

## APMDA #1: Knife Thrower

### 1. INT. TV SHOW AUDITION ROOM. DAY

The 'Australia Possesses Marginal Degrees of Aptitude' audition room. Three snooty 'celebrity' JUDGES sit behind a desk. In front of them stands THE GREAT STABBERINO, a knife thrower in a cape with a brace of knives in his belt. Perhaps he has a fancy accent, like Italian or Spanish. Nearby, strapped upright to a wooden backing with his arms splayed out is Stabberino's assistant, BILLY.

JUDGE 1

So, who do we have here?

STABBERINO

(flourishes his cape)

I am the Great Stabberino, knife thrower extraordinaire, and never once has any blade of mine ever missed its target. And this is my assistant, Billy.

JUDGE 2

Ooh, I love this kind of thing.

JUDGE 1

Let's see what you've got.

Stabberino bows, turns to Billy and draws a knife. He takes careful aim.

STABBERINO

Hup!

Stabberino throws the knife right in Billy's arm. Billy screams, and his arm starts pissing blood.

STABBERINO

Hup!

Stabberino throws a second knife and hits Billy's other arm.

JUDGE 3

God, this is awful!

STABBERINO

Excuse me?

JUDGE 3

You've hit Billy twice!

STABBERINO

Of course! I told you, I never miss a target. For example, if I aim for the leg ... hup!

The third knife lands in Billy's leg, and he gives a long, drawn out, horrendous moan.

STABBERINO

... then I hit the leg! Now, where next do you choose for me to hit? With a knife?

JUDGE 1

Nowhere!

STABBERINO

How about the spleen?

JUDGE 3

No, don't!

STABBERINO

Hup!

A knife hits Billy in the spleen.

STABBERINO

Four out of four, perfect so far!

JUDGE 1

Stop, stop this!

STABBERINO

What, why?

JUDGE 1

Don't you know that the aim of knife throwing is not to hit the other person - it's to miss them!

STABBERINO

Miss them? But any fool can do that. Is easy!

(he chucks a knife carelessly over his shoulder)

See? I miss him.

(chucks another randomly out of shot)

See?

(chucks another)

Is too easy.

A CAMERAMAN staggers into shot with a knife in his back and collapses.

JUDGE 1

No, you're supposed to miss your assistant by just a tiny fraction - so there's a sense of danger, but no one actually gets hurt.

STABBERINO

(frowns, then realises)

Ooooooh! I see.

(chuckles)

I wonder why I go through so many assistants! I will try it your way.

Stabberino takes very careful aim this time.

STABBERINO

Hup!

Stabberino throws the knife, which hits Billy in the chest.

STABBERINO

Ah, I miss! You are right, this way is much more difficult.

JUDGE 3

Well, that's enough, okay, you're not going through to the next round - that's all.

STABBERINO

Ah, too bad, too bad.

Stabberino unclasps Billy, who stumbles forward. Stabberino catches him.

STABBERINO

Come on, Billy - it seems we have a lot more practicing to do!

Billy groans as they leave.

JUDGE 2

Well, I liked his cape at least.

**END**