



## **Audition Central: Mary Poppins JR.**

# **Script: George Banks**

### **SIDE 1**

**MARY POPPINS**

Good morning.

**GEORGE**

*(stunned by the sudden intruder)*

Yes??

**MARY POPPINS**

I've come in answer to the advertisement.

**GEORGE**

What advertisement? We haven't placed any advertise-

**MARY POPPINS**

Now, let's see.

*(pulls a mended piece of paper from her pocket)*

"Play games, all sorts." Which I most certainly can. "Take us on outings, give us treats."

*(Bewildered, GEORGE looks at the fireplace, then at MARY POPPINS. He can't believe what she holds in her hands. JANE and MICHAEL enter and listen.)*

**JANE**

Michael! It's our advertisement!

**MARY POPPINS**

"Rosy cheeks and fairly pretty."

*(to GEORGE)*

There's no objection on that score, I hope?

**GEORGE**

*(flustered)*

Oh, none at all.

**MARY POPPINS**

I'm glad to hear it.

*(MARY POPPINS stares at him so firmly that, for a moment, it is like a ray of light passing right through him.)*

**GEORGE**

But-oh, take it up with Mrs. Banks. She manages all that side of things.

*(heads towards the door)*

Nothing domestic has anything to do with me.

*(turns back and raises a finger)*

And don't forget the references!

*(GEORGE exits.)*

**MARY POPPINS**

I make it a rule never to give references.

**WINIFRED**

Oh, I see...

**MARY POPPINS**

I'll see the children now, thank you.

*(JANE and MICHAEL step forward noisily and stand in front of MARY POPPINS.)*

**WINIFRED**

Oh, of course... You'll find they're very nice children.

*(realizing she doesn't know the new nanny's name)*

Now this is... oh-

**MARY POPPINS**

Mary Poppins.

*(looks at JANE and MICHAEL as if she were reading their souls)*

Jane, don't stare. And close your mouth, Michael. We are not a codfish.

*(gives a sharp nod)*

Best foot forward. Spit-spot.

*(MICHAEL and JANE exit toward the nursery, followed by MARY POPPINS.)*

**WINIFRED**

Mrs. Brill, we have a new nanny.

**MRS. BRILL**

She passed her interview, then?

**WINIFRED**

Or I did.

*(WINIFRED and MRS. BRILL exit.)*

**SIDE 2**

**WINIFRED**

Poor Michael. All he cares about is flying kites.

**GEORGE**

I used to love flying kites at his age. But my nanny, Miss Andrew, soon frightened it out of me.

**WINIFRED**

Is it out of the question to do without a nanny?

**GEORGE**

Don't be absurd! All the best people have nannies... so the wives can do charity work and entertain. Which reminds me, how is your tea party coming on?

**WINIFRED**

I'm not sure. It seems so odd to send out invitations to people I hardly know.

**GEORGE**

But they're people you should know. Remember: "By your friends shall ye be judged."

**WINIFRED**

But that's the point. They're not my friends...

**GEORGE**

Winifred. Dearest. I'm only thinking of you. Are you going to say something to Mary Poppins about this afternoon?

**WINIFRED**

I don't think so.

**GEORGE**

Very well. But just make sure she's doing things our way and not hers.

**SIDE 3****VON HUSSLER**

Herr Banks, what objections can you have? My security is more than adequate and Latin America is an expanding market. Have you no courage?

**GEORGE**

But Mr. Von Hussler, what I haven't been able to grasp is: What exactly is your final product?

**VON HUSSLER**

What do you think? Money, of course!

**GEORGE**

Yes, money. But I wonder, making money out of money, is that enough?

**VON HUSSLER**

Are you man enough to be a banker?

*(VON HUSSLER exits. GEORGE now meets with JOHN NORTHBROOK.)*

**NORTHBROOK**

Have you come to your decision, Mr. Banks? There's a town of good people whose future depends on you.

**GEORGE**

I know that...

**NORTHBROOK**

Give us this chance. The factory could be running in weeks and expanding before the year's out. Please, Mr. Banks. I'd give it everything I've got.

**GEORGE**

I believe you, Mr. Northbrook, and I've tried to find a way, but how can I be sure the money would be safe?

**NORTHBROOK**

What about my workforce? They'll make it safe!