

Idle Jack

Audition Piece 1

(There are two sections to this audition, please prepare BOTH parts. Part 1 is after the opening number; Idle Jack brings on a small heater and stands in front of it.)

Jack Hello everybody! I said hello everybody! My name's Jack, what's your name? Hang on, let's do this one at a time, we'll start with you on the end and move along. No, that might take a while. Anyway what did I come out here for? Oh I know; where is it? *(Looks round.)* Has anyone seen my heater? I'm sure I had it when I came on. It's where? Behind me? *(Ad lib.)* Oh yes so it is. It was there all along, silly me.

Now, as I said my name's Jack and do you know what boys and girls? People round here call me Idle Jack! And I am not idle, I'm a very energetic person trapped in the body of someone who wants to sleep. Talking of which, I always fall asleep when I shouldn't and it's getting me in trouble. Will you help me stay awake? Will ya? Alright, every time you see me getting tired, I want you all to shout "Wake Up Jack". Will ya do it? OK remember, every time I start to yawn... *(Stretches and yawns, reaction.)* Did you do it? Sorry; I didn't hear you, I was asleep y'see? Let's try again. *(They do.)* That was better, but you have to do it really really loud, I could be asleep right over... *(Yawns.)* Ah that's much better thanks, look after me like that and we'll be fine.

Now what was I doing? *(Sees heater.)* Oh yeah. Now, does anyone know where I can plug this in? You see, they told me I had to come on and warm up the audience. You'd think on our budget we could have got a bigger one for you. Perhaps if we all huddle up...

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Audition Piece 2

(In Part 2, Jack has a wager with the Captain. You may ad-lib whatever you'd like to do to attract the dog's attention!)

Jack Don't you get bored on these long sea journeys?

Captain Oh I don't mind, I've got my pet dog for company.

Jack A dog? I never knew you had a dog!

Captain Aye, the ship's mascot, Salty. I've had him since he was a puppy, I ship trained him and everything.

Jack Aw I love dogs, can I see him?

Captain Oh no. He's dead vicious with strangers. And seeing as I trained him, he only obeys orders from me.

Jack Oh go on, I'm sure he'll like me – and I'm really good with dogs. I bet I'll have him eating out of my hand.

Captain Eating your hand, more like. But if you do fancy a bet and you reckon you're so good with dogs, I'll bet you five pounds you can't get him to do anything for you.

Jack Alright then, you're on...

Captain *(Fetching the dog,)* Ok but I'm telling you, he only obeys my commands.

Jack Great! I've got a way with dogs, they love me. This'll be the easiest fiver I've ever earned.

(Captain returns with a stuffed toy dog.)

Captain There you are...

Jack What's that?

Captain That's Salty, my pet dog.

Jack But... but that's not a dog, it's a toy!

Captain Don't let him hear you say that! Last time someone said that to him, he bit their leg clean off! How d'ya think Peg Leg Pete got his name?

Jack Yeah but, you can't expect me to teach that to do tricks can you?

Captain Oh if you can't, you can just hand over the five pounds you owe me...

Jack What? Well, if I've lost anyway, I might as well have a go. Put him down then. *(Captain does. Jack frantically tries unsuccessfully to attract the dog's attention. Ad lib.)* Oh this is ridiculous; I give up.

Captain Very well, five pounds please...

Jack Oh alright. *(Just about to pay.)* Just a minute though, you reckon you've trained him to obey your commands, right?

Captain Right.

Jack Prove it. Prove that Salty does everything you say and I'll give you the five pounds.

Captain Alright then. *(Captain picks up dog, crosses stage and puts him down. Backs away and crouches.)* Salty... Salty... stay! *(Pause. Turns to Jack and opens hand.)*

Jack Fair enough. *(Gives him money.)*