

Audition Scene 12: Stage Manager

Theatre Aspen 2018
STAGE MANAGER SIDE 1-
Opening Monologue

STAGE MANAGER: This play is called "Our Town." It was written by Thornton Wilder. The name of the town is Grover's Corners, New Hampshire – just across the Massachusetts line: latitude 42 degrees 40 minutes; longitude 70 degrees 37 minutes. The First Act shows a day in our town. The day is May 7, 1901. The time is just before dawn.

Well, I'd better show you how our town lies. Up here (*that is: parallel to the back wall*) – is Main Street. Way back there is the railway station; tracks go that way. Polish Town's across the tracks, and some Canuck families. (*Toward the left*) Over there is the Congregational Church; across the street's the Presbyterian. Methodist and Unitarian are over there. (*off down right*) Baptist is down in the holla' by the river. Catholic Church is over beyond the tracks. Here's the Town Hall and Post Office combined; jail's in the basement. Bryan once made a speech from these steps here. Along here's (*Main Street, parallel with the back wall*) a row of stores. Hitching posts and horse blocks in front of them. First automobile's going to come along in about five years – belonged to Banker Cartwright, our richest citizen . . . lives in the big white house up on the hill. Here's the grocery store and here's Mr. Morgan's drugstore. (*Pointing right and left behind him*) Most everybody in town manages to look into those two stores once a day. Public School's over yonder. High School's still farther over. Quarter of nine mornings, noontimes, and three o'clock afternoons, the hull town can hear yelling and screaming from those schoolyards. (*He approach hes the table and chairs downstage right.*)

This is our doctor' house, -Doc Gibbs'. This is the back door. (*Two arched trellises, covered with vines and flowers, are pushed out, one by each proscenium pillar.*) There's some scenery for those who think they have to have scenery. This is Mrs. Gibbs' garden. Corn . . . peas . . . beans . . . hollyhocks . . . heliotrope . . . and a lot of burdock. (*Crosses the stage.*) In those days our newspaper come out twice a week – the Grover's Corners Sentinel – and this is Editor Webb's house. And this is Mrs. Webb's garden. Just like Mrs. Gibbs', only it's got a lot of sunflowers, too. (*He looks upward, center stage.*) Right here's . . . a big butternut tree.

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