

Audition Pieces Actor E

Characters Played:

MR JOHN DASHWOOD

Mid 30's. First son of Henry Dashwood. Half brother to Marianne, Elinor and Margaret and Step-Son of Mrs H Dashwood. Inherits their home on his father's death. Entitled, has almost a good heart but is easily led to selfishness and snobbery by his wife.

MR EDWARD FERRARS

Late 20's. No profession, a little lost. Wishes for a simple life but his family have other ideas. Awkward but charming, considered, loyal to a fault, wants to be a member of the clergy, not gregarious but quietly entertaining.

MR JOHN WILLOUGHBY

Mid 20's. Gorgeous, manly, sexy, not rich but stands to inherit a large estate, madly in love with Marianne but money is more important, cad, philanderer, passionate, bewitching, arrogant, impetuous, selfish.

MRS JENNINGS

Late 60's. Sir John's Mother-in-law. One of her daughters has died. Larger than life, huge energy, gossip, interfering, determined matchmaker, but ultimately caring, loyal, generous and laughs like a roar.

First Audition Piece – To be learned – EDWARD FERRARS

[General confusion as everyone gathers in an awkward manner, and Edward enters and sits very awkwardly, he's distracted, whole scene is conducted with odd pauses. The big climactic proposal eventually]

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD

It is such a joy to see you Edward. I hope you are well?

MR EDWARD FERRARS

Yes.. quite.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

Goes to speak a few times, at a loss It has been... very dry... of late.

MR EDWARD FERRARS

Indeed. My horse has been... quite thirsty. *works up to a joke* In fact...he's been sounding a little hoarse.

Everyone politely laughs nervously

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

And is Mrs Ferrars well Edward?

MR EDWARD FERRARS

Well, she's still breathing.

they are all a little shocked.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

Oh, is she installed at the parish?

MR EDWARD FERRARS

thinks this odd No, my mother is in town?

ELINOR DASHWOOD

Your mo... oh no I was enquiring of Mrs Edward Ferrars.

MR EDWARD FERRARS

Oh..... oh then you have not heard.. I believe you mean my brother, you mean Mrs Robert Ferrars?

ALL THE WOMEN

looking at each other on each word Mrs... Robert Ferrars?

MR EDWARD FERRARS

Yes, I recently received a letter from Lucy somewhat suprisingly declaring undying love for my brother. It seems they spent much time together in London, and as she was convinced my affections were elsewhere *looks pointedly at Elinor*, not to mention my inheritance, she now swears all for him and they married last week.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

Then you are not.. she is...

Elinor bursts into tears and runs out in the garden. Edward awkwardly follows her and the others crane out through the windows to overhear the rest. Margaret climbs to one. Elinor is crying through it all. He is incredibly gentle yet awkward. Music builds underneath his proposal

MR EDWARD FERRARS

Elinor, I was an idle fool when I was in Plymouth, young and insensible with nothing to do but fancy myself in love with Lucy. But it wasn't til I saw you at Norland that I suddenly knew what love... what perfection was. And the realisation that I would never truly have it, was unbearable. As soon as I finished Lucy's letter I saddled my horse with but one destination in mind, here... you. I want all my journeys to end with you. I want every day to start with your smile, and the only title I want or need is that of YOUR husband, which will make me richer than any king. *Gets down on one knee* Elinor Dashwood, will you take this desperate foolish heart as your own and make me the happiest man that lived?

ELINOR DASHWOOD

crying happily Yes, Edward yes. You silly wonderful man.

Second Audition Piece – TO be familiar to read and Improvise around

MRS JENNINGS

Sir John and Mrs Jennings (E) wheel in Fancier items to denote a grander house. They proceed to eat snacks with gusto throwing them into each other's mouths, snorting with laughter. First meeting of Mrs Jennings and her matchmaking ways.

ladies enter

SIR JOHN MIDDLETON

Ahhhh here are the newest blooms in our garden. I hope you are sprouting roots into your new cottage.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD

Sir John, your kindness is above all expectation.

MRS JENNINGS

Nonsense. Sir John lives to surround himself with life's most enchanting pleasures, as do I. And as I have married off both my girls already I now can turn my attention to all of your romantic prospects.

SIR JOHN MIDDLETON

Heavens Mumsy, let me introduce you first! Hahahaha, dear Dashwoods may I introduce my matchmaking Mother-in-law, Mrs Jennings, who is determined to marry the whole world.

MRS JENNINGS

huge guffaws of laughter Guilty as charged. But what other pass-time can a woman of my age have! Now *eyes them up* who shall do for you!

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

annoyed Pray, Mrs Jennings, please do not examine us as brood mares.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

Marianne!

MRS JENNINGS

laughs uproariously not in the least deterred Brood mares! How enchanting, a spirited filly I see. Excellent most excellent.

SIR JOHN MIDDLETON

You must surrender now Miss Marianne, I was helpless to resist her forces in marrying my beloved late wife.

MRS JENNINGS

AH my dearest daughter, and would that she could be here to enjoy it still. BUT no matter. I believe Colonel Brandon, who shall be arriving imminently, might prove a worthy stallion! His estate at Delaford is a prize indeed.