

HIVE Audition Script

Character: MATTHEW

CONTEXT: MATTHEW attempts to hosts a cast meeting with his ‘co-stars’, in an effort to co-ordinate their performances.

MATTHEW is holding a ‘cast meeting’. He hands out printed booklets.

MATTHEW

We’ve survived five shows so far and I think it’s fair to say we’re starting to develop a feel for the tone and rhythm of the narrative. However, I think we can all agree there’s room for improvement.

VIVIAN

What is this?

MATTHEW

Grace and I have been making a record of the joke-to-laugh ratio after each show. Using the Record Room we’ve broken the joke-types down into nine sub-categories-

VIVIAN

A performance review?

MATTHEW

No, no review. It’s just data. To start a dialogue.

DAVE

I think we need to focus on working out our characters.

MATTHEW

Dave, I’m glad you brought that up. I’ve actually already had some thoughts about my own character...

MATTHEW pulls out a stack of folded notes from his pocket.

MATTHEW

“Matthew James Pantaloon –A tale of tragedy and triumph. Draft 9”

JURI

Nine? “James” isn’t even his middle name, y’know-

MATTHEW

It’s a character, Juri, that’s the poi... would you just...?

(reading)

“Born and raised in the poor suburbs of South London, young Matthew was different even from a young age. A precocious and artistic soul, he was offered a musical scholarship at the Royal Academy of...”

JURI

“The poor suburbs of South London”? What are you, Oliver-fucking-Twist? Were you in a cockney gang too?

MATTHEW

If you’d shut up and let me finish you’d find out I reject that lifestyle for study! It’s a positive message about – just save your comments, Juri.

GRACE

Could we maybe speed up ...?

MATTHEW

(jumping forward several pages)

Aaaah, so... ah. “After several years traversing the globe, Matthew has been summoned back from Nepal to his ancestral Hostel. Still grieving after the tragic death of my beloved wife Asami in a –“

DAVE

Oh, uh... So this is awkward. I’d kinda been thinking of giving myself a “dead wife” back-story too...

MATTHEW

Oh. Uh, well... I mean, I built my whole character motivation around... I guess we can both have dead wives?

VIVIAN

Maybe it could be the same dead wife? Maybe we can all have dead wives! We can call the show “*The Dead Wives Society*”.

MATTHEW

Nh. Sounds derivative.

GRACE

Matthew, these notes sound like a terrific start. I do have some minor queries...

MATTHEW

Well, it’s just a draft, you know, so... We don’t need to worry about every little detail.

JURI

I have an actual, legitimate question – what did you use to print this spreadsheet?

MATTHEW

Oh, I forgot to tell you! We found an old imac G3 in the back!

END