

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Spotlight on Performance Script

# The Spirit of Broadway

### Costume/Prop Suggestions (Main Characters)

Zoe is a talented middle school dancer; she should dress in dance-like attire. Andy is an aspiring middle school singer; he should dress in regular school clothes. Jack is a middle school trombone player; he should dress in regular school clothes and have a trombone (other band instrument could be substituted, if necessary). Tom is an aspiring middle school actor who longs to be a grandiose hero ; he could dress in royal king's attire and carry a crown and scepter. Amanda is a middle school girl who dreams of being a cowgirl; she should dress in cowgirl attire (jeans, boots, cowboy hat, and so on).

### Costume/Prop/Set Suggestions (Choir)

Most of the action occurs around the five main characters; however, the big production numbers performed by the choir are essential to the plot. The first scene opens as Zoe is practicing her dance steps. She, through her optimism, leads the others to believe in their dreams. Even Andy, who is at first a skeptic, comes around. A set for these characters is not necessary; however, as each song is performed, carry on set pieces, props, and costumes would bring these big production numbers to life. By studying the descriptions of the songs and the lyrics, these can be easily be chosen. For example, in "Camelot," crowns, medieval dresses, knight costumes, and so on would work. For "They Call the Wind Maria," cardboard covered wagons, cardboard horses and so on. Have students come up with their own ideas. With only minor changes, most of the male and female parts are interchangeable.

### Script Begins

*(Zoe is center stage practicing her tap dance steps. She continues her moves throughout her conversation with Andy.)*

**Zoe:** Shuffle *(pronounced with the accent on the second syllable)* ball change. Shuffle ball change. Shuffle ball change.

*(Andy enters from stage left and approaches Zoe.)*

**Andy:** What are you doing?

**Zoe:** I'm practicing my tap dancing.

**Andy:** What for? Do you have a recital or something coming up?

**Zoe:** I'm actually getting ready for an audition. I'm going to Broadway.

**Andy:** Yeah, right, and I'm going to Mars right after lunch today.

**Zoe:** If you never have a dream, you'll never have a dream come true.

**Andy:** *(clueless)* Huh?

**Zoe:** I said, "If you never have a dream, you'll never have a dream come true." But I do think that Mars right after lunch today is a bit unrealistic.

**Andy:** And Broadway's not?

**Zoe:** Even Mars isn't unrealistic. Just Mars right after lunch *today* is unrealistic.

**Andy:** You theater types are really bizarre.

**Zoe:** Thank you.

**Andy:** Case in point.

*(Andy exits stage right. When Zoe sees that he is gone, she addresses the audience.)*

**Zoe:** That's a perfect example of how the common man views an artist. He thinks I have my head in the clouds; that I live in a dream world and that I'm out of touch with reality. How tragically misinformed he is. Life is a stage and all of us players. Someday everybody's gonna get it. Life's gonna be like just one big Broadway musical!

*(Choir enters, along with other cast members, bombastically singing. This is a big Broadway production number. During the number Zoe will exhibit her dancing skills. Andy is nowhere to be found during this number.)*

<p><b><i>Song 1: That Great Come and Get It Day, p. 306</i></b></p>
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*(Song ends and choir, with other cast members, exits. Zoe is left alone once again practicing her tap steps.)*

**Zoe:** Shuffle ball change. Shuffle ball change. Shuffle ball change.

*(Andy enters stage right.)*

**Andy:** Are you still at it?

**Zoe:** Of course.

**Andy:** You're really odd.

**Zoe:** Thank you.

**Andy:** Case in point.

*(Andy exits stage left. Zoe continues practicing her tap steps throughout the following dialogue. Jack, carrying a trombone case, enters stage left.)*

**Jack:** What are you doing?

**Zoe:** I'm practicing my tap steps.

**Jack:** Why? Do you have a recital or something coming up? Or do you parents just make you?

**Zoe:** I'm practicing because I have an audition and I'm going to Broadway.

**Jack:** *(sarcastically)* Yeah, you're gonna tap dance on Broadway and I'm gonna play my trombone. We're going to be the toast of New York City... the shining stars of the Great White Way!

*(Jack starts to walk away.)*

**Zoe:** You never know until you try. You've got to dream it first. Just close your eyes and just imagine. Just dream about how you would feel. Use your imagination and think what it would be like to be there...

*(Jack does as told. He stands eyes closed and looks as though he is lost in his dream world. Choir enters with bombastic enthusiasm. As soon as the music begins, Jack's dream state turns into reality and he becomes everything he's ever dreamed of: marching jubilantly with the band, playing his trombone having the greatest time ever.)*

<p><b><i>Song 2: The New Ashmolean Marching Society and Students Conservatory Band, p. 308</i></b></p>
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*(When song ends, Choir exits stage right and stage left. Jack is left standing exactly as before with his eyes closed.)*

**Zoe:** *(once again practicing her tap steps)* Shuffle ball change. Shuffle ball change. Shuffle ball change.

**Jack:** *(He is brought out of his reverie by the sound of her tap dancing.)* Are you still at it?

**Zoe:** Of course.

*(Tom enters stage right. Jack and Zoe turn their attention to him.)*

**Tom:** *(in a completely “over the top” dramatic way)* To be or not to be...

*(Zoe and Jack approach Tom.)*

**Jack:** *(interrupting Tom)* What are you doing?

**Tom:** *(Annoyed that he is being interrupted completes his quote.)* ...that is the question... Now what is it you said?

**Jack:** I said, “what are you doing?”

**Tom:** I’m practicing my acting. I have an audition and I’m going to Broadway.

**Zoe:** Me, too. *(begins practicing her steps again)*

**Tom:** I want to play a king, or a knight, or some sort of mythical hero.

**Jack:** And where are you going to do that?

*(Cast enters and performs the song with much of the focus on Tom.)*

<b><i>Song 3: Camelot, p. 310</i></b>
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**Tom:** Wow! Sounds like a pretty great place. I’ve got to go there. I’ll see how many frequent flyer points my parents have. In the meantime, I’m going to keep on practicing... *(going back into dramatic mode)* To be or not to be...

*(Zoe starts practicing her tap dancing again. Amanda enters.)*

**Amanda:** What are you doing?

**Zoe:** I’m practicing my tap dancing steps. *(not even giving her a chance to ask)* I’m going to Broadway.

**Amanda:** Wow! I’d love to go to Broadway too, but where I’d really love to go is way out West!

*(Choir enters and sings this big production number.)*

<b><i>Song 4: The Call the Wind Maria, p. 312</i></b>
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**Amanda:** Wow! Way out west is where I want to be. I was born to be a cowgirl!

**Zoe:** The West is pretty spectacular, but the thing I love about Broadway is that it can

take you away to the wild west, to an enchanted mythical land, even over the rainbow, or way out to the sea.

*(Choir, still on stage from the previous song, joins for this song.)*

<b><i>Song 5: Doing the Latest Rag, p. 314</i></b>
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*(Choir exits stage right and stage left. Andy enters stage left. Zoe is still practicing her tap dancing.)*

**Andy:** So, you're still at it, huh?

**Zoe:** Of course, I never give up.

**Andy:** *(hesitating a bit as though it's hard to admit)* I've been thinking a lot about what you said about that "having a dream" thing.

**Zoe:** Yeah?

**Andy:** Well, I have some dreams myself.

**Zoe:** Of course.

**Andy:** You see, I really love to sing and that's what I want to do. I mean going to Mars would be nice, too, but I think I'm more of a singer than an astronaut.

**Zoe:** Well, you've got the dream. Believe in it and never give up, and I have the feeling... *(Jack, Tom, and Amanda enter from stage right and stage left)* that we're all going to end up on Broadway.

*(Choir enters and sings this final big production number.)*

<b><i>Song 6: Fortune Favors the Brave, p. 316</i></b>
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