**AUDITION SIDE #11: ARTHUR monologue**

Here I am at last. In the room, with the man. The man who called to me this morning like a siren, who spoke to me through the screen of my laptop and said, Arthur Vance, whatever plans you had for this week, for this year, forget them. They can wait, the whole world can wait. There is only one thing for you now, one purpose. And its name… is Ned Newley. Don’t say a word. I don’t need you to speak; I just need you to be real. All morning I’ve been traveling just to shake your hand, and… it’s thrilling; it’s intoxicating. You have no idea how “of the moment” this moment is. Your moment, Governor. Until today you were a common man. A nobody – content to be a nobody. And then because a clown named Clarke couldn’t keep his Johnson in his trousers, suddenly you’re the Governor. And you say to yourself, “I’m not sure I’m up for this.” That sound about right? And then, you stand up in front of those cameras – with the whole world watching – and you say, “World, I’m not sure I’m up for this.”

Look, I’m sorry if I’m the one to break it to you, but times have changed! Unprepared is where it’s at. Unqualified is the new qualified. People today are looking for… a new kind of leader. Not a career politician, stagnated by years of experience, but a common man, whose head is not clouded by too much knowledge. A humble citizen-blissfully unaware of… how government works, or… even what its purpose is. In other words: someone absolutely, totally unprepared for elected office. And this morning, at a gloriously, horrible swearing-in ceremony, America found that man: Ned Newley. Politics is a visual medium. People vote for idiots who look like leaders. But Ned’s a new phenomenon: a leader, who looks like an idiot. I don’t think you appreciate the gift you’ve been given here. If the most competent candidate is the one who loses, if “experience” is a dirty word, then what are we supposed to do? Look for the worst candidate we can find? Well, guess what? We found him! So why fight this? Why not embrace it; why not say to the world: yes- that man you saw at the swearing in? The one who looked lost and confused? That’s your new Governor. A very simple man. Maybe a touch slow. But, he’s someone… who’s… *real*! This morning I saw you – a man untarnished by artifice, or political skill, or… personality. And I thought, my god, this is the guy. Let me work with that man, and I will not only stop him from being thrown out of office, I will not only stop this Special Election nonsense, I will transform Ned Newley into the most popular politician in the United States of America!