SCENE FOUR
The Next Day...
(Alex and Pia enter and explain the “ushering” do’s and don’ts to Gilbert.)

ALEX
LOOK AT THE PERSON THEN TAKE THE TICKET.
SMILE, BUT JUST A LITTLE AT THE THEATER GO-ER.
PIA
WHEN YOU SCAN THE TICKET, THE SCANNER MAKES A “PING”
WHICH MEANS ALL IS WELL...OH LISTEN, ONE MORE THING,
KEEP THE LINE MOVING, WE’VE GOT A SHOW TO START.
IF YOU SEE SOMEONE YOU KNOW, DON’T HAVE A HEART TO HEART.

ALEX/PIA
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW.
YOU’RE ON THE FRONT LINE
OF THE AUDIENCE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW.
A THEATRICAL AMBASSADOR,
AT TIMES YOU’LL BE THE JANITOR,
A PROGRAM DISTRIBUTOR,
A FRIEND TO OUR VISITORS,
A TICKET TAKING, FUNDER FINDING,
SEAT WRANGLING, MANAGER.
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW!

ALEX
IF YOU HEAR A TICKING SOUND,
IT COULD BE SOMEONE WITH A BOMB.
SO HAVE THEM STEP ASIDE
GILBERT
AND CALL THE F.B.I.?
ALEX
NO, JUST YOUR MOM.
SHE’S REALLY GREAT
AT MAKING THINGS UN-DETONATE.
SHE’S OUR NUMBER ONE TECHNICIAN
DIRECTOR OF CONCESSIONS.
SHE’S A VALUABLE, UNDERPAID
EMPLOYEE WITHOUT QUESTION.
SHE’S OUR ONLY UNDERSTUDY,
IN CASE AN ACTOR SLIPS AND FALLS.
OH YEAH, SHE’S AN USHER TOO.
GILBERT
MY MOM CAN DO IT ALL.

ALEX
THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE I WANTED TO REMEMBER
IT HAD TO DO WITH AN AUDIENCE MEMBER...OH!
IF YOU SMELL THE SMELL OF GLAZE,
COME AND GET ME RIGHT AWAY.
LAST SEASON A PATRON THREW
A HAM UP ON THE STAGE.
IT HIT THE LEAD’S HEAD,
IT WAS AWFUL.

GILBERT
WAS RAY RAY HURT?
PIA
NO, ALTHOUGH AT THE SMELL OF HAM,
HE DIVES DOWN ON THE DIRT.
GILBERT
DID YOU CATCH THE PORK PERPETRATOR?
ALEX
HE THREW THE FOOD AND FLED.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE,
BUT WE HAVEN’T CAUGHT HIM YET.
SPEAKING OF OUR RAY,
PLEASE DON’T AT LOOK HIM IN THE EYES.
OH, AND PLEASE DON’T TALK TO HIM
WHEN HE’S WALKING BY.

(With slight costume adjustments, Lilly, Bridget, Actor One, Actor Two and Ray Ray play the various audience members attending the show. As Alex and Pia sing, they scan the AUDIENCE MEMBER tickets.)

ALEX/PIA
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW.
YOU’RE ON THE FRONT LINE
OF THE AUDIENCE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW.
A THEATRICAL AMBASSADOR,
AT TIMES YOU’LL BE THE JANITOR,
A PROGRAM DISTRIBUTOR,
A FRIEND TO OUR VISITORS,
A TICKET TAKING, FUNDER FINDING,
SEAT WRANGLING, MANAGER.
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW!
ALEX
ONE LAST THING, TONIGHT’S OUR OPENING,
GILBERT
A SPECIAL MAGIC’S IN THE AIR.
PIA
THERE’S REALLY NOTHING LIKE IT.
GILBERT
THERE ARE FLOWERS EVERYWHERE.
ALEX
EVERY PERSON IN THE PLAY
FEELS THE JITTERS AND SOME FEARS.
PIA
EVEN THOUGH WE’VE DONE THIS SHOW
EVERY SPRING FOR TWENTY YEARS.
ALEX
THAT REMINDS ME, HERE’S A PRESENT.
HAPPY OPENING NIGHT.
IT’S A NAME TAG, SORRY.
YOUR NAME’S NOT SPelled EXACTLY RIGHT.
GILBERT
IT SAYS MAUDE.
ALEX
SHE WAS AN USHER WHO DISAPPEARED.
SHE WAS CHECKING SOMEONE’S TICKET WHEN SHE VANISHED.
IT WAS WEIRD.
PIA
VANISHED? NO, ALEX.
SHE WAS FIRED.
ALEX
THAT’S TRUE.
STILL, I THOUGHT SHE’D FINISH OUT HER SHIFT.
I WOULDN’T YOU?

(Music continues to play as a flurry of AUDIENCE MEMBERS arrive, present their tickets and go into the theater.)
PIA
HARD TO SAY. EITHER WAY--
ALEX/PIA
YOU ARE THE SHOW BEFORE THE SHOW.
YOU SET THE STAGE. YOU SET THE TONE.
GILBERT
I AM THE SHOW BEFORE THE SHOW.
I SET THE STAGE. I SET THE TONE.
ALEX/PIA
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW.
YOU’RE ON THE FRONT LINE
OF THE AUDIENCE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW.
A THEATRICAL AMBASSADOR,
AT TIMES YOU’LL BE THE JANITOR,
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SEAT WRANGLING, MANAGER.
YOU ARE AN USHER NOW!

GILBERT
I’M AN USHER NOW.
ON THE FRONT LINE
OF THE AUDIENCE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
I’M AN USHER NOW.
A THEATRICAL AMBASSADOR,
AT TIMES I’LL BE THE JANITOR,
A PROGRAM DISTRIBUTOR,
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A TICKET TAKING, FUNDER FINDING,
SEAT WRANGLING, MANAGER.
I’M AN USHER NOW!

(The last patrons scurry into the theater.)