

# SPEECH TEAM NOVICE AUDITIONS 2018–2019

- **DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION / PROSE READING**

## PARENT

Lucie, sweetheart, I need you to listen to me carefully, okay? No matter what happens, no matter what I say or do, I need you to know that Mommy and Daddy love you. Now, you won't be able to see us for awhile, but—no, no, no, don't cry, now, angel—look at me. Look at me, Lucie, I need you to be a strong girl for me, alright? [beat] Can you do that for me? Pinky promise?

## FAILED MARRIAGE

Will you just listen to me? No, no, you've had your turn. Now, listen to me. Do you know what it feels like to have to support something—someone—that you don't believe in? Huh? Do you? Do you? Because that's what I've been doing for the last 18 years of this marriage. Just hoping that maybe—just maybe—you'd finally come around and be a decent human being for once.

## BAR SCENE

[Jokingly] That's the cheesiest pick-up line I've heard all night, darling. Huh, but ya know, you're not half bad. Me? Well, aren't you a bit audacious. [beat] Alright, I guess I'll amuse you. Let's be honest here. I'm pretty sure I score at least an 8. And that's on a bad day. And no. As cliché as that line is, no, I don't come here very often. Nice try, though. I admire your effort. Huh? What did you say? Oh this? Oh, well, this is my wedding band.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ma'am. Ma'am, I understa—[beat] Yes, we've gotten many calls on that particular issue and in fact, our company is working their hardest to resolve that prob—yes, we do understand that your DVD player spontaneously combusted. And yes, we do feel for the loss of your cat, but Ma'am please understand that when objects combust, living things may be in the risk of being lit on fire. Yes, we look forward to seeing you in court too—Hello? Hello? [hang up] God, I hate my job.

## A MEAN GIRL

If only you knew how mean she really is... You'd know that I'm not allowed to wear hoop earrings, right? Yeah! Two years ago she told me hoops earrings were \*her\* thing and I wasn't allowed to wear them anymore. And then for Hannukah my parents got me this pair of really expensive white gold hoops and I had to pretend like I didn't even like them and... it was so sad. And you know she cheats on Aaron? Yes, every Thursday he thinks she's doing SAT prep but really she's hooking up with Shane Ohman in the projection room above the auditorium! I never told anybody that because I am \*such\* a good friend!

● **DUET ACTING**

**Excerpt 1:**

PETER: Hi, Kelly!

KELLY: Hi, Peter ... Come in.

PETER: I tried calling your landline, and then I tried your cell - I was wondering, I thought maybe it was a work thing-

KELLY: It's - I've been meaning to call you and I wanted to make sure I had the, that I had enough to say, before I did...

PETER: Oh, no, of course -

KELLY: [Pause] Well - sit down, please! Were you - in the neighborhood or - you're in town visiting? ...

PETER: - I'm doing a play here in New York, actually. I know, barging in like this, I'm sorry, is it a bad time or -

KELLY: No. No! It's just...the knock on the door reminded me of when they came to tell me about Craig. They just showed up - no warning, just showed up.

PETER: Oh God. Oh Kelly, I'm so sorry. I'm so stupid. And it's just about a year, right?

KELLY: Last week. Yeah.

PETER: Last week. Huh. I've been - the date was sort of floating around in my head but I guess it never really - hit me till ... now.

**Excerpt 2:**

**Paul:** Don't you have any good memories of her?

**Julie:** Maybe four. And considering how many years of therapy it took to dredge up four, I'd say those memories weren't very cost effective.

**Paul:** You love your grudge, don't you?

**Julie:** Get over yourself! You hate her as much as I do.

**Paul:** Screw you.

**Julie:** Finally. A response from your heart.

**Paul:** (Slides a paper across the bar) Here's the address to the hospital in case you change your mind.

**Julie:** I can't do it, Paul.

**Paul:** Have it your way.

**Julie:** This isn't my way!

**Paul:** Well, what is!?

**Julie:** My way? My way would be for her to say, just once, I don't know, something that began with "I'm sorry" would be nice. "I'm sorry for all the times I hurt you. I'm sorry for all the times I failed to recognize you have a soul. And if you can find it in your heart to forgive me, I promise

to stop pretending that I was beyond reproach as a mother, and I promise to stop asking that you pretend, too.”

**Paul:** You really expect her to say that?

**Julie:** I think it’s more likely you pierce your nose.

**Paul:** You don’t think of anybody but yourself, do you?

**Julie:** Funny, that’s the line she always used when she wanted me to do things her way.

**Paul:** Fine, you win.

## ● POETRY READING

This one goes out to those who refuse to be defined,  
 Who look at government forms as a challenge,  
 Who see the safe little boxes next to Caucasian and Asian and Black and Hispanic  
 And make their own little box labeled all of the above,  
 Who scratch out the question entirely  
 And write their own name in large letters,  
 Who, when forced to choose between male and female,  
 Write instead “see attached 27-page document detailing why my gender and sexuality  
 will never fit within the confines of your stifling need to define me.”

## ● ORATORY DECLAMATION

### MALE ORATORICAL DECLAMATION

I represent people on death row. It's interesting, this question of the death penalty. In many ways, we've been taught to think that the real question is, do people deserve to die for the crimes they've committed? And that's a very sensible question. But there's another way of thinking about where we are in our identity. The other way of thinking about it is not, do people deserve to die for the crimes they commit, but do we deserve to kill?

You see, death penalty in America is defined by error. For every nine people who have been executed, we've actually identified one innocent person who's been exonerated and released from death row; a kind of astonishing error rate. In aviation, we would never let people fly on airplanes if for every nine planes that took off one would crash.

### FEMALE ORATORICAL DECLAMATION

On the 9th of October 2012, the Taliban shot me on the left side of my forehead. They shot my friends too. They thought that the bullets would silence us. But from that silence came thousands of voices. The terrorists thought that they would change our aims and stop our ambitions but nothing changed in my life except this: weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power

and courage were born. I am the same Malala. My ambitions are the same. My hopes are the same. My dreams are the same.

- **PUBLIC ADDRESS (SERIOUS)**

And this process has evolved over the years. While cloud seeding has received a lot of attention recently, William Pentland, a contributor to Forbes Magazine on February 4th 2014, revealed that this process was applied in the Vietnam War. The oddly named mission, known as Operation Popeye, used cloud seeding to flood roads and ultimately slow the Viet Cong's movement. And it was successful, increasing precipitation by 5% in 5 years. And we are still using these principles today. California, plagued by crippling drought and water shortages, is seeking to apply this technology to help with their drought crisis. And they're hoping that the technology will be even better than it was in Vietnam and even China.

- **PUBLIC ADDRESS (FUNNY)**

First, much like a baby chick in the beginning of spring time, friendships take a lot of incubation. Vox of July 12, 2016 noted that school, clubs, and sports teams are all perfect examples of friendship chambers, where we're surrounded by the same people for long periods of time. Less perfect examples include: jail. But CNN of June 6, 2016 reports after college, these incubators go away, and it takes way more work to maintain relationships. Essentially, with no friendship routine, it's easy to lose touch.

- **PUBLIC ADDRESS (PERSUASIVE)**

Companies are often aware that a lack of diversity is a problem, but they don't always approach solving it in the right way. Maria Teresa Hart, writing for the Atlantic on June 16, 2016, described the act of throwing in a single minority in an effort to address a lack of diversity. She called it the Smurfette principle. Despite all of them being short blue men, the smurfs had names based on other characteristics, like Brainy smurf and Clumsy smurf. All except Smurfette, who was an undeveloped girl characterized only by her gender. That's not diversity. That's laziness. And that's what we mean by tokenism. When companies "Smurfette" in a single individual only for their race or gender, they're making the problem worse.

- **RADIO SPEAKING**

Good afternoon, I'm (*say your name!*) and you're listening to WKEY, your key to unlocking all of today's important news, sports and weather. This broadcast is brought to you by American Family Insurance- All your protection under one roof.

On the National Scene, A plea of not guilty was entered on behalf of a young Nigerian man during his first public court appearance to face charges of trying to ignite a chemical-laden explosive on a Detroit-bound US airliner on Christmas Day. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's arraignment was brief and he spoke little. Authorities say the 23-year old with al-Qaida links was traveling to Detroit from Amsterdam when he tried to destroy the plane carrying nearly 300 people by injecting chemicals into a package of explosives concealed in his underwear.

We'll be back for sports and weather after this word from our sponsor.

A man fills many roles in his lifetime; provider, protector, master of the house. As a father you have a vital role in your family's life. They depend on you to be there. We help to make sure you can fulfill that promise because no matter what they call you, at the end of the day you know you're just, Dad. American Family Insurance- All your protection under one roof.

In sports, the Seattle Seahawks fired Jim Mora after just one season, leaving the former NFC West champs without a coach, general manager and president less than four years after they appeared in the Super Bowl. Speculations on Mora's replacement immediately centered on Southern California coach Pete Carroll.

In weather . . . expect freezing temperatures this evening with a high of 30 and a low of 15. Snow is a possibility through Friday, but on Saturday, temperatures will be heating up with a high of 75 and a low of 60.