



AUDITION for 'HEN'

Auditions for a female multi-role ensemble character.

The 'hen rebellion'

Members of the Company will take the parts of the other animals and the part of '2nd Hen' and 'Hens' will be played by the auditionee.

The hens are an integral part of the story. In this scene the hens are being forced to give up their eggs to the pigs, who are going to sell the eggs to the humans. Although the pigs are trusted and in control of the farm, the hens feel this is just one step too far!

The hens therefore refuse to give up their eggs, and even resort to smashing them before handing them over. However, Napoleon – the head boar – refuses to weaken and therefore refuses the hens food and water, causing some of the hens to die.

Clover	Have you heard what the pigeons are saying? When we're really weak, Jones intends to bring twenty men against us, all armed with guns.
Boy	Starvation stared us in the face. But it was vitally necessary to hide this face from the outside world.
Squealer	Comrades! We need grain. Napoleon has therefore decreed that the hens must surrender their eggs.
Hens	<i>(screaming in protest):</i> What?
Squealer	He has accepted, through the good offices of Whymper, a contract for four hundred eggs a week. The price of these will pay for enough grain and meal to give us food until Summer.
1 st Hen	But the clutches are ready for the Spring sitting.
2 nd Hen	Its murder if you take the eggs away now.
All hens	We can't spare the eggs.
Squealer	You must do your duty.
All hens	We cant spare the eggs, cant you see we're broody?
Squealer	We must have the eggs, we must pay our way now.
All hens	It's murder, yes murder to take our eggs away now.
Squealer	Consider economics – the eggs have got to go!
All hens	Consider our unborn chicks
Squealer	We must have the eggs.
All hens	No! No! Till each egg has the right To become a hen

There'll be no more eggs
To be sold to men
There'll be no eggs at all.

Let the eggs rain down
From the hen house sky

The hens drop their eggs on the animals below.

Let the eggs yolks dry
Till each egg has the right
To become a hen
There'll be no more eggs
To be sold to men
There'll be no eggs at all.

Napoleon

(entering): Our feathered Comrades, it appears,
have lost all sense of reason.
And their reactionary acts
Are tantamount to treason.

To turn them back to sanity
and save them from self slaughter.
I order that the hens shall be
deprived of food and water.

Boy (Boxer) For five days the hens held out.

Hens *(weakening)*: Till each egg has the right
To become a hen
There'll be no eggs at all.
Let the eggs rain down
From the hen house sky.

The hens fall dead off the rafters one by one.

Let the eggshells smash.
Let the good yolks dry.

Boy (Boxer)

Finally, they capitulated and went back to their nesting boxes. Nine hens had died.