

Please note you may be asked to do any of the below readings even if auditioning for ensemble.

READING 1 – Fred and Ralph

FRED. Ralph? Call everybody on.

RALPH. *(calling to wing)* On stage. Everybody. *(bang on the piano for attention)*

The ENSEMBLE comes on in front of the Show Curtain.

FRED. I want to thank almost every one of you for the fine spirit you've shown all throughout rehearsals. There'll be a gang down from New York with a lot of money but don't let that worry you. This is only a tryout and I know we're going to make a helluva show out of "Shrew." After all, we owe it to Mr. Shakespeare, not to mention those six other guys who've been sitting up nights re-writing him.

(ALL chuckle, but Lois laughs profusely.)

FRED. *(continuing)* You are unique. I love each and every one of you. Break a leg.

READING 2 – Fred playing Petruchio

PETRUCHIO: Setting all this chat aside,
Thus in plain terms; your father has consented That you shall be my wife;
And will you, nill you, I will marry you.
Now, Kate, I am a husband for your turn For by this light, whereby I see thy beauty-
Thy beauty that doth make me like thee well-
Thou must be marm'd to no man But lie.
For I am he, am born to tame you, Kate;
And bring you from a wild Kate to a Kate Comformable as other household Kates.

READING 3 – Lilli and Hattie

LILLI: Harrison, I'll marry you tonight. You don't know what that villain's done to me. I can't sit down. I said 'I can't sit down!' I'm through with the theatre. Send a car for me. Better still, send an ambulance. I'm black and blue. I want to go where no one will ever find me. I'll go to Washington. Oh, Harrison darling, it's a whole new world with you.

HATTIE comes in. LILLI covers the phone mouthpiece, yells at Hattie:

Hattie, pack my things! I'll wear my blue suit and my new hat-

HATTIE exits behind the folding dressing screen.

LILLI: Yes Harrison. He beat me. I'm black and blue!

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READING 4 – Lilli and Fred

LILLI: *(into the phone)* Hello? Hello, darling. I thought you'd be here by now. Oh, you're still at the White House? He is? He's taking your advice? Well, of course. Who doesn't. What? The President wants to talk to me? To unimportant little me- But what'll I say?

FRED takes the phone from Lilli and speaks into it.

FRED: Is it true you've declared Baltimore a disaster area?

LILLI: *(pulling the phone away)* How dare you! Mr. President! I apologize - Can you come to see my performance in Baltimore? Oh - Security?

FRED: Yow'll be perfectly safe. Miss Vanessi keeps the theater empty.

LILLI: That was no one, Mr. President. Just an actor. Not a real man like you... Like him. He is wonderful, isn't he... Hello, dearest. The President just said how wonderful you were. I miss you so much. I know you have no time to see my little performance in my little show but when will I see you? You have big news? It's top secret? I can't wait. Yes, darling ... no, darling. Yes, darling. No. No. Yes, love. I'm blowing you two kisses.... Yes, darling ... I adore you. *(she hangs up)*

READING 5 – Fred

FRED: *(to conductor)* Thank you, Paul. Thank you, Paul! Paul!

The CONDUCTOR stops the musicians. FRED addresses the audience.

Ladies and Gentlemen, due to unavoidable circumstances, the scene which was to have opened the second part of "The Shrew" will have to be omitted this evening. It's the scene on the mule where I, Petruchio, take Katharine, my wife, to Verona. We have a slight accident where my wife rolls off the mule into the mud and proceeds to revile me. Miss Vanessi is unable to ride the mule this evening. We are, therefore, continuing with the next scene, which takes place in Petruchio's house. I thank you.

FRED bows and exits. Music segues.

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READING 6

GENERAL. But chastising the little woman is the sacred privilege of a husband and no one else. You were out of line there, soldier.

FRED. Yes sir, General!

GENERAL. Restoring family discipline, Graham. Cherishing our women no matter what it takes. That is my message to the American people. That is why I'm letting Miss Vanessi make her farewell appearance in this little show of yours. "The Taming of the Shrew." I like the title and I like what it has to say.

READING 7

1ST MAN: (*tearing up I.O.U.*) Mr. Graham, I guess this is the end of our very pleasant association.

FRED. What's this?

1ST MAN. I guess we got to declare a moratorium on you seeing as how Mr. Gumpy declared a moratorium on Mr. Hogan. His unidentified remains will be found floating in the Bay tomorrow.

2ND MAN. Rest his soul.

1ST MAN. So that lets you out... and we must part.

READING 8

BAPTISTA: My dear Bianca and her newfound spouse. Brother Petruccio....daughter Katharine.

Feast with the best and welcome to my house. (*then, stalling*) But where is Katharine? (*to Petruccio*) Where is she?

(*To the Priest as the PRIEST crosses to BAPTISTA.*)

Sirrah, go you to mistress Katharine (*PRIEST backs up shaking his head*)

Say I command her come to me.

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READING 9

LOIS. Did you sign an I.O.U. again?

BILL. Uh huh. They wouldn't have let me out alive unless I did.

LOIS. Whose name did you sign this time?

BILL. Fredric C. Graham. *(writes the name in the air)*

LOIS. Mr. Graham? Bill, Mr. Graham has given us our big chance. Do you want to play clubs all your life?

BILL. Hey, we were doing all right, weren't we?

LOIS. It's just as Mr. Graham said: "Give a Broadway hooper a chance to play Shakespeare and..."

BILL. Mr. Graham --Your hero!

LOIS. Mr. Graham is a great actor und a gentleman. But, he's just culturing me. There's nothing wrong between him and I, I mean, he and me.

BILL. I know...art. The greatest come-on for a cheapskate. If he can promise you glory, I can sign his name.

LOIS. Mr. Graham is not a cheapskate. He said I didn't need diamonds. I glittered natural..... I'll never forgive you if anything happens to Mr. Graham before I'm a star on Broadway -

BILL. Gee, honey, I'm sorry.

LOIS. If only you meant it!