

# 3PNT Dramatic Interpretation Ballot

**Round:** Sample Ballot

**Performer Name:** Amber Justmann- "Family Secrets"

**Judge Name:** Amber Justmann **Ranking:** 1 out of 1

## Ballot Comments

- Once you start the music, you just begin dancing. What I'd like to see is you hearing the music and it bringing up a memory or feeling that makes you want to start dancing.
- When you see the audience isn't dancing, you're half way between confusion and playfulness. Decide how the people around you are reacting and that will help you to clarify your own reaction.
- Watch your accent on tricky words like "flaky pastry" and "together"
- I'm not sure you need so slow down the end of your teaser so much. I understand putting a finishing end on the moment but make sure that it plays to your intention more than it does prep you to go into your intro.
- Be sure to watch that laugh. It comes in the same 3 beat tone each time so play with some variation.
- There's a strong text jump between you talking about how you used to be pretty and then talking about being alone. Right now it's missing some validation so think of how you can create a thought bridge between the two moments to show us how this character would go from thinking about aging to talking about her family abandoning her.
- You're about 3 minutes in when you hit a very dark moment talking about suicide. From what you've established with this character, your portrayal of this moment seems ill fitting in tone. I'd play with how she would think back on her suicide attempt and see if you can find a way to reserve some of the drama here for later in the piece. I just don't think you need to show so many of your Drama cards this early.
- Reapproach the lines around "I've got a right to die." I think you can find a stronger approach than simple anger. She wanted to kill herself because she was lonely and now people were getting in the way of that to make her continue to live when she had no one. I'd suggest layering on something that taps into those ideas.
- Mort isn't quite right in delivery at the moment. I understand what you're trying to do with his attitude towards his mother but past that it's a bit rushed and shallow. Spend some time on this character.
- I don't mind the moment where she says "bye" to the phone after her son hangs up but I wonder if it would be stronger to melt from her son back to herself saying "So I moved out here." It might be a more interesting dynamic for her to be excited that 1. her son would want her to be closer to him (even if he suggests it though anger) 2. she'd have a place where she could be successful in her suicide attempt.
- I appreciate the nuances to Milton in movement, body, and voice, but you have to be sure that carries through every single one of his lines. He falters a bit the farther you go into the piece. Also, work his reaction to his joke, right now it's not natural enough.
- Some of your most genuine moments happen when you're talking about Milton. Watch that scene in the video so you can see what I'm talking about and try to apply that same sort of depth of movement and charm in other places.
- "I wet my pants" this is such an interesting moment and the build to it is lovely but I want to see you play with the execution.

**END OF SAMPLE BALLOT**