

WORKING Audition Monologues

Neutral Monologue

Working? See, it's just not the work. Somebody built the Pyramids...the Pyramids, the Sears Tower, somebody built the house you live in, these things just don't happen. You're a roadworker...I don't care how little you did, you drive down a road and you say, "I worked on this road." If there's a bridge, you say, "I worked on this bridge." Picasso can point to a painting...a writer can point to a book. What can I point to? Everybody should have something to point to. You know what I'd like—I would like to see a building, say the Empire State Building...I would like to see one side of it a foot wide strip from top to bottom with the names of every person who's ever worked in or on that building...all the names. So, when you walked by, you could take your son or daughter, and say, "See that building, "I was the one who did the design!" or "I was the one who drafted the plans." or "I am the one who cleans the floors." Yes, you see that building...everyone should have something to point to, some way to be tall in the crowd...yes, a way to be proud!

Retiree

When I retired, the first two years I was downhearted. I had no place to go, nothin' to do. Then I gave myself a good going' over. Joe, I said, you can't sit at home like that and waste your time. You got to go out, do things. Well, the day goes pretty fast for me now. I don't daydream at all. I just think of something, and I forget it. That daydreaming, it don't do you no good. Keep busy, keep movin', that's the trick.

Yeah, when I retired, a lot of people told me, "Joe, you got your health, you shouldna done it." But it was too late. I don't know why I retired. It's just a habit, I guess. But I got no regrets. I keep busy, keep travelin'. I go to fires every once in a while. That fire we had on Milwaukee Avenue about three months ago, I was there. I was surprised that the smoke was comin' out there heavy as hell, but you don't see no flames, you know? Boy...that was some fire.

Millworker

I work in a luggage factory. We make suitcases. The tank I work at is six foot deep, eight foot square. In forty seconds:

you have to take the wet felt out of the felter;

put the blanket on to draw out the excess moisture;

wait two, three seconds; take the blanket off;

pick the wet felt up and balance it on your shoulder;

reach over, get the hose; spray the inside of this copper screen;

turn around; walk to the hot dry die behind you;

take the hot piece off and set it on the floor;

put the wet piece on the dry die: push this button; (sound of steam)

inspect the piece we just took off;

stack it; count It;

Forty seconds (snaps fingers)

In the summertime, the temperature at our work station ranges anywhere from 100 to 150 degrees. I've taken thermometers and checked it out. I have arthritis in the joints of my fingers, naturally in my shoulder balancing this wet piece. The hose will sometimes leak and spray back on you. The hydraulic presses leak, so you're slipping in oil. You have the possibility of being burnt every time the hot die hits that wet felt. You're just engulfed in a cloud of steam....every forty seconds.

Community Organizer

An organizer is someone who brings in new members. You try to build an organization that will give people the power to make changes. I put together a fairly solid organization of rural people in Pike County to stop Bethlehem Steel from strip mining. I had to tell people again and again that they had the stuff to do the job, that it's possible to win. You see, most people in their guts don't really believe it. Nobody believed we could stop Bethlehem Steel. But we got enough people together—we wrote letters, we protested until we finally got on TV. And Bethlehem caved. You see, people become convinced there's not a damn thing they can do. I think we have it inside us to change things.

Throughout history, a hell of a lot of people just like you and me, got together and decided they wanted a better life.