

## Audition monologues

Everyone will choose from these monologues regardless of the character or ensemble part you are auditioning for.

You may read these from the sheet.

Apart from Eliza, please choose one. You may be asked to read another if there is time. We will need to hear both a cockney and a 'posh' Eliza.

Do your best with the dialects... perfection is not expected! British Dialect is British RP (received pronunciation) – ie: 'posh'!

### HIGGINS monologue 1 – British Dialect

Simple phonetics. The science of speech. That's my profession, also my hobby. Anyone can spot an Irishman or a Yorkshireman by his brogue. I can place a man within six miles; I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets. [To Eliza] A woman who utters such depressing and disgusting noises has no right to be anywhere – no right to live. Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech. [To Pickering] You see this creature with her curbstone English; the English that will keep her in the gutter to the ends of her days? Well, sir, in six months I could pass her off as a duchess at the Embassy Ball. I could even get her a place as a lady's maid or shop assistant, which requires better English.

### HIGGINS monologue 2 – British Dialect

Eliza, you are to stay here for the next six months learning how to speak beautifully, like a lady in a florist's shop. If you're good and do what you're told, you shall sleep in a proper bedroom and have lots to eat, and money to buy chocolates and take rides in taxis. If you're naughty and idle you will sleep in the back kitchen among the black beetles and be walloped by Mrs Pearce with a broomstick. At the end of six months you shall go to Buckingham Palace in a carriage, beautifully dressed. If the King finds out you're not a lady, you will be taken by the police to the Tower of London where your head will be cut off as a warning to other presumptuous flower girls. If you are not found out, you shall have a present of seven-and-six to start life with as a lady in a shop. If you refuse this offer you will be the most ungrateful, wicked girl and the angels will weep for you.

### PICKERING monologue 1 – British Dialect

Higgins. I'm interested. What about your boast that you could pass her off as a duchess at the Embassy Ball? I'll say you're the greatest teacher alive if you can make that good. I'll bet all the expenses of the experiment you can't do it. And I'll even pay for the lessons.

### PICKERING monologue 2 – British Dialect

Higgins, if there's any mishap at the Embassy tonight, if Miss Dolittle suffers any embarrassment whatsoever, it's on your head alone. I've been begging you to call this experiment off ever since Ascot. Suppose she's discovered? Suppose she makes another ghastly mistake? God, if anything happened tonight, I don't know what I'd do. The way you've driven her these last six weeks has exceeded all the bounds of common... Oh for God's sake, Higgins, stop pacing up and down! Can't you settle someplace? Where is she, anyway? I'll bet the damned gown doesn't fit. I warned you about those French designers. You should have gone to a good English store, where you knew everybody was on our side. ELIZA monologue 1 – Cockney Dialect

I ain't done nothin' wrong by speakin' to the gentleman. I've a right to sell flowers if I keep off the kerb. I'm a respectable girl, so help me, I never spoke to him except to ask him to buy a flower off me. Oh sir, don't let him charge me. You dunno what it means to me. They'll take away my character and drive me on the streets for speakin' to gentlemen. It's because I called him Captain. I meant no harm. Oh, sir, don't let him lay a charge agen me for a word like that. I'm a good girl, I am. Let him mind his own business and leave a poor girl alone. I've a right to be here if I like, same as you.

#### ELIZA monologue 2 – Cockney Dialect

I've come to have lessons, I have. And to pay for them too, make no mistake. If you were a gentleman, you might ask me to sit down, I think. Don't I tell you I'm bringing you business? I want to be a lady in a flower shop instead of sellin' flowers at the corner of Tottenham Court Road. But them won't take me unless I can talk more genteel. You said you could teach me. Well, here I am ready to pay, not askin' any favour, and you treat me as if I was dirt. I know what lessons cost, and I'm ready to pay. I know what's right. A lady friend of mine gets French lessons for heighteenpence an hour from a real French gentleman. Well, you wouldn't have the face to ask me the same for teaching me my own language as you would for French; so I won't give more than a shilling. Take it or leave it.

#### ELIZA monologue 3 – British Dialect

Good afternoon, Professor Higgins [she sits]

Mrs Higgins: Will it rain do you think?

The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain. But in Hartford, Hereford and Hampshire hurricanes hardly ever happen. What are you sniggering at, young man? I bet I got it right.

Mrs Higgins: I do hope we won't have any unseasonably cold spells. It brings on so much influenza, and our whole family is susceptible to it.

My aunt died of influenza, so they said. But it's my belief they done the old woman in. Why should she die of influenza when she come through diphtheria right enough the year before? Fairly blue with it she was. They all thought she was dead; but my father, he kept ladling gin down her throat. Then she came to so sudden that she bit the bowl off the spoon. Now, what call would a woman with that strength in her have to die of influenza, and what become of her new straw hat that should have come to me? Somebody pinched it; and what I say is, them as pinched it, done her in!

#### ELIZA monologue 4 – British Dialect

I should never have known how ladies and gentlemen behave if it hadn't been for Colonel Pickering. He always showed me that he felt and thought about me as if I were something better than a common flower girl. You see, Mrs Higgins, apart from the things one can pick up, the difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves, but how she is treated. I shall always be a flower girl to Professor Higgins because he always treats me as a flower girl and always will. But I know that I shall always be a lady to Colonel Pickering because he always treats me as a lady, and always will.

### DOOLITTLE monologue 1 – Cockney Dialect

Home? What do you want to go home for? Eliza should be along in a few minutes. She ought to be good for half a crown for her father what loves her. What's half a crown after all I give her?

I gave her everything. I give her the greatest gift that any human being can give to another; life! I introduced her to this here planet, I did, with all its wonders and marvels. ☐is lovely world with the sun that shines, and the moon that glows, Hyde Park to walk through on a fine Spring night. ☐e whole ruddy city of London to roam about sellin' her bloomin' flowers. I give her all that, and then I disappears and leaves her on her own to enjoy it. Now if that ain't worth half a crown now and again, I'll take off my belt and give her what for.

### DOOLITTLE monologue 2 – Cockney Dialect

If Eliza is going to get a bit out of this, why not me too, eh? Look at it my way. What am I? I ask ya, what am I? I'm one of the undeserving poor, that's what I am. ☐ink what that means to a man. It means he's up agenst middle-class morality for all time. If there's anything going and I put in for a bit of it, it's always the same story; you're undeserving, so you can't have it. But my needs is as great as the most deserving widow's that ever got money out of six different charities in one week for the death of the same husband. I don't need less than a deserving man, I need more. I don't eat less hearty than he does, and I drink a lot more. I'm playing straight with you. I ain't pretending to be deserving. I'm undeserving, and I mean to go on being undeserving. I like it, and that's the truth. But will you take advantage of a man's nature to do him out of the price of his own daughter what he's brought up, fed and clothed by the sweat of his brow, till she's growed big enough to be interesting to you two gentlemen? Is five pounds unreasonable? I put it to you, and I leave it to you.

### MRS HIGGINS monologue 1 – British Dialect

And you mean to say that after you did this wonderful thing for them without making a single mistake, they just sat there and never said a word to you? Never petted you, admired you, or told you how splendid you'd been? ☐at's simply appalling. I should not have thrown the slippers at him... I should have thrown the fire irons. Remember Eliza, last night you not only danced with a Prince, but you behaved like a Princess.

### MRS PEARCE monologue 1 – British Dialect

Mr Higgins, you simply cannot go on working the girl this way. Making her say her alphabet over and over, from sunup to sundown, even during meals – when will it stop? You've all been working much too hard, I think the strain is beginning to show. Eliza, I don't care what Mr Higgins says, you must put down your books and go to bed.

### KARPATY monologue 1 – Hungarian Dialect

Professor Higgins, you remember me? I am your pupil, your first, best and greatest pupil. I am zoltan Karpaty; that marvellous boy. I have made your name famous throughout Europe. You teach me phonetics. You cannot forget me. ☐e Queen of Transylvania is here this evening. I am indispensable to her at these international parties. I speak thirty-two languages. I know everyone in Europe. No imposter escape my detection. And now, Professor, you must introduce me to this glorious creature you escort this evening. She fascinate everyone.