

Maria Aria: It's all about harmony...



Maria Aria: *Allo? May I speak to Jack, please? This will only take **a little** time.*



*Oh hello Jack! Could I have **a few** minutes? Do you think that my blue dress will suit scene 4? I see, **some** walls are pale blue.*



*Is there **much** furniture on the set? How **many** armchairs did you said? Are **any** armchairs blue? No, they're beige. And the curtains are red! Well I hope they won't clash with my red and gold dresses. What do you mean, you have **lots of** more important things to do?!?! Alright, I'll talk to the set designer about it.*



*Her name is Natalie, isn't it? Yes, I've met her, she has **a lot of** taste. Sure, I'll leave you in peace now, but I really think that you should have **a little** more patience.*



***A few** polite words never harmed anyone! Good bye!*

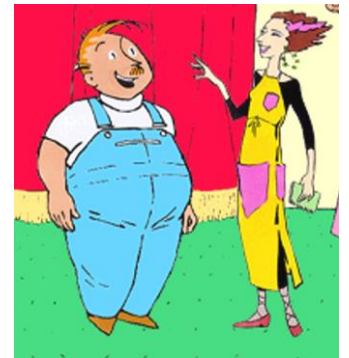


Maria Aria: The set



Natalie: Listen, Earnest, we'll put **some** armchairs here, beside the plants. **Any** armchairs left will go there, along this wall. There's **plenty of** room.

In this vase, we'll put **a few** blue and white flowers. We have **many** coffee tables: put them near the sofas. Do we have **any** bright cushions? We need **a little** colour in this corner. Ah, here comes our opera singer!



Maria Aria: Ah Natalie darling, I was looking for you! What a lovely dress! Speaking of dresses, I realise you don't have **much** time to spare, but I need your expert opinion. I'm afraid that **few** of the props will actually match my blue dress. The carpet, for example... It has **a lot of** green leaves in the design. And the armchairs... could you make **some** changes?



Natalie: The colour of the armchairs is very neutral and as to the carpet, the green is quite pale and the leaves are very small. It won't clash with your dress. There is even **some** blue in it.

Maria Aria: Are you sure? Even if I stand on it like this... Oops! This carpet is slippery! We can't have **any** accident! Earnest, please! Would you hammer **a few** nails around the edge? You don't seem to have **much** knowledge of the safety regulations!

Natalie: You're right Mrs Aria, we have to take **a lot** more precautions before the set is usable. You better come this way...

Maria Aria: Staging



Maria Aria: Well, about the armchairs, what I meant is that there is too **much** furniture. If I stand behind **some** armchair while I sing, no one will see me properly.

Natalie: We'll put **many** armchairs along the wall. You can stand there, in the forefront. You'll have plenty of room.

Maria Aria: Natalie, don't you think that I will look fat standing there by myself?

Natalie: Don't worry, Mrs Aria, you are a beautiful woman.

Maria Aria: Ah, you're too kind, darling! I know I need to loose **a few** pounds....



Maria Aria: What about standing near the window? Earnest! Would you switch on the big ventilation system, please? Blow **some** air towards the curtains....



Natalie: The curtains might be in your way, especially in scene 6 where you make **a lot of** dramatic gestures.

Maria Aria: Ah! The great Aria wrapped in **many** waves of flying material. It should look impressive! Come on, Earnest, **a little** wind, please.

Natalie: Careful!



Maria Aria: Mind your head!

Maria Aria: Ah! Yes, you're right Natalie. Oh, I nearly forgot! You know that my good-luck charm was stolen? I really need **some** reassurance when I sing, so I replaced it with **a few** wooden statuettes. They're tiny and I absolutely need them, so could I put them on the table? And I also need **plenty of** water with **a little** sugar in it. I have to take care of my vocal cords.... Everything needs to be perfect: **many** things can upset me! Can I rely on you to make sure that nothing goes wrong? What on earth is this?!!!



Natalie: This is Musidora's equipment. She's an amazing snake charmer. She finished rehearsing her act **a few** minutes ago. She must have **a lot of** patience to teach her snakes so **many** tricks. Those baskets look rather shallow, but her snakes are enormous. **Some** are over ten feet long!



Maria Aria: Really? Well, all I can say is that I'm glad to be off stage when those horrible creatures are creeping around! Musidora must have **plenty of** nerve to handle them!

Natalie: Very true, Mrs Aria. Now let's go backstage to find a place for your glass.

