

3. **DAVE** - from "Seeing the Thing" [**Male Identifying Auditioners**]

*(two long-time friends, Rhonda and Dave have been out for a snowmobile ride and they arrive back at her house. Dave clearly has feelings for Rhonda but cannot communicate his feelings well and she is clearly not catching on. Dave has a gift to give Rhonda (this is unconventional for their relationship up to this point). At the point where this selection begins, he has just presented her with the wrapped present. )*

RHONDA: What are you doin' here, bud?

**DAVE: Open it.**

RHONDA: Hmm. I don't know about this ...

**DAVE: Just open it.**

RHONDA: *(she opens it - it is a canvas painting. She holds it in a way that the audience cannot see the front — Beat. )* What is it?

**DAVE: What do you mean, what is it? Can't you ... see what ... it is —?**

RHONDA: It's a picture ....

**DAVE: Yeah ...**

RHONDA: A paintin'

**DAVE: Yeah ...**

RHONDA: Where'd you get this? It looks homemade.

**DAVE: What do you mean it looks homemade?**

RHONDA: Looks like someone really painted it.

**DAVE: Well, someone really *did* paint it.**

RHONDA: *(realizing.)* Did you paint this?

**DAVE: Yeah.**

RHONDA: For me?

**DAVE: Yeah.**

RHONDA: Oh ... *(She has no idea what to make of it.)* Why?!?

**DAVE: Well — ( He painted it 'cause he thinks the whole world of her.)**

RHONDA: I mean ..... Thank you! Thank you, thanks yeah.

**DAVE:** There you go! ... That's what people say... there you go! ... You're welcome.

RHONDA: (*Staring at the painting*) So Dave ... I didn't know you *Painted*.

**DAVE:** Yeah. This is — ... (*He turns the painting right side up as Rhonda has propped it up wrong*) ... I'm taking adult ed art. At nights. Merle Haslem over at the high school's teaching it, it's real good. .. And this is my version of one of those stare-at-it-until-you-see-the-thing things. Ever see one of these? Some of the old painters did it with dots. They called it — ... (*Searches, but can't quite come up with "pointilism"*) ...somethin' ... but I did it with a buncha little blocks of colors, see, and if you just look at the blocks of colors, it's just colors, but if you step back and look at the whole thing, it's not just little blocks of colors, it's a picture of something.

RHONDA: Picture of what?

**DAVE:** I'm not gonna tell you, you have to figure it out.