

From The Audition

(A high school auditorium. A bare stage.)

(The STAGE MANAGER runs on with a stack of sides.)

STAGE MANAGER

Where do you want these?

MR. TORRANCE *(off-stage)*

Put them downstage right.

(STAGE MANAGER heads stage left.)

STAGE MANAGER

Here?

MR. TORRANCE *(off-stage)*

Is that stage right?

(STAGE MANAGER thinks.)

STAGE MANAGER

Whoops. I'm nervous.

(STAGE MANAGER heads stage right.)

On the edge of the stage?

MR. TORRANCE *(off-stage)*

Yep. All right, bring `em in.

STAGE MANAGER *(shouting off)*

Okay people! Come on in!

(The ACTORS enter from all sides of the stage.)

MR. TORRANCE *(off-stage)*

All right stop right there! First off, thank you for coming out today. If you don't know me, my name is Mr. Torrance and—

(ACTOR #1 raises his hand.)

Yes?

ACTOR #1

Can I go to the bathroom?

MR. TORRANCE

Just hold on.

ACTOR #2

My Mom needs to pick me up in half an hour so I need to go first—

MR. TORRANCE

Okay, just—

STAGE MANAGER

Quiet please.

MR. TORRANCE

I know that I'm new here but I want to talk to you a little bit about this theatre program. You might go to some other high schools around here and see some pretty good shows. They do a fine job. We don't do a fine job here. We do an amazing job. And if you're going to be in this show, you are going to be amazing. So what I am looking for today are the best of the best. Do you understand?

ACTOR #1

So I can't go to the bathroom?

STAGE MANAGER

No.

MR. TORRANCE

This is Carmen. She's our stage manager. It goes from God to me to Carmen to you. You will listen to her as if she were me. If you are going to be late, you will call her, if you have a problem with scheduling you talk to her—

(ACTOR #2 approaches)

Later. This is the first audition. I'm going to call back a few of you. From those, the best will be in the show. You have three minutes to prepare yourselves.

(The actors relax and begin walking around, stretching.)

CARRIE *(a vocal warmup)*

Me me me me me me me me

ALISON *(a lip trill)*

Bbbbbbbbbbbb—

SOLEIL

To sit in solemn silence on a dull dark dock—

ELIZABETH

Guh guh guh kuk kuh kuh

ACTOR 3

Breathe in. Breathe out. Breathe in. Breathe out.

ACTOR 4

I hope I get this part. I hope I get this part.

ACTOR 5
Just a little one, I don't really need anything big—

ACTOR 6
Is anyone else here auditioning for the first time? Anyone? Anyone at all?

ACTOR 3
Breathe in. Breathe out.

ACTOR 4
I hope I get it.

ACTOR 7
I'm going to get it. I know I'm going to get something, I don't know what.

ACTOR 5
I want a line.

ACTOR 4
I want a solo.

ACTOR 5
I don't want a solo. Just a line.

ACTOR 1
I want to go the bathroom—

ACTOR 2
Can I just go early?

ACTOR 3
Please God let me get this part.

ACTOR 4
Who's that girl?

ACTOR 5
I've never seen her before.

ACTOR 4
Is she better than me?

ACTOR 5
What is he looking for?

I've never been in a show before—

ACTOR 6

Please let me get this—

ACTOR 2

Please—

ACTOR 3

I'm going to get the lead. No one can stop me.

ALISON

I need to get something, anything—

SOLIEL

Is this the right place?

TOMMY

Hi there I'm Sarah.

SARAH

I want to get something—

ACTOR 4

I need something—

SOLIEL

I just want to be an extra. Maybe one line. I could say good morning or something, and that's it. And then I could wave at my parents in the back and then I could say that I was in the show.

ACTOR 5

I'll do anything—

ACTOR 6 (*overlapping*)

I can do a Hungarian accent. Do you need anything with a Hungarian accent?

ACTOR 7 (*overlapping*)

I just need one line—

ACTOR 5 (*overlapping*)

Please!

ACTOR 1 (*overlapping*)

I can burp on command—

ACTOR 7 (*overlapping*)

ACTORS 1 and 2 (*overlapping*)

Please!

ACTOR 5 (*overlapping*)

One line is all I ask!

ACTORS 1, 2 and 3 (*overlapping*)

Please!

ACTOR 7

I'm left-handed. Does that help?

ACTORS 1-6 (*overlapping*)

Please!

SOLEIL

I need this—you don't understand—I need this.

ALL ACTORS

I need it—I'll be great, I'll be wonderful, I'll be the best thing you've ever seen—please please please PLEASE!

ACTOR 1

Can I go to the bathroom now?
(*All of the actors exit.*)

MR. TORRANCE

Who's first?

STAGE MANAGER

We have Cassie.
(*ACTOR 2 enters.*)

ACTOR 2

Hi. I'm Cassie. My Mom's waiting in the parking lot.

MR. TORRANCE

Great. What are you going to sing?

ACTOR 2

I have to sing?

MR. TORRANCE

This is a musical.

ACTOR 2

This is a musical?

STAGE MANAGER

It said so on the posters.

ACTOR 2

There were posters?

STAGE MANAGER

Didn't you listen to the announcements?

ACTOR 2

I can't ever hear the announcements. No one ever shuts up for them.

MR. TORRANCE

So you don't have a song prepared?

ACTOR 2

We're supposed to have—?

MR. TORRANCE and STAGE MANAGER

Yes!

ACTOR 2

Oh. Um. No. I don't have a song.

MR. TORRANCE

How about happy birthday?

ACTOR 2

Are you sure I have to sing?

MR. TORRANCE

Can you sing happy birthday?

ACTOR 2

Are there any non-singing parts?

MR. TORRANCE

I need to hear you sing first before I can put you in a non-singing part.

ACTOR 2

That doesn't make any sense.

STAGE MANAGER

He needs to make sure that you can't sing.

ACTOR 2

Okay, um... Happy Birthday, right?

MR. TORRANCE

Sure.

ACTOR 2

I forgot the words.

STAGE MANAGER

It starts with Happy Birthday.

ACTOR 2

Okay.

(ACTOR 2's cell phone rings. She answers it.)

Hi. Oh. Okay. I gotta go.

(She runs off. She runs back on in a minute.)

When are call-backs?

(She leaves.)

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