

OKLAHOMA! Audition Pieces***Cord Elam - Dialogue Piece 1***

CORD ELAM: Best thing is fer Curly to go of his own accord and tell the Judge.

AUNT ELLER: *(To CARNES)* Why, you're the Judge, ain't you, Andrew?

CARNES: Yes, but—

LAUREY: *(Urging CURLY forward)* Well, tell him now and git it over with.

CORD ELAM: 'T wouldn't be proper. You have to do it in court.

AUNT ELLER: Oh, fiddlesticks. Le's do it here and say we did it in court.

CORD ELAM: We can't do that. That's breaking the law.

AUNT ELLER: Well, le's not break the law. Le's just bend it a little. C'mon, Andrew, and start the trial. We ain't got but a few minnits.

CORD ELAM: Andrew—I got to protest.

CARNES: Oh, shet yer trap. We can give the boy a fair trial without lockin' him up on his weddin' night! Here's the long and short of it. First I got to ask you: What's your plea? *(Curly doesn't answer. Carnes prompt him)* 'At means why did you do it?

CURLY: Why'd I do it? Cuz he'd been pesterin' Laurey and I always said some day I'd—

CARNES: Jist a minnit! Jist a minnit! Don't let yer tongue wobble around in yer mouth like 'at . . . Listen to my question. Whut happened tonight 'at made you kill him.

CURLY: Why he come at me with a knife and—and—

CARNES: And you had to defend yerself, didn't you?

CURLY: Why, yes—and furthermore . . .

CARNES: Never mind the furthermores—the plea is self-defense— *(The WOMEN start to chatter)* Quiet! Now is there a witness who saw this happen?

MEN: *(All at once)* I seen it. Shore did. Self-defense all right. Tried to stab him 'th a frog sticker.

CORD ELAM: *(Shaking his hand)* Feel funny about it. Feel funny.

AUNT ELLER: You'll feel funny when I tell yer wife you're carryin' on 'th another womern, won't you?

CORD ELAM: I ain't carryin' on 'th no one.

AUNT ELLER: Mebbe not, but you'll shore feel funny when I tell yer wife you air.

(Boisterous laughter)

CORD ELAM: Laugh, all you like, but as a Fed'ral Marshal—