

Working Auditions Script

#1

Mike Dillard – Ironworker on Skyscrapers

MIKE DILLARD: I'm a dying breed. A laborer. Strictly muscle work. Pick it up, put it down.
Pick it up, put it down.

I started working structural steel when I was eighteen years old. I've worked on towers probably 1,000 feet high. Most people are afraid of heights like that, so automatically every ironworker has an ego. You're doing something somebody else can't do. And you get to wear a tool belt. When you're a kid eighteen years old, and you have the wrenches in like a holster, you're like a cowboy.

But I always knew I was going to be an ironworker. My older brothers were ironworkers and my father was an ironworker, so it was a natural course of events. My father ... my father was very disappointed I didn't go to college.

#2

Amanda McKenny – Project Manager

AMANDA: Jobs are not big enough for people. When you ask most people who they are, they define themselves by their jobs: "I'm a doctor." "I'm a carpenter." "I'm a sportscaster." If someone asks me, I say, "I'm Amanda McKenny. At certain points in time, I do things for a living."

My mentality is totally different than the people who are twenty years older, the "lifers." I have no real sense of loyalty, because I know they have a business to run and they'll lay me off if it's prudent. I accept that. I don't perceive that anyone my age thinks: I've got a job for life. What they feel is: All right, I'm going to get as much as I can from this company, then I'm going to move and get more money.

This is my first job of many.

#3

Ralph Werner – 19-Year-Old Student

RALPH: I ran this mutual fund for the students in my school. My father runs his own investment firm, I guess that's where I learned. He runs a hedge fund – you know – those are the guys who are always getting caught defrauding their investors. We studied Ethics at school, so I'm sure I won't have any problems. I'll probably be an entrepreneur. And then I'll start a family, of course. My quote dream girl unquote has long brunette hair, doesn't have to wear a lot of make-up, because she's going to be naturally pretty. I want her to have a lot of personality. At first she'll probably be working but after our first child she'll stay home. And she'll be a good mother.

#4

Grace Clements – Millworker in a Luggage Factory

GRACE: I work in a luggage factory. We make suitcases. The tank I work at is six foot deep, eight-foot square. 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 from balancing this wet piece. The hose will sometimes leak and spray back on you. The hydraulic presses leak, so you're slipping on 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. (*Steam*) every forty seconds. (*snap*)

#5

Allen Epstein – Community Organizer

ALLEN EPSTEIN: An organizer is someone who brings in new members. You try to build an organization that will give people the power to make the changes. 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.

I mean, all human recorded history is about what, five thousand years old? How many people in that time have made an overwhelming difference? Twenty? Thirty? You see the problem with history is that it's written by college professors about great men. But that's not what history is. History's a heck of a lot of little people, men and women, just like you and me, getting together and deciding they want a better life.

#6

Maggie Holmes – Cleaning Woman

MAGGIE: You know what I always wanted to do? I wanted to play the piano. That's what I really wanted. And I'd write songs and things, about my life growin' up in the south, and my mama and grandmamma... Now I got my own, beautiful daughter, and I got plans for her. So, I leave my house every morning and go scrub rooms up at the Marriott. And at night I come here to this office and it's scrubbin' again. For generations, that's all we done – scrubbin'. My grandma, my mama, and me. But my daughter, she ain't gonna do no domestic work. I aim to be the end o' that particular line. I come from four generations o' cleaning women. But my daughter, she's a whole new generation. That's what we got comin' up today – a whole new generation...

#7

Terry Mason – Flight Attendant

TERRY MASON: One time I was working first class, and we had a load full of passengers and the captain tells me we're going to have to make an emergency landing in Chicago because we lost a pin out of the nose gear. When we land, the nose gear is gonna collapse. So, he wants me to prepare the whole cabin for this landing, but not for another two hours. And not to tell the other flight attendants, because they're new and would get all excited. So I had to keep this in me... for two hours... and I'm wondering, am I gonna die today? And I'm serving drinks and food. And this guy gets mad at me because his omelette's too cold. I was gonna say, (*big stewardess smile*) "You just wait buddy. You're not gonna have to worry about that stupid omelette."