

## AUDITION MATERIAL - SCENES

INSTRUCTIONS: Prepare **ONE** of the following scenes from *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie. Your scene partner should read off-screen.



### SELECTION #1 – MRS. BOYLE

**MRS. BOYLE:** This is Monkswell Manor, I presume? I am Mrs. Boyle. Awful weather isn't it? The taxi wouldn't risk coming up the drive. It stopped at the gate. We had to share a taxi from the station – and there was great difficulty in getting *that*. Nothing ordered to meet us, it seems.

PARTNER: I'm so sorry. We didn't know what train you'd be coming by.

**MRS. BOYLE:** All trains should have been met.

PARTNER: Let me take your coat.

**MRS. BOYLE:** The drive might at least have been cleared of snow. Most offhand and casual, I must say.

PARTNER: I'm so sorry ...

**MRS. BOYLE:** You're very young.

PARTNER: Young?

**MRS. BOYLE:** To be running an establishment of this kind. You can't have had much experience.

PARTNER: There has to be a beginning for everything, hasn't there?

**MRS. BOYLE:** I see. Quite inexperienced. (*Looks around*) An old house. I hope you haven't got dry rot. (*Sniffs suspiciously*)

PARTNER: Certainly not!

**MRS. BOYLE:** A lot of people don't know they have got dry rot until it's too late to do anything about it.

PARTNER: The house is in perfect condition.

**MRS. BOYLE:** H'm – it could do with a coat of paint.

OR

## **SELECTION #2 – PARAVICINI**

**PARAVICINI: My charming hostess looks upset. What is it, dear lady? (*He leers at her*)**

PARTNER: Everything's rather difficult this morning. Because of the snow.

**PARAVICINI: Yes. Snow makes things difficult, does it not? Or else it makes them easy. Yes – very easy.**

PARTNER: I don't know what you mean.

**PARAVICINI: No, there is quite a lot you do not know. I think, for one thing, that you do not know very much about running a guest house.**

PARTNER: I daresay we don't. But we mean to make a go of it.

**PARAVICINI: Bravo-bravo!**

PARTNER: I'm not such a very bad cook ...

**PARAVICINI: (*Leering*) You are without a doubt an enchanting cook. (*Beat*) May I give you a little word of warning, Mrs. Ralston? You and your husband must not be too trusting, you know. Have you references with these guests of yours?**

PARTNER: Is that usual? I always thought people just – just came?

**PARAVICINI: It is advisable to know a little about the people who sleep under your roof. Take, for example, myself. I turn up saying that my car is overturned in a snowdrift. What do you know of me? Nothing at all! I may be a thief, a robber, a fugitive from justice – a madman – even – a murderer.**