

Connie #1

ZACH. Today, I want you to tell me your stage name, real name if it's different. And I'd also like to know where you were born and how old you are.

SHEILA. *(stage whisper)* Terrific!

VAL. *(stage whisper)* Fabulous!

JUDY. *(raising her hand)* Ah ... excuse me, sir ... do we have to? I mean, it's not very polite to ask a lady her age.

ZACH. Being polite doesn't interest me. Your age does. And I want to know your age. Okay, let's go down the line. We'll start on the end, stage right.

THE LINE looks to DON; he is talking to MAGGIE who hits his leg, then DON turns in the direction of ZACH.

DON. Ah ... twenty-eight.

ZACH. Start with your name and step forward.

DON. *(stepping forward)* My real name is Don Kerr. Ah ... Kansas City, Kansas. *(DON backs into line.)*

ZACH. Next.

MAGGIE. *(stepping out)* Maggie Winslow.

ZACH. Louder.

MAGGIE. Maggie Winslow ... sometimes know as Margaret, Margie, Peggy ... all of the above. Whatever, it's real and I was born in San Mateo, California on a Thursday evening at 10:40 p.m., August 17, and I'm 25. *(She backs into line.)*

MIKE. I'm Mike Costa — it used to be Costafalone. I was born in Trenton, New Jersey on the 4th of July. I'm twenty-four. *(He backs into line.)*

ZACH. Next.

CONNIE.² Connie Wong. It's always been Connie Wong. I was born in Chinatown — Lower East Side. *(She steps back in line.)*

ZACH. Your age?

BOBBY. ~~Go on, Miss Wong.~~

CONNIE. *(stepping forward)* Ah ... December 5, four thousand six hundred and forty-two. The Year of the Chicken. *(She returns to the line.)*

ZACH. Next.

² See appendix A for alternate/substitute scene.

Connie #2

Hello Twelve,
Hello Thirteen,
Hello Love.

Lights come up on the GROUP who is back on line.

MARK *(spoken, out of pantomime)* And from the book I diagnosed my own appendicitis.

(sung) Next day I went to our doctor down the block.
Sure enough — acute appendicitis!
They rushed me right to the hospital.
Well, I figured this book would cover ev'rything the rest of my life.

(spoken over music) And when I was thirteen, I had my first ... wet dream.
I went right back to the book ... Milky discharge ...
milky discharge, milky discharge ...

(sung) Gonorrhea!

(spoken over music) I was in shock, I mean ...

(sung) Gonorrhea!

(spoken over music) Before I'd even started. I was terrified.
I couldn't even tell my mother I had ...

(sung) Gonorrhea!

(spoken over music) So, the book said, drink a lot of water ...

ZACH. Is that all the book said?

MARK. No, it said take penicillin, strepto-something-or-other,
but I couldn't do anything about that unless I told somebody.

(sung) So all I could do was drink the water,
And I drank like twenty glasses a day.

(spoken over music) For three weeks. I almost drowned.
Finally I went to confession and told the priest that I had gonorrhea!
Well, he was in shock, too.

(sung) "Who have you been with, my son?"

(spoken) Nobody. Nobody.

(sung) "Then how can you have ... gonorrhea?"

(spoken over music) I told him about the book's diagnosis for milky
discharge and he set me straight. It's the only time the Church
ever helped me out. Well, I was ...

MARK goes back into line as CONNIE steps forward.

Start
→ CONNIE. Four foot ten,
Four foot ten.
That's the story of my life.
I remember when ev'rybody was my size.

(spoken) Boy, was that great. But then everybody started moving up and
— there I was, stuck at ...

(sung) Four foot ten!
Four foot ten.

(spoken) But I kept hoping and praying.

(sung) I used to hang from a parallel bar by the hour,
Hoping I'd stretch just an inch more.

(spoken) 'Cause I was into dancing then, and I was good.
And I wanted so much to grow up to be a prima ballerina.
Then I went out for (*cheerleader-like yell*) cheerleader!
And they told me: "No dice, you'll get lost on the football field.
The pom-poms are bigger than you."
I spent my whole childhood waiting to grow ...

CONNIE goes into pantomime. THE OTHERS have moved to dance formation.
Each solo is picked up by a spotlight.

VAL. Tits! When am I gonna grow tits?

PAUL Secret, my whole life was a secret.

MIKE. (*spoken over music*) One little fart! ... And they called me
"Stinky" for three years. (*He screams in frustration till start of vocal*) Aahhh!

ALL EXCEPT CONNIE.

Goodbye Twelve,
Goodbye Thirteen,
Hello Love ...

BEBE Robert Goulet, Robert Goulet,
My God, Robert Goulet!

Oh!
Down below,
Up above ...

DON. Playing doctor with Evelyn.

La-la-la,
La-la,
La-la.

RICHIE. I'll show you mine,
You show me yours.

KRISTINE. (*spoken in rhythm*)
Seeing Daddy naked!

Time to grow,
Time to go ...

SHEILA. (*shouted in rhythm*)

La-la-la.

Surprise!
(*spoken*)
Mom and Dad were doing it.

BOBBY. I'm gonna be a movie star.

The rest of the AUDITIONERS is now back on THE LINE and lights come up.

CONNIE. (*out of pantomime, spoken over music*) But you see,
the only thing about me that grew was my desire.

(sung) I was never gonna be Maria Tallchief, I was just ...

(spoken) ... this peanut on pointe! That was my whole trip — my size. It still is. God, my last show I was thirty-two and I played a fourteen year-old brat ...

ZACH.⁶ Ah-hah, the Year of the Chicken, thirty-two?

RICHIE. (imitating a chicken) Pluck-pluck-pluck-pluck, girl!

CONNIE. So I got caught! (over music [bar 148]) But I don't look it. And I shouldn't knock it 'cause I've always been able to work ...

(sung) From the time I was five in "King And I."⁷
 "King And I."
 Up till now I've never stopped,
 'Cause whatever I am,
 I am ...

stop

Music continues, Attacca, as CONNIE backs to her position in THE LINE and DIANA runs to center.

No. 13 ~~Montage, Part 2: "Nothing"~~

(Diana)

DIANA. (over music) ... so excited because I'm gonna go to the High School of Performing Arts! I mean, I was dying to be a serious actress. Anyway, it's the first day of acting class — and we're in the auditorium and the teacher, Mr. Karp ... Oh, Mr. Karp ... Anyway, he puts us up on the stage with our legs around each other, one in back of the other and he says, "Okay ... we're going to do improvisations. Now, you're on a bobsled. It's snowing out. And it's cold ... Okay ... Go!"

The AUDITIONERS IN THE LINE back up and run off, stage left.

(sung) Ev'ry day for a week we would try to
 Feel the motion, feel the motion
 Down the hill.
 Ev'ry day for a week we would try to
 Hear the wind rush, hear the wind rush,
 Feel the chill.
 And I dug right down to the bottom of my soul
 To see what I had inside.
 Yes, I dug right down to the bottom of my soul
 And I tried, I tried.

(spoken over music) And everybody is going, "Whoosh, whoosh ... I feel the snow ... I feel the cold ... I feel the air." And Mr. Karp turns to me and he says, "Okay, Morales. What did you feel?"

⁶ See Appendix D for variation to this scene.

⁷ See Appendix E for variation to these lyrics.

Connie #3

and you're all acting like it's just another job — and it's not.
So, what are you all talking about?

DIANA *crosses upstage center.*

GREG. LIFE! Darlings. It's tough all over. That's why I have no plans,
no alternatives — just get me through the day ... one day at a time
is enough for me to deal with. [*Music bar 103.*]

GREG *crosses back to the right portal.* RICHIE *sits down upstage left.*
DON *crosses downstage to talk to ZACH.*

DON. Listen, we all feel the same way or we wouldn't be here. But I have a
wife and two kids and as much as I love dancin' and theatre —
it's all about paying the bills now, and getting the kids through school.
I mean, I have to go where the money is.

ZACH. What are you going to do? [*Music bar 117*]

DON. Well, I'd like to stay in the business ... maybe stage managing ...
someday directing ...

VAL. (*already auditioning*) Hello ... [*Bar 122*]

DON. Whatever, I'll just have to see.

VAL *crosses upstage and sits down on the floor.*

MAGGIE. Oh, I can't think of anything else I'd do.

BOBBY. Well, if we all had to pick another career ... [*Bar 129*]
Go on, pick a career. [*Bar 130*]

BOBBY *crosses to SHEILA at stage left on THE LINE.*

BOBBY. (*continued*) What would you like to be when you grow up?

SHEILA. Young!

CONNIE *crosses to center stage.* [*Start bar 131*]

Start CONNIE. I know what I'm gonna do. Because I know — one night,
whatever show I'm in is gonna close, and I'm finally gonna be able
to get off my diet. Then I'm gonna get in the car with my husband,
go up to our fifty acres in Vermont, have a bunch of kids,
dance around my kitchen cooking and enjoy getting fat.

KRISTINE. (*upstage right with AL*) That sounds good — except the fat part.
Yeah, I'd like that, just not right away.

BOBBY. [*Bar 143*] Listen, all I want to be is just happy.