

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

TRACK A - HERBERT & HISTORIAN - AUDITION SIDES

Dialogue selections from the key Track A audition scenes

HERBERT - SCENE 1 - ACT II, SCENE 8

Script pages 78-79 | Herbert speaks with his father about marriage

*(PRINCE HERBERT is in his chamber, singing earnestly.
His FATHER enters in haste and stops the orchestra.)*

FATHER

Stop that! Stop all that singing.

(FATHER mounts the stairs at high speed.)

FATHER

Listen, lad, one day all this will be yours!

HERBERT

What, the curtains?

FATHER

No, not the curtains! All that you can see!
Stretched out over the hills and valleys of
this land! This will be your kingdom!

HERBERT

But, Mother...

FATHER

Father.

HERBERT

Father, I don't want any of that. I'd
rather...

FATHER

Rather what?!

HERBERT

I'd rather... just... sing!

(HERBERT begins to sing again. FATHER stops him.)

FATHER

Stop that! You're not going to do a song
while I'm here. In twenty minutes you're
getting married to a girl whose father owns
the biggest tracts of open land in Britain.

HERBERT

But I don't want land.

FATHER

Listen, Alice...

HERBERT

Herbert.

FATHER

Herbert. We live in a bloody swamp. We need
land.

HERBERT

But I don't like her.

FATHER

Don't like her?! What's wrong with her? She's beautiful, she's rich, she's got huge... tracts of land.

HERBERT

I know, but I want the person I marry to have... a certain... special... something...

HERBERT - SCENE 2 - ACT II, SCENE 11

Script pages 106-107 | Herbert, newly married to Lancelot

(The company expects ARTHUR and GUINEVERE to enter, but instead LANCELOT and HERBERT appear, newly married and dressed in great fashions.)

HERBERT

So you see it's all a show. Happy ending and
all, and that just makes me want... to
sing... Ah!

*(Everyone looks around for HERBERT'S FATHER. There is
no sign of him, so HERBERT steps forward to sing
sincerely.)*

*No. 29A, 'Finale - Part 2 / Find Your Grail Reprise' is assessed separately
as vocal material.*

*(At the end of HERBERT's sung section, LANCELOT turns
to him.)*

LANCELOT

Just think, Herbert, in a thousand years'
time this will still be controversial.

(ROBIN enters and the finale continues.)

HISTORIAN - SCENE 1 - ACT I, SCENE 1

Script page 1 | The show's introductory scene

(A very sober-looking, bow-tied HISTORIAN with horn-rimmed glasses enters. A map of England appears, like a Medieval weather map.)

HISTORIAN

England 932 A.D. A Kingdom divided. To the West, the Anglo-Saxons; to the East, the French. Above, nothing but Celts and some people from Scotland. In Gwynned, Powys, and Dyfed - Plague. In the kingdoms of Wessex, Sussex, and Essex and Kent - Plague. In Mercia and the two Anglias - Plague: with a 50% chance of pestilence and famine coming out of the Northeast at twelve miles per hour. Legend tells of an extraordinary leader who arose from the chaos to unite a troubled kingdom...

(A Terry Gilliam-like cartoon picture of KING ARTHUR is projected or revealed.)

HISTORIAN

...A man with a vision who gathered Knights together in a Holy Quest. This man was Arthur, King of the Britons. For this was England!

HISTORIAN - SCENE 2 - ACT II, SCENE 1

Script page 53 | The Historian opens Act II

(HISTORIAN enters.)

HISTORIAN

Defeat, at the castle in Act One, seems to have utterly disheartened King Arthur. The ferocity of the French taunting took him completely by surprise. King Arthur and his Knights fled for their lives and were instantly scattered and lost in a dark and very expensive forest.

(The Portcullis rises to reveal the forest.)