

# AUDITION MONOLOGUES: BCT's Leading

Please prepare all monologues for the Character you are auditioning for. (Memorization not necessary.)

## LADIES

1. **MEG** (*excited*). Oh, Duncan, wait till you hear! Maxine and I had a day out together and we had the most wonderful time! First, we went shopping at Saks Fifth Avenue and Maxine insisted I get this dress for the party. At first, in the dressing room, I couldn't even get it on. But then Maxine helped me into it. Poor thing. As she was pulling it over my hips, she got faint. Then we had lunch at the Bellevue and we ordered snails, then we had our nails done, then more shopping at this little boutique where they simply worship Maxine, then tea at the Ritz, at the corner table, and I had a champagne cocktail! Maxine says it's so important to be spontaneous in life. Try new things, take chances. As they say in French, *metmoyer!*
  2. **MEG** (*getting emotional*). Well, it's just... I've never done any real acting before and there's so much to remember. Heads up. Enunciate. Move left, move right. You and Leo are professionals. And you work with professionals. From the Royal Academy! And they're all sophisticated, and they know everything and they've been everywhere... I just can't imagine what Leo must think of me. (*She's ready to cry by this time.*)
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1. **AUDREY** (*excited*). Oh my gosh! The most incredible thing just happened! I'm out there talking to these two women, and they tell me their names are Maxine and Stephanie. And my jaw, it hits the floor, ya know?! Then out of the blue two policemen show up and then whamo! They take one look at these women and go "Aha! Trixie McCall! Bubbles Schaeffer! Hands up!" Then the girls make a run for it, and the policemen knock 'em down! It turns out the girls are well-known crooks! They sent a telegram and pretended to be your nieces just to get your money! Can you imagine?!
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1. **FLORENCE** (*All sweetness.*) Don't be ridiculous. I have two little nieces to meet. Where are they? (*rough and angry*) WHERE ARE THEY?! (*seeing them and crying.*) ... They're so beautiful! Maxine, my darling, it's really you! And Stephanie – oh the sweet baby!! (*to Doc* - *angry*) Oh be quiet, murderer. No! I should not be in bed - you said I was dead. I could have been buried alive. I don't make mistakes like that. Stock tips? That's different! They don't kill people! I don't care if they all went straight down the toilet! IT'S NOT THE SAME THING! (*And with that, AUNT FLORENCE grabs her chest and starts to gasp.*)

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## GENTLEMEN

1. **LEO** (*acting, as King Harry in "Henry V"*).

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more!  
Or close the wall up with our English dead.  
In peace there's nothing so becomes a man  
As modest stillness and humility,  
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,  
Then imitate the action of the tiger!

2. **LEO** (*sincere*) Margaret. (*He takes her hand.*) Let me tell you something. I'll say it once and I don't want to say it again. You are an extraordinary woman. You can do anything you set your mind to. And everyone has to start some place. Olivier was born in some dinky little town in Southern England, and Katherine Hepburn was born in Cape Cod someplace with a knife in her teeth. You are not defined by where you start, but by where you end up. As for the play, there are two rules for every actor: remember your lines and don't bump into the furniture. That is my line. Noel Coward stole it from me. *As for traveling or not traveling, you will get to Paris one of these days if I have to carry you on my back and swim. And when you get there, you will look around and say to yourself: I was just as sophisticated before I left, only now I need a bath. All right? Good – and remember: Lines and furniture!*

1. **JACK** (*nervously confessing*) I did something terrible. It all started a month ago. Leo and I were on a train. Well, you know that. And we read about Florence dying and leaving her money to Max and Steve. And by this time I had met you and all I wanted to do was take you in my arms. But then you told us her nephews were Maxine and Stephanie, and you see we're actors and we had these costumes and so ... well the fact is, we dressed up as women! I was that beautiful creature. Stephanie. It was me. (*Audrey – "wow!"*). I know, but I didn't mean to make you look stupid. I did it because of your thighs. I mean your eyes. I wanted to be with every inch of you. Your lips. Your forehead. And I wanted your bust. I mean your trust. And I want a home so badly. A real home with a picket fence, and a gate, and little Audrey's skating to school every morning. And so I lay my soul at your feet and I ask - nay, I beg - your forgiveness. (*He kneels before her.*) Audrey, will you marry me?

1. **DUNCAN** (*on the phone*) Hello? Inspector Ballard, please (*pause*) Ah, good, it's Reverend Wooley. Now, have you made any progress concerning the two women? ... Yes, I know it's only been two days, but ... No, I don't have any evidence. That's what I want you to find ... No, I don't know that they're frauds. I suspect they are... Because they're odd! ... Well for one thing, they're very large women, and ... Well yes, people do vary in size, but ... well one of them was deaf and dumb since birth and now she's talking! ... Well yes, I suppose I'm happy for her, but ... Look, officer, I can't put my finger on it, but they're not being honest about something. They're sort of - shady ... No,

they haven't tried to get me in a card game! I don't play cards, I'm a minister! ... Well yes, bridge occasionally. (*Quickly.*) Look, I have to go now, just keep working on it. I'll call you later. Goodbye.

2. **DUNCAN** (*on the phone, annoyed with interruptions*) I'll be down in a minute, Florence! (*to himself*) You old bat! (*into the phone*) Ah, Inspector Ballard, it's Reverend Woolley again. Sorry to bother you at this... Yes, I know it's seven-thirty, but I've been trying to get you all... Well, you didn't answer any of the messages! Now listen, I'm at Florence's house right now, at the party... Well, I'm sorry you weren't invited but I wasn't in charge of the guest list... Well, yes, I had some influence, but... Yes, the food is excellent. I'm very sorry you weren't invited, but please just listen! Do you remember I told you about the telegram from the real Maxine and Stephanie... well, it said they'd arrive this morning and they aren't here yet! Of course, it has me worried! I told you about this whole thing weeks ago! You were supposed to help me! Yes, I am, very upset, and I'll tell you why. Because Maxine, the big one, told me this morning that she overheard Florence changing her will. She's leaving everything to Stephanie, the smaller one... Yes, they're both large, but one is bigger than the other! The point is, Stephanie doesn't deserve it!... Well, yes, I hope Florence lasts forever, but it isn't very likely now is it? [Florence hollers, "Duncan"] Shut up! (*into the phone*) Look, just do something, but do it now! ... Thank you! (*hangs up phone*)

**DOC** (*Upbeat*) We hope you're having a heck of a good time tonight, and that you're all looking forward to the very special buffet spread we have waiting for you tonight across the hall – prepared exclusively by Pyemyers Pastries and Pigtrotters. Their motto is: "We go the whole hog and use the whole hog." Thank you, Carl Pyemyer and family. Now tonight I have the honor of presenting what you might call a "departure" from our usual monthly entertainment. In April we gave you "Hee Haw Hocum," a night of ferocious fiddling and hillbilly hilarity that as you'll remember raised the roof and brought the house down. Then in May, we saw the one and only "Mister Presto," whose amazing feats of prestidigatorial perfection brought us standing to our feet. (Personally, I will never forget how he manipulated his eggs and made that sausage of his appear out of nowhere.) Well folks, tonight we're plowing some new ground and bringing you some very special entertainment, entitled, believe it or not, "Scenes from Shakespeare" starring two actors who hail from London, England, coming to us direct from their last engagement at the Elks of Scranton, please give a Moose Lodge welcome to Leo Clark and Jack Gable! Awhoo!!

1. **BUTCH** (*as Andrew Augecheek, uncomfortably fast, so as not to forget the lines*) Sir-Toby-Belch-how-now-Sir Toby! I'll-stay-away-a-month-longer-I-am-a-fellow-of-the-strangest-mind-in-the-world-I-delight-in-masques-and-revels-sometimes-altogether-and-I-exel-at-kikshaws-of-every-kind-and-I-think-I-have-the-back-trick-...
2. **BUTCH** (*again As Andrew Augecheek, striking a pose and purposefully slow*)  
Methinks sometimes  
I have no more wit, *Mississippi!*  
Than a Christian or an ordinary man has, *Mississippi!*  
But I am a great eater of beef, *Mississippi!*

And I believe that does harm to my wit. *Mississippi!*

I would I had bestowed that time in the tongues

That I have in fencing, dancing, and bear-baiting. *Mississippi!*

Oh had I but followed the arts..... *Mississippi!*