

DEAN

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(DEAN speaks out to us. He wears an immaculate 1950s suit and well-shined wing tips. He takes off his hat, politely, before speaking. Revealing slick, aggressively parted hair.)

(ELLEN stands further off, almost out of the light. She wears a smart, feminine suit, with hat and gloves.)

START

DEAN. First of all, welcome. Welcome to the SDO.

I bet you're all feeling pretty anxious.

"Am I going to use the right words."

"Am I going to walk the right way."

I mean gosh, you've just taken a pretty huge step, right?

The first thing to remember is that all of us were newcomers at one point.

The other thing to remember – and this one really helped me – the other thing to remember is that the 1950s weren't in black and white. It sounds silly, but it's easy to think like that. All we've seen are the photographs. Old TV shows. But people in the '50s had yellow shirts and red sneakers just like you and me. So the main thing to remember is that you can live in color. You don't have to go around trying to act like someone in an old photo. I mean anyway you can't, because they're a photo, and you're...you.

That's what this place is for. So you can feel like you again.

I'm sure you all have a lot of questions.

"What do I wear?" "How do I talk?"

"How do I explain this to the kids?"

Ellen and I will help you answer all of these perfectly normal questions.

Everyone, this is my lovely wife Ellen.

ELLEN. Hello everyone.

DEAN. Isn't she something?

STOP