

Hello everyone,

Make sure to scroll down for the two scenes available for these auditions. **Scene 1, 3, 4 & 11** are for the Henry Character. **Scene 3** is for the Grace character. Children in the chorus will read the extra characters found in these scenes.

Make sure they memorize the scene as much as possible, project and become the character.

Auditions will be on the 1st of October, 12:30pm at St. Joseph's. Callbacks if needed, will be October 2nd, 4:15pm at St Joseph's.

Rehearsals will be decided on once the cast is chosen. We will pick two of the following days/times:

Thursdays evening ~ Fridays evenings ~ Saturdays mornings ~ Saturdays afternoons

Show week will be Dec. 5th – 10th.

Please feel free to email with any questions you may have. Info@hiddentalents.ca

I look forward seeing you soon,

Carrie Beauchamp

Grace: (Needs to look age 8 - 10 - female)

She is a very strong character who has who loves her town and worried about the people in it. Grace is in many Scenes. This Character must be a strong actress and able to sing.

Henry: (Needs to look 10 - 12 - Male)

Henry is new to town. Henry is in all of the scenes. This Character must be a strong actor, no singing.

Scene 1: Morning

Lights up on a Victorian set where a little girl, Grace, is humming a song while playing with a piece of coal. Soon after three rowdy boys enter. She watches them. The first two, Owen & James, each carry a single bag of coal. James put one in a chute. Owen sets his down and relaxes. James eats an apple and Owen goes to lie on a bench. The third, Henry, lags behind struggling to carry three very large bags of coal.

Henry: Ah... A little help here. *(The other boys continue to ignore Henry as he struggles to keep the bags on his shoulders.)* I'm not sure I can carry these for... they're starting to... *(He falls over. The bags land on him. The other two boys, seeing this, shake their heads then continue to ignore him. Grace has seen enough and leaves)*

James: What did I tell you, Owen? He's not cut out to work with us.

Owen: *(Not looking up)* Sure is hard to get good help around here.

Henry: I am cut out for this. Really. *(Reaching out with one hand from under the bags)* I just need someone to give me... *(James walks over, picks up his own bag, and drops it on top of the others) Ooof. (Henry gets the wind knocked out of him)* What was that?

James: We have to make sure Henry. *(James kneels down to his ear level. Owen gets up slowly, picks up his own bag and saunters over)* Do you know how many other boys would love to work with us?

Henry: Love?

Owen: *(Drops the bag on top of the growing pile)* ...and don't think that just because you're new in town that we are going to give you a break.

Henry: Alright. Just give me another chance. I know I can do this. *(Henry struggles to get free. At the same time James see a women about to enter. The woman is wearing a ratty cape with a hood. You cannot see her face. Knowing Owen's fear of her, James drags Henry out from under the bags and up the stairs to hide. Owen follows when he notices the woman)* What are you doing? I would have gotten out all on my...

James: No you wouldn't have. Now Shhhhhh. We have bigger problems. *(A woman walks slowly across the stage and puts a small token on the front.)*

Henry: What are you talking about?

Owen: Shhhhhh. She'll hear you.

Henry: Who?

James & Owen: Shhhhhh. *(They all duck behind the railing. The boys slowly peek over the railing to watch. The woman then enters her house. The boys slowly come out of hiding. James and Henry go to the bags. Owen timidly walks towards her house.)*

Henry: *(Picking up the bags)* Who was that?

James: You'll find out soon enough.

Owen: *(Scared)* That was close.

Henry: *(Still picking up bags)* Look, can we just get back to work. I am sure that...

Owen: Who knows what could have happened if she had seen us.

James: ***(Walking slowly to join Owen. Teasingly)*** Do you remember what happened to the last person she...saw?

Owen: ***(Looking at James petrified)*** I... No ...I ***(Taking a deep breath and shaking his head)*** If we hadn't rescued Henry he could have been...

James: Well... ***(He turns picks up a bag)*** ...then let's just say ***(Adds the bag to Henry's pile)*** ...it's a good thing we did.

Henry: What are you talking about? ***(Looking back an forth from Owen and James as they talk)***

Owen: ***(Walking to Henry)*** I heard she keeps small children in her cellar...

James: It doesn't matter what you heard. ***(He piles another bag on Henry)***

Owen: ...and that her face is covered with...

James: ***(Pulling away)*** Enough already! Today she's not your problem.

Owen: ***(Tentative)*** She's not?

James: No.

Owen: But...

James: Today... she's Henry's problem. ***(Henry drops all the bags. Again.)*** I give up. ***(He starts to stack the bags in a pile)***

Henry: My problem?

Scene 3:

Grace: *(Pause)* How long have you lived here Henry?

Henry: Two weeks.

Grace: And... in those two weeks... have you noticed how beautiful this town is?

Henry: Yes.

Grace: *(Calm, remembering the beauty)* If you think its beautiful now... you should have seen it then. We didn't have much. We were just a very poor coal-mining town... but everyone knew each other. It didn't matter that the paint on the buildings was a little chipped ...or that food a scarce. We were like a family... a family that watched out for each other.

Henry: What happened?

Grace: *(She slowly stands and looks out, upset)* There... was an accident in the mine. Two days before Christmas. That day six families lost fathers, uncles, brothers....

Henry: *(Standing and going to her)* I'm sorry.

Grace: It was a freak accident, no one's fault *(She looks at him)*...but it happened. *(Pause)* Soon after, a big company moved in and took over with new safety rules and equipment... and before you knew it ...this town became one of the wealthiest towns around.

Henry: That doesn't sound so bad.

Grace: Except that in all of the commotion, the five families were forgotten. With the men gone, they've been struggling to survive. They've made it this far, some have been able to move on with their lives or at least ...they're not as sad as they were, but their struggle is not over and this town doesn't seem to care.

Scene 4: Late Evening (Call back scene)

Lights up on stage & Clara's house. We here hammering from off stage and the see the Company man enter 3. Soon after Henry is seen late at night sneaking across the stage (door 1) with half a bag of coal over his shoulder. It has a big ribbon wrapped around it. Henry sets the bag outside Clara's door and turns to go home when The Company Man, who is holding a hammer at his side and a letter in the other hand, confronts him.

Henry: *(Nervous)* Evening.

Company Man: Evening. You must be the new boy in town.

Henry: Yes, Sir. I'm Henry. Pleased to...

Company Man: ...Your gift... *(Gesturing to the bag and crossing in front of Henry)* I trust it is not stolen from your new work place.

Henry: No, Sir.

Company Man: Then where is it from?

Henry: Well Sir. Yesterday, after meeting Miss Clara, I told my parents about how worried I was for her.

Company Man: You've just met this woman. How worried could you be? *(He slides the hammer into his pocket)*

Henry: It's very cold sir and she has no money to pay for...

Company Man: *(Stronger)* So you "borrowed" some coal from my mine.

Henry: *(stepping closer to him)* No, Sir. My parents and I saved a little from our bag so I could give it to her. It's not very much but it will last through the night.

Company Man: Are you lying to me?

Henry: No!

Company Man: *(Slightly sarcastic)* Well... How very thoughtful.

Henry: *(Unsure)* Thank you, Sir.

Company Man: Well. Off with you then.

Henry: Yes Sir. Good evening, Sir.

We see Henry leave 1 as the company man watches him. The company man then turns, looks at Clara's door for a moment then walks up the stairs and exits 4.

Scene11: Christmas Eve (Call back scene)

Lights up on Clara's house. Clara enters the stage and sees the gifts. She opens the letter and is not sure what to think. She looks around just as Henry enters.

Clara: You! What is this? *(Holding the letter out to him)*

Henry: It's the deed to your house.

Clara: *(Moving closer to him)* I can read what it says. Is this some kind of joke?

Henry: No.

Clara: And I'm supposed to believe you.

Henry: Yes, Miss Clara.

Clara: But how?

Henry: It's a gift.

Clara: *(Confused)* ... I can't afford this.

Henry: You don't have to pay for it.

The angels enter.

Clara: *(Still not sure what to think but happy)* He... changed his mind.

Henry: Yes. *(Noticing the angels. They smile and nod back at him)* He also asked me to deliver the same letter to the seven other families.

Clara: I don't believe it.

Henry: Well... Merry Christmas Miss Clara. *(He turns to leave. Clara stops him.)*

Clara: Wait. I... must apologize for the way I acted the other day.

Henry: No need.

Clara: Yes there is. I know that you're the one who has been leaving coal for me at night. For that I thank you.

Henry: You're welcome.

Clara: *(Turning to leave)* I will pay your family back as soon I can.

Henry: No you...

Clara: *(Stopping him)* Goodnight.