



GYPSY AUDITION SIDES

This document contains all the readings required for the Gypsy Auditions.

You should be familiar with your chosen reading, but you will be able to have the script with you in the room to refer to, so it does not need to be memorised.

All readings should be attempted with an American accent. You may be asked to perform a different reading to the one you've chosen.

1. Rose
2. Louise
3. June
4. Herbie
5. Tessie Tura/Mazeppa/Electra
6. Tulsa
7. Agnes
8. Kids
9. Pop
10. Miss Cratchitt
11. Uncle Jocko
12. Kringelein/Mr. Weber
13. Cigar
14. Announcer

ROSE

ROSE

"I thought you did it for me, Momma." "I thought you did it for me, Momma..." I thought you made a no-talent ox into a star because you like doing things the hard way, Momma.

(Louder)

And you haven't any talent! – not what I call talent! Talent for the deaf dumb and blind maybe. Not an ounce of it, Miss Gypsy Rose Lee. I made you! – and you wanna know why? You wanna know why I did it?

Because I was born too soon and started too late, that's why! With what I have in me, I could've been better than ANY OF YOU! What I got in me – what I been holding down inside of me -- oh, if I ever let it out, there wouldn't be signs big enough! There wouldn't be lights bright enough!

HERE SHE IS BOYS!

(Chord)

HERE SHE IS, WORLD!

(Chord)

HERE'S ROSE!!

(Cold anger)

I'm used to people walking out. When my own mother did it, I cried for a week. Your father did it, and then the man I married after him did it, and now – Well this time, I'm not crying. This time, I'm apologizing.

(To LOUISE)

To you. I pushed you aside for her. I made everything just for her.

LOUISE

No, Momma.

ROSE

But she says I can't make her an actress like she wants to be.

The boys walked because they think the act's finished. They think we're nothing without her.

(Now beginning to build in volume and strength and passion)

She's nothing without me! I'm her mother and I made her! And I can make you now! I'm going to make it up to you for all the years I pushed you in the back. And I will, my baby, I swear I will! I'm going to make you a star!

(She is carried away now by her own determination and emotion that she does not see the look that has come over LOUISE's face. With enthusiasm:)

I'm going to build a whole new act – all around you! It's going to be better than anything we ever did before! Better than anything we even dreamed!

LOUISE

LOUISE

Pack up your apples, girls, and back to the trees.

(THEY go)

Bon soir, messieurs et messieurs. Je m'appelle Gypsy Rose Lee et je suis dans le jardin de ma mere – Eve Minsky. And that concludes my entire performance -- in French. I've been too busy learning

(Grabs her behind)

Greek.

Where were you last night? Some men accused me of being an ecdysiast. Do you know what that means? He does. He's embarrassed. Don't be embarrassed. I like men without hair.

(To upper balcony)

Don't worry fellas. I know you're up there. Up there, you know what ecdysiast means...An ecdysiast is one who -- or that which -- sheds its skin. In vulgar parlance, a stripper. But I'm not a stripper. At these prices, I'm an ecdysiast.

LOUISE

Turn it off, Mother.

ROSE

Do you know what you are to them? A circus freak. This year's novelty act! And when the bill is changed –

LOUISE

I SAID TURN IT OFF! Nobody laughs at me – because I laugh first! At me! ME – from Seattle; me – with no education; me with no talent – as you've kept reminding me my whole life.

Well, look at me now: a star! Look how I live. Look at my friends! Look where I'm going! I'm not staying in burlesque. I'm moving – maybe up, maybe down -- but wherever it is, I'm enjoying it!

Mama, I'm having the time of my life because for the first time, it is my life! And I love it! I love every second of it and I'll be damned if you're going to take it away from me! I AM Gypsy Rose Lee! I love her – and if you don't, you can clear out right now!

JUNE

LOUISE

Aren't you happy someone like Mr. T. T. Grantziger thinks you can be a star?

JUNE

You're funny.

LOUISE

Why?

JUNE

Well, you're never jealous.

LOUISE

Oh. Well, I don't have any talent. I don't really mind - except Momma would like it better if I did.

JUNE

I guess that's what she likes about me. Momma's no fool. I'm not a star.

LOUISE

You are.

JUNE

I'm not! Mr. Grantziger could make me one if --

LOUISE

Momma can make you a star, too.

JUNE

Momma can do one thing: she can make herself believe anything she makes up. Like with that rhinestone finale dress you sewed for me. Momma wants publicity so she makes up a story that three nuns went blind sewing it! Now she believes it. She even believes the act is good.

LOUISE

Isn't it?

JUNE

It's a terrible act and I hate it! I've hated it from the beginning and I hate it more now! I hate pretending I'm two years old. I hate singing those same awful songs, doing those same awful dances, wearing those same awful costumes -- I didn't mean it about the costumes.

LOUISE

No. You just meant you're too big for them now.

JUNE

Do you ever feel like you didn't have a sister?

LOUISE

... Sometimes.

JUNE

It's Momma's fault.

LOUISE

You can't blame everything on Momma.

JUNE

You can't maybe. I wish she'd marry Herbie and let me alone.

LOUISE

Herbie doesn't want to marry her. All he cares about is the act.

JUNE

Goodbye, goodbye, Caroline -- take care. Don't forget to write!... Wait! Stop the train!

Stop the music! Stop everything! I can't go to Broadway with you!

LITTLE ROCK

Why not, Dainty June?

JUNE

Because everything in life that really matters is right here!
What care I for tinsel or glamour when I have friendship and true love? I'm staying here with Caroline!

HERBIE

ROSE

You're not married?

HERBIE

I had five sisters, and the ugly one didn't get married until a year ago.

ROSE

... Why'd you help me just now?

HERBIE

I love kids.

ROSE

Oh.

HERBIE

Also – I saw you before.

ROSE

Where?

HERBIE

Waiting outside Weber's office. You looked like a pioneer woman without a frontier.

ROSE

I don't suppose you'd consider being an agent again.

HERBIE

Would you consider marrying again?

ROSE

How do you know I'm not married now?

HERBIE

I asked your kids about you.

ROSE

Oh. Well, after three husbands, it takes an awful lot of butter to get you back in the frying pan.

HERBIE

And after twenty years of show business –

(Picks up bag)

- you kinda breathe better in the real world.

ROSE

Funny.

PASTEY

Hey Rose Louise, where the hell's your music and light cues?

HERBIE

I'll be right with you.

PASTEY

(Snotty)

You Rose Louise?

HERBIE

Yeah, I'm Rose Louise.

PASTEY

Things're looking up. Well, I got a show to open, Rose Louise, so move your ass.

(Before PASTEY can get out, HERBIE has grabbed him, whirled him around and holds him by the back of his collar)

HERBIE

Listen, you little punk. For the next two weeks, you're gonna speak like a Sunday school teacher. You have something in this theatre you've never seen before. A lady.

(Points him toward ROSE)

That is a lady.

(Points him toward LOUISE)

That is also a lady. Every girl in this damn act is a lady, you understand?

PASTEY

Yes, sir.

TESSIE TURA/MAZEPPA/ELECTRA

CIGAR

Tessie, I'm short a talking woman.

TESSIE

Tough titty.

CIGAR

Tessie, the new comic won't use a chorus girl.

TESSIE

Then let him use Mazeppa.

(To LOUISE)

Everyone else has.

(Laughs at her joke)

CIGAR

Now you know Mazeppa's got her Revolution Ballet just before his spot.

TESSIE

Cut the ballet. It stinks anyway.

CIGAR

Ah, be a sport. I'm in a bind.

TESSIE

You're always in a bind in the flea-bitten trap. I'm a strip woman, slob. I don't do no scenes. Now screw!

(To LOUISE)

Have you ever heard of a first class strip woman playing scenes? Well, you play stock in a dump like this; you gotta expect to be insulted.

CIGAR

The work is steady, ain't it?

TESSIE

But you bring in a new star for each show, don't you?

CIGAR

Tessie, it's just a few lines –

TESSIE

Fat boy, save your bad breath.

CIGAR

I'll give you ten bucks extra.

TESSIE

(Considering, then:)

Nah.

TESSIE

It ain't weighted right, goddammit. It scratches hell outa me and it just don't bump when I do.

MAZEPPA

(A stripper crossing behind TESSIE)

Maybe there's something wrong with your bumper.

TESSIE

Big joke. I'm out there bumpin' my brains off with no action and she's bein' witty! Hey you with the neck! I paid 6 bucks for that G-string. Now, back where you found it!

MAZEPPA

Miss Tura, I'll thank you not to give the boss any notion that I would ever play scenes. And one more disparaging remark about my ballet will find this bugle right up your –

TESSIE

Please: there's a lady present!

MAZEPPA

Where?

TESSIE

Open your eyes instead of your mouth. Gypsy, meet Miss Mazeppa
– And Miss Electra.

ELECTRA

Say, you're even younger than I was when I began stripping.

LOUISE

Oh, I'm not going to strip.

ELECTRA

Something wrong with stripping?

LOUISE

Oh, no. Oh, no. I just meant I don't have any talent.

TESSIE

You think they have? I myself of course was a ballerina. But take it from me, to be a stripper all you need to have is no talent.

MAZEPPA

You'll pardon me, but to have no talent is not enough. What you need to have is an idea that makes your strip special.

TULSA

TULSA

What do you make up dreams about?

LOUISE

... People

TULSA

Oh, I do that too.

LOUISE

Yes, but yours are about a partner for your act

TULSA

She's gonna be more than a partner, I hope.

I mean, I dream ... that one day, well, you...

(TULSA starts to dance around)

LOUISE

What would she have to be like, Tulsa?

A wonderful singer and dancer, I guess.

TULSA

Oh, no. I'm going to do most of that. I don't mean I'm going to hog it all, but - they always look at the girl ... in a dance team. Especially if she's pretty.

LOUISE

Makeup can help. And costumes.

TULSA

I've got the costumes all figured out. A blue satin tux for me -

LOUISE

With rhinestone lapels -

TULSA

You think?

LOUISE

I'll sew them on

TULSA

Okay. Thanks.

Well, I pretend I'm home getting dressed for a date. I comb my hair. I take a flower ... Put it in my lapel. Then I spot the audience

AGNES

AGNES

Here are the letters, Madam Rose

ROSE

That's a good girl. Now go to bed, Agnes

AGNES

Now that I'm an actress, it's Amanda

ROSE

Whatever it is, go to bed

AGNES

Could I ask Herbie a question first?

HERBIE

Sure

AGNES

Herbie ... do you think we'll ever work again?

HERBIE

I'll get us a booking, Amanda

AGNES

Thank you, Herbert

(Turns to go, then sees the wig)

Louise, your hair!!

LOUISE

It's yours if you want it

AGNES

Gee, I always wanted to be a blonde!

KIDS

BABY JUNE

You know, everybody has somebody to thank for their success.

Usually, it's their mother; and sometimes, it's their father.

But tonight, I would like you all to join me in giving thanks to an uncle of mine --
and an uncle of yours.

The greatest Uncle of Them All:

OUR – UNCLE – SAM!

POP

POP

You oughta be ashamed; fooling your kids with those dreams!

ROSE

They're real dreams and I'm gonna make 'em come real for my kids!

POP

What are you, Rose, a crazy woman?! God put you down right here because He meant for you to stay right here!

ROSE

God's like me, Pop: we both need outside assistance.

POP

You've squeezed the last penny outta me that you're ever gonna get!

ROSE

It ain't for me! It's for my girls. It's too late for me.

POP

It ain't too late for you to get a husband to support you.

ROSE

After three husbands, I want to enjoy myself. I want my girls to enjoy themselves and travel like Momma does!

POP

And you'll leave them just like your mother left you!

MISS CRATCHITT

HERBIE

I'd like to talk to Mr. Grantziger.

CRATCHITT

No. You can't disturb him when he's holding auditions.

HERBIE

Then I'll wait.

CRATCHITT

Listen, friend. Strictly between us, if I were you I'd sign that contract. There's only one item in that act of yours that the Boss likes: Dainty Little June. He thinks she can be an actress.

ROSE

He's right.

CRATCHITT

Can be. If she goes to school for a solid year and takes acting lessons. He's ready to pay for everything -- on one condition. (To ROSE) You stay away.

ROSE

Stay away? I'm her mother!

CRATCHITT

You said it, I didn't.

ROSE

What about the act?

CRATCHITT

(Shrugs)

One week at the Variety.

UNCLE JOCKO

JOCKO

Everybody - SHUT UP! ... All mothers - out!

Georgie, I don't want them in the wings, I don't want them in the theatre, I want them OUT!

All right, kids, now let's get in a straight line along here and come forward one at a time. The doors open at seven and Uncle Jocko doesn't have enough time to rehearse your darlin' acts.

(JOCKO takes a simpering little GIRL completely covered with balloons out of the line and moves her down, apart from the other KIDS)

You wait here, girly-girl.

(Calling out to the spot operator) Oh, Gus! Hit this doll with a surprise pink when she does her turn.

(to the GIRL) Uncle Jocko promised the wee bairn would be a winner, and she will

(To GEORGIE) Chip off her sister's block.

And you ought to see them balloons!

O.K. Let's have the first wee laddie in Uncle Jocko's Kiddie Show.

(Speaking to the conductor) Take each of them from the top and then cut to the last eight.

Every Friday night ya ta ta, ya ta ta, Uncle Jocko dinna ken there were so many talented bairns right here in Seattle and the rest of the crap - CLARENCE AND HIS CLASSIC CLARINET!

(indicating the KID) Georgie, that's what's gonna kill vaudeville.

KRINGELEIN/MR. WEBER

KRINGELEIN

(Haughtily) No cooking, Madam Rose?

ROSE

How dare you enter a lady's boudoir without knocking?

KRINGELEIN

(Advancing) Where's your hot plate?

ROSE

Where's your search warrant?

KRINGELEIN

In all the years I have been running a theatrical hotel -

ROSE

If you don't leave, I'm going to scream

KRINGELEIN

You know the rules. No cooking. No electrical appliances. No - no pets other than small (pushes a KID out of the way) - dogs or -

(KRINGELEIN opens the bathroom door. A little lamb runs out between his legs)

It's a GODDAMN ZOO!

ROSE

Profanity in front of my babies! June, get the Bible! Get the Bible!

KINGELEIN

You pack up this dirty menagerie and get out!

ROSE

You'll have to throw me out, you rotten ANIMAL HATER! (To OTHERS) That's what he is! Send for the S.P.C.A.!

KRINGELEIN

Send for the police. I rented these two rooms to one adult and three children! Now I see one adult! Five pets and one, two, three, four -

ROSE

You counted him twice!

KRINGELEIN

One, two, three, four - STAND STILL!

ROSE

Chow mein. I'd offer you some, but there's only one egg roll -

KRINGELEIN

How many are sleeping in that room?

ROSE

What room?

KRINGELEIN

THIS room, madam, THIS room!

CIGAR

CIGAR

I don't know why the hell I stay in this business. If it ain't one damn headache, it's another!

PASTEY

Ssh! They'll hear you out front

CIGAR

It's my theatre, ain't it? Let 'em! Last show, no talking women. Show before that, no second banana. If that crazy broad wasn't here, why did you start the performance?

PASTEY

She don't go on til next to closing, and she said was only goin' next door to the drugstore

CIGAR

What'd they arrest her for? Shoplifting?

PASTEY

No, soliciting

CIGAR

She always was greedy. Cut the spot.

PASTEY

It's the star strip!

CIGAR

Cut it

PASTEY

They'll yell murder if it's only the same bags they've been seeing the past eight weeks. The star's the novelty!

CIGAR

Whaddya want me to do? Let you strip?

ANNOUNCER

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

And now, ladies and gentlemen, Minsky's World Famous Burlesque takes great pride and pleasure in presenting – in her personal flesh – the undisputed queen of the Strip Tease – the one and only – the now and forever – the incomparable Miss – Gypsy – Rose – Lee in our salute to the Garden of Eden.