

Audition Monologues for *Singing in the Rain*

Kathy Selden:

Leave me alone. You're a criminal. I've seen that face someplace. You're a famous gangster. I've seen your pictures in the papers -- or in the post office, with a lot of numbers on your chest. (Takes a closer look) Wait a minute...You're Don Lockwood. (Hides excitement.) Uh...Mr. Lockwood-- I can't tell you how sorry I am about taking you for a criminal before, but it was understandable under the circumstances. I knew I'd seen you...even though I don't watch your movies. If you've seen one, you've seen them all. Oh, no offense. But you see, I'm not interested in the movies. I guess it's entertaining enough for the masses, but the personalities on the screen don't impress me; I mean, they don't act -- they just make a lot of dumb show... (Pantomimes a silent movie.) Acting means great parts and wonderful lines, speaking those glorious words from Shakespeare... Well, I am an actress on the stage.

Lina Lamont: (High-pitched, nasal, and anything but attractive)

You won't do nothing, R.F. You wouldn't want to call the papers and say Lina Lamont is a big fat liar! (Very pleased with herself) Ya see, I gave an exclusive story - to every newspaper in town. You can't control me anymore. What do you think I am? Dumb or somethin'? I had my lawyers go over my contract. Yeah...and you know what I found out... *I* control my publicity -- not you. Yeah! And the studio's responsible for every word printed about me. And if I don't like it, I can syoo (sue)! And if you tell the papers about Kathy Selden, it would be (Very grandly, like an elocution student) "Detrimental and deleterious to my career." I could syoo (sue) you for the whole studio. It says so right here. (Shows him)

Dora Bailey: (Joyous/boisterous)

Hello out there! This is Dora Bailey in front of Gauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood where audiences have just seen the silent screen's latest smash, Monumental Pictures' *The Royal Rascal*. And here they are now, the stars of the picture! Lina Lamont and Don Lockwood! And here comes Don's old vaudeville pal, Cosmo Brown. Don, did you ever imagine this? Here you are, standing between the two people who helped you become the success you are today. Your leading lady and your long-time writing partner. Don, the story of your success is an inspiration to the young people all over the world. Tell us just one little story? Or maybe a song from your old act? Take us back to where it all began.

Don Lockwood: (Suave, handsome, and charming)

(Making a speech to an adoring crowd.) Well, Dora, I've had one motto which I've always lived by: Dignity -- always dignity. This was instilled in me by Mum and Dad from the very beginning. They sent me to the best dancing schools.... Where I met my lifelong friend, Cosmo Brown. And with him, I used to perform for all Mum and Dad's society friends. Oh, they used to make such a fuss over me. Then, if I was very good, I was allowed to accompany Mum and Dad to the theatre. They brought me up on Shaw and Moliere, the finest of the classics. This stimulated my love for performing, and to this we added rigorous musical training at the conservatory. In a few years, Cosmo and I were ready to embark on a dance concert tour. We played the finest symphonic halls in the country.

Cosmo Brown: (Best friend guy, comedy figure)

(Talking to Don.) What's this one about? A French Revolution story? (Sees it in his head.) I've got it. Picture this. You're a French aristocrat -- she's a simple girl of the people -- and she won't even give you the time of day. (Don's not interested. Cosmo switches tactics.) Why bother to shoot this picture? Why don't you just release the last one under a new title? If you've seen one, you've seen them all. Come on now, Don. Snap out of it! You can't let a little thing like this get you down. Why...you're Don Lockwood, aren't you? And Don Lockwood's an actor, isn't he? What's the first thing an actor learns? The show must go on. Come rain, come shine, come sleet, come snow, the show must go on. (Trying to get Don to laugh.) So remember short people have long faces. Long people have short faces. Big people have little humor and little people have no humor at all! And in the words of that immortal bard, Samuel J. Snodgrass, as he was about to be led to the guillotine, MAKE 'EM LAUGH.

R.F. Simpson:

(Explaining to the crew why they have to shut down production.) Ok everybody! Save it! Go home! We're shutting down for a few weeks! (Reacting to upset crowd) I know, I know but we have a problem: it's the *The Jazz Singer*. It's a sensation! The public is screaming for more! More talking pictures! Silent movies are out. I know I said it was just a freak phenomenon, but we should have such a freak at this studio! I told you talking pictures were a menace, but no one would listen to me. We've got to put our best foot forward. *We're* going to make *The Dueling Cavalier* as a talking picture. Every studio is jumping on the bandwagon. All the theatres are putting in sound equipment. We don't want to be left out of it. Don't worry. It should be simple. You do what you always did... You just add talking to it. It will be a sensation! (with a grand gesture) "Lamont and Lockwood" -- They talk!