

General Workshop and Audition Excerpt 2

Near the end of the show and leading up to Nicely's big number, Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat. In his efforts to prove to Sarah that he does have some integrity, Sky has bet the crapshooters \$1000 against each of their souls on a roll of the dice, and won. To regain their souls, they have to attend the Sallies' prayer meeting and that is where the excerpt begins. Note Jule is pronounced "Julie". Arvida is Sarah's grandmother and knows how strongly she and Sky are attracted to each other and that Sky is really a good man behind his façade. The sallies characters generally have a very positive outlook and look for the best in their "sinners".

#27a – Change of Scene

#2 street traveller opens. Stage lights dim up to –

ACT II, Scene v: Interior of Mission

The MISSION GROUP – SARAH, ARVIDE, AGATHA and CALVIN – sits expectantly at a long table. A new figure is present – THE GENERAL. She is pacing the room, looking at the group who are momentarily growing more uneasy. Three chairs and three benches are at stage R.

GENERAL

It is now several minutes past midnight. Isn't anyone coming?

(THEY all sit glumly)

Sergeant Sarah, something is very wrong.

ARVIDE

Maybe your watch is fast.

SARAH

(Rises, crosses to C. 2 steps)

General, I know what's wrong. I'm wrong. I've failed. I've spoken to these people day after day, but my words haven't reached them – I think you had better –

(MUGS enter – SARAH turns to them as THEY enter. ARVIDE rises)

ARVIDE

(Sits)

Welcome, brothers. Welcome.

(A few little grunts from the Boys then – SKY enters)

SKY

Everybody here? Where's Nathan Detroit?

(NATHAN enters)

NATHAN

Present.

SKY

(Crosses down C.)

Miss Sarah, here you are. One dozen or more assorted sinners. Sorry we didn't have time to clean 'em up.

ARVIDE

(Rises)

Won't you gentlemen sit down?

(THEY shuffle their feet a little)

SKY

Sit down! All of you!

(THEY do. SARAH sits in chair - BIG JULE looks at GENERAL disgustedly. GENERAL crosses to L. Sits at table)

ARVIDE

I would like to welcome you gentlemen to the Save-A-Soul Mission.

(A loud Bronx cheer from one of the gang. ARVIDE sits)

SKY

Just a minute, you guys. This is a Mission, not Roseland, and I suggest that you do not indulge in any unpleasantness. Since I am required to depart for points West tonight—

(SARAH moves)

—I am appointing Nathan Detroit major domo in my place. Nathan, anybody who does not conduct himself according to Hoyle will answer to Sky Masterson personally, and that means in person.

(He gives them a final glance, then goes - exits L.3)

GENERAL

(From the silence)

What a remarkable young man!

(SARAH looks at her, but says nothing)

NATHAN

(Rises - confronts them, clears his throat and shouts)

So remember that, you guys.

(Turns to Arvide)

Brother Abernathy, your dice.

(HE sits)

ARVIDE

(Rises)

Gentlemen, we are honored tonight. The meeting will be conducted by the head of our organization, General Cartwright.

(Sits. NATHAN starts the applause)

GENERAL

(Rises)

It is wonderful to see our Mission graced by the presence of so many evil-looking sinners.

(NATHAN starts to applaud, but realizes he may be wrong)

Now, who would like to testify? Who would like to start the ball rolling by giving testimony?

(THEY are silent and hang their heads)

NATHAN

Benny! Give testimony.

BENNY

I ain't no stool pigeon.

GENERAL

Come, brothers—I know it is difficult. But let one of you give testimony to the sin that is in his heart.

NATHAN

Benny! Tell 'em what a bum you are!

(BENNY rises)

Benny!

BENNY

(Forced to it)

I always was a bad guy, and a gambler, but I ain't going to do it no more. I thank you.

(Sits, quickly)

GENERAL

There! Don't you feel better now?

BENNY

I'm alright.

GENERAL

Anyone else?

NATHAN

Big Jule.

BIG JULE

(Rises)

Well, I used to be bad when I was a kid, but ever since then I have gone straight as I can prove by my record thirty-three arrests and no convictions.

(Sits)

NATHAN

(Pointing)

Harry!

HARRY

Oh, no!

NATHAN

(Louder this time)

Harry the Horse!

HARRY

(Getting reluctantly to his feet)

Ah, well, like when sky was rolling us for our souls—

GENERAL

I beg your pardon?

HARRY

Sky Masterson. He rolled us a thousand dollars against our souls. That's why we're here.

GENERAL

I don't think I understand.

SARAH

I do, General. He means that they are only here because Mr. Masterson won them in a dice game.

GENERAL

How wonderful! This whole meeting the result of gambling! It shows how good can come out of evil.

(Pounds table)

Sergeant Sarah, you have done remarkable work.

ARVIDE

Hasn't she, though?