



EXPLORERS – Jennie Irving 2015

Characters:	Robert O’Hara Burke	Recruit 1
	William John Wills	Recruit 2
	Explorer 1	Recruit 3
	Explorer 2	Boot Camp Leader 1
	Groupie Girls 1	Boot Camp Leader 2
	Groupie Girl 2	Captain James Cook
	Groupie Girl 3	Captain Matthew Flinders
	Batman	Hamilton Hume

	<p>SCENE 1 – Public Hall . Burke, Wills, Explorers 1&2, Groupie Girls 1,2,3, Recruits 1,2,3, Batman</p> <p><i>Burke, Wills and Explorers 1 and 2 are off to one side, Recruits 1, 2 and 3 in the front row. Batman in the back row, stage front seat.</i></p> <p><i>GGs are waiting down the stairs at the other side from Burke and Wills.</i></p>
Burke	Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is wonderful to see so many of you here tonight. We are the famous explorers, Burke...
Wills	And Wills. We are here to tell you about the wonders of exploring.
Explorer 1	<i>(A bit too loudly)</i> And the dangers!
Wills	<i>(Dismissive)</i> Hmm! Such a pessimist. And of course, we are also here to recruit for our new expedition!
Explorer 2	<i>(Aside, but a bit too loudly)</i> Yeah, because nearly everyone died on the last one.
Burke	Well, I can say from experience that exploring is hard work, especially if you’re badly prepared, have no local knowledge, and don’t investigate things properly.
	<i>Groupie girls run up in excitement. Cross the stage to where Burke and Wills are standing.</i>
GG 1	Oh, wow. Burke and Wills. They are, like, so dead famous. <i>(Said sarcastically)</i>
GG 2	Ooh, ooh – Burke and Wills! Will, Wills, can I have your autograph?
GG 3	Wills, Wills, where’s Kate? Is she at home with the kids? Can I get a selfie with you?
Wills	<i>(Confused)</i> I don’t know what you are talking about. Kate? Selfies? I am William John Wills, the famous explorer.
GG 3	<i>(Disappointed)</i> Oh, I thought you were Wills, the famous royal.



GG 2	<i>(Scoffs)</i> Famous? I haven't heard of you!
Burke	Well, perhaps that's because we died heroically in outback Queensland on the way home, after trekking over 3,200 kilometres from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria. That's in Queensland . And if you want any more royalness , we left from Royal Park in Melbourne and the only survivor of the expedition was called John King .
GG 1	I told you they were dead famous! <i>(Groupie Girls turn around and go to sit down in the back row next to Batman)</i> .
Explorer 1	Who has what it takes to be an explorer?
Recruit 1	<i>(Shoots up their hand)</i> Ooh, I do! I have a backpack, rope, a compass and really good hiking boots.
Recruit 2	<i>(Shoots up their hand)</i> Ooh, ooh, I do, I do! I also have a backpack, but mine has a built in GPS system and satellite phone in case I get lost. And, I've watched "Survivor".
Recruit 3	<i>(Shoots up their hand)</i> Ooh, ooh, ooh! I do, I do, I do! I've watched Bear Grylls' "Man vs Wild" 29 times, I can make a sling out of my Scout scarf and I've survived a year of school on nothing but pasta, Vegemite sandwiches and jam roll-ups!
Everyone	<i>(Impressed)</i> Ooooooh!
Explorer 2	Well, remember – explorers need to be well-prepared. So the backpack and rope is a good start. Explorers also need back-up in case of emergencies. And no, I don't mean a USB stick. <i>(To Recruit 2)</i> I hope your satellite phone is solar powered. <i>(To everyone)</i> As for food, well, that can range from boring to exotic to – let's face it – non-existent!
Burke	You also have to be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things.
Wills	And be prepared to learn from people around you who know things you don't.
Explorer 1	Sorry, I can just see a question at the back. <i>(Points to Batman, who has his hand up)</i> Yes. Why do you think you'd be a good explorer?
Batman	<i>(In the "Because I'm Batman" voice)</i> Because I'm Batman.
Explorer 2	Sorry mate, this is Cotham Road, not Gotham Road. I think you're in the wrong story.
Batman	Oh, are you sure? Sorry to have bothered you. Must fly! <i>(Gathers his cape and swoops past Burk and Wills and off the stage)</i>
Burke	All right. Now it's time to take all you would-be explorers off to boot camp for your pre-expedition training. Let's go!



	Curtain down.
	SCENE 2 – Boot camp <i>Boot camp leaders 1&2, Flinders, Cook, Hume, Explorers 1&2, Recruits 1,2,3, Batman.</i> <i>Everyone is sitting in a semi-circle, except for the Boot camp leaders who stand in the middle. Batman is off stage.</i>
BCL 1	<i>(Briskly)</i> Okay you lot. Who knows why you're here?
Recruit 1	To learn about exploring?
Recruit 2	To survive a whole day without wifi?
Recruit 3	To boldly go where no-one has gone before?
BCL 2	<i>(Reflectively)</i> Hmm, that sounds vaguely familiar. You're definitely on the right track, so to speak.
BCL 1	Explorers are learners. And the things you already know make the foundation for learning new things. New knowledge opens up new possibilities.
BCL 2	For example, as explorers, you might take a different route, or eat different foods. Or try new ways of cooking different plants so that they don't poison you. Burke and Wills can tell you that story later.
Cook	<i>(Stands and speaks to the audience)</i> This is why it is SO important to have a good Cook with you.
BCL 1	Who are you?
Cook	I am Captain James Cook of the Royal Navy. Famous explorer, navigator, map-maker and all-round pretty good Cook. In fact, my men's diet was so good that they sailed around the world without getting scurvy – a horrid disease. As I said, I'm a pretty good Cook. <i>(Sits down again)</i>
Recruit 1	Like a Kitchen Whiz? Or a Master Chef?
Recruit 2	Not really. More like a Master Mariner.
Recruit 3	Mariner? Isn't that where boats are kept?
Recruit 2	No, that's a marina. A mariner is a sailor. A Master mariner is a totally awesome sailor.
Flinders	<i>(Clears his throat and stands up)</i> Ahem. I too know a few things about sailing and exploring.
BCL 2	Who are you?



Flinders	<p>Captain Matthew Flinders, also of the Royal Navy. I first sailed to Australia when I was only 17.</p> <p>I worked out that Tasmania was an island and Australia was a continent. Some of my charts are so good they are still being used today.</p> <p>And did you know, I actually suggested the name “Australia” for Australia!</p>
BCL 1	<i>(Admiringly)</i> Both of you would be great role models for our new recruits.
BCL 2	You seem to have a lot of experience.
Hume	<i>(Stands up and interrupts irritably)</i> Yes, well, I disagree.
Flinders	<i>(Stands up again)</i> Why? We’re experienced, we’re famous, we’re...
Hume	<p>Well, for a start, Captain Cook here – you didn’t make it home in one piece. In fact, you didn’t really make it home at all.</p> <p>As for Captain Flinders, he was captured by the French on his way home. Six years they kept him in Mauritius.</p> <p>And he’d only just got married before he left. 8 years is a long time to wait for your husband to get home from work!</p>
Cook	<i>(Stands up again and speaks crossly)</i> Just who do you think you are?
Hume	<i>(Importantly)</i> My name is Hamilton Hume. I’ve done plenty of exploring myself. Like Captain Flinders here, I started when I was only 17. And I have only one simple rule: my way or the highway!
Recruit 1	<i>(Looking in the handbook and speaking to the other recruits)</i> But it says in our handbook “Must be a good team player”.
Recruit 3	<i>(Confidently)</i> I’m in then. I’m a great team player. In fact, I even kicked a goal for the other side at my soccer match on the weekend!
Hume	<i>(Protesting)</i> But, but... I know the way from Melbourne to Sydney!
Explorer 1	That’s great, mate, but there’s a road now. In fact, I think it was named after you. <i>(Hume, Flinders and Cook sit down again)</i>
Explorer 2	And this is a long-term expedition we’re planning. We need people who can work together and walk together, laugh together and live together.
Batman	<i>(Walks in and looks around him.)</i> Hmm, this is the place for a village.
Explorer 1	<i>(Confused)</i> Why are you back here in Melbourne?
Batman	<i>(In the “Because I’m Batman” voice)</i> Because I’m Batman. John Batman. You wouldn’t be here today if it wasn’t for me!
Explorer 2	All right. Enough chat! This is boot camp after all. So get your boots on and let’s get started!



	SCENE 3 – Still at Boot camp. All characters in. GGs sitting in one group, Recruits in another group, explorers together, BCLs on one side, Burke and Wills on the other.
GG 1	(Grumbling, holding up a large pair of boots) Ugh! I don't know why I've been given these boots. They're way too big for me to fill.
GG 2	(Soothing) I'm sure you'll grow into them one day.
GG 3	Maybe you could try walking in someone else's shoes for a change.
GG 1	(Grumpy) I've already tried that.
GG3	Curiously) How did it go?
GG1	It was really hard. Actually, it was a lot harder than I had thought.
GG 2	Well, maybe you just need to be patient and give yourself time to get used to your own boots. Perhaps they're not what you had expected, or what you're used to wearing.
GG 3	(Disdainfully) Yeah. They're not exactly glamorous!
GG 2	No, but they're practical and they'll last the distance. No high heels to trip you up!
Recruit 2	This is heaps better than being in <i>Survivor</i> !
Recruit 3	And it's great that we have a Cook with us – a real Master Marinader! I'm fed up with Vegemite sandwiches, to be honest.
Recruit 1	(Looking up from the handbook) I'm confused. What's this "moral compass" the handbook says we should use?
BCL 1	We can explain that for you. You know how you can tell right from left?
BCL 2	Well, your moral compass is what helps you tell right from wrong.
BCL 1	In other words, you hold a normal compass in your hand...
BCL 2	But you hold a moral compass in your heart.
	<i>Recruits still look confused</i>
Burke	It's like this. A regular compass helps you find your way around, so you don't get lost – in a geographical sense. Best of all, they don't need batteries!
Wills	A moral compass helps you find your way around the "hows" of life, not the "wheres". It is how you go, not just where you go.
Burke	Yes, and a moral compass can be much harder to follow. Working out north from south, or right from left, is simple. Working out right from wrong is not always that easy.



Wills	And even if you have worked it out, doing the right thing can be harder than knowing what the right thing to do is.
Flinders	Look everyone, don't be discouraged. Remember, the excitement and experience of exploring is worth all the challenges.
Cook	Exactly. My ship wasn't named "Endeavour" for nothing. "Endeavour" means "try hard". And remember, a wise person once said that a ship in the harbour is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.
Burke	Well, everyone. This brings boot camp to a close. You have all the equipment you need for now. You'll be able to pick up more on the way.
Wills	<i>(Excited)</i> Yes, like I have. I am now the proud owner of a selfie stick! So for all you ladies who wanted your picture taken with Wills, here I am!
	<i>Everyone clamours around Wills for a group photo.</i>
	<i>Song – Explorers</i>

THE END



EXPLORERS – STAGE DIRECTIONS

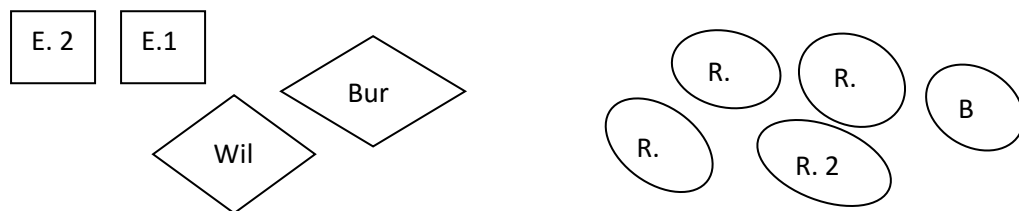
MOST Important: Speak S...L...O...W...L...Y... and C...L...E...A...R...L...Y!!

Scene 1

Waiting off stage, on far stairs (Stage left): Groupie Girls

Waiting off stage, in the side hall: Bootcamp leader, Cook, Flinders, Hume

On stage: Recruits, Batman, Burke and Wills, Explorers 1 and 2



Recruits: You must look interested in what Burke, Wills and the explorers are saying.

Groupie Girls: Remember – you are celebrity chasers. So you are not interested in Wills once you learn he is not Prince William. **AFTER** GG.1 says “I told you they were dead famous,” go off stage to the side hall.

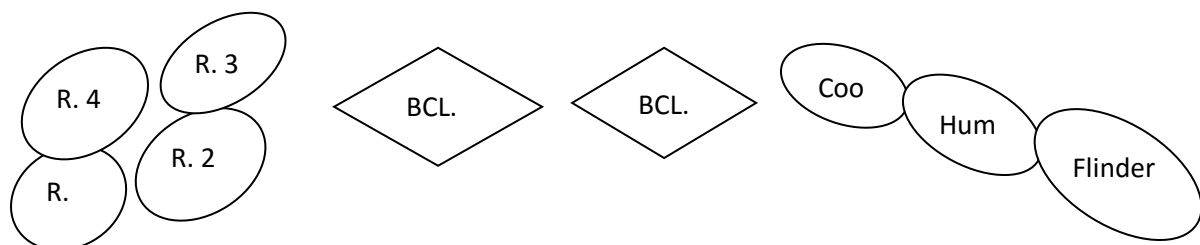
Explorers: You’re packing something behind Burke and Wills. For your first few lines, **stand, walk** to the front of the stage, and **say** them to the audience, then **go back** to your place. **AFTER** everyone says “Ooooh”, **come forward** and stay at the front edge of the stage where you are used to standing.

Scene 2

Waiting off stage, on far stairs (Stage left): Batman – walk right through centre stage when it’s your turn

Waiting off stage, in the side hall: Explorer 2, Groupie Girls, Burke and Wills

On stage: Recruits, Bootcamp leader, Cook, Flinders, Hume



Recruits: You are interested in what everyone has to say. Make sure you look as though you are listening!

Flinders and Cook: You can both glare at Hume, after he has been fairly dismissive of your achievements.

Boot Camp Leaders: You are really strong, loud, bossy leaders. You give orders – you don’t ask nicely!

Explorers 1 and 2: Come **back on** stage as Hume is saying “But.. but I know the way from Melbourne to Sydney”. **Walk in between** the Boot camp leaders, **then** speak.

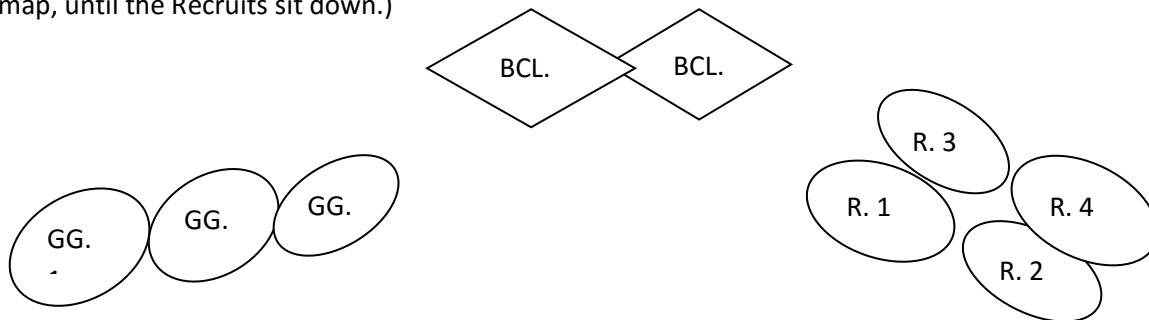


Scene 3

Waiting off stage, in the side hall: Batman, Burke and Wills, Cook, Hume and Flinders

Waiting off stage, on side hall steps: Recruits

On stage: Groupie Girls, Bootcamp Leaders (but Bootcamp leaders are at the back of the stage, looking at a map, until the Recruits sit down.)



Recruits: You are waiting QUIETLY on the stairs until Ella says “No high heels to trip you up”. **THEN** walk on.

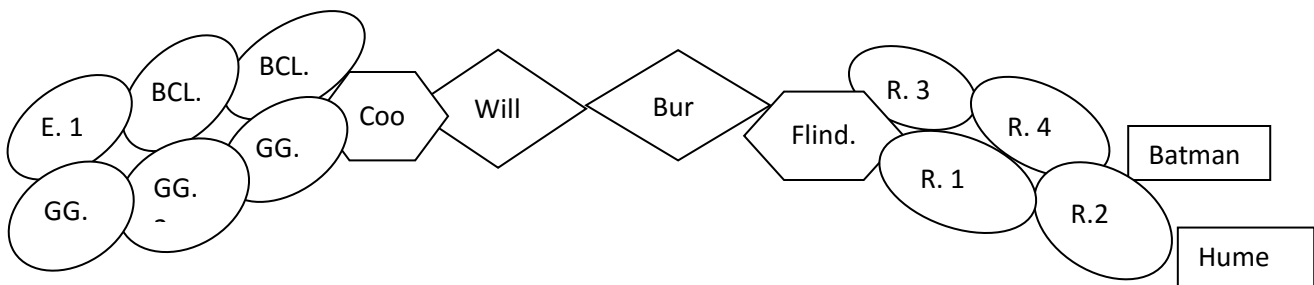
- **Rec.2**, you speak your line as you walk towards the middle of the stage. **STOP** in the middle.
- **Rec.3**, STOP with Rec.2, and talk to him when you deliver your line. Then you both go to your seats.
- **Rec.1**, FOLLOW Recs. 1 and 2, sit down, look at your handbook (I’ll make you one) then say your line.

Boot Camp Leaders: After Rec.1 gives his line, you come forward to Centre Stage and say your lines.

Everyone who is still off stage: After BCL 2 says, “But you hold a moral compass in your heart,” come on stage.

THEN:

- **Burke and Wills** walk to Centre Stage
- **BCL 1 and BCL 2** walk and stand behind the groupie girls.
- **Batman and Hume** walk to the edge of the Recruits
- **Cook and Flinders** walk between Burke and Wills to speak, then stand one either side of them.



For the final song, Burke and Wills move into the back row, Cook and Flinders stay in the front row.



Explorers Song - On a journey – Jennie Irving 2015

Verse 1

We're explorers on a journey – don't know when it'll end.
Sometimes we'll walk alone, sometimes with a friend.
Got sort of an idea where we want to go.
A "kinda", "sorta", 'cos it's hard to know.
We're explorers on a journey to places near and far
To learn what we can do. To find out who we are.
And we're ready for the journey – as ready as can be.
The time is now. The who? It's you and me.

Chorus.

It's time. Take the step. Come and walk beside us.
It's time. Take the step. Hold the torch to guide us.
It's time. Take the step. Into the unknown.
We're explorers. Making journeys of our own.

Verse 2

We've packed a map and compass, our boots and woolly socks.
The path might not be smooth – it could be full of rocks.
Got sort of an idea what we'd like to see.
A "kinda", "sorta" – who knows what will be?
We go with open eyes, we go with open minds,
Because explorers never know exactly what they'll find.
It's the journey of a lifetime, there's no Lonely Planet guide.
It's time to leave. Who's coming for the ride?

Chorus.

It's time. Take the step. Come and walk beside us.
It's time. Take the step. Hold the torch to guide us.
It's time. Take the step. Into the unknown.
We're explorers. Making journeys of our own.
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