

## Blocking Assignments

### ACT ONE SCENE TWO

#### GENERAL:

The set includes a style chair and trolley, a 4 chair seating area, a magazine rack and a cashier counter. During the blackout both players enter the stage from Entrance/Exit E. Kathryn is seated in the styling chair as the lights come up and the scene begins. Bev moves from the cashier area on stage right D to a position just off Kathryn's left shoulder. There is a waiting area for customers on stage left with four chairs. There is a magazine rack along the back stage left corner near the seating area. There is a list of props and the visuals to go along with the scene below. On the big screen there needs to be a wide angle visual image of a typical hair salon with an empty styling chair, seating area, cashier counter, and mirrors. This visual is maintained throughout the entire scene. The seasonal tree is ever present and there is a window frame constructed so that it is suspended between two free standing poles to indicate that the tree is outside of the salon.

#### ACTION:

Bev is just finishing up with the last sale and begins to give her lines as she walks across the stage from right to left ready to do Kathryn's hair style. Throughout this scene Bev attends to her client while listening to the conversation and chatting with Kathryn. The props list lists the hair salon props available to Bev. Once the dialogue reaches the point where Bev says "you know something", her attention to styling Kathryn's hair slows down and stops as she listens carefully to what Kathryn has to say.

Kathryn begins her dialogue with enthusiasm and frequently turns her head toward Bev as she speaks. When she says "one thing is for certain" Kathryn begins to use placement to focus her attention. The remainder of her brief monologue is positioned to her left and off in the distance above the audience so as to not make eye contact. The script calls for Kathryn to imagine what is taking place and what she intends to do as her part of supporting the troops. During this sequence, Bev is styling Kathryn's hair and appearing to be deliberate in her actions while at the same time listening intently to what Kathryn is saying.

When Bev responds, she too positions her dialogue very briefly in the same area which is to her upper left and far in the distance. It is important for Bev to feel emotional at this point and not be seen by Kathryn when she says her first line which is "I've been in your situation before and I know what it means to care." Following that Bev lays her hand on Kathryn's shoulder (action before dialogue) and looks down at her for the remainder of her lines in that scripted sequence, then she quickly returns to styling Kathryn's hair.

Kathryn now turns herself back around and faces to her right and lowers her eyes but manages to keep her chin up so that the audience can see her face and chokes back the tears to deliver her next sequence. Bev stays focused on styling her hair. When she says "don't get too close" Kathryn shakes her head slowly then she raises her eyes slightly as she says "don't look into their eyes" – giving the audience "the million mile stare." The moment she gets to her last line Kathryn turns her head back over toward Bev once again who is on her left and says to Bev "you know what I mean." Always remembering that the visual actions must precede the dialogue, and so Kathryn turns first then delivers

the line “you know what I mean.” Bev in her response shows her acceptance and then quickly follows that up with appropriate humour as she works diligently to finish the style.

Bev stays within her emotional context of saying goodbye while at the same time she switches topics to hide her sadness over the fact that Kathryn is soon to leave. Kathryn now lightens the scene by talking about keeping in touch and promising to take pictures. Bev carefully removes the apron from Kathryn and hands to her the hand mirror while still feeling tender about the situation. She takes back the mirror and begins to move toward the cashier counter. She turns first before delivering the comical line “no wait”. As Bev talks about the yellow ribbon and her cute red stuff for Fridays she’s looking around and holding off expressing her emotions.

Kathryn now gets out of her chair and counters Bev’s mood with excitement over sexy red things and her four Sens hockey tickets which she produces from her purse and holds out the four she gives the line “I won four Sens tickets.” (Visual before Dialogue) Bev now comes full circle and is in fact her old self as she playfully takes us out of the scene. Kathryn goes into her purse once more for her wallet as Bev motions her off by clutching the tickets. The scene ends as Kathryn exits the salon by Ramp A. As Bev watches Kathryn exit the salon there are Extras who pass by her and move toward the seating area. Bev collects her thoughts, moves away from the cashier counter as she did at the opening of the scene while motioning to one of the new patrons who then gets up, crosses the stage and sits in the styling chair.

The image screen goes black followed by the stage lights going black. The players all exit the stage from E.

#### **PROPS LIST:**

There is a window frame suspended between two free standing poles to indicate that the tree is outside of the salon,

There is a small trolley (from a hair salon) to be used by Bev.

Various salon implements including comb, razor, shaving cup, shaving soap, hand mirror, clippers. And scissors, curling rod, blow dryer, hair spray.

4 chairs for the waiting area.

Magazine rack with papers and magazines to read.

A cashier counter with a drawer to store a cash box (no register required).

A salon styling chair.

Apron for clients.

We will also need sufficient glow in the dark cam sticks or tape to mark out entrances and exit ramps in the dark.

Kathryn’s purse containing four hockey tickets and her wallet.

The seasonal tree for summer.

#### **STAGE DIRECTOR NOTES:**

The makeshift window is positioned prior to the opening of the scene along with the styling chair which goes in the centre stage. There is a trolley for the styling implements behind the chair and slightly to the left. Stage crews will enter from the centre rear of the stage E. They are assembled in the penalty box area and they carry with them small LED lights to assist them in moving about during blackouts. The seasonal tree is positioned at all times on stage at the rear of the stage directly in front of exit E. There needs to be sufficient room for the movement of players and crew around the tree as they move on and off the main stage. The seasonal changes of the tree are part of the set preparation and conclusion. This set piece becomes a focal point for the play and also serves to mark the opening of exit E so that it

can be easily found in the dark. Once again light reflecting tape on the stage floor must be used. The final set requires the 4 chairs in the seating area at B on stage left. The magazine rack goes along the back stage left and the cashier counter is along the stage right at D. Neither the seating area nor the cashier counter must block the side audience lines of sight.

#### **COSTUMING:**

There is no special costuming for either of the two players or the two Extras. Bev wears clothing suitable to being a salon hairstylist and possibly wears a stylist's apron with large pockets. Kathryn is nicely dressed as she would be if she were going to get her hair styled. Kathryn is carrying her purse with her which contains her wallet and the four hockey tickets.

#### **COSTUME NOTE TO KATHRYN:**

If you need help to remember your lines during this scene then prepare for yourself a magazine (preferably a women's) magazine that has your script pasted inside. You won't get to read your lines but if you get stuck then you can pause to open the magazine and get refocused. If this happens then Bev will also need to wait for you to deliver your line. I am hopeful that you will be able to memorize this scene and not require the stage prop in order to prompt your lines.

#### **IMAGE SCREEN OPERATOR:**

After the blackout and before the lights come up the image on the screen is displayed and remains on the screen throughout the scene. Following the image on the screen two areas of the stage are lit - the centre stage C and the runway A. In addition the seating area along with the magazine rack should be lit as well as the cash counter. These areas respectively are B and D. The sequence for lighting and image changes at the end of scenes is for the image to go to black followed by the lighting going to black.

#### **MAKEUP:**

There are no special requirements for each of the players. Each of the players in the scene will be responsible for doing their own makeup under the direction of the Makeup Artist. No special attention is required for this scene.

#### **LIGHTING:**

The centre stage C is lit at the opening of the scene along with areas B, C, D and A which is at the front area of the stage and entrance ramp.