The Graduate

Audition Monologues

Benjamin:

Mono #1 For God's sake Mrs. Robinson, you come to my room, you sit on the bed, you…smoke a cigarette, then you start opening up your personal life to me and now you're askingme to take you home because your husband's flying to Chicago. Mrs. Robinson, you are trying to seduce me (*Certain*) Aren't you (*Uncertain*) Aren't you? (*Mortified*) Mrs. Robinson, would you forgive me? Will you forgive me for what I just said? That's the worst thing I've ever said to anyone!

Mono #2 I can't do this Mrs. Robinson, I cannot do this! I mean don't you see? Don't you see how this is the worst thing I could possibly do? Mrs. Robinson, you are the most attractive of all my parent's friends. And that includes Mrs. Terhune. I find you more that adequately desirable, but for God's sake; can you imagine my parents? Can you imagine what my parents would say if they saw us right now? They've brought my up. They've made a good life for me. I think they deserve something a little better than this. I mean, this has nothing to do with you. But I respect my parents, and I appreciate what they've…

Mrs. Robinson:

Mono #1 (*Mrs. Robinson has been drinking*) Long gone away somewhere I don't know, I met your father, he use t'sing t'me. We'd be go someplace and he would sing. He could sing. But not the high notes. Some songs he couldn't get those high notes. So at school I had this teacher. Who taught the choir and the piano and the oboe, but the choir, so I know if you singing high up there you must think you breathing in, not out, as you go up…you understand? So one night. In the car. I taught him. And right away, he could. And all of the spngs he used to sing…to *want* to sing…suddenly…he could sing 'em. And you know what? He never sang to me again

Mono #2 You know what? You never stood a chance. Elaine's never made a decision in her life without climbing into her father's lap for a couple of hours. When Elain was two years old and all the other brats were screaming, she sat and read picture books. When she was…about that old, she never asked for a Tootsie Roll, let alone Disneyland. All through her teens she never came home late, drunk, her blouse unbuttoned or her ears pierced. Elaine's never wanted anything. I've waited twenty years to see if she developed any personality of her own, but no. She inherited her father's dreary diligence and that enduring dullness. She's cute but shallow, Benjamin. Believe the wrapping, believe me, there is no Elaine.

Elaine: Life is precious, Benjamin. How dare you. How dare you sit there and say life is bullshit. When you have so much. When whatever you want you could probably have. Nothing's perfect Benjamin. I wish my mother didn't drink so much. I wish I'd never fallen out of that tree and broken my thumb because is so affects my fingering I'll probably never play the violin as well as I'd love to but that's about it for the bullshit, Benjamin. It's only bullshit if you let it pile up. Heaven's in the details. Someone said that. I think Robert Frost said that.

Mom: I don't understand if you do your very best and you're a perfectly decent person how you can be blamed for things you didn't do even if the person who did them you once, you what, you didn't take him to the zoo or something or he didn't like green beans? I cooked three vegetables half my whole life. I stood in line for a plastic man with the right sort of gun in a blizzard for heaven's sake, all Christmas eve. I just want to know…

Dad: Ben, these are our friends down there. You owe them a little courtesy. Hal Robinson and I have been doing business together in this town for 17 years. He's the best friend I have. He has a client in Chicago that he's put off seeing so he could be here tonight. I don't know what's got into you but whatever it is I want you to snap out of it and march right on down there.

Mr. Robinson: Ben, I want to give you some friendly advice. I think you should have a good time with the girls and so forth. Sow a few wild oats. Because Ben, you're going to spend most of your life worrying. But right now you're young. Don't start worrying yet, for God's sake. Before you know it you'll find a nice little girl and settle down and have a damn fine life but until then try to make up for all the mistakes you're gonna make down the line. And while you're at it, make up for a few of mine.