

# Audition 2 Piece for Men

Excerpt from **A Hard God** first performed in 1973.

Martin and his brothers are middle-aged working-class Australians. They could speak with traces of their Irish ancestry; the choice is up to the actor.

In contrast to Sydney's harsh city life, Martin recalls their youth in the bush.

*N.B. Please prepare Martin's speech in black. The introduction is for context. It's OK to audition with the script in hand.*

PADDY: Certainly the city changed all our lives. None of us are the same people we were in the bush.

DAN: That's true, Paddy. Things were much simpler there. If you had a crop to sow there was a time to do it and that was the only time. It either rained or it didn't. And when the crop ripened you harvested it. In Sydney a man could turn you down for a job because he didn't like the way you talked or on a whim that didn't mean anything. You had to be cunning if you wanted to survive. And you had to survive. That's how the city altered us all.

PADDY: The bloody city!

MARTIN: Oh yes, the bush! When the crop was harvested, do you remember those Saturday night dances, boys? The word went out and it was understood everybody was to be there. If you played an instrument you brought it with you and, if you didn't, you collected a few gum leaves on the way. And when everybody danced the dust rose up off the floor and they had to open the windows. And then all the insects of the night swarmed into the light. And the girls cried because they'd spent the entire day starching their petticoats and ironing the ruffles on their dresses. And we'd been at it for hours as well, scrubbing our toes and plastering our hair down. But another reel came up and the dust and the insects were forgotten.