

How to Meet Girls, for Voice Actors

by Adam Nakama

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3100 words

Cast of Characters

Corey - A shy voice actor who stutters in normal conversation, but is a brilliant and talented voice actor with no speech impediments when in a role.

Larissa - A voice actor who is something of a firebrand.

Duke - Another voice actor, and definitely a crude man-jerk.

Huo Yuanjia - Legendary Chinese martial artist and folk hero.

Huang Feihong - Another legendary Chinese martial artist and folk hero.

Yee - Daughter of Huo Yuanjia

Princess - A princess trapped in a tower.

Prince 2 - A prince who has come to rescue her.

Quiet Tiger - A top secret agent sneaking through enemy territory.

Kent Archer - His friend helping out on site.

Awesome - The enemy commander, she is, in fact, awesome.

Biggs - The communications officer of a starship.

Wedge - The science officer of a starship.

Piette - The captain of a starship.

Note: Every character below "Duke" is physically acted by the same three actors, and voiced by the three above.

Note: Script from "Princess and the Body Snatchers" used with permission of Shannon "Haz" Harrower. It was first performed in New Voices 25.

Throughout the script, there are two sets of actors: voice actors and physical actors. Neither group interacts directly with the other. The voice actors are just that, and will periodically voice act various scripts. As they do so, the physical actors on a separate part of the stage will physically play out the script, as if demonstrating what is in the imaginations of the voice actors. The physical actors should be wearing all black or some other non-descript and similar form of dress to each other so that they can interchange with the various parts they'll be asked to play without costume changes. The named characters in the "PHYSICAL ACTORS" section of the script correspond to the characters being voiced by the voice actors and the played by the physical actors. The net effect should be that the voices are somewhat disembodied from the action going on as the two groups combine together to create a scene.

PHYSICAL ACTORS

HUO

I, Huo Yuanjia, have come to challenge the honorable Huang Feihong to a duel!

HUANG

What is the meaning of this?

HUO

You, Huang Feihong, have been discrediting the name of my martial arts school!

HUANG

What?

HUO

Furthermore, I saw you paying inappropriate attention to my daughter.

YEE

Father, that is an unfair accusation. We were only having tea!

HUANG

This is ridiculous. I will not be party to your mindless vendetta.

HUO

You animal! Defend yourself.

They fight as if in a highly stylized kung fu movie. The voice actors

should be making grunts and kiai and other kung fu noises without degenerating into the cheesy stereotyped kung fu movie noises.

In short order, YEE runs between the two men.

YEE

Stop this at once, both of you!

HUO

No, daughter. This villain must be made to pay for his crimes.

HUANG

Certainly, Huo, we can discuss this like true men and martial artists, and settle our differences over tea.

HUO

Taste my Shadowless Kick!

YEE

Father, no!

YEE moves in the way of the kick, and falls backward to the ground with a solid grunt. She is still.

HUANG & HUO

No!

VOICE ACTORS

COREY, LARISSA, and DUKE are sitting in a recording studio. They are the ones who provided the voices for the previous scene. The PRODUCER addresses them over PA continually throughout the script, so that only those three are ever on stage for their own section. Also, unless otherwise noted, COREY speaks with a slight stutter throughout the script. It gets worse when he gets flustered.

PRODUCER

Okay, that was good guys. I liked the emotion in that.

COREY

Man, I'm really tired of all this kung fu movie dubbing. No matter what we say, it's not going to match their mouths. And it's so *cheesy*.

DUKE

Hey, who cares? It's the closest I'm going to get to training with a real kung fu master.

He kiais loudly. The others startle, then stare at him. He bows solemnly as if he is Kain from Kung Fu.

DUKE

I am Zen.

LARISSA

I'll tell you what, I am sick of playing the damn princess who has to be sheltered or protected or even, God forbid, beat up in every single dub or voice over we do. You'd think that forty years after the women's lib movement, women would finally do something other than end up as princesses to be rescued or chattel to be smacked around.

DUKE

Xena beats people up. She's not chattel, whatever that means.

COREY

And she's a princess.

LARISSA

She doesn't count! Her biggest claim to fame is Hollywood lesbianism.

DUKE

Lesbians are hot.

LARISSA

Thank you for making my point.

DUKE

Hey, are you a lesbian?

COREY

She's not a lesbian.

LARISSA

You are such a pig.

DUKE

Hey, just asking...

(beat)

...rug muncher...

COREY

She's not a lesbian!

LARISSA

You know, I actually know kung fu. Gorilla style wushu. So you'd better watch your mouth, little man.

PRODUCER

Okay! I've got the next script lined up. It's some animation. Clarissa...

LARISSA

It's Larissa.

PRODUCER

Whatever. You're gonna love your role in this.

PHYSICAL ACTORS

PRINCESS eagerly looks out tower window, paces nervously, etc.

PRINCE 2

(bursts in)

Princess!

PRINCESS

My hero!

PRINCE 2

Come, my darling! We shall ride off to the castle Grünewalt, where a company of courtiers and my subjects await my triumphant return with you, my princess!

PRINCESS

Oh, my prince! If only it were that easy.

PRINCE 2

Why not? I have already slain the dragon!

PRINCESS

The dragon yet lives! I have here
(shows him gaudy necklace pendant)
the dragon's heart, placed with me for its
protection. While this is unharmed, he will have
risen back to life in mere moments!

PRINCE 2

Oh, curse black sorcery! What must we do?!

PRINCESS

Please take hold of it! I have been magicked
unable to remove it myself, but if YOU rip this
chain from 'round my fair neck, then you can
smash it to pieces and we shall forever be free
of the wretched beast!

PRINCE 2

Have no fear, princess, for your prince shall
save you from that reptile's clutches!

He heroically takes hold of pendant, and as soon as he touches it,
blackout/cloud of smoke/light shift to signify magic has happened.
Both PRINCESS and PRINCE 2 fall to the ground. After a few seconds,
both wake up groggily

PRINCESS

I HATE PRINCESSES!

VOICE ACTORS

PRODUCER

Cut! Cut! Clarissa, what was that?

LARISSA

It's not Clarissa, it's... You know what?
Forget it. I quit.

COREY

You can't quit!

PRODUCER

Yeah, you can't quit.

LARISSA

Oh yeah? Watch me.

DUKE

Watch you nothin'. We're under contract, sweetcheeks.

PRODUCER

Duke's right. You signed it, remember?

LARISSA

Then fire me.

COREY

Larissa, be reasonable.

DUKE

Yeah, what are you complaining about? I wasn't even in the last piece.

PRODUCER

Fire you? What makes you think we'll do that?

LARISSA

Because if you don't, I'll show you my favorite kung fu move.

DUKE

The Shocker?

He makes the sign of the Shocker. She glares at him.

LARISSA

Monkey Grabs the Peach.

She performs the move, which is basically a stylized grab/strike from below with a single hand fixed as a grasping claw. It quickly swoops from below, grabs metaphorical junk, and then swoops back into an intimidating stance. The men stare at her, slack-jawed.

PRODUCER

Okay, okay. No need to get violent.

LARISSA

So I'm fired then?

PRODUCER

No.

DUKE

Please, fire her! For the sake of my unborn children!

PRODUCER

One more script, Larissa. If you absolutely can't stand it, then we'll fire you, no questions asked. But if you find that the role isn't absolutely horrible, then will you consider staying on? You're super-talented, and we'd hate to lose you.

She looks doubtful. COREY tries to give her a winning smile.

COREY

Come on, Larissa. Just one more. It can't be that bad, right?

LARISSA

Okay, fine. One more. And then, when I tell you how much it sucks, you'll fire me.

PRODUCER

Great! Glad to hear you're on board, Clarissa.

She grits her teeth.

COREY

Um, actually, it's *La--*

LARISSA

Never mind. Just get that pink slip ready.

PHYSICAL ACTORS.

KENT and TIGER are moving through enemy territory. TIGER is holding a set of papers and a pistol.

KENT

We've almost made it, Tiger.

TIGER

Stay silent. It's not too late for something to go wrong.

KENT

Just a few more steps, and we'll be free with

Awesome's plans for world domination.

AWESOME

It's too late for that. Your number is up, Quiet Tiger.

AWESOME steps into the light. She is holding a gun and has it trained on the other two.

TIGER

Hardly. There's two of us and one of you, and we've got the plans.

AWESOME

That's what you think.

KENT has pulled out a gun and pointed it at TIGER.

TIGER

What are you doing, Kent?

KENT

I'm sorry, Tiger. There was no other way. She has my wife hostage.

AWESOME

So, now that we all know where we stand, why don't you slide that gun over here, Tiger. Slowly.

He complies.

AWESOME

And now the plans.

He does.

TIGER

You can't get away with this, Awesome. There's no way your plan can work.

AWESOME

But it already has. I've got the plans, and now it's one against one.

TIGER

What?

KENT

I've done what you want, Awesome. When do I get to see my wife?

AWESOME

Very very soon, Mr. Archer. You'll be seeing her in Hell.

KENT

What? You killed my wife? You bitch!

He points the gun at her.

AWESOME

Ah, but it's too late for you to do anything about it, Archer. You see, when I had you undergo that supersoldier surgery, I made sure the surgeons implanted two failsafes: one is a poison capsule designed to slowly dissolve. It should be finishing right about now, I think.

KENT clutches his chest. TIGER turns to face him.

TIGER

Kent!

KENT

It's true, Tiger. I can feel it coursing through me as we speak. I'm not long for this world.

AWESOME

The other failsafe was an explosive installed in his chest. And because I'm a heinous bitch, I'm going to set it off for fun.

She pulls out a trigger device and holds it up triumphantly.

AWESOME

You see, Tiger? There's nothing you can do to stop me. You can't even save your so-called friends...

(she laughs an evil villainous laugh)

Say goodbye, Mr. Kent Archer.

TIGER moves quickly now, smoothly taking the gun from KENT's hands and diving backwards, shooting as he does so. A single gunshot rings

out, and then a still pause. Both AWESOME and KENT collapse to the ground. TIGER rushes over to AWESOME and gathers her in his arms.

TIGER
Awesome, why?

AWESOME
I see you've finally learned to fight, Tiger.
I'm glad.
(she coughs)
You've made me proud... son...

Beat.

TIGER
Noooooooooooooooooooo!

VOICE ACTORS

The three of them sit in stunned silence for a moment.

COREY
That...

DUKE
...was awesome!

PRODUCER
How was that, 'Rissa?

COREY
Her name is...

LARISSA
(waves him down)
No, no, it's close enough.
(to PRODUCER)
So the first female role you give me that's not
a helpless trapped princess, and it's a
psychotic paramilitary maniac?

PRODUCER
It's for a video game from Japan.

LARISSA
I dig it. I'll stay until my contract goes up,
but only if we can take our lunch break right now.

PRODUCER

You've got a deal. See you guys in an hour.

MIXED

The voice actors move away from the "voice acting" area of the stage, and the physical actors take their place. Now they'll be taking the speaking *and* physical roles, and will remain in them throughout the rest of the script. Perhaps they could add patches or insignias of some sort quickly to their costumes to signify the change.

BIGGS

Captain Piette, situation normal, except that we've been picking up some strange frequencies over our coms lately.

PIETTE

Thank you, Mr. Biggs. Mr. Wedge, have you done any waveform analysis to see if there could be some sort of communications embedded in there?

WEDGE

No sir. I'll get on that right away.

DUKE

Yee-haw! Texas Grande Grease Joint, here I come!

DUKE dashes off.

WEDGE

Captain, I've deciphered the frequency. It's a code!

PIETTE

Really? What is it a code for?

WEDGE

It appears to be... an alien language.

COREY

So, uh, where were you going to go for lunch, Larissa?

LARISSA

I was thinking the Texas Grande Grease Joint until about ten seconds ago... I guess I'll go

to Living Happy Flower Cafe.

COREY

(his stammer increases
momentarily)

Um, so do you want to maybe...?

LARISSA

Hey, you want to come with?

COREY

(he lights up)

Sure!

BIGGS

Sir! We've made contact. Wedge was right -- they are aliens, but right now they appear to be friendly.

PIETTE

Wait, what do you mean by contact?

BIGGS

I mean their ship is right in front of us in space.

PIETTE

Bring it up on the main screen.

They come to a restaurant and head to a table. Before they sit, COREY pulls out the chair for LARISSA. She stops and regards him with raised eyebrow.

PIETTE

What's happened? Why have we stopped?

BIGGS

Sir, I've just received a communication from the alien ship. It appears... hostile.

WEDGE

Sir, it could be that we just aren't familiar with their rituals of contact, and they're trying to evaluate how to react to us.

COREY

Oh, uh, sorry...

He moves away apologetically, but still doesn't sit until she does. They quietly peruse the menus for a minute, though every once in a while COREY nervously glances over at LARISSA.

PIETTE

Mr. Biggs, let's try a friendly hail.

COREY

So, what are you having?

LARISSA

I don't know. What's spectacular about this place is vegans don't have to eat salads.

COREY

Wait, you're a vegan?

LARISSA

You got a problem with that?

COREY

No! Of course not. It's just... didn't you want to go to Texas Grande Grease Joint earlier?

LARISSA

So what?

COREY

I guess they have great salads, is all.

LARISSA

Look. Sometimes a girl like me just has to sink her teeth into some meat. You can't be vegan all the time.

COREY

Hey, you're right. I mean, um, there's no way I could be vegan.

She stares at him.

WEDGE

Sir, their communications make no sense!

COREY

Not that there's anything wrong with veganism!

LARISSA

Damn straight.

PIETTE

All right. Let's try a more forward method of communication.

COREY

Speaking of straight...

LARISSA

What?

COREY

Um... Are you?

LARISSA

Men! What is it with you having to go through a girl's panty drawer like it was your property? It's none of your business who my sexy lingerie is for.

BIGGS

Sir, they've opened up their weapons ports.

COREY

Actually, it might be a little relevant...

LARISSA

Okay, fine. I'm bisexual, big whoop.

COREY

Oh, uh, what a surprise.

LARISSA

But if you want the sexy lingerie, you get the dirty ratty Disney panties too.

PIETTE

Evasive maneuvers!

COREY

Well, uh, wait a minute...

LARISSA

Because I've been having the most terrible

cramps all God-forsaken day.

COREY

Oh, uh, I couldn't tell.

There's an uncomfortable silence.

WEDGE

Everything's quiet, sir.

PIETTE

Let's escape while we can.

COREY

I've got to go.

LARISSA

What, you don't want to have lunch any more?

COREY

No, it's not that...

BIGGS

Sir, their targeting computers. They're looking for a firing solution.

LARISSA

It's because I'm vegan isn't it?

COREY

No, not at all.

LARISSA

Then it's because I'm bisexual.

WEDGE

We're hit!

The physical actors all stumble around as if the ship they're in has just been hit.

LARISSA

I knew it! You're one of those crazy neo-conservatives who can't stand the idea of a girl who's not afraid to limit herself when it comes to love.

COREY

No! No no no!

LARISSA

Then what is it? What makes you hate me so much, you bigot?

PIETTE

Wedge, return fire!

COREY

(stands up, stammer gone, and full of fire)

I don't hate you! I love you!

From here on out, his stammer vanishes.

LARISSA

Wait, really?

COREY

Yes!

She leaps over the table and into his arms to start making out with him. He looks shocked at first, then goes with it. After a moment, she leaps off of him.

WEDGE

Direct hit! Their weapons systems and engines are down.

COREY

Um. Hi.

LARISSA

I thought you *hated* me.

COREY

Hated you? Larissa, I've loved you for years, ever since I met you when we worked together on Super Hyper Magic Space Princess of Love. I thought it was an omen that we met working on my favorite anime.

LARISSA

I hated that so much!

COREY

I get it. You hate princesses.

LARISSA

And I thought you hated me, because the first time I bitched about it, you stared at me with those wounded puppy dog eyes.

(she caresses his face)

There was just so much unmasked emotion in those beautiful brown eyes. That's when I fell for you.

BIGGS

Sir, they're hailing us again. You won't believe it. We've been misunderstanding their communications all along. They're actually *friendly*.

COREY

Wait. You've liked me for as long as I've liked you...?

LARISSA

It looks like it, cowboy.

COREY

Cowboy? Isn't that more Duke's thing?

LARISSA

Nah. You're the only cowboy I see.

COREY

What do you mean?

LARISSA

My favorite song is "Save a Horse Ride a Cowboy."

BIGGS

Apparently, sir, they're trying to give us a gift.

COREY gulps, and gives a half-scared, half-excited grin.

LARISSA

Remember it. I *hate* it when boyfriends forget important things about me.

WEDGE

Let's not forget, Captain. Alien gifts can be *dangerous* double-edged swords.

COREY

Oh, uh, I won't forget it...

LARISSA

Good.

She kisses him again.

COREY

Wait, that means I'm your boyfriend?

She kisses him one more time.

PIETTE

Somehow, Mr. Wedge, I think this one's okay.

LARISSA

Shut up, you. We've only got forty-five minutes left if our lunch break, and I plan on making use of every second.

COREY

Great! Wait... what does that mean?

She drags him off.

PIETTE

Good work today, men. Why don't we go and get acquainted with our newfound friends?

BIGGS

Sounds like fun, Captain.

PIETTE

Believe me when I say this marks an exciting new era for all of us. Mankind will never be the same.

END