

## Theatre Three presents **WORKING**

**NONE of the following material needs to be memorized.**

Please prepare one of the following speeches to read in the audition. You may be asked to read an additional piece.

### **FOR THE MEN**

FRANK DECKER (Trucker). If you want to have a thrill, there's no comparison, not even a jet plane, to climbing on a steel truck and going out there on the Dan Ryan Expressway. The minute you climb into that truck, you forget about the wife and kids you just kissed goodbye and the adrenaline starts pumping. You're gone for a week, two weeks, picking up a load at one port, delivering it to another. You sit in that truck, your only companionship is your own thoughts. And you don't want to get stuck thinking about your problems at home. Coming home to your wife can be a sorta let down. She has to raise the kids, she has to fight of the bill collectors. She can't even count on her husband to be at a graduation or a communion. When you do get home, you're so tired you'd rather be sleeping than getting ready to go out on a Saturday night. I make two round trips to Evansville and pass within four blocks of my house and never go home. Easier to just keep on going. So you call your wife and tell her you won't be back.

CHARLIE BLOSSOM (Ex-newsroom assistant). My name is Charlie. I'll be twenty in three weeks. So I got recommended for this job in a news room on a Chicago paper. I went down to the paper and talked to the editor, told him how much I wanted to be a journalist. He liked me—I had a tie on. Coming to work for me was kind of missionary kind of thing. I was bringing organic walnuts and organic raisins and just giving them away to everybody. See, at this stage of the game, I was in a very spiritualistic mood. I was enjoying my job, because I was answering phones most of the time. People would call up and complain or have a problem, and I'd say: "This is a capitalist newspaper. And as long as it's a capitalist newspaper, it's not gonna serve you, because its purpose is to make money for its owner." And I'd tell them to call up the editor. So the editor calls me into his office and he's like, "Blah blah blah blah blah ..." I wanted to take a baseball bat and smash his head in. I mean, he's a really nice person, I like him a lot. I don't know if I would get any pleasure from killing him.

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REX WINSHIP (Hedge fund manager). I'm a guy who likes to work. Some people enjoy tennis. I enjoy work. I like the responsibility of having a team of people working for me. In the world of money, money-management is still the sexiest job there is. Ask any girl at the East Bank Club. Money is hot. True story—they did a study that found that just looking at Maserati made girls produce twice as many hormones as normal. Oh, yeah. If someone wants to call me a shallow douchebag, a corporate tool, a freakin' 'robber baron'—I take it as a compliment. Abso-fuckin-lutely. That's what this country is about—the free market. Some people will lose jobs. And some people will lose money. But that's just basic capitalism. Everybody works long hours these days. Kid wants to make it, he's gotta be willing to work long hours. And he's gotta know how to outsmart the regulators to make a profit. Christ, if you can't outsmart one little government staff, you shouldn't come to work in the morning.

ALLEN EPSTEIN (Community Organizer). An organizer is someone who brings in new members. You try to build an organization that will give people the power to make the changes. I put together a fairly solid organization of rural people in Pike County to stop Bethlehem Steel from strip mining. I had to tell people again and again that they had the stuff to do the job, that it's possible to win. You see, most people in their guts don't really believe it. Nobody believed we could stop Bethlehem Steel. But see, all that people in Pike County really wanted was a park, just a place for their kids. And Bethlehem said, "Go to hell—we're not going to give you a damn thing." So I got twenty, thirty people together I saw as leaders and say, "Let's get that park." They said, "We can't." I said, "Yes, we can." So we got enough people together—we wrote letters, we protested, until finally we got on TV. And Bethlehem caved. Couple months later, four thousand people from Pike County drove up to watch bulldozers grading down the land to make that park. I think we have it inside us to change things.

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### **FOR THE WOMEN**

AMANDA McKENNY (Project Manager). I'm a project manager. I'm here at work at 7:30 AM, I leave at 8 PM. In between my meetings, I answer messages and email—and try to avoid my boss. You always have a boss. Sometimes you have an OK boss, and sometimes you have a Satan boss. He's not behind me is he? I wish these walls were like—a little higher. I've been in a lot of different cubicles. I've been in the high-wall cubes, I've been in the half-height cubes. Listen—the way things are these days, I'm glad to be in any cubicle at all. I have friends who would kill for this job, for any job. Jobs are not big enough for people. When you ask most people who they are, they define themselves by their jobs: "I'm a doctor." "I'm a carpenter." "I'm a sportscaster." If someone asks me, I say, "I'm Amanda McKenny. At certain points in time, I do things for a living."

MAGGIE HOLMES (Cleaning Woman.) You know what I always wanted to do? I wanted to play the piano. That's what I really wanted. And I'd write songs and things, about my life growin' up in the south, and my mama and grandmama ... Now I got my own, beautiful daughter, and I got plans for her. So, I leave my house every morning and go scrub rooms up at the Marriot. And at night, I come here to this office an it's scrubbin' again. For generations, that's all we done—scrubbin'. My grandma, my mama and me. But my daughter, she ain't gonna do no domestic work. I aim to be the end o' that particular line.