

Act II

Scene 3

OUTSIDE STAGE DOOR, ARCH STREET
THEATRE where JULIAN and ANDY
prepare to leave the Theatre as
COMPANY hurries on.

ANNIE

(Dashing on, music button and out
when ANNIE reaches her position)

Mr. Marsh, wait a minute! You don't have to close the show!

JULIAN

What?

ANNIE

We've got someone right in the company who can replace Brock!

JULIAN

My dear Miss Reilly, if there were someone in the company with
that much talent, don't you think I would have noticed her?

BERT

Maybe not in this case.

JULIAN

We're wasting our time.

MAGGIE

All you have to do is give her a chance! Isn't anything better
than closing the show?

JULIAN

Who is she?

ANNIE

Peggy Sawyer!

MAN

That kid?

ANNIE

Yes, Peggy! She's got a voice that'll panic 'em and she can
dance rings around Brock.

JULIAN

A raw beginner! This is her first job in the chorus!

ANDY

No wait, Boss. She is the best dancer in the line.

JULIAN

That's not carrying a show! Brock's such an easy performer she's fooled you. That sort of style takes years of experience to develop.

MAGGIE

Unless this kid's got it naturally.
(Each word quivering with passion)
Which she just might have!!

JULIAN

Do you know how many pages she'd have to learn? Not to mention the songs and routines.

BERT

She's young. Kids can do anything.

ANDY

You could put the dancing back in the show, Boss.

BERT

Julian, it's worth a try, isn't it?

JULIAN

All right, send her in.

BILLY

There's only one hitch, you just fired her.

ANNIE

But it may not be too late to get her back! She's taking the eleven-ten to Allentown.

14E UNDERScore

ANNIE (Continued)

That gives you twenty minutes to get down to Broad Street Station.

ANDY

What do we do, Boss?

JULIAN

Get her off that train! I want Sawyer in New York, ready to work, at eight o'clock tomorrow morning.

ABNER

Ain't we gonna stay here in Philadelphia?

JULIAN

And lose ten thousand dollars a night? Our only chance is to ship the show to New York, beat the part into her in thirty-six hours, and open cold on Thursday. Now get going! No, wait a minute!

(MUSIC out)

This is my job. I fired her, it's up to me to get her back.

BERT

Julian, I can go....

JULIAN

I said I'll go! Thank you, Annie. You may have done me quite a favor.

ANNIE

(As HE exits)

Anytime, Mr. Marsh. Anytime!

MAGGIE

All right, we'll give him fifteen minutes to convince her, then we bring in the big guns!

14C

SCENE CHANGE

(MUSIC up as COMPANY exits Right and Left
and we come up on....)