

# ***The Audition***

**A Short One-Act Comedy By Stafford Krause**

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**4555 S. Mission Rd. #382, Tucson, AZ 85746  
(520) 434-6117      [staffx@earthlink.net](mailto:staffx@earthlink.net)**

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### **Announcer**

**John Hadsell:** Director of upcoming play to be presented by The Old Time Players of Comfort Assisted-Living Home.

**Agnes Smyth:** Actress wishing to audition for the upcoming play.

## TIME AND PLACE

The present time on the Comfort Assisted-Living Home auditorium stage. There is a table with two chairs and a pencil and pad on the table.

## The Audition

*(ANNOUNCER appears in front of the curtain)*

### **ANNOUNCER**

Things have not been going well of late for The Old Time Players of the Comfort Assisted-Living Home. Age and accidents have taken their toll... with recent several knee and hip replacements and untimely accidents just days before their last shows.

*(ANNOUNCER exits and CURTAIN RISES on the auditorium stage. JOHN is seated at the table downstage center. AGNES enters downstage left and approaches him)*

### **JOHN**

May I help you?

### **AGNES**

Yes, I'm looking for where they're holding the tryouts for the new Old Time Players play.

### **JOHN**

You've come to the right place. We're holding auditions here today.

*(... standing and extending his right hand)*

I'm John Hadsell, Director of the play.

### **AGNES**

*(... shaking John's hand)*

I'm Agnes Smyth. I'm so glad to meet you.

### **JOHN**

Same here. Were you thinking of auditioning for a part in the play?

### **AGNES**

Yes I was. I'm so excited to find a theater group here at the home. This is our first year here and I have missed my theater activities so much. I just love the greasepaint, the crowds... "Break a leg" and all that.

**JOHN**

Ah! We don't use that expression around here anymore...

*(pause)*

But we're always interested in adding new talent to our Old Time Players group.

*(... offering her a chair)*

Won't you have a seat?

*(They BOTH sit down at the table)*

**JOHN**

So you have been active in the theater before?

**AGNES**

Yes I've done just about everything there is to do in the theater. I've acted almost all my life and was the drama teacher at Hillside High in Hillside, California for almost 30 years.

**JOHN**

Oh. wonderful, wonderful.

*(... picking up a pad and pencil)*

Well, let me just get a little more information about you before we proceed with the audition.

Now your name is Agnes Smyth ... that's spelled S-M-Y-T-H?

**AGNES**

Yes that's right.

**JOHN**

We don't ask ages here ... but may I have your apartment number and phone number.

**AGNES**

We're in apartment 329 and our phone number is 520-423-9769.

**JOHN**

Great. Now I just have a few more questions.

*(pause)*

Have you ever broken your hip?

**AGNES**

*(... looking surprised)*

Why ... no.

**JOHN**

How about your leg?

**AGNES**

No.

**JOHN**

Any hip or knee replacements?

**AGNES**

No.

**JOHN**

Do you use a walker, crutches or a cane?

**AGNES**

No. Why are you asking all these funny questions?

**JOHN**

Well, we have so many actors in our club that have broken their hips and such that we've had to adapt to it.

**AGNES**

What do you mean adapt?

**JOHN**

We have so many actors on stage with canes, crutches and walkers that it would look funny not to make things more uniform.

**AGNES**

Uniform?

**JOHN**

Yes. For the sake of consistency we decided that all our actors must use canes, crutches or walkers in our future plays.

**AGNES**

Well that does seem a bit ... ah... different.

**JOHN**

May be so. But this has become so epidemic that Old Time Players had no choice but to adapt.

We even established a couple of new annual awards relating to this situation.

**AGNES**

Awards?

**JOHN**

Yes. There's the Hattie Johnson perfect timing award.

**AGNES**

Perfect timing award?

**JOHN**

Yes. We give this award to an actor in a current play who breaks his hip or leg within one week of opening night ... and is too incapacitated to perform in the play.

*(pause)*

Then there's the Joe Thomas reaching new heights award.

**AGNES**

Reaching new heights award?

**JOHN**

Yes. This is open to any member of Old Time Player who fractures his hip or leg anytime by falling from a height greater than 6 ft.

**AGNES**

*(... looking dumbfounded)*

Oh!

**JOHN**

Going on then ... Can you walk with a limp?

**AGNES**

Well I suppose I could ... acting of course.

**JOHN**

Good. Good.

*(pause)*

Now if you do get a part in the play what type of medical device would you like ... a cane, crutches or a walker?

**AGNES**

Well I suppose that if I have to I'll take the cane.

**JOHN**

*(... flipping to another page on his pad)*

Now let me see.

*(HE pauses as if perusing information on the page)*

Oh, I'm sorry. We're all out of canes.

Would crutches be all right?

**AGNES**

*(... really looking astonished and shrugging her shoulders)*

Well I guess so.

**JOHN**

Good. Good.

*(... flipping to another page on his pad)*

I'll put you down then for our crutches orientation course.

**AGNES**

Crutches orientation course?

**JOHN**

Yes. We hold the course one hour before each Thursday's rehearsal. One must learn to swing on the crutches without hurting themselves or others.

And there are stairs on our sets that one must learn to go up and down safely.

You know ... Good foot up first ... bad foot down first.

**AGNES**

*(... totally confused)*

Good foot up first ... bad foot down first ???

**JOHN**

Well, that just about does it.

Just one more thing and we can get on with the audition.

**AGNES**

What's that?

**JOHN**

*(... pointing upstage left)*

Would you please walk over there.

*(AGNES walks, with a girlish swing to her hips, to where John has pointed.)*

*(When she stops SHE looks back at John over her shoulder.)*

**AGNES**

Is this alright?

**JOHN**

I'm afraid that won't do at all at Comfort Assisted-Living.

*(pause)*

But we do have several openings backstage.

**CURTAIN**