

Music Theatre International

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MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL

Audition Central: The Music Man JR.

Script: Marcellus Washburn

Hey, Gregory!

MARCELLUS

Marcellus!

HAROLD

You old son of a gun! What in -

MARCELLUS

(Hastily pushing aside proffered hand)

Sh - sh - shhh.

HAROLD

But Greg -

MARCELLUS

HAROLD

Professor Hill's the name - Harold Hill.

MARCELLUS

But Greg, what are you doing here? Whyn't you let me know you was comin'?

HAROLD

I didn't know I was myself. Besides how could I know you'd end up in a little tank town like this? You were a pretty big slicker when you were in business with me.

MARCELLUS

Too may close shaves the way you work. Besides I got me a nice comfortable girl - Ethel Toffelmier - boss's niece.

HAROLD

Gone legitimate, huh? I knew you'd come to no good.

MARCELLUS

What's the new pitch?

(HAROLD pantomimes conducting)

You're not back in the band business! I heard you was in steam automobiles.

HAROLD

I was.

MARCELLUS

What happened?

HAROLD

Somebody actually invented one.

MARCELLUS

No!

HAROLD

Now give me the lowdown here, Marce.

MARCELLUS

You'll never get anywhere in the band business with these stubborn lowans, Greg. Besides we got a stuck-up music teacher here who'll expose you before you get your grip unpacked.

HAROLD

Male or female?

MARCELLUS

The music teacher? She's the librarian - female.

HAROLD

Perfect! That's what I wanted to hear. If she passes by point her out to me.

MARCELLUS

I will. How you gonna start the pitch?

HAROLD

Same old way. Keep that music teacher off balance - and then my next step will be to get your town out of the serious trouble it's in.

MARCELLUS

River City isn't in any trouble.

HAROLD

Then I'll have to create some. I have to create a desperate need for a Boy's Band. You remember - Now what's new around here. What can I use?

MARCELLUS

Nothin' - except the billiard parlor's just put in a new pool table.

HAROLD

They never had a pool table here before?

MARCELLUS

No - only billiards.

HAROLD

That'll do.