

Monologues for *You Can't Take It With You*

MALE

Paul

(He is the middle-aged father of Alice who gets really excited about fireworks he makes in the basement.)
Mr. DePinna! Mr. DePinna, will you bring up one of those new skyrockets, please? I want to show them to Mrs. Sycamore. Look, Penny—what do you think of these little firecrackers we just made? We can sell them ten strings for a cent. Oh, wait till you see the new rockets. Gold stars, then blue stars, and then bombs, and then a balloon! Uh, Mr. De Pinna thought of the balloon.

Grandpa

(He is an older man and the grandfather of Alice, who never does anything unless it is fun. He explains why.)

Well, if they'd relax there wouldn't be times like these. That's just my point. Life is kind of beautiful if you let it come to you. But the trouble is, people forget that. I know I did. I was right in the thick of it: fighting and scratching and clawing. Regular jungle. One day it just kind of struck me: I wasn't having any fun. Just relaxed. Thirty-five years ago, that was. And I've been a happy man ever since.

Mr. Kirby

(He is the middle-aged father of Alice's fiancé, Tony, who is uptight and very concerned with business.)
That's a very easy thing to say, Mr. Vanderhof. But I have spent my entire life building up my business. What do you expect me to do? Live the way you do? Do nothing? What's the matter with that? Suppose we all did it? A fine world we'd have, everybody goes to zoos. Don't be ridiculous, Mr. Vanderhof. Who would do the work?

Tony

(He is younger man who is fiancé of Alice explains that just because their families are different, they can still be married.)

But, darling, don't you think other people have had the same problem? Everybody's got a family. That doesn't stop people who love each other . . . won't you trust me and go on loving me, and forget everything else? Nothing can keep us apart. You know that. You must know it. They want you to be happy, don't they? They must. You don't think they will change? Fine. They won't have to change. They're charming, lovable people, just as they are. Everything will work out . . . you're worrying about something that may never come up.

Kolenchov

(He is Essie's ballet teacher who tries to no avail to teach her to dance. He speaks with a Russian accent.)
We have a hot night for it, my darling, but art is only achieved through perspiration! You are ready? We begin! Now! Pirouette! Pirouette! *(She hesitates.)* Come, come! You can do that. It's been eight years now! A little freer. A little freer with the hands. The whole body must be free! I am sorry, but I cannot relax! The Czar relaxed and look what happened to him? If he had not relaxed the Grand Duchess Olga Katrina would not be selling baked beans today! I'm sorry. We go back to the pirouette!