

Safe & Simple Lazzi-Style Bits for Community Theater Auditions

These short comedic bits are designed for actors of all experience levels. They're safe, easy to teach, and great for gauging timing, creativity, and willingness to play.

1. The Stubborn Door *Setup*: Actor tries to open a stuck door. *Beats*:

- Pulls, jostles handle, puts shoulder into it.
- Gives up and turns away—door swings open easily on its own.

2. The Never-Ending Handshake

Setup: Actor shakes someone's hand and won't let go. *Beats:*

- Shakes too long, oblivious to discomfort.
- Other actor tries to pull away.
- Ends with both awkwardly smiling, still stuck.

3. The Shoelace Double-Take *Setup:*

Someone says, "Your shoelace is untied." *Beats:*

- Checks—it's not.

- Starts to walk—another person says the same.
- Panics and ties an already-tied shoe.

4. The Itchy Nose Dilemma *Setup:*

Actor has something in both hands and suddenly their nose itches.

Beats:

- Tries to scratch without letting go.
- Rubs nose on shoulder, elbow, even table.

- Finally gives up or finds a creative solution.

5. The Missing Glasses *Setup*: Actor frantically looks for glasses... that are already on. *Beats*:

- Checks under cushions, in pockets.
- Gets more frustrated.
- Finally notices or gets told.

6. The Echo Parrot *Setup*: Actor starts unintentionally repeating another's words. *Beats*:

- Realizes it and tries to stop—fails.
- Gets stuck in a loop.
- Embarrassed but still echoing.

Tips for Directors:

- Demonstrate each lazzi first as needed.
- Encourage play over perfection.
- Let them find their own rhythm—some bits get funnier with their unique spin.
- Use these as warm-ups or

breakout tests during group auditions.

Goal: Have fun and be willing to take a comedic risk!