

AUDITION #1 (CONSTANZA, ORPHANAGE OWNER, ANNA)

Constanza: *(looking at money SHE has taken)* But, Signora, this is only enough for one day's worth of food?....

Owner: Children eat less than adults! Oh...very well. *(handing her some more)*
But, this is all she gets. We need this money at the orphanage more than she does. She'll have plenty of food where she's going.

Anna: Signora? Is that the ship I'll be sailing on? *(pointing to Bel Italia)*

Owner: Si. . .si.

Anna: Will I'll be bringing any of my clothes with me?

Owner: What does a rich American girl need with Italian clothes? No, no, selfish girl! Your rich aunt and uncle will buy you new ones, I'm sure. Besides, you should be thanking me now for everything I've done for you. If it wasn't for me, your aunt and uncle would never have sent for you.

AUDITION #2 (SIGNORA FONTANA, PAOLO, CAROLINA)

Signora Fontana: Carolina, I want you to watch your brother while I buy some fresh bread and sausage for the trip.

Carolina: But, Mama, he never listens to me

Signora Fontana: Paolo, you pay attention to what your sister tells you, or your father will hear about it when we get to America.

Paolo: But, Mama, she doesn't let me

Signora Fontana: Enough! Do not leave our baggage unattended. This is not the village, anymore.

Carolina: But, Mama, what could we do to stop a robber?

Signora Fontana: You scream-a for me as loud as you can. I'll be right over there. If I hear you screaming, I'll come running and then we'll see who wants to rob the wife of Antonio Fontana!

AUDITION #3 (RUSSIANS—ANUSHKA, ESTER)

Anushka: Here are our tickets. *(She passes them out.)*

Ester: I can't believe we're really going to America. I'm so excited.

Anushka: Keep your voice down, Ester. I won't feel sure until we are onboard and there is water between us and the shore.

Ester: Anushka, you're such a worrier.

Anushka: And with good reason. Do you still have the candlesticks?

Ester: *(exasperated)* Yes, for the hundredth time, yes. They're right here. *(patting a satchel she is carrying)*

Anushka: They belonged to my Moische's mother and he.....

Ester:would never speak to me again if I were to lose them. *(SHE finishes ANUSHKA's sentence)*

Anushka: I suppose you think you're very funny.

AUDITION #4 (GUISEPPE, VIOLETTA, SUSANNAH)

Susannah: The ship is boarding. Hurry! Hurry!

Giuseppe: *(imitating them)* Hurry! Hurry! You girls are always in a hurry.

Violetta: Us? Who was the one who was in such a hurry to sell our family farm and move to America!

Susannah: Enough of this arguing! The decision has been made. We are going to America, and that's that!

Giuseppe: Let's hurry and get our tickets so we can find us a good spot. You girls want to be together on the ship, don't you?

Violetta: I'd rather not be going on the ship, at all!

AUDITION #5 (TIMOTHY, DANIEL)

Timothy: Well, Daniel, me boy, we're on our way!

Daniel: Off to a new life! I'll miss the old sod.

Timothy: As long as the Irish must live like slaves in their own land, I won't be missing it for a moment. A curse on all the English lords and their like!

Daniel: Not so loud, Timothy!

Timothy: We're free now. No more hiding out in cellars for us! The valiant soldiers of Ireland will fight on without our help, now. We did what we could.

Daniel: We did what we could and I'd just as soon forget about it now. And hope that the authorities will forget about us!

Timothy: The "authorities" have plenty to worry about without chasing down a couple of bank robbers!

Daniel: Timothy! You must swear to me that you'll never speak of this to anyone, and I'll do the same. *(THEY clasp right hands.)*

Timothy: I swear on my mother's soul!

AUDITION #6 (COMMISSIONER WATCHORN, MRS. MACARTHUR, MISS ANDERSON)

Mrs. MacArthur: If I didn't know better, I'd think you were avoiding me, Commissioner Watchorn.

Comm. Watchorn: Certainly not, Mrs. MacArthur. It's always a pleasure to greet the president of the Ladies Aid Society and Temperance League.

Mrs. MacArthur: Yes. Well, in that vein, I have some things to discuss with you, of utmost importance.

Comm. Watchorn: I'm sure. But, first, allow me to introduce Miss Brigitte Anderson. She has been appointed by President Roosevelt himself, to survey our operation and recommend suggestions for reform, if need be.

Mrs. MacArthur: Miss...Anderson? Very pleased to meet you, I'm sure my dear, but, aren't you a bit young and inexperienced for such a job?

Miss Anderson: Miss. Yes. Well, I attended college with Alice Roosevelt where I majored in the study of social reform and philosophy. President Roosevelt thought I might bring fresh eyes to the problems here.

Mrs. MacArthur: Really.
AUDITION #7 (SAMMY TATE)

Sammy Tate: *(spoken)* Yes, it's definitely a time-consuming job. But don't get me wrong! It has its advantages. Why....a man in my position can certainly pick up a little something extra, if you know what I mean. Some of these greenhorns are stupid enough to leave their money in their baggage, and, as a "fool and his money are soon parted", I take it upon myself to teach these greenies a lesson in life.

AUDITION #8 (MACARTHUR, MADAME BONET, COMM. WATCHORN)

Mrs. MacArthur: Commissioner! **This** is the woman I spoke to you about. *(to M. Bonet)* Madame Bonet, this is Commissioner Watchorn. *(gesturing to M. Bonet)* Madame Bonet.

Madame Bonet: *(an elegant, well-dressed woman of color with a French accent)* Under other circumstances, I would be pleased to meet you, Commissioner.

Comm. Watchorn: Madame Bonet. You speak English very well.

Madame Bonet: I lived in London for two years while my husband was studying surgery. Now, Commissioner, if I might send my husband a telegram? I'm sure he must be worried about us. He was expecting us yesterday at the pier in New Jersey.

Comm. Watchorn: I'll have my stenographer send it for you. And what brings you to Ellis Island?

AUDITION #9 (NURSE MARTIN, JUTKA HARASZTI, EVA)

Jutka Haraszti: She's just very tired....really! We've had such a long journey and she had to stand on the ferry for such a long time.

Nurse Martin: Please. May I see the child? (*Nurse MARTIN takes ILDIKO in her arms and puts her hand on her head.*) She's burning up with fever.

Jutka: No. I'm sure she's just overtired.

Nurse Martin: M'am, your daughter appears to be very ill. We need to bring her to the hospital to examine her further.

Jutka; No! She'll be fine! Don't take her!

Nurse Martin: You may come along, as well, to be near her, but, I'm afraid the other children will need to go to detention. We don't want to risk them getting sick, too. Is there anyone you know who could go with your other children?

Jutka: (*tearfully*) Eva. (*calling out*) Eva! They won't let us through!

Eva: (*Pushing up to where JUTKA is with her children in tow*) Jutka! What's the matter?

Nurse Martin: M'am are you a friend of this lady?

Eva: Yes, she is my good friend.

Nurse Martin: It appears her daughter is very ill. We need to put her in the hospital and it would be better if her mother stays with her.

AUDITION #10 (DR. SCHMIDT, NURSE MARTIN, ULRIKA)

Dr. Schmidt: Nurse Martin, may I speak to you for a moment. (*NURSE MARTIN crosses to his side*) I believe this woman is with child. Could you take her for further examination?

Nurse Martin: Certainly, Doctor. (*to ULRIKA*) Ma'am? Would you come with me, please?

Ulrika: Come with you? (*her voice getting louder*) Where?

Nurse Martin: We need to examine you further, in private.

Ulrika: There's nothing wrong with me! I'm fine! (*shouting*) Hans! Hans! They're taking me away! Stop them!

Dr. Schmidt: Everything will be alright. We just need to speak to you in private.

AUDITION #11 (MISS ANDERSON, MRS. ELSWORTH)

Miss Anderson: There are so many people coming through this place, its incredible! I even met a ballerina, today!

Miss Elsworth: Indeed?

Miss Anderson: Yes. She danced at the ballet in St. Petersburg. She was forced to hide the fact that she was Jewish....**then** she found out her parents were killed in a pogrom in their village, so she decided to run away.

Mrs. Elsworth: How tragic!

Miss Anderson: But, Mr. Winston says he'll have to send her back because he's sure she is lying about an uncle she says she has. I wish there was **something** I could do to help her.

Mrs. Elsworth: Hmmmm. I happen to know the head of the New York Ballet. Maybe I could arrange an audition?

Miss Anderson: But, Mr. Winston won't let her out, I'm sure.

Mrs. Elsworth: I'll have him come **here**. After all, my husband donated a million dollars to his company, the **least** he can do is humor me in this instance.

AUDITION #12 (NICOLAI, WINSTON, WATCHORN)

Nicolai: We Russians believe in expressing our emotions. I was overcome with joy that my dream of America had finally come true. You cannot imagine my despair when my beautiful dream was turned to ashes by that Cossack! (*pointing to Mr. WINSTON*)

Winston: Cossack?!

Watchorn: I would hardly characterize Mr. Winston as a Cossack.

Nicolai: He cast us into prison! He's no better than the tsar and his henchmen! I expected more from America.

AUDITION #13**(PER, HELGA, BRUNNHILDE)**

- Per:** Listen to me. *(louder)* Listen to me, children. You must go to Minnesota to be with my son. I am old. I have lived a good, long, life. Your lives are just beginning. I will return to Sweden...
- Helga:** No, Papa!
- Per:** Do not argue with me, Helga! I am still head of the family, am I not?
- Helga:** Ja, Papa, but. . .
- Per:** Then, listen to me. You must all go on without me.
- Brunnhilde:** But, where will you go, grandfather?
- Per:** I've had my eye on the widow Gynt for some time now. Who knows? Perhaps I'll get married?

AUDITION #14**(KATE, COLLEEN, TIMOTHY, DANIEL)**

- Timothy:** Now don't be spoutin' proverbs to me, girl. You're beginning to sound like me old mother. *(laughingly nudges DANIEL.)*
- Kate:** *(raising a fist to him)* You'd better not be gettin' fresh with me or I'll begin to feel like your old mother, as well. *(KATE moves to slap him; TIM ducks and COLLEEN grabs her arm)*
- Colleen:** Kate! What are you doin'? The least we can do is offer our two countrymen a meal.
- Kate:** *(under her breath, to COLLEEN)* Are you crazy? We hardly have enough for ourselves!
- Colleen:** Shame on you, Kate Sullivan! I can't believe me ears! Mother would roll over in her grave if she could hear you speak!
- Daniel:** Please, ladies! We don't want to see two pretty sisters arguing on our account.
- Kate:** *(swiftly turning on him)* On **your** account?!

Colleen: *(warningly)* Kate.....?

AUDITION #15 **(ZSUZSI, ILDIKO, IRENKA, PAOLO)**

Ildiko: She's probably hungry.

Zsuzsi: She could be dead by now.

Irenka: Zsuzsi! What an awful thing to say! Cats are smart. She'll survive.

Ildiko: But, she was only a baby!

Paolo: Psssst! Psssst! *(the GIRLS look at PAOLO, who is whispering to them.)*

Zsuzsi: It's the boy who gave us the sausage!

Irenka: What do you think he wants?

Paolo: *(looking around secretively, PAOLO sneaks over to the GIRLS, then pulls the kitten out of his bag and hands it to ILDIKO.)*

Ildiko: Matzi! You saved our kitten!

AUDITION #16 **(PAOLO, ANNA)**

Paolo: *(he backs into ANNA. Turning to face her, HE says)* Scusa me!

Anna: No harm done.

Paolo: You're Italian?

Anna: Si. I'm going to America to live with my aunt and uncle. And, you?

Paolo: I'm going to meet my father.

Anna: By yourself?

Paolo: No, no! I'm with my mother and sister. The name's Paolo. *(HE extends his hand to shake hands with her.)*

Anna: *(curtseying)* Anna Christina del Amante di Borghese.

Paolo: *(impressed)* That sounds like a rich person's name!

Anna: *(explaining)* My parents were rich, but they died of Typhoid.

Paolo: Oh. I'm so sorry.

AUDITION #17 (NURSE, MARTIN, NURSE JACKSON, DR. SCHMIDT)

Nurse Jackson: More room? But, they've always been kept the way they are and we never had any problems before. I don't see why you need to change things and confuse everyone. *(shaking her head she goes off in a huff)*

Dr. Schmidt: It appears Nurse Jackson is not in good humor today.

Nurse Martin: This job can have that effect on a person. Except for you, Dr. Schmidt. I've never heard you utter an unkind word to anyone.

Dr. Schmidt: You flatter me, Nurse Martin. I tend to think of myself as something of a curmudgeon.

Nurse Martin: *(laughing)* Never that, Doctor.

AUDITION #18 (MRS. SUTTON, MRS. MACARTHUR, MRS. ELSWORTH)

Mrs. Sutton: But, she speaks English beautifully.

Mrs. Elsworth: With a charming French accent. And she is certainly very refined...

Mrs. Sutton: And well-dressed.

Mrs. MacArthur: Appearances can be deceiving, ladies.