The committee meeting – role play

A young working class factory girl has appealed to a women’s charity for some money to help her out with her unplanned pregnancy. The father has deserted her, and in any case drank too much and was too young to help out too. To make matters worse, the only money offered so far from her father was money she fears was stolen. Will the committee grant her the money?

Your task

You need to stage the interview in which the young girl appeals for help. Role play the event from start to finish, practising until you're happy, and making notes to prompt a sort of 'script' (but no reading when performing!). You will need to work in a small team, and should include at least the first three characters listed. Other roles may be allocated according to the number in your team:

The roles you need to cast:

- **Sarah Jones** – the young girl. She is soon to be a single mother, on a factory wage, and is desperate for help. She first introduces herself as Mrs Hardasnails, because she thinks the committee may have more pity for a married girl in the situation, but it turns out to be a mistake.

- **Mrs Hardasnails** – chair of the committee who will make the final decision. She is upper class, and is offended that the girl used the name ‘Mrs Hardasnails’ when she first introduced herself. She has no idea why this was the case, but takes an instant dislike to the girl. She may be a tricky lady to persuade!

- **Mrs Givealot** – another member of the committee, who is known for her generosity. She has two young daughters and is concerned by the young girl’s appearance and story. She is more likely to be generous to the young girl.

- **Miss Wall** – another member of the committee, who is elderly and has traditional values about marriage before starting a family. She could be hard to convince.

- **Mr Kind** – a new father himself, he may have more sympathy with the young girl. He knows how costly a new child can be, and wants to know more about the father. He will raise lots of questions about the role of fathers in family life.
The tricky customer – role play

A young, pretty girl works in the ladies’ clothing department in Debenhams. She has worked there for two months, and after a miserable existence in a factory, she likes her new job. The staff have no complaints about her, but one day she comes across a tricky customer. The customer, a well-known celebrity shopping with her mother, is very put out that when the young girl holds up a dress next to herself, she looks stunning. When the customer tries it on, she catches sight of the girl, who seems to be smiling, knowing that the dress is no good on her. While the customer knows this, she is cross and offended, and instantly goes to the Manager to complain. What happens next?

Your task

You need to stage the episode in Debenhams, and come up with the Manager’s solution. He wants to keep his celebrity customer, but will he value his member of staff more?

Cast roles in your group, and role play the event from start to finish, practising until you’re happy, and making notes to prompt a sort of ‘script’ (but no reading when performing!).

The roles you need to cast:

- **Sarah Jones** – the young girl who works in Debenhams, who has just started the job and is doing well until that fateful day. She is a perfect store assistant, and happens to smile at the wrong moment. Will she be able to keep her job?

- **Miss Hilton** – the celebrity customer, who tries on a dress. She has doubts about the dress herself, but when Sarah held it up against herself, it looked great. She is used to being well looked after and getting her own way, and is very cross that Sarah smiled as she did. What will she demand of the manager?

- **Mrs Hilton** – mother of the celebrity who tries on the dress. She persuaded her daughter to try on the dress in the first place, and has a dubious sense of style herself. She is a very opinionated lady, and may well get involved when her daughter is upset by the behaviour of the young shop assistant.

- **The Manager** – he will decide what happens as a result of the episode. Remember that he will not want to lose an important customer, however he has so far been very impressed by his new shop assistant.