42nd Street Dramaturgy

# VOCABULARY

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| **Word(s)** | **Definition/Meaning/Background** | **Who says it?** | **Act-Scene-Page** |
|  | **ACT ONE** |  |  |
| *Variety* | A magazine dedicated to show business |  | Zero |
| *Breadline* | A line in which people get to receive food because they are poor | Andy | 1-1-2 |
| *Bundle of humanity* | A person with the desire to do good to others | Billy | 1-1-3 |
| *Miss Allentown, Miss Junior Elk* | Not actually real, but indicative of beauty pageant names | Peggy | 1-1-4 |
| *Amscray* | Pig Latin for “scram” | Andy | 1-1-6 |
| *Notre Dame [’s line]* | Referring to the Notre Dame football team line up | Julian | 1-1-7 |
| *Allentown, Pennsylvania* | A town in referred to as “mini-Philadelphia.” It was primarily an industrial town. | Maggie | 1-1-8 |
| *The crash got me* | Referring to the stock market crash of 1929. Many performers, who had put a lot of money into stocks were made penniless in twenty four hours. | Julian | 1-1-8 |
| *Key* | Musical key, referring to how high or low the song is to be sung. | Bert | 1-1-10 |
| *Low-down dive* | Referring to a dive bar that is generally smaller, and has a good friendly ambiance. Prohibition had *just* ended, so in this instance, it probably refers to a local jazz club. | Maggie | 1-1-10 |
| *Tone* | The pitch of a note. When Julian says to take it down a tone, he’s making the song sound lower. | Tone | 1-1-10 |
| *Three quarter time* | Waltz time; meaning three beats to a measure instead of the usual four. | Maggie | 1-1-10 |
| *Shin-busters* | An instrument mounted on either a floor base or a side boom approximately a foot off the ground. Commonly used as side light for dance pieces. The term “shin buster” comes from the fact that at that height, it’s easy for a person to walk smack into and whack their shins | Julian | 1-1-11 |
| *A scrim on twenty eight* | Referring to a drop –a large painted piece of canvas depicting some type of scenery- that is semi-translucent. Twenty eight refers to which fly the scrim is on. | Julian | 1-1-11 |
| *Vaudeville* | A type of entertainment popular solely in the US in the early 20th century, featuring a mixture of specialty acts such as burlesque comedy and song and dance. A major step below Broadway in the entertainment world, but a lot of famous performers had their start there. | Pat | 1-1-14 |
| *Astor Roof* | Referring to the rooftop gardens and restaurant of the Astor Hotel, which featured many luxurious restaurants on its floors. | Phyllis, Annie, Lorraine | 1-1-15 |
| *Automat* | A fast food restaurant where simple foods and drink are served by vending machines which only take a nickel | Phyllis, Annie, Lorraine | 1-1-15 |
| *Gypsy Tea Kettle* | [Tea11936PB.jpg]Gypsy Tea Kettle was the name of a chain of restaurant tea-leaf-reading joints. (Reading tea leaves was a method of fortune telling.) There were several in Manhattan, including one which began in 1931 on the second floor at the building at the northeast corner 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue. | Phyllis, Annie, Lorraine | 1-1-15 |
| *Sugar daddy* | A rich older man who lavishes gifts on a young woman in return for her company or sexual favors. | Phyllis | 1-2-17 |
| *Eugene O’Niel* | An American playwright and Nobel laureate in Literature. His poetically titled plays were among the first to introduce into American drama techniques of. His drama *Long Day's Journey into Night* is often numbered on the short list of the finest American plays in the 20th century. O'Neill's plays were among the first to include speeches in American vernacular and involve characters on the fringes of society. | Maggie | 1-2-18 |
| *Eye teeth* | One’s canine teeth, so named because they are directly under one’s eye. | Maggie | 1-2-18 |
| *Hoofers* | A professional dancer, usually a tap dancer | Maggie | 1-2-18 |
| *Ducky* | Wonderful; charming or cute. | Julian | 1-2-21 |
| *Mack truck* | Large hauling trucks, particularly eighteen wheelers | Julian | 1-2-21 |
| *Par for the course* | What is normal or expected in the given circumstances | Maxie | 1-4-25 |
| *Posies* | Image result for posiesA nosegay, tussie-mussie, or posy is a small flower bouquet, typically given as a gift. Doilies are traditionally used to bind the stems in these arrangements. | Abner | 1-4-27 |
| *Gigolo* | a young man paid or financially supported by an older woman to be her escort or lover (a gender-bent and backwards version of a sugar daddy) | Julian | 1-5-29 |
| *The old purse strings are a bit frayed* | Indicating a lack of money. Image result for mens purses 1930sMen used wallets that were at the time called “purses” to hold their money, and saying that the purse strings are a bit frayed could refer to either the wallet falling apart and money falling out everywhere, or to the idea that the person cannot afford to buy a new wallet. | Pat | 1-5-31 |
| *Stock company* | a repertory company that is largely based in one theater, NOT referring to buying or selling stocks | Pat | 1-5-31 |
| *Forwarding address* | an address that you leave for someone when you move to a new place so that they can send letters to you | Pat | 1-5-31 |
| *Hot-cha-cha* | “Hotcha” Or “Hatcha-cha,” an interjection used to indicate pleasure or approval. As an adjective, it means sexually attractive and energetic | Company | 1-5-32 |
| *Iceman* | A person who would deliver ice door-to door daily, because there was no other method of refrigerating perishables | People in “Going out of Town” | 1-5-32 |
| *Caresses* | Referring to parts of a woman’s body able to be caressed, like her waist | Billy, Men | 1-6-35 |
| *Slim trim or curvy* | Thin, fit, or curvier | Billy, ensemble | 1-6-35 |
| *Regency Club* | An opulent club inside the Regency Hotel in New York | Peggy | 1-6-37 |
| *Gay* | Happy | Dorothy | 1-7-39 |
| *Build a bridge over you* | A sly insult referring to a person drinking so much she will become a body of water… or alcohol | Bert | 1-7-39 |
| *Build a monument over you* | Most likely meaning that he will be killed and someone would build a monument to commemorate his death. | Dorothy | 1-7-39 |
| *Irving Berlin* | An American composer and lyricist, widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history; he composed the score for *Annie Get Your Gun*. The reference to Buffalo Bill could be referring to the character in Annie Get your Gun, though the show didn’t open until 1950. | Dorothy | 1-7-39 |
| *Buffalo Bill* | An American scout, bison hunter, and showman. He was a real person, but also a character in the Berlin musical, *Annie Get Your Gun*. | Dorothy | 1-7-39 |
| *Give me the air* | To kick someone out, generally out of a building. People tend to “go out for air” voluntarily, so “giving someone the air” is forcing them to go out. | Abner | 1-7-40 |
| *Bubbles* | Referring to drinks that are carbonated. Champagne, sparking wine, and some cocktails are bubbly. | Dorothy | 1-7-40 |
| *Fainting violet* | A pun on the term “shrinking violet” which is a person who is too shy to express their opinions. | Dorothy | 1-7-42 |
| *Old man depression* | Referring to the great depression, which was still going on, but had slowed down to the point where people’s lives were being put back together. | Ragamuffs | 1-8-46 |
| *A headline ‘bout a breadline* | “Breadline” is a term originating in Britain referring to people having an income that just barely meets their needs. A headline about a breadline is a headline about extreme poverty. | Ragamuffs | 1-8-46 |
| *Thoroughfare* | a road or path forming a route between two places | Dorothy | 1-8-49 |
| *Crazy quilt* | A crazy quilt is a patchwork quilt with patches of fabric in randomly varying sizes, shapes, colors, and fabrics. It is typically used as a metaphor for miscellaneous compilations of varying things. | Dorothy | 1-8-49 |
| *Wall Street Jack* | Most likely refers to John Vernou "Black Jack" Bouvier III, an American Wall Street stockbroker and socialite. He was the father of former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. His nickname, "Black Jack", referred to his omnipresent dark tan and his flamboyant lifestyle. He made his fortune doing real estate speculation in New York. | Dorothy | 1-8-49 |
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|  | **ACT TWO** |  |  |
| *Compound Fracture* | A fracture in which a bone is sticking through the skin. Also known as an open fracture. | Doctor | 2-1-1 |
| *With no bonds and no stocks in your little safe deposit box you can never be affected by inflation* | Inflation, the rise in price of goods and services, reduces the purchasing power each unit of currency can buy. Rising inflation has an insidious effect: input prices are higher, consumers can purchase fewer goods, revenues and profits decline, and the economy slows for a time until a steady state is reached. Bonds and stocks lose value when inflation occurs. The sentence means “well, if you’re already out of money, you can’t get any poorer.” | Everyone in Sunny Side to Every Situation | 2-1-4 |
| *Ballyhoo* | extravagant publicity or fuss | Julian | 2-4-11 |
| *Daffydills who entertain* | Pet name for chorus girls, who often performed in the night clubs and restaurants with floor shows known as "peacockeries," that flourished in midtown after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933. | Julian | 2-4-11 |
| *Angelo’s and Maxie’s* | Angelo's might have referred to the 95-year old Italian restaurant on Mulberry Street, while Maxie’s could have referred to any number of small mom and pop joins in New York. There was a Wyatt B Angelo from Allentown, Pennsylvania, but his relation to New York is unclear. | Julian | 2-4-11 |
| *Milkman’s on his way* | A milkman is a person who delivers milk in milk bottles or cartons. Milk deliveries frequently occurred in the morning and it is not uncommon for milkmen to deliver other perishable dairy products as well. Originally, milk needed to be delivered to houses daily since the lack of good refrigeration meant it would quickly spoil. | Julian | 2-4-11 |
| *Hi-de-hi* | A nonsense word meaning general excitement | Annie | 2-4-11 |
| *Moxie* | Force of character, determination, or nerve. | Julian | 2-5-15 |
| *Lyrical* | In modern times, lyrical dance is a style of dance created from the fusion of ballet with jazz and contemporary dance. Lyrical dancing is performed to music with lyrics to inspire movements to express strong emotions the choreographer feels from the lyrics in the chosen song. Because lyrical dancing focuses on the expression of strong emotion, the style concentrates more on individual approach and expressiveness than the precision of the dancer's movements.  Even though the style is new, Andy’s direction could refer to the same sort of emotions. | Andy | 2-5-15 |
| *balancé* | a step where a dancer moves while alternating balance between their feet. The rhythm is usually in three counts like a waltz and has the motion of going “down, up, down” with their legs. | Andy | 2-5-16 |
| *Called half-hour* | Calling times in stage management is telling people how much more time they have until something begins, in this case the show. Half hour is a benchmark time where performers start truly getting into character and mentally preparing themselves for the show. | Pat | 2-6-20 |
| *Unadulterated* | Not mixed or diluted with any different or extra elements; complete and absolute. | Julian | 2-6-23 |
| *The rice and flowers* | Referring to the bouquets at a wedding and the rice that people throw as the bride and groom exit the ceremony. | Bert | 2-7-24 |
| *Scanties* | Men’s underwear | Bert/Annie | 2-7-24 |
| *Sleeper* | http://www.museumoftheamericanrailroad.org/portals/0/McQuaig_Interior_May_13_2011-(10)_400px_Tall.jpgReferring to a sleeper car of a train | Bert/Annie | 2-7-24 |
| *Someday the stork may pay a visit and leave a little souvenir* | Referring to the old tale that people told their kids about how babies are born: That a stork came and dropped the baby off to the parents. | Bert/Annie | 2-7-24 |
| *Silver quarter* | About five dollars by today’s standards | Bert/Annie | 2-7-25 |
| *Pullman porter* | Pullman porters were men hired to work on the railroads as porters on sleeping cars. | Bert/Annie | 2-7-25 |
| *Matrimony* | Marriage | Maggie | 2-7-25 |
| *Alimony* | Payment made from one party to another after a divorce, not to be confused with child support. | Maggie | 2-7-25 |
| *Reno* | A town in Nevada, famous for being able to get a divorce relatively quickly. | Maggie | 2-7-26 |
| *Trousseaus* | The clothes, household linen, and other belongings collected by a bride in anticipation of her marriage. Most of these items were sewn by the bride and the women of her family by hand and so could take years to assemble and were quite valuable | Maggie | 2-7-26 |
| *Subpoena* | A document forcing someone to appear in court. | Maggie | 2-7-26 |
| *The cleaners* | Take all someone's money or possessions in a dishonest or unfair way. | Maggie | 2-7-26 |
| *Little Nifties from the fifties, innocent and sweet, sexy ladies from the eighties who are indiscreet* | “Nifties” is slang for an attractive person. “Fifties” refers not to the decade, but rather to the area of New York City including 50th — 59th Avenues. Usually further clarified as referring to the “West” 50’s or the “East” 50’s. Same applies to the eighties. | Peggy | 2-7-28 |
| *Where the underworld can meet the elite* | Where poor people and rich people can meet | Peggy | 2-7-28 |
| *Waterworks* | Tears | Annie | 2-8-29 |
| *Ritz* | Referring to the Ritz-Carlton, an extravagant hotel in New York | Maggie | 2-8-29 |
| *Bawdy* | Dealing with sexual matters in a comical way; humorously indecent | Julian | 2-8-32 |
| *Gaudy* | Extravagantly bright or showy, typically so as to be tasteless. | Julian | 2-8-32 |
| *sporty* | Flashy or showy in dress or behavior. | Julian | 2-8-32 |

# TIME PERIOD

December 15th 1933 was the end of the prohibition, and though people were still getting back on their feet after the stock market crash, thanks to President Roosevelt’s “New Deal,” things weren’t doing too badly. The Great Depression ended later that year. Women were becoming more powerful, as the first ever female head of the mint was hired this year as well.