

SPEECH TEAM NOVICE AUDITIONS 2021–2022

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

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?

SAD SISTER

What do you do when you see something you don't want to see? You look away, right? But what if it's something you can't forget? Well, you never forget. You just don't want to remember. I saw my brother die. I watched him get murdered. The worst part is that I didn't do anything to help him. I couldn't. He wouldn't let me. He made me leave him there to die. He made me walk back upstairs and he told me not to look back.

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.

FUNNY RANT

I have been thinking of writing a book, "How to Travel With Your Mother," but it would be a very short book. That's because my first tip is: Don't. Do not ever travel with your mother. Unless maybe you are disposing of her ashes. And even then there's a good chance you will hear her voice in your head: "You packed the box with my ashes without double wrapping it in Saran Wrap and putting it in a baggie? Look at this box, it's cardboard, it's nothing. Don't say 'Everybody knows that' because everybody does not know."

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: (Paul and Julie are siblings whose mother is in the hospital. Julie hates her mother. Paul is trying to get them to reconcile.)

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: That is NOT fair!

Julie: Finally. A response from your heart.

Paul: [*Slides a paper over*] 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'll get a tattoo.

Excerpt 2: (Person 2 is a sloppy donut eater. Person 1 is trying to correct his behavior)

Person 1: Don't you know how to eat a donut without being such an animal?

Person 2: This is how I like to eat...what?

Person 1: You nauseate me. This is why we don't go out to eat. Because you're such a slob.

Person 2: You're really mean.

Person 1: Just eat the donut, you don't need to lick every finger on your hand.

Person 2: This is how I like to eat my food. The way I eat is what makes it so enjoyable.

Person 1: Hold on...here...eat my donut. I didn't touch it yet. And I dare you to eat it without making a noise -- and no finger licking! Do you think you can do that?

Person 2: Yeah.

Person 1: Do it then. The whole donut. No noise.

Person 2: ... Well I'm gonna make a noise when I chew.

Person 1: No noise! Eat like a normal person. With your mouth closed. I want you to eat that donut completely silently while I watch.

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."

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?

FEMALE ORATORICAL DECLAMATION

Last April, I went to the 20th anniversary of the siege on Sarajevo. I don't like the word "anniversary," because it sounds like a party. The thing that broke my heart was the 12,000 plus empty red chairs on the mainstreet. Every single one of them symbolized a person who had died during the siege. The saddest for me were the tiny little chairs for the children.

PUBLIC ADDRESS (SERIOUS)

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.

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, on June 6, 2016 reported that, 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

INTRO: 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.

NATIONAL: On the National Scene, python could soon be on the menu in Florida. The state's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Health are running a study to find out if the amount of mercury found in pythons is safe to eat. Officials say it would be helpful for people to eat the snakes to help control the python outbreak in the Everglades.

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

COMMERCIAL: 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.

SPORTS: The Chicago Cubs are continuing their active offseason with the signing of free agent reliever Jonathan Holder. The 27-year-old right-hander spent last season with the Yankees, where he finished with a 4.98 ERA in 18 games. Holder has pitched more than 176 innings in 157 games with ten wins and two saves.

WEATHER: 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.