

To Sir With Love
Audition Package
(Students)

Good day, and thank you for considering to audition for the 2023/2024 Grande Prairie Live Theatre Production of "To Sir With Love".

This Production is set in 1948, only three years after the end of the second world War. It is set in a run-down East London Victorian School. The play is based on the 1948 Book, "To Sir With Love", written by Rick Brathwaite. It was made into a Movie in 1967, starring Academy Award winner Sidney Poitier. Interestingly enough, the Stage production was not adapted until 2013, by Ayub Khan Din.

As this play is written about a different time and place, it does contain offensive language and situations that may be objectionable to any participants who may audition for this show. Interestingly, that some of these situations continue to this day, as troubling as they are. But it is best to show them as they were and could possibly still be.

This audition package only contains 2 scenes from the production.

There will be 2 sessions of auditions run on August 26 , 2023

9:00 am to 12:00 pm, August 26, 2023 **Adult Audition**

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm August 26, 2023 **Student Audition**

It is important that you be available at that time so that we may evaluate your potential for the show.

The Show is scheduled to run in February 2024

There is no requirement to memorize any of the scenes for the audition.

ACT I Scene 4
ACT I Scene 6

To Sir With Love

Act I Scene 4

The Classroom

Rick

The Students

♪ Chopin's "Fantasy-Improptu"

We hear Chopin's Fantasie-Improptu

stands in front of the class period kids sit at desks. Looking sullenly at him.

154. Rick: Well, I thought that was a most interesting assembly.

Pause

No one says anything. They just stare silently back at him. He turns and starts to write on the blackboard.

How interesting that the headmaster should use my favorite composer, Frederick Chopin. And John Keats, "La Belle Dame Sans Mercy". A poem I too learned at school.

The blackboard now has "John Keats 1795 - 1821." Alongside "Frederick Chopin 1810 - 1849". He turns and looks back at the class. They are still staring at him.

Both renowned artists of the Romantic school. Does anybody know anything about the Romantic school?

The Kids continue to stare. Rick looks uncomfortable and puts down the chalk.

155. Denham: Is it in Stepney?

156. Rick: *(unsure how to take it)* Erm, no, what I mean is -

157. Denham: Then we wouldn't know about anything about it. Would we?

Beat.

158. Rick: No - Well then...

159. Monica Page: It's in Bromley - by - Bow. Three Mills - near the brewery.

160. Denham: Naaah, it ain't.

161. Rick: yes. Thank you... now, the headmaster has told you my name, but it will be some little while before I know all of yours. So in the mean time, if I just point at you, I hope it won't be taken rudely.

162. Monica Page: It's gotta be on the Whitechapel Road then.

182. Denham: In... I... g-ot... bod... illy... in... to the... app... le... baaaarel -barrel.

183. Rick: Thank you, Denham. You can sit down now.

184. Monica Page: That was worth the bleedin' weight.

Rick looks at her.

185. Rick: You seem to have a lot to say for yourself. Who might you be?

186. Monica Page: Monica Page, Sir. Should I read for you now, Sir?

187. Rick: If you will, please.

She grabs at the book held by Denham.

188. Monica Page: Gis' that –

189. Denham: Get your own.

190. Rick: It's Treasure Island, Monica. You should have your own copy.

She reaches into her desk, looks, and pulls out the book.

191. Monica Page: This it?

Rick nods his head.

What page?

192. Denham: Fifty-three.

193. Rick: It's of no consequence.

194. Monica Page: Fifty-three. Here we go.

Monica Page gives a sniff, pushes out her breasts and starts to read. And in a BBC Watch with Mother voice, says:

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.

195. Rick: Yes, thank you, Monica.

196. Monica Page: "In I got bodily into the barrel and found there scarce an apple left"

All the others start to laugh.

Get stuffed, you lot. At least I can read.

197. Rick: Thank you, Monica. You may sit down now.

198. Monica Page: *(pleased with herself)* I'm good, aren't I, Sir?

199. Rick: Well, you read all the words, but didn't necessarily make any sense of them. A feat I doubt Robert Louis Stevenson himself could ever have imagined.

218. Rick: It doesn't matter.

219. Monica Page: Fifty-three, Seales.

220. Seales: "In I got... bodily... into the bar... reland... found there s... c... arse... ly s... carse... ly...

221. Rick: Scarcely. Scarcely - It means few. Less.

222. Seales: "and found... scarcely an apple left"

The lights slowly fade. They come up and Rick is standing looking out the window. Another boy is reading as badly as the others.

223. Archie: In I got bodily –

224. Rick: (*irritated*) Maybe start from another part of the book?

225. Monica Page: At least get us out of this bleedin' barrell, it's getting a bit crowded in here!

The class starts to laugh.

226. Rick: Sit down, please.

Rick walks up and down the aisles.

I take it you would all agree that this book was written in English, your language and that of your ancestors? After listening to you read, I'm not so sure whether you are reading badly deliberately, or that you are unable to understand, or express yourselves in your own language. However, it may be that I've done you the injustice of selecting the worst readers. Would anyone else like to read for me.

Pamela Dare raises her hand.

And you are?

227. Pamela Dare: Pamela Dare, Sir.

Rick gestures that she has the floor.

Pamela takes out a different book.

"Oh what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,

Alone and palely loitering?

The sedge has withered from the lake,

And no birds sing.

Oh what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,

So haggard and so woe- begone?

The squirrels granary is full,

To Sir With Love

Act I Scene 6

Classroom

Rick

The Students

Rick stands at the blackboard. He takes a second and begins to clean it off..

260. Denham: You rubbin' off Chopin and Keats, Sir? I thought you liked 'em?

261. Monica Page: That's why he's rubbin' 'em off!

The Kids start to laugh.

262. Rick: Our arithmetic lesson will be on weights and measures. As with our reading lessons, I'm trying to find out how much you actually know so I can gauge how best to help you. So you can help me by answering questions as fully as you are able. Does anyone know the table of weights and avoirdupois?

263. Monica Page: "Aver what?

264. Denham: I've had her.

265. Monica Page: No you haven't, Denham. Ignore him, Sir.

266. Denham: I've felt 'em!

267. Nora: Who hasn't.

268. Monica Page: Shut it, you scrubber!

269. Nora: Takes one to know one.

270. Denham: I've had her an' all!

271. Nora: In your dreams, Denham.

272. Archie: In my dreams, actually!

Archie grabs his cheeks and starts to pull on them making a wet, squelching sound. Some of the Girls scream out. This has the whole class in an uproar of laughter as other Boys follow suit.

273. Rick: Quiet down, please!

The classroom goes quiet as Rick stares them down.

Avoirdupois. It refers to those weights commonly used in grocer's shops and suchlike.

274. Denham: Yeah, I know.

290. Denham: She's a Jew, so she should know. Probably got'em stashed away all over the house.

291. Fernman: Shut it, Denham.

292. Denham: Oh, have I upset your girlfriend?

293. Rick: What did you mean by that remark, Denham?

294. Denham: What?

295. Rick: You referred to Miss Joseph as a Jew who would know about diamonds.

Denham has no idea what Rick is talking about. He looks to the others.

296. Denham: It was a joke.

297. Monica Page: Yeah, it was a joke.

298. Rick: Two years ago, the war ended. We are now in the process of trying members of the Hitler regime for the systematic murder of men, women and children, whose only crime was that they were Jews. The victims are now being numbered in the millions, do you think that's funny, Denham.

299. Denham: *(surly and defensive)* I didn't mean it like that, did I? - I just said -

300. Rick: That's how it begins, Denham... When people "just say". Don't let me hear you "just say" it again. Any of you.

Pamela Dare stands up and runs her fingers through a glass-bead necklace around her neck.

301. Pamela Dare: Pearls is more my line, Sir. Much more sophisticated, I think. A single string of pearls.

There is a chorus of 'Wooooo'! 'Get her' from the class.

302. Denham: Why didn't you say so, Pam. I've got a pearl necklace for you right here!

He grabs at his crotch and gives it a rub. Again, pandemonium.

Rick slams his book down on the desk. Everyone looks up at him.

303. Rick: I said enough!

I find it very interesting and encouraging to discover that you have a sense of humor, especially about something as simple and elementary as weights. As a matter of fact, you seem to find everything quite amusing. You were amused at your inability to read simple passages in your own language, and now you are amused at your own ignorance of weights. It is there therefore clear to me that we shall have a delightful time together, you seem to know so very little, and so are easily amused, that I can look forward to a very happy time.

The Kids are unsure of what Rick has just said. There are a few murmurs of discontent.

304. Monica Page: Are you allowed to say that to us?

305. Rick: Say what, Miss Page?

Beat.