**CURVE CLASSROOM**

**CHARACTERS FROM ANNIE THE MUSICAL**

**WITH DJALENGA SCOTT AND JONNY FINES**

**ACT 1, SCENE 1**

*The Overture ends, and ‘Maybe’ underscores the following scene.*

*The Curtain rises on the New York City Municipal Orphanage – Girls’ Annex. At stage right is the front hallway and the dormitory covers the rest of downstage. Upstage, we can see a lamplit New York City street and, across the street, rows of tenements.*

*Shortly after 3am on a chilly morning in early December, 1933.*

**LILY AND ROOSTER’S FIRST ENTRANCE**

ROOSTER Hi ya, Sis. Long time no see.

MISS HANNIGAN Rooster? Oh God, it never rains but it pours.

*(ROOSTER crosses to HANNIGAN and kisses HER on the cheek. SHE wipes the kiss off)*

MISS HANNIGAN They finally let you outta Sing-sing?

ROOSTER I got six months off for good behavior.

MISS HANNIGAN I’ll bet. What was it this time?

ROOSTER Ah, some old geezer down in Yonkers said I swindled him outta eleven hundred bucks.

MISS HANNIGAN Oh yeah. Why’d he say that?

LILY (*Entering from the door. Dumb and matter-of-factly*)

Because the Rooster swindled him outta eleven hundred bucks.

ROOSTER Lil!

LILY It’s true.

ROOSTER Sis, I’d like you to meet a friend of mine from…

LILY *(Offended that Rooster has forgotten where he picked her up)*

Jersey City!

ROOSTER Jersey City. Miss Lily St. Regis.

LILY (*proudly*) I’m named after the hotel.

MISS HANNIGAN Which floor?

*(LILY doesn’t get the insult)*

ROOSTER Don’t you just love Lily, Sis?

MISS HANNIGAN Yeah, I’m nuts about her. Rooster, do me a favour.

ROOSTER Anything.

MISS HANNIGAN Get outta here and take the St Regis with you.

ROOSTER Aw, c’mon, Sis.

MISS HANNIGAN Can it. Lookin’ for another handout, huh?

ROOSTER Nah, I got eighty bucks comin’ in the mail, Thursday.

*(LILY hand-signals ten fingers)*

So’s all I need is ten to tide me over.

MISS HANNIGAN Uh-uh. Not even a nickel for the subway, Rooster.

ROOSTER *(LILY holds up one hand)*

 A fiver, Aggie?

MISS HANNIGAN Ha, I gotta laugh. Five bucks, oh God. You with all your big talk. Gonna be livin’ in clover.

ROOSTER This ain’t exactly Buckingham Palace.

MISS HANNIGAN Oh, yeah, I’m on the City. Steady salary, free food, free gas and electric. I’m doin’ all right.

ROOSTER Sis, you’re doin’ like I’m doin.

LILY Lousy.

**MR AND MRS MUDGE SCENE**

ROOSTER Excuse us, folks…. We don’t mean to interrupt… Shirley, look. There’s our Annie.

ANNIE Who are you?

LILY Honey, we’re your Mom and Dad.

*(A buzz of disbelief from the crowd)*

ROOSTER Mudge. Mudge is the name. Ralph Mudge. And this here is the wife, Shirley.

LILY You never knew it, dear, but you’re Annie Mudge.

WARBUCKS Annie Mudge?

ROOSTER *(Edging into the room)*

 We was sick and broke, honey, we didn’t know which way to turn, and a man give us a chance to work on his farm up in Canada.

LILY But we couldn’t bring along no baby.

ROOSTER We loved you, Annie, but we had to leave you behind.

GRACE *(Not buying it totally)*

 Mr. Mudge, is it? We’ve seen a great number of people who’ve claimed to be…

ROOSTER Proof, I expect you’ll be wantin’ proof of who we are. Here’s our driver’s licenses and Annie’s birth certificate.

*(He hands the papers to GRACE)*

GRACE *(takes the birth certificate and reads)*

 “Baby girl, Name, Ann Elizabeth Mudge, born to Ralph and Shirley Mudge. New York, New York, October 28th, 1922”.

ANNIE October 28th, that’s my birthday.

GRACE It was in her note, Sir.

WARBUCKS (*Stunned*) Yes, I know. But I still don’t…

ROOSTER Mister, please, you gotta believe us.

*(He quickly takes the documents back from GRACE)*

 We got in on the Greyhound this afternoon and went straight to the orphanage to fetch our Annie. And the lady there said our baby was up here.

LILY *(Clutching HER, a little too tightly)*

 Oh Annie, all the years I dreamed of holdin’ you in my arms again.

GRACE *(Playing detective)*

 Mr Mudge, on the night that Annie was left at the orphanage…

ROOSTER *(beating her to he punch)*

 Oh, here’s something you wouldn’t know about, but when we left Annie at the Orphanage, we left half of a silver locket with her and kept the other half so’s one day…

LILY Ralph, look! Annie’s wearin’ it.

ROOSTER

*(Crosses to ANNIE to compare locket halves, very quickly. Too quickly)*

And here’s the part we kept. Yes. It fits perfectly.

LILY Oh, thank God, Ralph, she’s our Annie.

ROOSTER She is, she is.

*(Big, stunned crowd reaction. HIS last line silences THEM)*