

Audition Sides - Captain Orton, Louis, Anna



SCENE 1: DECK OF THE CHOW PHYA

TRACK 1: PRELUDE

Deck of the Chow Phya, a ship that has sailed from Singapore, up the Gulf of Siam, and is now making its way slowly along the winding river that approaches Bangkok. The year is 1862. On the deck are several boxes and crates of furniture suggesting Victorian household effects crated in the Orient with bamboo, rattan cloth, woven slats, etc.

TRACK 2: OPENING

AT RISE: CAPTAIN ORTON, a middle-aged Englishman, is looking into binoculars. As soon as the curtain is up, LOUIS runs on.

BEGIN

CAPTAIN ORTON

Hello, Laddy.

LOUIS

How near are we to Bangkok, Captain?

CAPTAIN ORTON

(indicating out over the audience)

See that cluster of lights jutting out into the river? That's it. That's Bangkok.

ANNA

(offstage)

Louis! Where are you?

LOUIS

Here I am, Mother. Look! There's Bangkok!

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ANNA

(laughing)
It's exciting, isn't it?

LOUIS

Will the King of Siam come to meet us?

ANNA

The King himself? I don't think so. Kings don't as a rule.

LOUIS

Look, mother! Look at that boat!

ANNA and CAPTAIN ORTON look out over the audience, following LOUIS' eyes.

CAPTAIN ORTON

That's the royal barge!

LOUIS

Do you suppose that's the King, the man sitting under the gold canopy?

CAPTAIN ORTON

That's the Kralahome.

(explaining to ANNA)

Sort of "Prime Minister" – the King's right-hand man, you might say.

ANNA

Do you suppose he's coming out to meet us?

CAPTAIN ORTON

No doubt of it. Ma'am... if I might be allowed to offer you a word of warning... That man has power, and he can use it for you or against you.

ANNA

Thank you, Captain.

END

CAPTAIN ORTON exits.

LOUIS

They all look rather scary, don't they, Mother?

LOUIS draws a little closer and takes her hand.

Father would not have liked us to be afraid, would he?

ANNA

(looks at him)

No, Louis. Father would not have liked us to be afraid.

LOUIS

Mother, does anything ever frighten you?