

Side #3: 2 CLOWNS

Please use British accents ONLY, Upper Class for MR. MEMORY, Lower Class for EMCEE. The director will let you know if they want to see you use any other accents.

Both EMCEE and MR. MEMORY in this scene should be using a heightened style of acting popular in noir films of the 1930s and 40s. EMCEE is keeping the audience engaged throughout this scene. MR. MEMEORY should be played as serious, but almost robotically when recalling information. When addressing each other, they play off each other like they've been doing this for a long time.

All stage directions should be mimed, but not significantly unless directed otherwise. Make bold choices and use all of your physicality.

(Two men appear. EMCEE addresses the audience)

EMCEE. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. And now with your kind attention I have the immense honor and privilege to presentin' to you one of the most remarkable men ever in the whole world. Mr. Memory!!! *(MR. MEMORY bows.)* Every day Mr. Memory commits to memory fifty new facts and remembers every one of them! Facts from history and from geography, from newspapers and scientific books. In fact, more facts is in his brain than is possible to conceive! *(canned applause)* Settle down now please. I will also mention that before retirin' Mr. Memory has kindly consented to leaving his entire brain to the British Museum for scientific purposes. Thank you. *(MEMORY bows.)*

MEMORY. Thankoo. I will now place myself in a state of mental readiness for this evenin's performance and clear my inner bein' of all exentinsic and supernumary material.

EMCEE. Now then are you ready for the questions Mr. Memory?

MR. MEMORY. Quite ready for the questions, thankoo.

EMCEE. Thankoo.

MR. MEMORY. Thankoo.

EMCEE. Now then ladies and gents. First question please. Come on now please. *(Looks round the audience. Points at someone.)* Pardon, sir? What was that, sir? Who won the Cup in 1926? *(to MR. MEMORY)* Who won the Cup in 1926?

MR. MEMORY. Who won the cup in 1926? *(searches his memory)* The Tottenham Hotspurs won the cup in 1926 defeatin' the Arsenal Gunners by Five goals to nil in the presence of His Majesty King George the Fifth. Am I right, sir?

EMCEE. Quite right, Mr. Memory!!

MR. MEMORY. Thankoo! *(canned applause)*

EMCEE. Thankoo. Next question please! *(Looks round the audience. Finds someone else.)* What was Napoleon's horse called? *(to MR. MEMORY)* What was Napoleon's horse called?

MR. MEMORY. What was Napoleon's horse called? (*searches his memory*) Napoleon's horse was called Belerophon, what he rode for the final time at Waterloo, June 15th eighteen-fifteen! Am I right, sir?

EMCEE. Quite right, Mr. Memory!!

MR. MEMORY. Thankoo. (*canned applause*)

EMCEE. Thankoo. (*points at new member of audience*) What was that sir? How old's Mae West? How old's Mae West, Mr. Memory?

MR. MEMORY. Well, I know sir – but I never tell a lady's age! (*He finds this very amusing.*) (*canned laughter*)

EMCEE. Very good, Mr. Memory!

MR. MEMORY. Thankoo.

EMCEE. Thankoo. Now then – a serious question please. (*points at new member of audience*) How far is Winnipeg from Montreal, Mr. Memory?

MR. MEMORY. Winnipeg from Montreal sir? Winnipeg from Montreal? (*searches his memory*) One thousand four hundred and fifty four miles. Am I right sir? (*Awaits answer*) Thankoo sir!!!

EMCEE. Thankoo sir! And the next question please!

(*A gunshot rings out from the audience. Canned audience pandemonium.*)

EMCEE. Calm down, Ladies and Gents! Calm down PLEASE! Calm down PLEASE!!!!

(*MR. MEMORY is in shock. He runs up and down the stage.*)

MR. MEMORY. What was Napoleon's horse called? Winnipeg. What defeated King George the Fifth by Five goals to nil. Am I right, sir? (*EMCEE catches him.*)

EMCEE. Very good, Mr. Memory.

MR. MEMORY. Next question please!

EMCEE. That's enough Mr. M!

MR. MEMORY. I know sir but I never tell a lady's...

EMCEE. That was Mr. Memory!

MR. MEMORY. Thankoo!!

EMCEE. Don't forget his name now!

MR. MEMORY. Thankoo! Thankoo!

EMCEE. Mr. Memory!

MR. MEMORY. Thankoo!

EMCEE. Thankoo! (The EMCEE pushes him off.)