrupt him and take him away. Paul will plead nonverbally to be allowed a last word. You will hesitate but then consent and then step back and wait for one or two more minutes.
7. When Paul seems to have finished you will step forward to take him away again. You and I will struggle with one another a bit. You will push me toward the exit, but also I will resist and stop two or three times to call out Paul’s final words of greeting and the final blessing before we at last exit together.

Your cues:

* *Philippians 4:4-7* ***4****Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!****5****Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.****6****Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.****7****And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Be listening for these words. You will interrupt me (as per step 6 above) at the conclusion of this passage. I suggest you listen for “I will say it again: Rejoice!” This will alert you that your cue will be coming soon. Then listen for “will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” This is your actual cue. Grab me by the arm and let me know that my time is up.
* *Philippians 4:20
20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Here, your primary cue word is easy. It is “Amen”, an obvious word of conclusion and a natural point for interruption. (See step 7 above.) Grab me again by the arm. And then begin to push me toward the exit. It’s ok if we get into a bit of a pushing match.
* What if you miss your cues? Don’t worry. I’ve done this many times. Sometimes I have been interrupted too late and a few times I have been interrupted too early. It all works out. But, nonetheless, do try to pay attention and do your part as planned.

Again, thank you for your willingness to help and for being a good sport. I look forward to working with you.

In Christ,

Duffy Roberts