**SCENE ONE**

TRACK ONE: Just Arrived – Copacabana.

**Announcer: Her name was... Lola!**

**She was from Tulsa… yeah!**

**Just arrived, Grand Central Station.**

**Two suitcases in hand,**

**And a dream in her heart**

*Enter actor during, two suitcases filled with jigsaw pieces.*

Just arrived track seventeen

All the way from Tulsa Okla-nowhere

Where's my chauffeured limousine?

Where's the marching band?

Just in time to take the town

And though my knees are shaking

I’m making my stand.

It all starts now

I can see my name in neon

I won't allow

Anyone to disagree

Don't ask me how

But before too long

I'll be on some marquee

New York or bust!

I’ve just, arrived!

*Track fades, single spotlight on actor centre stage.*

Well that’s how it was when I first arrived. Young and hopeful. Ready to take on the world, kind’a attitude. Well, see the thing is. I came from background that wasn’t well stocked with cash so you had to earn what you wanted. You had to fight for it. I fought good and hard, real scrappy-like.

Now… now I’m here waiting.

Just waiting.

Tonight is my big debut.

The moment I’ve all been waiting for.

Nerves are normal right?

Or so I keep telling myself.

Y’know what they always say?

It’s okay to be nervous because if you’re nervous.

It shows that you care and I do indeed care.

Anyway, enough about that.

That was one of the first productions I did.

I remember that being my favourite number.

No matter how many times we ran it, I loved it.

Of course I was only a chorus member.

Somewhere on the back row, two from the left maybe?

Well you gotta start somewhere don’t ya?

Just like Lola was stepping off her train.

I’m waiting to step on one. The 14:05 East Midlands Trains service to London St Pancras. I know what you’re thinking.

Girl! You have your debut tonight!

What on earth are you not doing in London already?

Well, that’s another story entirely.

**SCENE TWO**

**Announcement: We are sorry to announce that the 14:05 East Midlands Trains service to: London St Pancras has been delayed.**

Well then, that’s me sat here for another few minutes I suppose. As I was saying I’ve always taken an interest to acting. The escapism of it all. One day I can be a poor, lonely girl, longing for the love of a rich rebel boy who loves another only to die on the barricade. Or I could be a witch, a green witch with a troubled story and the need to fit in.

 In reality. I’m just me. That’s the fun of being an actor. I can be anyone I wish. Well. That’s if I pass the audition process of course and by heck I’ve been through a fair few of those. Some successful. I had some fantastic roles. Some not as pretty.

 As an actor we carry these experiences around with us. It’s part of what makes us who we are. Acceptance but more importantly, rejection. This profession is one where you see a lot of rejection.

*As the actor speaks they are opening the suitcase and taking out all the jigsaws, looking at them briefly before laying them out.*

One thing everyone can agree on whether you’re an actor or not is that life isn’t ever just black and white, there’s always a grey area.

Life can be considered as a big jigsaw puzzle. We have these moments. These pieces of life that happen and made from fragments of memories. So much life is stored into just one piece. The good, the bad, and even the ugly for you Western fans. Except the pieces don’t always fit because there’s always some grey area. Maybe the jigsaw is completed when we die? I don’t know my time isn’t up just yet.

Experiences from life, as Stan the man says in the actor is present are what we can use to fuel our characters and their experiences.

For example, if I recall how I felt when I got tickets to my favourite band. Excited, overwhelmed, anticipation. I can use that emotion for how Sarah in Guys and Dolls felt when she went to Havana with Sky Matterson.

I auditioned for that musical too, I got in that one. Only I got a step up that time. I played a transgender gangster. Basically the company didn’t have enough guys to play the gangsters and they dragged some of us girls in. Besides, it was better than coming on every half hour playing the Xylophone.

So many memories come with acceptance and rejection.

One of the biggest life lessons was when I got knocked back from a role I was perfect for. They loved me. They just couldn’t place me into another play as they were a touring company. I wasn’t the right shape or height or voice for this other play so they had to take in someone else.

It was upsetting but looking back on it. I learnt a lot. It taught me patience and drive. Without that I wouldn’t be here waiting for a train to London that should have left five minutes ago!

Auditions are a hit and miss though aren’t they?

I remember when I went for this audition. The one for tonight’s show. It was my first big show. The one where you know you’ve made it.

I remember my mother being very apprehensive about me getting into this industry. I know she thinks of the ways in which actors get treated.

See, the media has changed over the years. You can take a picture of anyone on your phone in an instant. Everyone becomes a paparazzi. You have access to the rest of the world through Twitter and Facebook in an instant. Not that this is a bad thing but news travels fast and so do rumours.

Everyone takes it upon themselves to become judge, jury and executioner. We as a race thrive on gossip and judgement. That’s why we have magazines and social media so we can have an opinion. Everyone has one of those which is good, yes, but can also do great harm too, there’s no boundaries any more.

You and I. We forget that these people we look up to as idols and entertainers are people to. They started out as someone’s son or daughter, possibly a brother or sister. They’re human. We don’t treat them as humans, and technology has a lot to answer to for that. Cyberbullying is an issue.

People are being forced to admit their sexuality when they don’t even know if they’re comfortable with it. Just to stop the harassment because of something their character has done.

Another person had to move out of what he thought would be his family home for the rest of his life because of home invasion. People were turning up on his doorstep every night until he had to say enough. He and his family didn’t feel safe anymore. These are people and I can understand why any mother would be worried to send their child into this industry to face that.

An actor cannot be anonymous anymore. They can’t meet a stranger on the street and introduce themselves as I have to you. Chances are that person already knows exactly who they are, what they’re doing in this corner of the earth, what they had for lunch and are trying to find the moment to ask for a picture. And we! We think it’s acceptable because of their job, because they are in the spotlight, that their personal life is ours to comment on. We can boycott their movies if they did something in their private lives which has absolutely nothing to do with us! We trial them for it.

It doesn’t matter if it may have been a mistake, it may have been a rumour and they never even committed such crime. We’re just too quick to judge and execute them before reason can be considered-

*Interruption by notice alert sound followed by railway announcement.*

**SCENE THREE**

**Announcement: We are sorry to announce that the 14:05 East Midlands Trains service to: London St Pancras has been delayed.**

But none of that matters to me. The reasons I got into acting wasn’t for fame or money. I just wanted to earn a living doing something I enjoy.

Music has played a huge role in my life, whether it was dancing on Sunday afternoons to my dad’s records or singing for the first time in public. It had been for the church, a Christmas service.

My point is, to be able to achieve this. The ability to enjoy working for a living. I have to enter this industry. It’s not the nicest one as mentioned but it does have its perks of course. The way you can move someone to tears with a rendition of Les Miserables, I Dreamed a Dream. Or how someone can tell you that you’ve helped them in some way.

 Music is powerful, more powerful than we think.

 It is able to inspire a generation. It inspired me.

I’m just an actor. Standing in the same spot a lot of other actors have been in. All I know is after tonight is when everything changes.

Maybe I’ll fail, maybe I’ll succeed.

Maybe it’ll break me. Maybe it’ll make me.

All I know is that this is what I want.

 Because.....

TRACK TWO: Thank You For The Music – Mama Mia.

I'm nothing special, in fact I'm a bit of a bore

If I tell a joke, you've probably heard it before

But I have a talent, a wonderful thing

'Cause everyone listens when I start to sing

I'm so grateful and proud

All I want is to sing it out loud

So I say

Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing

Thanks for all the joy they're bringing

Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty

What would life be?

Without a song or a dance what are we?

So I say thank you for the music

For giving it to me

So I say

Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing

Thanks for all the joy they're bringing

Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty

What would life be?

Without a song or a dance what are we?

So I say thank you for the music

For giving it to me

I've been so lucky, I am the girl with golden hair

I wanna sing it out to everybody

What a joy, what a life, what a chance!

Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing

Thanks for all the joy they're bringing

Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty

What would life be?

Without a song or a dance what are we?

So I say thank you for the music

For giving it to me

So I say thank you for the music

For giving it to me

**Announcer: Attention please. We are sorry to announce that the 14:05 East Midlands Trains service to: London St Pancras, has been cancelled.** *(Start Fade)* **This is due to a train break down.**

*Lights snap to black out. Announcement continues to play during the blackout in a slow fade. House lights come up after a few seconds.*

TOTAL RUNTIME: 12.09 MINUTES (approx.)