


# DETOUR

The



# MUSICAL

## Characters

### Johnny Parker

**Personality:** Johnny Parker is characterized by his nervousness and vulnerability. He starts as a mild-mannered, somewhat passive individual who is thrust into a series of dire circumstances. His anxiety and moral conflict become apparent as the story progresses. Johnny's internal struggle is central to the show, and his decisions, driven by fear and desperation, lead him deeper into trouble. Despite his flaws, there's a sense of empathy for him as he grapples with his unfortunate fate and the moral dilemmas he faces.

**Background:** Johnny Parker is a piano player who dreams of a better life. The story begins with him feeling trapped in a monotonous existence, working as a pianist in a nightclub and yearning for a change. His journey begins when he decides to hitchhike to Los Angeles to join his girlfriend, who has found work there. However, his journey takes a dark turn when he becomes embroiled in a crime he didn't commit.

### Sue Dalton

**Personality:** Sue Dalton is kind-hearted and optimistic, contrasting with the darker, more cynical characters in the story. She embodies the archetype of the "good girl," with dreams of a better life and a strong sense of morality. Despite her hardships, she remains hopeful and supportive, particularly toward Johnny, whom she genuinely cares for. Sue is determined and independent, willing to take risks to improve her circumstances, yet she is also vulnerable, as the harsh realities of life begin to wear down her idealism.

**Background:** Sue is a singer who, like many young women of the time, is striving to make something of herself. She works in a nightclub, which is where she meets Johnny Parker, who plays piano there. The two quickly develop a romantic relationship, and Sue becomes the driving force behind Johnny's decision to leave New York and join her in Los Angeles, where she hopes to find success in her singing career. Sue's background suggests a life of modest means, and her dreams of stardom reflect her desire to escape the limitations of her current life.

## **Kitty**

**Personality:** Kitty is tough, manipulative, and opportunistic. She is a survivor with a cynical worldview, shaped by a life of hardship and deceit. Kitty is quick-witted and always on guard, using her sharp tongue and cunning to get what she wants. She is unafraid to intimidate and bully others, particularly Johnny Parker, whom she quickly realizes she can exploit. Despite her harsh exterior, there is a hint of desperation in her actions, revealing a woman who has learned to fend for herself in a cruel world.

**Role in the Plot:** Kitty is a pivotal character in *Detour*, serving as both an antagonist and a catalyst for the downward spiral of Johnny Parker. After Johnny picks her up while hitchhiking, she immediately recognizes the situation he is in and uses it to her advantage. She blackmails him into going along with her schemes, driving much of the tension in the story. Kitty's presence is a constant threat to Johnny, representing the darker side of fate and the dangers of crossing paths with the wrong person. Her manipulative and volatile nature makes her one of the most memorable and dangerous characters in the show.

## **Charlie Haskell**

**Background:** Charlie Haskell's true background is largely a mystery, though it's clear that he has lived a life filled with risk and moral ambiguity. He is a gambler and drifter, someone who moves from place to place without much regard for the consequences of his actions. The scars on his hands suggest a past filled with violence or at least dangerous situations. Haskell's past is marked by dubious choices and a lifestyle that has left him both physically and morally scarred. He picks up Johnny Parker while driving through the desert, setting off a chain of events that will change both of their lives forever.

**Role in the Plot:** Haskell plays a crucial role in the beginning of *Detour*. He picks up Johnny Parker as a hitchhiker, and his sudden death under mysterious circumstances becomes the catalyst for Johnny's subsequent troubles.

Haskell's character embodies the themes of fate and bad luck that permeate the show, as his death serves as the turning point where Johnny's life takes a disastrous turn.

## **Ensemble Dancers/Singers**

The ensemble dancers make up the nightclub patrons, diner customers, passersby and dancers for all the group dance numbers. Ensemble dancers should be comfortable with many styles of dance and be strong singers as well.

## **Mitch**

Mitch is Johnny's best friend. He is a sweet charismatic and jovial character. It is Mitch who convinces Johnny to hitchhike across the country to join Sue in California. Featured only in the first few scenes, the actor cast in this part will also be part of the ensemble. Mitch does sing a duet in the beginning of the show.

## **Additional Characters**

Waitress, Building Manager, Police Officer, Old Man. These characters can be played by the Ensemble Dancers/Singers as well.

## **Audition Monologues**

*Pick one of these monologues for your audition*

### **Johnny Parker**

*(Hurt and getting slightly angry)* And what about me? I don't have enough for an apartment in Hollywood. Besides, don't you know millions of people go out there every year and end up waiting tables? We can do alright here. I know the club is a bit of a dive, but give me a chance to make good. I'm going to own this club one day. It'll be me and you running the place. Calling the shots- our little piece of paradise. I didn't know how much it bothered you till now so just give me a chance-

### **Charlie Haskell**

Yeah, these scars are pretty impressive. So is the story behind them too. Oh, it's my own doing of course. Got in with the wrong crowd. My dad was always working- my mom passed away when I was 8

years old. So, while my old man was at the office I went out and kept myself busy in all the wrong ways. When I was about 14, I really got into it with a small job that went wrong. A knife fight, some broken bones- the other guy was in bad shape. It was only a matter of time before the cops showed up at my door, so I booked it and ran off. That was fifteen – sixteen years ago. I haven't been home since. Let's pull in here for a bite and a drink. What do you say?

### **Sue Dalton:**

Hey there Maestro.  
You play so beautifully. You're going to make Carnegie Hall someday. Johnny- I want to talk to you about something. It's something that's been on my mind lately. I just- I mean... well did you ever want more? No Johnny- I mean more than this club, this crowd... I know I am lucky. I am engaged to the most wonderful man in the world. (She pinches his cheek.) I know what you mean Johnny, and I'm not trying to sound ungrateful. I just find myself wondering- Don't you? In the stillness- after the crowds leave, do you ever wonder if there is more for us?

### **Kitty:**

That's why I'm in charge. The only safe way to get rid of the car is to sell it to a dealer. Get it registered under a new name. When they find Haskell's body, he will just be some John Doe in the middle of nowhere. Afterall, a dead guy can't sell a car 2 days after he died right? Hey, stop at the next store. I want to get a drink and do some shopping before we hit L.A... Ah ah ah. Nothing doing. You're coming in too. From now on, you and I are as tight as Velcro. The point? The point is: I don't want you to get lost. I am going to help you- Why I'm going to see you sell this car, so you don't get caught. And for my part I'll take a small portion. A hundred percent will do. I don't want to be selfish.

### **Mitch:**

But what's keeping you here? This ain't no marvelous gig and so what's the difference- you're broke here you're broke there. At least there you'll have Sue and here... well here you just have me.. (he makes a jokingly adoring face) Where there's a will there's a way. (beat) Hey- how about hitchin'? My cousin did that six months ago from New York to Oklahoma City.

## **Song Lyrics**

*For your audition, please choose one of the provided songs. While these tracks are not from our show due*

*to the confidentiality surrounding our pilot production, they are closely aligned in style and tone. Practice tracks are available on our website: [brightstarsimi.com](http://brightstarsimi.com).*

## **More Than Just A Pretty Face Kitty Audition**

I know exactly what you're going to say  
I must be one of those crazy dames  
Mixed up with the wrong crowd  
A bad girl cliché  
But that's where you're wrong boy  
And that's just a shame

I'm a dame who knows what she wants  
A snake dressed like a lady  
Stand my ground so can you blame me?  
I'm a dame who knows what she's worth  
Hold my own with you baby  
ain't no prize so you can't claim me

CHORUS

I'm more than a pretty face  
Nobody gonna push me 'round  
You disgrace!  
You're looking at a queen  
(A queen)  
That's right I wear the crown

Here you're trying to play me  
I'm not having that  
To hide your crime  
There'll be a fee  
Or you'll be servin' time

You saw the damage these claws could do  
Oooh ain't seen nothing if you only knew  
Charlie learned his lesson, am I right?  
You had the last laugh  
Now his ride's a hearse

I'm a dame who knows what she wants  
A snake dressed like a lady  
Stand my ground so can you blame me?  
I'm a dame who knows what she's worth  
Hold my own with you baby  
Ain't no prize so you can't claim me

CHORUS

I'm more than a pretty face

Nobody gonna push me around  
You disgrace!  
You're looking at a queen  
(A queen)  
That's right I wear the crown

Here you're trying to play me  
But I'm not having that  
To hide your crime  
There'll be a fee  
Or you'll be servin' time

## **Merry Go Round- Charlie Haskell Audition**

I've heard this story  
one too many times  
It's a sad and tired trope  
Where you gonna get  
with that outlook?  
Don't be a sappy dope

Get out there  
And give it all you've got  
Grab the bull by the horns-  
Give it your best shot  
Your rhetoric is worn

Life is like a horse race  
But you're stuck on a merry go round  
You go around in circles  
While others win first place

Get off your painted pony  
And quit playing it cool  
This life's your one and only  
A hard knock kind of school

Life is Like a horse race  
Life is Like a horse race  
Keep that steady pace  
And you'll win first place

When I was a kid  
I made poor choices sure  
Ran away scared,  
I was naive and pure

But then I learned my lesson  
I ain't got no reason for messin'  
'round  
wasting my precious time

Life is Like a horse race  
Life is Like a horse race  
Keep that steady pace  
And you'll win first place

## **Let's Do This Together Sue Dalton and Johnny Audition**

Let's Do This- You and Me

SUE

Let me get straight to the point  
please try your best to understand  
That this dark and dingy joint  
Was never a part of the plan

But You, you were always the one for me  
From the moment we met I knew  
But Johnny please try to see  
This from my point of view

SUE CHORUS

Let's go together  
Let's go spread our wings  
We can explore the world  
And wait for wedding rings  
We are young and free  
We can do this together  
So let's do this you and me

JOHNNY

Sue  
You've got a rosy point of view  
Your head is always in the clouds.  
Why can't this be enough for two?  
What has filled you with so much doubt?

Please try to be happy with me- with us  
We can make this place our dream  
Look past the darkness and the dust  
As hard as that may seem

JOHNNY CHORUS

Let's do this together  
Let's follow our dreams  
This here can be our world  
I can't wait for wedding rings  
We can do this together  
This can be our forever  
So let's do this you and me

JOHNNY/SUE

I don't think  
you can see

What lies in store  
I know that this can be (there can be)  
So much more

JOHNNY CHORUS  
Let's do this together  
Let's follow our dreams  
This here can be our world  
Can't wait for wedding rings  
We can do this together  
This can be our forever  
Let's do this you and me

SUE CHORUS  
Let's go together  
Let's go spread our wings  
We can explore the world  
And wait for wedding rings  
We are young and free  
We can do this together  
Let's do this you and me

JOHNNY and SUE  
We can do this you and me

## **Hitchin' To Your Hitchin'** **Mitch Audition**

I can't take your sad face  
another minute  
Don't give a damn  
how you spin it  
You're a sad and lonely sap  
So suck it up  
and admit it

Sue is the one for you  
Your one love it's true  
So let's not pretend  
You  
don't know  
Exactly what to do!

It's time to pack your bags  
(pack my bags)  
And time to quit your wishin'  
(quit my wishin')  
It's time to get on the road  
to get hitchin'  
To your hitchin'

No need to be so blue  
As you travel the open road

Each mile puts her closer to you  
So stop moping, take your cue!

CHORUS (JOHNNY in parenthesis)  
It's time to pack your bags  
(pack my bags)  
And time to quit your wishin'  
(quit my wishin')  
It's time to get on the road  
to get hitchin'  
To your hitchin'

MITCH:  
Now don't forget about us little people  
The one's you left in kind.  
For when you hit the big time  
I won't be far behind!

CHORUS (JOHNNY in parenthesis)  
It's time to pack your bags  
(pack my bags)  
And time to quit your wishin'  
(quit my wishin')  
It's time to get on the road  
to get hitchin'  
To your hitchin'

MITCH  
Now let me teach you  
Here's what you gotta do  
The thumb here is the key  
To get you back to Sue!

CHORUS (JOHNNY in parenthesis)  
It's time to pack your bags  
(pack my bags)  
And time to quit your wishin'  
(quit my wishin')  
It's time to get on the road  
to get hitchin'  
To your hitchin'