

## HAIRSPRAY Audition Scenes

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose ONE of the following scenes. Feel free to choose to read any character in the scene.

### AUDITION #1 (From Act 2 Scene 3)

(Tracy's Jail Cell, late at night. Link slips in stealthily.)

LINK

Tracy? Where are you? It's me, Link Larkin. From the show.

TRACY

Link! Over here!

LINK

Shhh! The guard's asleep. Gee, you look beautiful behind bars.

TRACY

It must be the low-watt, institutional lighting. Link, what are you doing here?

LINK

Oh, Tracy, seeing you dragged off to jail brought me back to my senses. I thought I'd lose it when I thought I'd lost you. I couldn't eat, I couldn't sing. I couldn't even concentrate.

TRACY

You couldn't eat?

LINK

No. So I went down to the station to tell Mrs. Von Tussle I was through with the Miss Hairspray broadcast...

TRACY

You did?

LINK

I didn't. When I got to the station I overheard Mrs. Von Tussle talking to Spritzer. Tracy, it's Amber the talent scouts are coming to see. It had nothing to do with me. All this time I thought Amber and I were a team. She and her mother were just using me to make her look popular. I feel like such an idiot.

TRACY

That makes two of us.

LINK (suddenly romantic)

I know a palooka like me isn't worthy of a ground-breaking extremist like you, but... (he produces his ring.)

...It's a little scuffed from Amber throwing it in my face when I told her I'd rather be with you.

TRACY  
You did?

LINK  
I did. So, would you consider wearing my ring?

TRACY  
Would I? Would I?

LINK  
"To lose thee were to lose myself." Some kid named Milton wrote that in the third-floor boy's room.

TRACY  
It's beautiful. (She puts on the ring.) I have a good life: great parents, my own room, stacks of 45s, three sweaters, plus a learner's permit good through August. But do you know what I've been missing, Link?

LINK  
I think I do. (They try to kiss through the bars.) Tracy, they can keep us from kissing, but they can't keep us from singing.

## AUDITION #2 (from Act 1 Scene 7)

TRACY (answering the phone)

Hello? Yes, this is Tracy Turnblad. Hello, Mr. Pinky.

EDNA (in an excited whisper)

Mr. Pinky? *The* Mr. Pinky? As in "Mr. Pinky's Hefty Hideaway - Quality Clothes for Quantity Gals"? That Mr. Pinky?

TRACY

You want to hire me as your exclusive spokesgirl and fashion effigy?

(To Edna) What's an effigy?

(back on the phone) That's very flattering, but I'm afraid all business must go through my agent...It would be our pleasure. We'll be right over, Mr. Pinky. Goodbye! (hangs up phone.)

EDNA

An agent! I don't know any agents. (picks up phone.) How about a nice bail bondsman?

TRACY

Mother, put that thing down. I'm taking my new agent to the Hefty Hideaway and then out on the town.

EDNA

Who? Me? Tracy Turnblad, fame has gone to your head and left you wacky. You need a top-shelf professional. Who handled the Gabor sisters? Well, who didn't?

TRACY

Mama, there's a great big world out there I know nothing about. When things get rough, a girl needs her mother.

EDNA

Hon, I'll be right beside you, if that's what you want. And together we'll claw you way to the top. But can't we do it over the phone? I haven't been out of this apartment since Mamie Eisenhower rolled her hose and bobbed her bangs.

**AUDITION #3 (from Act 1 Scene 6)**

**SPRITZER**

Negro Day everyday? That chubby Communist girl and kissing on the mouth with possibly parted lips...I assure you, controversy is not what Ultra Clutch wishes to promote.

**CORNY**

Negroes and chubby girls buy hairspray, too, Mr. Spritzer.

**SPRITZER**

Mrs. Von Tussle, how do you plan to handle this?

**VELMA**

I plan to start by firing him!

**CORNY**

You can't fire Corny Collins from *The Corny Collins Show*.

**VELMA**

Why not? They do it all the time on *Lassie*.

**CORNY**

Mr. Spritzer, to keep your audience, you got to keep up with the times.

**VELMA**

This show's fine the way it is.

**CORNY**

Bringing Tracy on is just the beginning. I've got terrific ideas for updating the show.

**SPRITZER**

I'm getting one of my sick headaches. Is there a place where I might lie down?

**VELMA**

There's a bed in my office. (Velma turns on Corny) So, you've got ideas, do you? And going behind my back to put this no-talent Commie on the show is one of them?

**CORNY**

Damn right, Velma. It's time we put kids on the show who look like kids who watch the show.

**VELMA**

Not while I'm producing it.

**CORNY**

I was thinking it might be time to change that, too.

**VELMA**

Are you threatening me, Collins?

**CORNY**

Aw, you know me, Velma! On the other hand, I could always take the show to Channel 11. (He exits laughing.)

#### AUDITION #4 (from Act 2 Scene 4)

**MOTORMOUTH MAYBELLE**

Well, we all gotta get busy. Only twenty-four hours until Miss Hairspray, and it's gonna be on national TV. We may never get another chance like this. And this time we'll start by getting Corny and the guards at the studio to help us.

...

**TRACY**

I can't put all of you in any more danger. We should've thought more before we broke out. ...Ms. Motormouth, we've just been on three channels of news; I don't want you to get arrested for harbouring a fugitive.

...

**MOTORMOUTH MAYBELLE**

Hold it! Nobody ever said this was gonna be easy. If something's worth having, it's worth fighting for. Tracy, why did you start all this in the first place? Was it just to dance on TV?

**TRACY**

No.

**MOTORMOUTH MAYBELLE**

Was it so you could get the boy?

**TRACY**

No, I almost lost him because of it.

**MOTORMOUTH MAYBELLE**

Then maybe it was just to get yourself famous.

**TRACY** (taking exception, slightly)

No. I just think it's stupid we can't all dance together.

**MOTORMOUTH MAYBELLE**

So you tried once and you failed. We can't get lazy when things get crazy. Children, you were not the first to try and you won't be the last, but I am here to tell you that I'm gonna keep lining up until somebody breaks through. And I've been looking at that door a lot longer than you.

**TRACY**

What door?

**MOTORMOUTH MAYBELLE**

The front door.

## AUDITION #5 (from Act 1 Scene 2)

**WILBUR**

Hiya ladies. Since I got that new shipment of exploding bubble gum, business downstairs is booming! How are my two funny honeys?

**EDNA**

Oh, stop, Wilbur. You're the funny one.

**TRACY**

Daddy, tomorrow I'm auditioning to dance on a TV show.

**EDNA**

You're going to have to go further than that to get around me, young lady. No one's auditioning for anything. And what did I tell you about that hair? All ratted up like a teenaged Jezebel.

**TRACY**

Mother, you are so fifties. Even our first lady, Jackie B. Kennedy, rats her hair.

**EDNA**

Yeah? Well, you ain't no first lady, are ya? She's a hair hopper - that's what got her put in detention again. (Taking Wilbur aside) Wilbur, talk to her. Girls like Tracy...People like us...You know what I'm saying. They don't put people like us on TV - Except to be laughed at.

**WILBUR**

Tracy, this TV thing...You really want it?

**TRACY**

It's my dream, Daddy. (Pause)

**WILBUR**

Then you go for it! This is America, babe. You gotta think big to be big.

**EDNA**

Being big is not the problem, Wilbur.

**WILBUR**

When I was your age my parents begged me to run away with the circus, but I said, "No. That's what you want. I have dreams of my own." I dreamt of opening a chain of joke shops worldwide. So, okay, I've still got only one, but some day, if I can figure out how to keep the air from leaking out of my sofa-sized Whoopee Cushion, I'm going to make a noise heard 'round the world! (Edna laughs with delight.) You follow your dream, baby. I'm grabbin' an Orange Crush and heading back down to the Har-De-Har Hut. I've got my dream...And I wuv it!

**EDNA** (laughing again)

You're not helping Wilbur!