WILL
If you feel the words here...
(Taps his heart.)
and trust every one of them, you will make
every inch of this theater your own.

BURBAGE
That’s right. And not only when you’re on
this stage, Tom. Wherever you go, whatever
you do, seize the space around you as
if it belongs to you.

TOM
And with all due respect, sir, how do I do
that?

WILL
You swagger.

TOM
Beg pardon, sir, but what’s that mean?

WILL
To be the cock of the walk, as brash as you
like.

TOM
I never heard that word before.

WILL
That’s because I invented it.

TOM
You in the habit of inventing words, sir?
12. “SWAGGER” WILL, BURBAGE, TOM, AND LORD CHAMBERLAIN’S MEN
<< Track 3 >>

WILL
You might say that. If you’re searching for a word that doesn’t exist, make it up. If the life you have isn’t enough, then invent the life you want. Dream big as you can and you’ll set the world ablaze!

(Leans in to TOM and sings as BURBAGE and LORD CHAMBERLAIN’S MEN gather around.)

SWAGGER INTO A ROOM
OR ONTO THE STAGE
SWAGGER A SONNET
ONTO THE PAGE
DON’T TAKE HALF-MEASURES
IN YOUR ATTITUDE
THEY MAY CALL YOU A FOOL

BURBAGE
OR JUST FUCKING RUDE!

WILL
A BOLD KIND OF DEFIANCE
THAT’S DEVIL-MAY-CARE!
GIVE THEM A GRIN
THAT HAS AN INSOLENT AIR.
IF YOU’VE GOT SWAGGER
LET THEM BEWARE!

WILL AND BURBAGE
SWAGGER TRIUMPHANT
DON’T MISS YOUR CUE
IF YOU CAN SWAGGER
THE WORLD WILL OPEN ITS ARMS TO YOU!

WILL
SWAGGER WITH ALL YOU’VE GOT –

BURBAGE
TAKE OVER THE PLACE

WILL AND BURBAGE
SWAGGER MORE SWIFTLY
TO WIN THE RACE

BURBAGE
PUSH TO THE LIMIT –
THE UNIVERSE CALLS! –
PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART IN IT

WILL
GRAB LIFE BY THE BALLS!

WILL AND BURBAGE
SO COMMAND THEIR ATTENTION
INSIST THAT YOU’RE HERE.
YOU’LL STAND THE WORLD
ON ITS PROVERBIAL EAR.
THEY WILL START CHEERING
WHEN YOU APPEAR!

WILL AND BURBAGE
SWAGGER DISRUPTIVE
TAKE WHAT YOU’RE DUE
IF YOU CAN SWAGGER
THE WORLD WILL OPEN ITS ARMS TO YOU!
TOM

*(Tentatively)*
SWAGGER INTO A ROOM
OR ONTO THE STAGE
SWAGGER A SONNET
ONTO THE PAGE

WILL

*(Speaks)*
Make yourself heard, Tom. Let your presence be felt all the way up to the balcony, where the toffs sit! You can do it!

TOM

*(Robustly)*
PUSH TO THE LIMIT –
THE UNIVERSE CALLS! –
PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART IN IT
GRAB LIFE BY THE BALLS!

WILL

*(Speaks)*
Yes!

TOM, WILL, AND BURBAGE

*(Sing)*
A BOLD KIND OF DEFIANCE
THAT’S DEVIL-MAY-CARE!
GIVE THEM A GRIN
THAT HAS AN INSOLENT AIR.
IF YOU’VE GOT SWAGGER
LET THEM BEWARE!

SWAGGER INTO A ROOM
OR ONTO THE STAGE
SWAGGER A SONNET
ONTO THE PAGE
DON’T TAKE HALF-MEASURES
IN YOUR ATTITUDE
THEY MAY CALL YOU A FOOL

TOM

OR JUST FUCKING RUDE!

ALL

SWAGGER TRIUMPHANT
DON’T MISS YOUR CUE
IF YOU CAN SWAGGER
THE WORLD WILL OPEN ITS ARMS TO YOU!

(As the song ends, LORD CHAMBERLAIN’S MEN begin to disperse. BURBAGE puts his arm around WILL’S shoulder.)