

AUDITION PIECE 1 - MARIAN & HAROLD

MARIAN

Professor Hill...

(HAROLD STOPS. MARIAN, blurting)

Is it true that you've –

(Starts to lose her nerve)

had a hundred... what I'm trying to say is...

HAROLD

(Advancing to her)

Yes?

MARIAN

(Completely losing her nerve)

Is it really true that you've developed a... a Think System?

HAROLD

A what? A Think System? Oh – Think System – yes. It's really very simple. As simple as whistling. Nobody has to show you how to use your lips in whistling. You only have to think a tune to have it come out clearly here.

(Pointing to HER lips)

Now just try this yourself, before you ask any questions.

(Puckers up)

MARIAN

(Pulling back)

I take your word.

HAROLD

Could we sit down?

MARIAN

Are all music teachers as dense as I am?

HAROLD

All music teachers?

MARIAN

I daresay you meet dozens – even a hundred –

HAROLD

Well I –

MARIAN

(Cutting in)

Have they all been fascinated as I have with... the Think System?

HAROLD

Some more, some less. One young lady had thought up the same system before I got to her town. She showed me a few refinements...

MARIAN

(Turning away)

I see...

HAROLD

Have I said something wrong?

MARIAN

(Turned away from him)

Please don't let me keep you, Professor Hill. You must have many more important things to do than to explain the Think System to me.

HAROLD

Can't think of one.

MARIAN

And I must be very dull company for a man of your experience.

HAROLD

Now saaaaay... where'd you get an idea like that?

MARIAN

One hears rumors of traveling salesmen.

HAROLD

Now, Miss Marian – you mustn't believe everything you hear. After all, one even hears rumors about librarians.

MARIAN

(Turning on him)

I suppose you're referring to Uncle Maddy.

HAROLD

Uncle Maddy?

MARIAN

Mr. Madison – my father's best friend. No matter what they say he left me an assured job so Mother and Winthrop and I would have some security. Surely you don't believe...

HAROLD

Of course not! That's exactly what I'm saying. But why do you think people start these rumors.

MARIAN

Narrow-mindedness, jealousy – jealousy, mostly, I guess.

HAROLD

Exactly. And jealousy mostly starts rumors about traveling salesmen.
(Catching her off-guard. Quietly)

What have you heard?

MARIAN

Oh – oh nothing about you personally – just generally –

HAROLD

What have you heard generally?

MARIAN

Just that –

(HAROLD is very close to HER)

but of course, it stands to reason that – that disappointment and jealousy can lead to – I mean – take you for instance – your attentions to – to – customers and – and well, teachers might easily be misinterpreted mightn't they...

(Frantically hoping for reassurance)

I mean, now honestly – mightn't they?

HAROLD

Why?

MARIAN

(Racing on)

And, so you say – if another salesman – or somebody were jealous – I mean – well, they could be downright lies – couldn't they?

HAROLD

(Confused)

What could?

MARIAN

Rumors and things.

HAROLD

Why, of course –

MARIAN

It just proves you should never believe everything you hear, doesn't it?
I mean if you discuss things...

HAROLD

Miss Marian, I would be delighted to discuss anything in the world with
you. But couldn't we do it sitting down?

(Trying to lighten her mood)

You do sit?... Your knees bend and all.

MARIAN

(Still nose to nose with HAROLD)

We could sit on the porch steps.

HAROLD

We could also sit on a large hollow log over't the footbridge.

MARIAN

(Still not moving)

I couldn't think of it. I've never been to the footbridge with a man in my
life.

HAROLD

Just to talk.

MARIAN

I've got to dress for the Sociable.

HAROLD

Then meet me there in fifteen minutes.

MARIAN

I just can't – please – some other time – maybe tomorrow.