

Michael Bell audition piece

MICHAEL: Sure, what is it that takes your fancy?

JOE: I don't want your contraband. I just need a suit.

MOTHER KELLY, MARION AND HENRY GO
INTO THE HOUSE LEAVING THE CHILDREN
OUTSIDE EATING THEIR ICED BUNS.

MICHAEL: Wedding or funeral?

JOE: Neither.

MICHAEL: Birthday...?

JOE: That's not what you think it is. I need something a toff might wear- real fancy, you know?

MICHAEL: *(He sucks his teeth, as plumbers everywhere know how to do)* It'll cost you.

JOE: What about mates' rates? I'm your brother after all.

MICHAEL: Well, you're only my half-brother so I'll only give you half a discount.

JOE: Fine. When do you think you can get it?

MICHAEL: I'll have my boys scope something out and get back to you as soon as possible.

MICHAEL WHISTLES. AND THE STAGE
FLOODS WITH CHILDREN

Fall in!

CHILDREN: Fall in!

THE CHILDREN FORM A LINE

MICHAEL: We have a special job to do for my brother, Joe-

JOE: Half-brother...

MICHAEL: I want all of you to spread out- go to the grandest places in town and search for suits- morning suits, three-pieces, real nice gear.

We're looking for about this size. (*He points to Joe*). Check washing lines, in bath houses, look for open windows in any of London's palaces. Understand?

CHILDREN: Yes sir!

MICHAEL: The honour will be immense, the reward unimaginable.

JOE: Unimaginable? I don't have to pay all of them do I?!

MICHAEL: (*aside*) Leave that with me. (*to the children*). Any questions? Good. Then follow my lead!