

Speaking Parts
to audition for
Miss Hannigan

JULY

Annie, you're crazy. Miss Hannigan'll catch you.

TESSIE

And give you the paddle.¹⁶

ANNIE

I don't care. I'm gettin' outta here.

(With a basket under her arm)

Okay. I'm ready. Wish me luck.

ALL EXCEPT PEPPER

Good luck, Annie.

PEPPER

So long, dumbbell. And good luck.

(With the basket under her arm and shining the flashlight in front of her, ANNIE sneaks on tiptoe across the stage, toward the front door. Suspenseful MUSIC underneath. As ANNIE reaches to open the door, MISS HANNIGAN, wearing a bathrobe, flings open her door and, witch-like, stands bathed in white light before ANNIE)

MISS HANNIGAN

Aha! Caught you!

(Flings ANNIE to the floor¹⁷ and switches on the hallway light.

LIGHTS brighten)

Get up. Get up!

ANNIE

(Getting up, warily¹⁸)

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

Turn around.

(ANNIE doesn't)

I said turn around.

(ANNIE turns around and MISS HANNIGAN hits her on the backside with a paddle¹⁹)

There! Now, what do you say? What... do... you... say?

ANNIE

(Reluctantly; through her teeth)

I love you, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

Rotten orphan.

ANNIE

(Angrily)

I'm not an orphan. My mother and father left a note saying they loved me and they were coming back for me.

MISS HANNIGAN

That was 1922; this is 1933.²⁰

(Switches on the LIGHT in the dormitory, sticks her head through the door and BLOWS her whistle)

Get up! Now, for this one's shenanigans,²¹ you'll all get down on your knobby little knees and clean this dump until it shines like the top of the Chrysler Building!²²

TESSIE

(Starting to cry)

But it's four o'clock in the morning.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Laughs cruelly)

Get to work.

ANNIE, ORPHANS

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

Now!

(ORPHANS run for pails and return to front)

Why any kid would want to be an orphan, I'll never know.

⁴⁶ Actor's note: MISS HANNIGAN is playing the saint so WARD will not see how terribly she treats the orphans.

WARD

Good afternoon. Miss Hannigan, is it?

MISS HANNIGAN

Yeah.

WARD

I'm Lt. Ward of the 17th Precinct. We found your runaway.

MISS HANNIGAN

Oh, thank you, Officer.⁴⁸

WARD

She was in one of them⁴⁹ Hoovervilles⁵⁰ over to the river. With a bunch of bums.⁵¹

ANNIE

They weren't bums.

WARD

Had a mangy⁵² mutt with her, but he got away.



A typical Hooverville of the period.

MISS HANNIGAN

Oh, poor punkin', out in the freezin' cold with just that thin sweater. I hope you didn't catch influenza.⁵³ Thanks so much again, Officer.

WARD

All in the line of duty.

(To ANNIE)

And you. Don't let me ever hear that you run away again. From this nice lady.

(To MISS HANNIGAN with a little salute)

Good afternoon.

MISS HANNIGAN

Good afternoon, Officer.

(Sees WARD out, then REENTERS her office)⁵⁴

The next time you walk out that door, it'll be 1953. Well, are you glad to be back? Huh?

ANNIE

(Cowed⁵⁵; reluctantly)

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

Liar! What's the one thing I always taught you: never tell a lie.

(Grabs ANNIE around the shoulders, tossing her from side to side.⁵⁶

GRACE

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Switching off the radio)

Whatsa matter, Warbucks fed up with Annie already?

GRACE

On the contrary...

(Hands MISS HANNIGAN a legal document)

Miss Hannigan, this has to be signed and sent back to the Board of Orphans no later than 10 o'clock tomorrow.



A radio from the period.

MISS HANNIGAN

What for?

GRACE

Because Mr. Warbucks is so taken with Annie that he wants to adopt her.

MISS HANNIGAN

Annie? The daughter of a millionaire?

GRACE

The daughter of a billionaire.

MISS HANNIGAN

Would you excuse me for a moment, please?

(Goes out into the hallway, lets out a long, loud scream of fury and frustration, then returns to the office)

Got any more wonderful news?

GRACE

Merry Christmas, Miss Hannigan.

(As GRACE EXITS, she bumps into ROOSTER)

ROOSTER

Oops, pardon me, blondie.¹⁰³

(GRACE gives ROOSTER a disdainful look and EXITS; ROOSTER ENTERS)

Hi ya, Sis. Long time no see.

MISS HANNIGAN

Rooster? They finally let you outta prison? What were you in for this time?

ROOSTER

Some old geezer¹⁰⁴ said I swindled¹⁰⁵ him outta eleven hundred bucks.

MISS HANNIGAN

Why'd he say that?

LILY

(ENTERING)

Because the Rooster swindled him outta eleven hundred bucks.

ROOSTER

Sis, I'd like you to meet a friend of mine from...

LILY

Jersey City!¹⁰⁶

MISS HANNIGAN

Rooster, do me a favor. Get outta here.

ROOSTER

So who was the blondie I bumped into when I come in? Looked like she had a couple of dollars.

MISS HANNIGAN

She works for Oliver Warbucks.

LILY

The Oliver Warbucks?

MISS HANNIGAN

Annie, one of the orphans from here, is gettin' adopted by him.

LILY

Crummy orphan!

ROOSTER

Yeah, livin' in the lap of luxury¹⁰⁷ while the two Hannigan kids ended up on the skids!¹⁰⁸