

REINVENTING THE WHEEL

AUDITION SIDES

GROUP 1

Current-day

FORD

It's true, but I never really pursued it. I enjoyed it and God knows, I had the talent and the voice but I lacked the drive to devote myself to such a difficult and possibly elusive career of which my family disapproved with every fiber of their beings. Plus, I can't dance.

(FORD sings a few seconds of a song, and receives applause.)

FORD

The sound of applause! How I have missed it. If you please, I would like to audition for the role of Henry Ford in your production.

OR

FORD

I just can't wait to get back on stage. They haven't portrayed Mr. Ford in the kindest light but I will do my best to make him reasonably sympathetic. He was a great man even if he wasn't a particularly nice man. I don't come in for a while. They have to tell people about Metz, which is understandable. Everybody knows Ford. Nobody knows Metz. But oh what a time it was around the turn of the twentieth century. And I have to admit that Metz was a man of vision.

GROUP 2

Play-within-a-play

CH (RICHARD)

Well...

(clears his throat)

Well, when I was a boy in New York, not the city, Utica, I quit school in the sixth grade to help my father, Wilhelm, who was a German immigrant and a carpenter. That's when I first became involved in making bikes and racing them. They were just starting to be popular and common in the United States especially, the high wheel bike. This had a very high front wheel and when you had to stop quickly, sometimes you could go flying over the handlebars, what we called taking a header. So when I moved...

OR

ELIZABETH (GWEN)

When he said bigger, he wasn't kidding. It wasn't a house. It was a mansion! It once was the home of Christopher Gore, who according to John Quincy Adams, was the wealthiest lawyer in America before becoming a Governor and Senator from the Commonwealth. His wife, the former Rebecca Amory Payne, classy name, was interested in architecture and it was her dream that became the reality of Gore Place, where the couple entertained the likes of Daniel Webster, James Monroe and the Marquis de Lafayette. It was so elegant and I did my best to be elegant too. And we entertained the beautiful people of Beacon Hill.