

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE, JR.

JUNIOR CAST (GRADES 1-6) AUDITION MONOLOGUES

MAN IN CHAIR – *persnickety, anxious, passionate*

[*to himself*] I hate theatre. You know what I do when I'm sitting in a darkened theater, waiting for the show to begin? I pray. "Please let it be a good show. And let it be short. And keep the actors out of the audience." I didn't pay good money to have the fourth wall come crashing down around my ears. I just want a story, and a few good songs that will take me away. I just want to be entertained. I mean, isn't that the point? [*to the audience*] Oh, hello. How are we today? I'm feeling a little blue, myself. You know, a little anxious for no particular reason. Anyway, whenever I'm feeling this way – blue – I like to listen to my music. So, I was going through my records this morning – yes, records – and what did I find but one of my favorite shows: Gable and Stein's *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Remember? It's the full show, with the original cast, including Beatrice Stockwell as the Chaperone. Isn't she elegant? And this is a full fifteen years before she became *Dame* Beatrice Stockwell. Can you believe it? So. Would you ... would you indulge me? Would you let me play this record for you now? I was hoping you would say yes.

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE – *disinterested, sarcastic, flamboyant*

Why don't you ask him? Why don't you say, "Roger, do you love me?" Now, it's my job to keep you away from him, and I take the responsibility very seriously. However, I'm just this moment feeling terribly, terribly drowsy. I'm afraid I have to have a lie-de-down. Now, whatever you do, *don't* go wandering through the garden, seeking out your fiancé, to ask him the question upon which your future happiness depends. [*to herself*] Such a little fool. Still, I envy her. Oh, when will love come crashing through my door?

TOTTENDALE – *gentle, sentimental, romantic*

Underling? How do I look? I do love this dress so. It never goes out of style. What a beautiful day for a wedding. Oh, Underling. Never listen to a bride on her wedding day. Love is a very complex emotion. You can be very close to someone one minute, and the next minute, why, you just want to strangle them. Do you understand? That's just the nature of true love.

JANET – *conflicted, overdramatic, desperate*

In a few hours, I'm going to be Mrs. Robert Martin. Oh, my head is spinning! I know it seems crazy to give up on a successful career to marry a man I hardly know, but somehow, for some reason, when I look into his eyes – those big, bunny eyes – ah, gee ... I get all woozy. And that's love, isn't it? Oh, Chaperone, I'm in a terrible state. I know that I love Robert, but is love enough? Is love ever enough? Oh, I just don't know! Oh, I'm so confused! Chaperone, please, I beg you, just this one time, give me some advice that is coherent and appropriate to the situation. Should I marry Robert?

ROBERT – *charming, dapper, self-indulgent*

Well, I just wanted to thank you all for coming. I tell ya, I must be some lucky fellow. Why, who would have thought that I, Robert Martin, would be marrying a glamorous showgirl, and that that glamorous showgirl would be willing to give up a successful career for me, Robert Martin? Here's to Miss Janet van de Graaf – the most beautiful girl in the world! [*turning away, talking to himself*] Hey there, handsome. Show me those pearly whites. [*smiles nervously*] Now, don't you worry. It's perfectly normal for a groom to be nervous on his wedding day. [*to himself*] It is? [*to himself*] Of course!

GEORGE – *stressed, frazzled, overworked*

Now, don't worry. I have this whole wedding planned out. The key is organization. See? Each string represents a task yet to be completed: pay the musicians, yell at the florist, book the minister. You think *you've* got jitters? You got the easy part! I've still got to get rice, boutonnières, and a minister! I have the weight of the wedding on my shoulders. Alright, alright. That's enough of that, dancing around like a fool. You could've snapped an ankle! Dancing is too dangerous. Why don't you go out for a skate instead? That's what I do when I want to blow off some steam: roller skate!

FELDZIEG – *manipulative, wily, flashy*

Excuse me. I don't believe we've met. *You* are Aldolpho? Not *the* Aldolpho. Funny, you don't look like a scoundrel ... Why, just now I overheard the groom saying that Aldolpho is a scoundrel. Those very words. You must, you *must* take matters into your own hands. You know what they say: The best way to get revenge on a man is through his woman. You, Aldolpho, you must kiss his bride! That will show people you're no scoundrel.

KITTY – *excitable, bubbly, flighty*

Mr. Feldzieg! Mr. Feldzieg, you don't need Janet no more! I've been working on a mindreading act. Presenting: Kitty the Incomprehensible! [*KITTY closes her eyes, and waves her fingers at FELDZIEG.*] Now, think of something. Wait, I'm getting it! "Pick up some milk ... and a loaf of rye bread ... and don't forget to shave your legs." [*KITTY looks at him, confused.*] Oh! I'm reading my own mind. No wonder it was so easy.

GANGSTER – *energetic, deceitful, charismatic*

Perhaps we could give you something else to chew on, something that ain't food. Your confusion is to be expected. Although we stand here before you in the guise of innocent pastry chefs, we are also employees of a certain individual who happens to be the largest single investor in Feldzieg's Follies. He sent us here, as pastry chefs, to express his concern about Miss van de Graaf's impending nuptials. Specifically that, if she gets married and leaves the show, then there ain't no show! To go back on your word would be a recipe for disaster. Now, I hope we have made ourselves perfectly éclair. One *cannoli* hope.

ALDOLPHO – *silly, flirtatious, speaks with a European accent!*

I am Aldolpho – and you are bride. This is bridal suite, you are the only one here. Therefore, you must be bride. No? Perhaps you could take a message? Yes, very good. "Dear van de Graaf Bride: I must kiss you. Sooner is better. Signed, Aldolpho – King of Romance"

Those auditioning for UNDERLING, TRIX & ENSEMBLE may perform their favorite monologue of those listed above.