

AUDITION SIDES

BRAD

M · 30s · The Heartthrob

Audition sides for the role of Brad in Crimson Hearts: LIVE!

— UPPITY IMPROV SOCIETY —

BRAD

M · 30s · The Heartthrob

Brad plays Brock Sterling, the soap's male lead. He is vain. He is dim. He is sweet. He is currently sleeping with his castmate. The role is the play's broadest comedy and the easiest to ruin — if Brad is mean-stupid, the audience hates him; if Brad is sweet-stupid, they adore him. He must believe everything he says. The 'I know my rights' rhythm only works if he genuinely thought he knew his rights and is genuinely surprised that he doesn't.

SIDE A — THE INTERROGATION (COMEDIC)

Format: Two-person scene with MARCIA

SETUP: Marcia has called Brad in to confront him about being caught with Kayleigh in Diane's trailer. Brad is not equipped for this conversation. The play to find: Brad is genuinely confused, genuinely earnest, and genuinely thinks he's getting away with this. He is not playing dumb. He is playing earnest.

BRAD

You wanted to see me, boss?

MARCIA

Brad. Sit down.

BRAD

I'd rather stand. My core is engaged.

MARCIA

Brad. We need to talk about Diane's trailer.

BRAD

Oh yeah. The doorknob's broken.

MARCIA

(beat) ...That's what you went with.

BRAD

Hm?

MARCIA

Brad. Were you in Diane's trailer with Kayleigh.

BRAD

(immediate, with conviction) No.

MARCIA

Brad.

BRAD

...Define 'in.'

MARCIA

Brad. There is a security camera. In Diane's trailer.

BRAD

(beat) ...Why is there a security camera in Diane's trailer.

MARCIA

Because Diane installed one. Because Diane is Diane.

BRAD

That's an invasion of privacy.

MARCIA

It's HER trailer, Brad.

BRAD

I know my rights.

MARCIA

You don't.

BRAD

...I don't.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Sincerity. Every Brad line is delivered without irony. 'Define in' is asked seriously. 'I know my rights' is a confident assertion that he immediately abandons because Marcia is more authoritative than his own beliefs. The actor who winks at the audience or telegraphs the joke breaks the role. Brad is funny because he is real.

SIDE B — THE WEDDING (HEIGHTENED / ON-CAMERA)

Format: Two-person scene with DIANE, in soap-opera mode

SETUP: Brad and Diane are taping the wedding scene of their soap opera. They snap into 'Crimson Hearts' on-camera mode — eyebrows doing the work, two-camera big. This tests Brad's ability to play a SECOND character (the soap-opera character) on top of the first. He must commit to the soap-opera melodrama with TOTAL belief.

(Soap-opera music swells. BRAD and DIANE snap into 'Crimson Hearts' mode. The acting is BIG. Two-camera big. Eyebrows-doing-the-work big.)

BRAD

(turning to DIANE, soap-eyes) Vanessa. I have waited twelve years for this moment.

DIANE

(soap-tears already forming) Brock. I never thought — after the plane crash — after the amnesia — after the SECOND plane crash — I never thought we would stand here.

BRAD

And yet here we are, my darling.

DIANE

Here we—

(A door SLAMS open. The scene is interrupted by an unseen disaster offstage.)

BRAD

(breaking soap mode, normal voice, panicked) Wait, do I really have amnesia? What's my name —

BRAD

(louder, to no one) WHAT'S MY NAME?

BRAD

(beat, remembers) ...I PLAY BROCK!

BRAD

(to imagined audience, with great pride) I PLAY BROCK!

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

TOTAL commitment to the soap-opera mode in the first half. No winking. The 'soap-eyes' must be real. Then the panic-snap-back to the real Brad in the second half tests whether the actor can flip registers cleanly. The triumphant 'I PLAY BROCK!' to the audience must be earnest joy at remembering.