

# SPEECH TEAM NOVICE AUDITIONS 2022–2023

## MONOLOGUES

### 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?

### 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.

### 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!

## 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.

### HERO 1

*[Anger, spiteful]*

You're wrong! Mercy is not for the weak. It is for those who deserve it... and you've caused far too much pain to deserve mercy from me!

### HERO 2

*[Disappointment, resolved]*

I had the chance to choose between what was right, and what was easy... and I chose wrong. But I've been fighting every day since to fix my mistake.

### VILLAIN 1

*[Condescending, taunting]*

Surely, you've heard tales of my power. And yet here you stand before me. *[Evil laugh]* The foolishness of humanity never fails to surprise me. So tell me: Are you here to kneel... or to perish?

### VILLAIN 2

*[Maniacal, unhinged]*

Oh, I wish you could see the looks on your faces! The pain. The agony! It's simply... delicious!

## DUET ACTING

**Excerpt 1: (Paul and Julie are siblings whose mother is in the hospital. Julie hates her mother. Paul wants 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.

**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**

Two hundred and two years ago, a group of magicians got together and performed a collective act of ethical visualization. Or as I like to call it: a spell. Now, did they get everything right? No. No, they didn't. But that's what amendments are for, right? And the most magical and mysterious amendment of them all is Amendment 9, which says just because a certain right is not listed in the Constitution, it doesn't mean you don't have that right.

## **PUBLIC ADDRESS (FUNNY)**

ABC 7 in Chicago once ran a story on 9-year-old Tristan Jacobson, an "entrepreneur" who was selling lemonade... to pay for his own adoption. He sold lemon water to buy parents. Now that's capitalism! The news is quickly becoming Tinder on a Friday night: You hope for substance, but you'll settle for anything.

## **PUBLIC ADDRESS (PERSUASIVE)**

The Columbia Journalism Review noted in December that, during the pandemic, thousands of local news outlets laid off their journalists, including ones at my own. That means there's very little coverage of city council meetings. Tons of high school football, but not enough about how the city is run. And I'm one of the lucky ones - I actually *have* a local paper! The Washington Post on November 30, 2021, said that in the past 15 years, a quarter of all local papers have folded, leaving all of us less informed about our own communities.

## 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.