

Audition Extracts for Curtain Close by Sally Davies

Extract 1:

- STEVE: *[Impressed]* Hmm *[pause as he looks around]* Was this a theater?
- WENDY: The stage with the red curtains isn't a giveaway?
- STEVE: I didn't see that.
- WENDY: Not very observant are you.
- STEVE: I don't have to be. I just have to move product.
- WENDY: Product. Wow. That's all this place is to you.
- STEVE: This place is nothing to me and I don't care what it is to you. Whatever your issue is with me and selling this place, I'm not interested.
- WENDY: Well, I just have to make you interested.
- STEVE: Try me. Also, there's a demolition team turning up at noon so you might want to make it snappy.
- WENDY: I do my best work under pressure. *[WENDY starts walking around the room]* Let me introduce you to the core of our community.
- STEVE: Rather rotten core if you ask me.
- WENDY: No one did ask you *[pause]* If you want to understand the history of a town, of what makes it tick, find its community hall and attend anything that's there. This place is over 130 years old. It has hosted weddings, funerals, dances, town meetings. It has entertained the crowds with performances of magical theatrical productions and not so magical ones.
- STEVE: They're the ones I saw - the rubbish ones.
- WENDY: I didn't think you'd been here?
- STEVE: I haven't. I went to the theatre in Evans Street. Just the once mind you. That was enough.
- WENDY: That's a shame you didn't give it a chance. Even the rubbish shows can be entertaining, just perhaps not for the reasons intended. What did you see?
- STEVE: A pantomime of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. They were able to find six children for the dwarf roles but then had to use an adult for the seventh. Halfway through the third act, the adult's knees gave out and he suddenly stood up, towering over everyone else. The children in the audience all screamed because we thought a giant had crashed the theatre. In all the upset, the actors had to abandon the play to try and console the children and I never learned how it ended.

Extract 2:

- STEVE: Ha ha. So, what are you trying to say here?
- WENDY: I'm not trying to say anything. I'm telling you that this place has a history. A past. Character. Soul. Everyone in this town has a connection with it. It's important to the community.
- STEVE: If it's that important, why is no-one else here?
- WENDY: I don't know.
- STEVE: Is it important to others or is it just important to you?
- WENDY: My wedding reception was here. My parents and grandparents receptions were too. My father's wake was here. My first theatrical performance was on that stage. I was second pumpkin in my class production of Sleepy Hollow.
- STEVE: Sorry I missed it.
- WENDY: I met my husband at a dance here. My children sang here. I learned to play the bagpipes here.
- STEVE: Now I understand why the walls have cracked.
- WENDY: Fair. I was never any good at that instrument. What I'm saying is that I'm not giving up on this place. It's important to more than just me. I'm sure of it. Your faceless purchaser who just wants to knock this down for a homogenised construction will not win. I won't let them win. I'm going to chain myself to this radiator in protest.
- STEVE: It's portable. I think that's unlikely to stop them.
- WENDY: I'll find something less portable. The ticket counter!
- STEVE: *[softens]* I think you have to let this go.
- WENDY: Why? Because I'm just some batty old lady whose getting emotional about an old building?
- STEVE: No. Because times change. Buildings change. Look around you. This place has had its glory days. It's crumbling. It needs too much money.