

American Bandstand Rewind

Emcee Audition Script

This excerpt from the script is at the beginning of the show where first appearances are so important to perk up the audience for the show ahead. The opening dance number has been performed onstage. At this point the two emcees have been offstage DR and DL, entering as dancers exit, meeting in the center.

This script is a work in progress that will have changes to it as we work through rehearsals. The two Emcees can be two men, two women, or a man and a woman.

EMC 1: *(Entering with enthusiasm from DR, moving to C)* Welcome, Ladies and Gentleman!

EMC 2: *(Entering from SL to C)* We are delighted you are here tonight!

EMC 1: Since January our cast and crew have been hard at work preparing to entertain you with songs performed on Dick Clark's nationwide television show –

BOTH: American Bandstand!!!!

EMC 2: Initially a local televised show that began in 1952 on WFIL in Philadelphia called Bandstand, it had become so popular that the decision was made to go national on August 5th, 1957 with 67 ABC-TV stations around the country.

EMC 1: Growing up in the baby-boomer era watching the show, we tuned in to see what our peers were up to.

EMC 2: What were they wearing?

EMC 1: What music were they listening to?

EMC 2: What new dances were they doing?

EMC 1: And who was dating whom among the teenage dancers onstage?

EMC 2: Some of the kids who danced on the show became celebrities themselves, receiving fan letters and requests for autographed pictures.

EMC 1: Despite some controversy from some of the older generation who targeted rock 'n' roll and black music, Dick Clark believed the show had to reflect the times.

EMC 2: He proved show after show that the music was not harmful, but good clean fun with a group of teenagers, black and white, dancing to their music.

EMC 1: Our first act contains songs from artists of the 50s and 60s. The music on the show had rockabilly, sophisticated pop, soft sensual ballads, manic rock 'n' roll, and teenage heart throbs.

EMC 2: By the 1960's R&B, Motown, and Soul would be added to the mix along with West Coast Surf music and variations of folk rock and country rock, plus the British invasion from across the pond.

EMC 1: On February 8, 1964 the show would leave Philly for the sunnier weather on the California coast.

EMC 2: The innocent looking bouffant hairdos, duck tails, crinoline dresses and suits, with ties gave way to long hair, Beatle bobs, mini skirts, and wild polka dot and paisley shirts.

(At this point you would be introducing the next production number, but that order has yet to be determined.