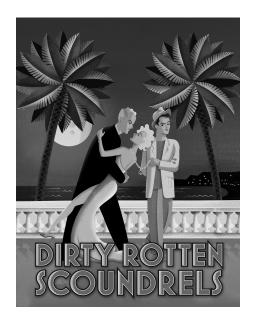
LIBRETTO VOCAL BOOK



Book by **Jeffrey Lane**Music and Lyrics by **David Yazbek**

Based on the film "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" Written by **Dale Launer** and **Stanley Shapiro** & **Paul Henning**

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C H A R A C T E R S

LAWRENCE JAMESON

FREDDY BENSON

CHRISTINE COLGATE

ANDRE THIBAULT

MURIEL

JOLENE

ENSEMBLE

MEN

WOMEN

LENORE

SOPHIA

RENEE

CROUPIER

CONDUCTOR

WAITER

NUN

HOTEL MANAGER

MAID

ETC.

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APPROVED CHANGES FOR "SCHOOL EDITION"

In an effort to make the show more appropriate for some schools and communities, the authors have provided the following "G rated" alternatives, which may be incorporated into your production if needed:

Page 28	"will give me hummers in my Hummer."
	<u>Change to</u> "will get me hummin' in my Hummer."
Page 28	"some really classy shit."
1 496 20	<u>Change to</u> "some really classy crap"
	Or if that is still objectionable, "some really swanky swag."
	<u>=</u> = 1
Page 34	"He'll still be an asshole."
G	<u>Change to</u> "He'll still be a vassal."
Page 39	<u>Change</u> "fuckers" to "suckers"
Page 40	"Now I'm really gonna kick some shit."
	<u>Change to</u> "Now we're really gonna clean your mud flaps."
_	
Page 40	"Not a tree or a Jew to block the lovely view."
	<u>Change to</u> "Not a tree ever grew to block that lovely view."
Page 44	Act One Scane Six. The actions of the entire Purrocht scane can
Page 44	Act One, Scene Six — The actions of the entire Ruprecht scene can, of course, be adjusted as necessary.
	of course, be adjusted as necessary.
Page 48	"Fresh shaved testicles on Christmas Day."
O	<u>Change to</u> "Groundhog casserole on Christmas Day."
Page 49	"KY Jelly on a rubber glove"
	Change to "If you have to touch him, wear a rubber glove."
Page 49	"hump the samovar"
	<u>Change to</u> "Who gets the cattle prod if he drinks straight from the
	samovar?"
Page 71	Christine can still spill the soup in Freddy's lap, but lose her wiping it
ruge / r	up and his lap reacting. Subsequently lose the lines, "Look at that;
	you're all wet" and "Yeah-ok-I-think-we're-good-now."
	,
Page 108	"Now you get on that bed."
	<u>Change to</u> "Now go stand by the bed."

Page 109 <u>Change</u> "Shit!" to "Dagnabit!"

Page 116 "...or the heat of you riding me cross-eyed like some glorious bucking French stallion"

<u>Change to</u> "or the heat of you kissing me cross-eyed like some glorious hulking French stallion."

 \underline{Or} "some glorious hulking Gallic god" if you think "stallion" might still be a problem.

Page 116 "you can once again wrap your legs around my head and squeeze it like a grape until the wine of your lust flows from my eyes."

Change to "you can once again get me in a headlock (or lip lock) of love until the wine of your lust flows from my eyes."

Page 121 If needed, you can lose from "Christine (startled) Buzz!" as well as the following two lines and stage direction. In other words, go from "Well, I guess I can try" to "I'll go get ready."

Page 122

"I finally get my taste/And it's going to my head/I mean the one below my waist."

<u>Change to:</u> "I finally get my prize. And it's going to my head/And it's going to my thighs."

Page 130 Change "schmuck" to "putz" or "shmo"

Page 134 If these lines are problem, cut from "The Prussian butler" through "And the Eskimo Pie."



ACT ONE

Scene One

#1 – Overture

(As the OVERTURE plays, a group of elegantly dressed residents of the Riviera dance through the night. The action freezes as a blue spot hits a lone WOMAN. To ANDRE:)

WOMAN #1 (LENORE)

Monsieur, please, I must find the Prince. The fate of his people may depend on it.

(The dance resumes. Again it freezes. Another WOMAN stops ANDRE:)

WOMAN #2 (SOPHIA)

There must be some way to steal a moment with His Highness. I should be honored to assist his noble cause.

(The dance resumes. As the OVERTURE concludes, two palm trees part and reveal LAWRENCE JAMESON, 50, British, elegant and impeccably dressed. Another man sits on a balustrade. This is ANDRE, a Frenchman in a simply, but neatly tailored suit.)

LAWRENCE

Summer in Beaumont sur Mer...

ANDRE

The night is warm. The trees are in bloom.

LAWRENCE

And everything is ripe for the picking. Ready?

ANDRE

(presenting it)

The royal ring.

LAWRENCE

Ah. How could I forget this last vestige of my lineage? Through all the years of glory and struggle, despite plague and famine and the traitors who took my throne, only this survives in memory of the kingdom that once was, that I vow in the name of my ancestors will one day live again.

(puts it on)

Did you keep the receipt?

ANDRE

Of course.

LAWRENCE

(snaps his fingers. MUSIC begins.)

#2 - What They Want (Part 1)

Let's go get them.

LEFT HAND, SIDE POCKET

RIGHT ARM, AKIMBO AND RELAXED,

HEAD UP, GAZE STEADY,

NOW YOU'RE READY SO YOU

STROLL IN, SURVEY THEM.

YOUR WORLD, THEY'RE ALL INVITED GUESTS

FEEL OUT HOW TO PLAY THEM,

AND REMEMBER THIS -

YOU'RE GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANT -

ANDRE

ZA BA ZOOVEE

LAWRENCE

GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANT,

AN ADVENTURE ALL THEIR OWN.

LAWRENCE & ANDRE

GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANT

LAWRENCE

LIKE THEY'RE IN A MOVIE

AND NEVER FORGET THAT WHAT THEY WANT IS -

HALF SMILE,

ANDRE

DEMI SOURIRE

LAWRENCE

DAVID NIVEN

ANDRE

PUT ON A -

LAWRENCE & ANDRE

BOLD COUNTENANCE, BOTH TRAGIC AND AMUSED.

LAWRENCE

HIGH STYLE

ANDRE

AH! COMME IL FAUT!

LAWRENCE

THAT'S A GIVEN

ANDRE

AND DON'T FORGET

LAWRENCE

ALL I'M DOING IS, I'M -

LAWRENCE, ANDRE & ENSEMBLE WOMEN

GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANT

LAWRENCE & ANDRE

DOO BA ZOOTIE

LAWRENCE, ANDRE & ENSEMBLE WOMEN

SPECIFICALLY WHAT THEY WANT,

LAWRENCE

ALL TIED UP WITH A BOW.

FOR AS THE POET SAID -

ANDRE

KEATS.

WOMEN

- TRUTH IS BEAUTY

LAWRENCE

AND THAT IS ALL YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW.

LENORE

Your Grace!

LAWRENCE

THIS LADY IS LENORE,

SHE FEELS HER LIFE'S BECOME A BORE;

YOU SEE HER HUSBAND'S NINETY-FOUR THIS MAY.

(LAWRENCE)

BUT HEY, SHE'S DOWN FOR FIFTY MIL,
IN AN ADDENDUM TO HIS WILL,
AND WHEREVER THERE'S A WILL THERE IS A WAY!.
I ALWAYS SAY —

ALL

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT

LAWRENCE & ANDRE

SMOOTH AND BREEZY

ALL

EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT

LENORE

AN ESCAPE FROM THE ENNUI

ALL

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT

ANDRE

NOTHING CHEAP OR CHEESY.

LAWRENCE

REMEMBER WHAT THEY REALLY WANT IS -

ANDRE

EXHIBIT B:

LAWRENCE

SOPHIA LOADED DOWN WITH LIRE,
SPIED A GREY HAIR IN THE MIRROR,
SO SHE MADE A RESOLUTION TO CUT LOOSE.

HER FAMILY FORTUNE IS OBSCENE, HER
DAD INVENTED ORANGIN-A,
NOW SIT BACK AND WATCH WHILE I TURN UP THE JUICE!

(A spotlight picks out MURIEL EUBANKS, an extremely wealthy looking and attractive American.)

#2a - What They Want (Part 2)

(LAWRENCE)

And she is?

ANDRE

Her name is Muriel Eubanks. Extremely rich, eminently corruptible and a willing infidel.

LAWRENCE

So an American.

ANDRE

Of course.

(Through the following, a casino begins to appear on stage:)

LAWRENCE & ENSEMBLE

ANDRE & ENSEMBLE

APPLY A APPLY A

DIGNITY AND WEIGHT DIGNITY AND WEIGHT

TO THE

ILLUSION YOU CREATE – LUSION YOU CREATE

AND WHEN IT'S

TIME TO SEPARATE

HER FROM HER

DOUGH

AND WHEN IT'S

TIME TO SEPARATE

HER FROM HER

DOUGH, WOH

SHE'LL THINK HER MONEY SHE'LL THINK HER MONEY

WAS WELL SPENT
WHEN IN FACT
WHEN IN FACT

IT PAID THE RENT ON MY

IT PAID THE RENT ON YOUR

ALL

CHATEAU!

LAWRENCE

Now here we go.

(The casino now in place, LAWRENCE and ANDRE join MURIEL and the ENSEMBLE around a roulette table. LAWRENCE places a bet and gives the wheel a spin.)

CROUPIER

Numero douze. Noir.

(LAWRENCE loses.)

ENSEMBLE

Ohhhhhh.

MURIEL

Well, merde.

LAWRENCE

(calls)

Agh! Monsieur Andre?

(ANDRE moves to him. LAWRENCE discreetly removes the royal ring.)

Would you please ask the manager what he might allow me for this?

ANDRE

Your Highness! Not the royal ring!

LAWRENCE

Shh. Do you want the whole world to know?

(With wounded pride, he exits to the patio. As ANDRE starts away, he is stopped by MURIEL.)

MURIEL

Excuse me. Is that man actually...royalty?

ANDRE

No, Madame.

MURIEL

But you called him Your Highness.

ANDRE

A faux pas. Please. I have already caused the Prance enough trouble.

MURIEL

The Prance?

ANDRE

The Prince.

MURIEL

(thrilled)

A prince?

ANDRE

Forget I said anything.

MURIEL

He seemed upset.

ANDRE

Well, between the war, famine and pestilence, he has a lot on his plate.

MURIEL

A famine, my God. Please let me help.

ANDRE

No no no.

MURIEL

I have a fabulous caterer.

ANDRE

If you truly want to help, forget everything you have heard tonight. Forget the very existence of that glorious, extraordinary man of destiny.

MURIEL

Of course.

CROUPIER

(in background.)

Numero quinze. Rouge.

(She starts off. ANDRE heads back to the casino. As soon as he does, MURIEL makes a U-turn and moves out to the patio, where LAWRENCE stands looking out into the night.)

MURIEL

Your Highness, I couldn't help overhearing. Perhaps I can help. Can I help? I'm sure I can help.

LAWRENCE

(glancing around)

Please. I have powerful enemies. They could be watching as —

(glances at her, stops)

MURIEL

What is it?

LAWRENCE

I'm sorry, it's just I find that jewelry usually tends to enhance a woman's beauty. But in your case the opposite is true. It tends to detract from what is already perfection.

MURIEL

It does?

(She removes her earings and hands them to him.)

LAWRENCE

Amazing.

(*She hands him her necklace*)

Breathtaking.

(Her jewelry gone, she gives herself a quick frisk, then helpfully:)

MURIEL

I have a tiara in my room.

LAWRENCE

That could do it.

(They kiss.)

2b - Give Them What The Want (Part 3)

ENSEMBLE WOMEN	ENSEMBLE MEN 1	ENSEMBLE MEN 2
TOP OFF	TOP OFF	TOP OFF
THE ILLUSION	TOP OFF	THE ILLUSION
FOR	FOR	FOR CAN'T YA SEE,
FANTASY, THE	FANTASY, THE	FOR FANTASY, THE
MAN TO SEE IS YOU	MAN TO SEE IS YOU	MAN TO SEE IS YOU
		AND SO
AND SO	AND SO	SO AND SO
IN CONCLUSION:	IN CONCLUSION:	IN CONCLUSION:
	ALL YOU'RE DOING	ALL YOU'RE DOING
ALL YOU'RE DOING		
IS YOU'RE	IS YOU'RE	IS YOU'RE

ENSEMBLE

GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANT

LENORE

FIRE

SOPHIA

AND PASSION.

ENSEMBLE

EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT

LAWRENCE

AND NEVER CLOSE THE DOOR.

ENSEMBLE

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT

ANDRE

'TIL IT'S TIME TO CASH IN,

LAWRENCE

AND THEN YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE THEM WANTING -

MEN WOMEN

MORE, MORE

MORE, MORE! MORE, MORE, MORE, MORE!

LAWRENCE, ANDRE & ENS. SOPHIA, LENORE, & TWO MEN

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT

ZA SOO BEE YOO BEE DOO WAH

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT WHAT THEY WANT -

ALL

SOME SUGAR IN THEIR TEA.

ENSEMBLE

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT!

LAWRENCE

HERE, I'LL MAKE IT EASY
REMEMBER WHAT THEY REALLY WANT IS —

ENSEMBLE

WHAT THEY REALLY WANT IS...AHHH!

LAWRENCE

ME!

ENSEMBLE

MAIS OUI!

See Production Note #1: Alternate Act One, Train Scene on page 144

(As LAWRENCE changes for travel, ANDRE presents him with a newspaper.)

#2c - Train

ANDRE

You may want to take a look at this. From the front page of today's <u>Le Monde</u> — 'It seems a clever young American con artist nicknamed the Jackal has recently been rumored to be working along the southern coast of France...'

LAWRENCE

Oh, Andre, if he's made the front page, how clever can he be?

ANDRE

Still it might be wise to keep an eye out.

LAWRENCE

I'm sure I'll know him when I see him.

ANDRE

Bon voyage.

LAWRENCE

Au revoir, mon ami.

(As ANDRE exits:)

ENSEMBLE

DOO BAH DOO BEE DOO

(As LAWRENCE stands with his attache case of collected bounty, the train CONDUCTOR enters carrying a small Swiss flag:)

CONDUCTOR

Ah, Monsieur Jameson, I hope you have a pleasant stay in Switzerland.

LAWRENCE

I'm banking on it.

ENSEMBLE

ZOO BAH DOO BEE DAY

(The CONDUCTOR, now carrying a small French flag, passes in the opposite direction:)

CONDUCTOR

Ah, Monsieur Jameson, I hope you had a pleasant stay in Switzerland.

(Note: The Conductor's "have a pleasant stay" and "had a pleasant stay" should be read with no change in inflection.)

LAWRENCE

I feel like I never left..

(*They move onto the train...*)

ACT ONE

Scene Two

(The club car of a train from Zurich. The ORCHESTRA is playing a bright Cole Porter type tune underneath. A very attractive French woman in her thirties – RENEE – sits at a table. As the CONDUCTOR passes through:)

CONDUCTOR

Beaumont sur Mer, quinze minutes. Mesdames et messieurs, quinze minutes a Beaumont sur Mer.

(The CONDUCTOR exits. LAWRENCE is settling in, when the door bursts open and FREDDY BENSON enters. Thirty, American and attractive in a cheap linen jacket and t-shirt. He plops himself in the empty seat between LAWRENCE and RENEE.)

FREDDY

Excuse me.

(He smiles politely to RENEE, pulls out a well-worn bible and begins to read. The WAITER approaches with a menu.)

WAITER

Monsieur -

FREDDY

(eyes on the bible)

One second please.

(He continues to read another moment, comes to the end of a passage and looks up at the WAITER.)

That Judas. What a character, huh?

(takes menu)

Thanks, I'm starving.

(scans prices)

Whoa! Is this to rent or to buy?

(hands back menu)

I'll just have a napkin, please.

WAITER

One napkin.

(The WAITER moves off. FREDDY reaches into his bag, pulls out a large raw beet, dusts it off, takes a bite.)

RENEE

The food here is very good.

FREDDY

I'm sure it is. But I had such a big breakfast — (suddenly seizes up and moans)

RENEE

Are you all right?

FREDDY

Hunger pains; they'll pass.

RENEE

You must eat something.

FREDDY

To be honest with you I never was very good with money. I just seem to take whatever salary the Red Cross pays me and donate it right back to them. At this rate Grandma will never get her operation.

RENEE

Your grandmere, she is ill?

FREDDY

No, she just tips over sometimes. I can't wait to see her face Christmas morning when she wakes up and finds that new hip under the tree.

RENEE

(opening her purse)

You must let me help.

FREDDY

Oh, no, I couldn't.

RENEE

Nonsense. Waiter, bring this gentleman the specialty du jour.

(FREDDY takes Renee's hands in his, looks her in the eyes and leans in sincerely.)

FREDDY

Thank you. Gosh, I never knew angels had such beautiful breasts.

RENEE

Well...

(Suddenly a very large MAN enters.)

MAN

Renee?

RENEE

Oui, ici, Gerard.

(to FREDDY)

This is my husband Gerard. And you are?

(FREDDY stands to introduce himself to this rather imposing husband.)

FREDDY

Father Peter O'Malley.

RENEE

Excuse us, mon Père.

FREDDY

(as they go)

See you in church.

(They exit. FREDDY shrugs philosophically, sits, puts aside the Bible, pulls out a <u>Mad</u> Magazine, removes a bookmark from it and begins to read. LAWRENCE has, of course, been observing all this throughout, now leans in to FREDDY.)

LAWRENCE

My condolences to your grandmother.

(FREDDY looks up)

You said she tends to tip over.

FREDDY

Only when she's loaded.

LAWRENCE

...Oh. I see.

FREDDY

Uh-huh.

LAWRENCE

Rather a dirty trick, isn't it?

FREDDY

Just giving the people what they want.

LAWRENCE

Which is?

FREDDY

Beautiful woman like that, how often does she get to feel all good and charitable about herself? And what did it cost her? Looka this — she gave me twenty bucks.

LAWRENCE

Wow.

FREDDY

You know what it feels like to take a woman for twenty bucks?

(LAWRENCE laughs:)

LAWRENCE

No. I'm afraid that's a little out of my class.

FREDDY

Ah, don't sell yourself short. Ya want, I can show you the ropes. What I've seen, some dames really go for your type.

LAWRENCE

Really?

FREDDY

Sure. They like 'em older.

LAWRENCE

Well, to tell you the truth I've never had much luck with women.

(MURIEL appears on a balcony:)

#3 - What Was A Woman To Do

MURIEL

LAST NIGHT I MET A MAN BENEATH A PALE AND HAUNTED MOON —
A MAN NO WOMAN COULD REFUSE.

BOLD AND ASSERTIVE WITH A FURTIVE AIR OF MYSTERY.

MAGICALLY LONG OF LASH,

TRAGICALLY SHORT OF CASH.

AS HE APPROACHED HE WORE AN AURA OF NOBILITY,

I WORE THESE FERRAGAMO SHOES.

THIS WAS AT LAST, I KNEW, MY RENDEZVOUS WITH HISTORY.

WHAT WAS A WOMAN, WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

AND WHEN HE SMILED HE LIT THE NIGHT WITH GRACE AND CONFIDENCE.

HIS TEETH WERE STRAIGHT AND CLEAN AND WHITE JUST LIKE A PICKET FENCE.

I COULDN'T LOOK DIRECTLY AT THEM — THEY WERE THAT INTENSE. WHAT WAS A WOMAN, WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

(Back on the train:)

FREDDY

Freddy Benson. What's yours?

LAWRENCE

Lawrence Jameson.

FREDDY

See, Lar, I got this gift. I can just zoom in on someone and know straight off what they want, who they are. I'm sizing you up for a...banker.

LAWRENCE

No.

FREDDY

Salesman. Lawyer. Maitre d'. Locksmith. Shepherd.

LAWRENCE

Actually, I'm a dentist.

FREDDY

I was just gonna say dentist.

LAWRENCE

Amazing.

FREDDY

Well, some of us got it, some of us ain't.

LAWRENCE

I'll say.

(We return to MURIEL on the balcony:)

MURIEL

I NEVER REALIZED HOW LONG MY HEART HAD BEEN IGNORED HE SANG MY NAME AND IT RANG OUT JUST LIKE SOME MAJOR CHORD IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, HE ATE MY SMORGASBORD. WHAT WAS A WOMAN...

(Several other of LAWRENCE'S conquests appear as they join MURIEL in song:)

WOMAN #1

WHAT WAS A WOMAN

WOMAN #2

WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

(Back on the train, FREDDY is holding out his cheek as LAWRENCE looks in his mouth, possibly with a pen light:)

FREDDY

Ahhhhh.

LAWRENCE

Well, no danger of wisdom teeth.

FREDDY

That's a relief.

LAWRENCE

Indeed.

FREDDY

How much do I owe you?

LAWRENCE

(as if waving it away)

Ohhh-

FREDDY

Thanks, Doc..

LAWRENCE

(Plucking away RENEE'S twenty.)

-Twenty should cover it (OR "This should cover it")

FREDDY

But-

(We return to MURIEL and the WOMEN)

WOMAN #3

LAST NIGHT I MET A PRINCE
AND SUDDENLY MY LIFE HAS CHANGED

WOMAN #4

LAST WEEK I MET A PRINCE AND I -

WOMAN #1 & 3

I HAVE A PURPOSE AND A CAUSE

WOMAN #1

'CAUSE TO HELP MY DREAMY ROYAL BOYFRIEND

MURIEL

HE'S OFF REBELLING AND I'M KVELLING HERE, BUT NEVER MIND. WOMAN #2

HE'S JUST SO - OOO!

WOMAN #3

SO SUAVE IT MAKES YOU MENTAL

MURIEL

SO GODDAMNED CONTINENTAL

WOMAN #4

WHO'D GUESS THAT I WOULD BE THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM HE'D TURN -

WOMAN #1

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE FOR -

WOMAN #2

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE -

WOMEN #1, 3, 4

THIS MAN OF BRIO

WOMAN #1, 2, 3, 4

AND PANACHE

MURIEL.

HE GAVE ME ROMANCE AND THE FEELING I WAS YOUNG AGAIN.

WOMAN #1

I GAVE HIM HOPE AND STRENGTH AND

WOMAN #1, 2, 3, 4

A CHECK MADE OUT TO CASH

(They are now joined by an USHERETTE out in the theatre.)

USHERETTE

HE HAD THE MOST AMAZING EYES THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN HE CAME IN WITH A TICKET FOR THE SECOND MEZZANINE I RIPPED IT UP AND PUT HIM RIGHT DOWN THERE IN J-13.

(A beat. She feels MURIEL glaring at her from the stage, looks up.)

MURIEL

Oh, for God's sake. Anyone else?

USHERETTE

WHAT WAS A WOMAN

(The USHERETTE timidly moves off. MURIEL comfortably retakes focus.)

WOMAN #1, 2, 3, 4

WHAT WAS A WOMAN -

MURIEL

WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

(The lights fade on the women as the number ends. Back on the train:)

#3a - On Arrive A Beaumont Sur Mer

CONDUCTOR

Beaumont sur Mer. Mesdames et messieurs on arrive a Beaumont sur Mer.

LAWRENCE

Well, this is where I get off.

FREDDY

Hey, me too.

LAWRENCE

(pauses)

Oh?

FREDDY

Yeah. What I hear this place is supposed to be crawling with rich dames just waitin' to pickle my beets, if you know what I mean.

(A moment, as LAWRENCE assesses the situation.)

LAWRENCE

Hm.

FREDDY

What?

LAWRENCE

Nothing. It's just I'm afraid you've been misinformed. Beaumont used to be a lively spot, but that was years ago. These days it's almost entirely populated by older, retired couples.

FREDDY

Really?

LAWRENCE

Actually, I'm considered to be the town playboy, if that gives you any idea.

FREDDY

Yikes.

LAWRENCE

Yikes indeed. No, this year all the social activity has moved a bit farther down the coast.

FREDDY

To where?

LAWRENCE

Do you speak Spanish?

FREDDY

No.

LAWRENCE

It's called Isla de los Muertos. You simply stay on this train to the end of the line, transfer to the bus to Malaga, rent a row boat and head out into the Strait of Gibraltor.

FREDDY

No foolin'?.

LAWRENCE

Would I lie to you?

CONDUCTOR

En voiture. Mesdames et messieurs, en voiture. This train will depart again in three minutes.

LAWRENCE

Well, are you coming?

FREDDY

Gee, I dunno...

LAWRENCE

If you need a place to stay, you're more than welcome. I have a sister I'd love you to meet. Everyone says she's the prettiest girl in town.

FREDDY

Oh yeah? What's she look like?

LAWRENCE

A bit like me actually. Except for the mustache, of course.

FREDDY

You don't have a mustache.

LAWRENCE

No.

FREDDY

...Y'know, I think I'm gonna check out this Isla place.

LAWRENCE

Ah, well. Bertha will be disappointed, but perhaps it's for the best.

FREDDY

Yeah. Hey, listen, thanks for the tip.

LAWRENCE

Freddy, believe me, it was my pleasure. Bon voyage, my friend.

(He kisses him on both cheeks. Across the car, MURIEL enters, unseen by LAWRENCE, and witnesses this.)

FREDDY

Okay, settle down.

(LAWRENCE pats him on the back and exits. The WAITER brings FREDDY his lunch.)

Ah, great.

(FREDDY starts to dig in. MURIEL moves to the chair behind him, so they sit back to back. As he lifts the food to his mouth:)

MURIEL

Psst.

(FREDDY pauses, looks around, goes back to his food.)

Psst.

(FREDDY pauses again, looks behind him, notices her.)

I see you're a comrade of the Prance.

FREDDY

The Prance?

MURIEL

The man you were just kissing.

FREDDY

Hey, he was kissing me. I didn't even enjoy it.

MURIEL

Viva la Resistance!

FREDDY

Thanks, you too.

MURIEL

My poor brave soldier. I can't tell you how selfish I felt doing nothing, just lying on my back while he tended to the front.

FREDDY

Listen, lady, I think you may be a little off here. That guy's name was Lawrence Jameson.

MURIEL

His nom de guerre! It's all right; he swore me to secrecy, too. We met at the casino in Beaumont sur Mer.

FREDDY

(suddenly paying attention)

Beaumont sur Mer?

MURIEL

In fact, it's my money that's financing his mission.

FREDDY

(as it clicks in)

Is that so?

MURIEL

Perhaps he mentioned me. Did he mention me? I'm sure he mentioned me. Muriel Eubanks of Omaha, Nebraska? Lady Muriel by moonlight.

(a proud confidence)

He made me a dame.

FREDDY

I'll just bet he did.

MURIEL

I can't tell you how proud I am to have the Eubanks fortune support such a worthy cause.

(removing scarf)

Please. For His Highness to wear into battle. You'll be sure to give it to him, won't you?

FREDDY

Oh, I'll be giving it to him all right.

(MURIEL steps down to the footlights, as FREDDY and the train move off:)

#4 – What Was A Woman To Do (Reprise 1)

MURIEL

SO FATE HAS HAD ITS WAY AND LEAVES ME HERE IN SOLITUDE.

MY PRINCE GOES OFF TO WAR AND ONCE AGAIN I'M ROY'LLY SCREWED.

PERHAPS A XANEX AND A HALF WILL BRIGHTEN UP MY MOOD...

(The ORCHESTRA picks up the end of the song as the scene shift to...)

ACT ONE

Scene Three

(Downstage in One, a desk in the living room of Lawrence's villa. ANDRE waits as LAWRENCE parcels out stacks of cash. As the desk moves on:)

LAWRENCE

Overhead, chateau, staff, staff pension plan. Your commission...

ANDRE

Merci.

LAWRENCE

And this for the Little Sisters of Beaumont sur Mer.

ANDRE

So much?

LAWRENCE

(moving to put cash in safe)

Let's not be greedy, my friend. Except for my brief run-in with that beet-eating Jackal on the train it's been a very smooth season so far.

ANDRE

Ah, please. Next to you, that so called Jackal was but a poor little pussy cat.

LAWRENCE

(smiles a bit)

I will say one thing for him. You could see he still enjoyed the game. I remember when I was first starting out... How long have we been running this act, anyway?

ANDRE

Let's see... At the time you had just turned forty and now you're thirty-six, so fourteen years.

LAWRENCE

Don't you ever miss that sense of danger and excitement?

ANDRE

No.

LAWRENCE

The fun of making it up as we went along?

ANDRE

No.

LAWRENCE

Still, there's something to be said for a bit of chaos now and then. The thrill of the

(LAWRENCE)

rol	ler-coaster,	the	lure	of	the	swir	ling	edd	y.
-----	--------------	-----	------	----	-----	------	------	-----	----

ANDRE

Be careful what you wish for. Fun is nothing to be taken lightly.

LAWRENCE

My God, you can be a spoil sport.

ANDRE

Well, I am the chief of police.

LAWRENCE

Don't we have some business to discuss?

ANDRE

We do.

LAWRENCE

Who's on our dance card for today?

ANDRE

(hands him 8x10)

The luridly wealthy Miss Jolene Oakes of Oakes, Oklahoma.

LAWRENCE

(looks at photo)

Hm. Pretty. Age?

ANDRE

Thirty-one.

LAWRENCE

Married?

ANDRE

Constantly.

LAWRENCE

Money?

ANDRE

Her people are in oil.

LAWRENCE

Crude?

ANDRE

Well, she is a little pushy.

(The doorbell rings.)

LAWRENCE

Ah. I believe the heiress is at the gate.

ANDRE

Ready?

LAWRENCE

One moment.

#4a – Villa Reveal

(He snaps his fingers and the curtain rises, as an easy, swinging version of 'Give Them What They Want' begins. The game's afoot. He snaps again. The villa is now revealed. Beautifully furnished, exquisite artwork, all in impeccable taste. LAWRENCE dons the royal ring, mounts the stairs and strikes a pose. One more snap and a spotlight illuminates his perfection.)

Breeding's important, but lighting is everything...Show her in.

(ANDRE opens the door. FREDDY bursts in, slams the door shut behind him and throws his back against it.)

FREDDY

Gadzooks, drain the moat! The Prince's enemies have followed me.

(turns and sees LAWRENCE)

Oh, Your Majesty, I bring you this message from abroad. A real interesting broad, too. (tosses him the scarf)

Run that up your flagpole you lying, cheating, dirty, rotten...Man, are you good.

(He bows at LAWRENCE'S feet. LAWRENCE just stares at him for a long moment, then:)

LAWRENCE

(calmly)

Hello, Freddy.

FREDDY

(hops up and moves around the room, taking in the furnishings, the view, the objets d'art:)

Wow! Wow! Wow! All I can say is Wow!

LAWRENCE

(moving to wall safe)

All right, how much do you want?

FREDDY

Ah, put your dough away. I don't —

(suddenly notices another objet d'art)

Wow!

(FREDDY)

(then)

— I don't want your — Wow!

LAWRENCE

What do you want, Freddy?

#5 - Great Big Stuff

FREDDY

(moves to him)

Teach me. Mold me. Make me your clay.

I THOUGHT I'D SEEN IT ALL.

I THOUGHT I KNEW THE SCORE.

BUT COMING HERE, I FOUND A WORLD I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

NOW, I KNOW WHERE I BELONG -

A LIFE OF TASTE AND CLASS

WITH CULTURE AND SOPHISTICATION POURING OUT MY ASS.

What do I want? I want this. I want this! I want this!

(Through the following number, various SERVANTS appear carrying various objects of Freddy's vision of wealth, ANDRE and LAWRENCE dodging and swallowed up by the people and booty.)

I THOUGHT I HAD A REAL GIFT,

THAT PENNY-ANTE GRIFT

BUT FREDDY'S GETTING READY NOW TO GIVE HIS LIFE A LIFT.

I'M TIRED OF BEING A CHUMP

I WANNA BE LIKE TRUMP

TWO HUNDRED POUNDS OF CAVIAR IN ONE GIGANTIC LUMP.

GIVE ME GREAT BIG STUFF

THIS IS HOW I GOTTA LIVE

GREAT BIG STUFF

UH-UH NO ALTERNATIVE

GREAT BIG STUFF

I WANT MY SILVER SPOON

DON'T NEED IT RIGHT NOW BUT I BETTER GET IT SOON.

(As the turntable revolves to reveal another room)

See Production Note #2: Turntable on page 156

Oh, my God, the whole thing turns...Hello, ladies!

(FREDDY)

I WANNA MANSION WITH A MOAT AROUND WHICH I WILL FLOAT WITH SOME VAST-BOTTOMED BABIES IN MY GLASS BOTTOMED BOAT.

FREDDY & ENSEMBLE WOMEN

A HOUSE IN THE BAHAMAS

FREDDY

PAISLEY SILK PAJAMAS

POKER WITH AL ROKER AND OUR FRIEND LORENZO LAMAS, GIMME

FREDDY & ENSEMBLE WOMEN

GREAT BIG STUFF

FREDDY

I REALLY DO DESERVE IT

FREDDY & ENSEMBLE WOMEN

GREAT BIG STUFF

FREDDY

WITH SERVANTS WHO WILL SERVE IT

FREDDY & ENSEMBLE WOMEN

GREAT BIG STUFF

FREDDY

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT IT'S FER EV'RY DAY'S MY BIRTHDAY EV'RY NIGHT IS MY BAR MITZVER.

Now listen up:

OH GIVE ME A HOME WHERE THE CENTERFOLDS ROAM
GUCCIONE ON THE PHONE, HE'S GOT A PARTY GOING ON —
AND HEF'LL HAVE ME OVER
TO PLAY SOME NAKED TWISTER
BLOTTO IN THE GROTTO
WITH A PLAYMATE AND HER SISTER

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF

FREDDY

Rap stars'll love me!

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF

FREDDY

Get me a posse! A'ight!

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF

FREDDY

CHILLIN' IN THE CITY

SITTIN' PRETTY IN THE CADDY

WITH P. DADDY OR PUFF DIDDY

Or whatever! I'll change my name too! Get my hatchback all pimped out.

THE ISLANDS IN THE WINTER

THE HAMPTONS IN THE SUMMER.

THE FASHION PLATE I DATE'LL GIVE ME HUMMERS IN MY HUMMER

THE CASH TO KEEP ME IDLE

THE CHICKS TO KEEP ME VITAL

THE PILLS TO KEEP ME HAPPY EVEN WHEN I'M SUICIDAL

FREDDY & ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

NOTHIN' CRASS OR CRAPPY

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

THAT WOULD MAKE ME VERY HAPPY

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

BRING IT ON AND MAKE IT SNAPPY

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

I'm gonna get me some real classy shit!

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

Like a mink tracksuit!

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

My own personal Zamboni!

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

Lots of unnecessary surgery!

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

I can finally afford to see a Broadway show!

ENSEMBLE

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

Gout!

ENSEMBLE BASSES

ENSEMBLE TENORS

GREAT BIG STUFF!

GREAT BIG -

GREAT BIG STUFF!

GREAT BIG STUFF!

GREAT BIG STUFF!

ENSEMBLE WOMEN

(concurrent with above)

GREAT BIG STUFF!

GREAT BIG -

GREAT BIG STUFF!

FREDDY

I just want someone to love me... For my money!

YEAH!

(The song ends, then:)

(to LAWRENCE)

So what do you say?

LAWRENCE Freddy, as a younger man, I wanted things too. I longed to be someone remarkable - a painter, a poet, musician. There was only one problem; I had no talent. I woke up one morning to the frustrating conclusion that all I had to offer the world was taste. And a certain charm. Imagination. Supreme confidence. Classic good looks. I realized that day I would have to use those attributes to create a world I would never be allowed access to otherwise. Freddy, what I'm trying to say is know your limitations. **FREDDY** Which are? **LAWRENCE** You're a moron. FREDDY

Hey, is that any way to talk to your favorite student?

LAWRENCE

A ridiculous proposition at best.

FREDDY

Look, don't get all Highnessy with me. All I'm asking is you polish me up a little. C'mon, it'll be fun.

LAWRENCE

Like an auto-da-fe.

FREDDY

I drive a Fiesta.

ANDRE

(looks at him)

You realize I could have you arrested.

FREDDY

For what?

LAWRENCE

Whatever I choose.

FREDDY

Yeah, well, you can throw me in the moat, too, but I don't think you're gonna do either.

LAWRENCE

Why not?

FREDDY

Because I got a big mouth and a guy like you has already figured out that a guy like

(FREDDY)

me could ruin an awful lot of business around here for a guy like you. You got something to eat?

(moving to candy dish)

Y'know, this could work out swell all around; good for me, good for you, good for

- Ugh, nougat.

(spits out chocolate, puts it in LAWRENCE's hand)

So, are we on?

#5a – A Hymn To Hmmm

(LAWRENCE smiles, intrigued in spite of himself.)

LAWRENCE

(considering)

Hmm... Hmmmm... Hm.

ANDRE

You can't be serious.

LAWRENCE

Why not?

ANDRE

You can't afford the distraction.

LAWRENCE

A distraction may be just what I need.

ANDRE

If it's a roller coaster you want, I'll take you to the fair. I'll even buy you a pencil.

LAWRENCE

A pencil?

ANDRE

(shrugs)

They sell these big pencils, I don't know.

LAWRENCE

This is better.

ANDRE

Think of the risk.

Think of the challenge. He's so deliciously low, so horribly dirty.

ANDRE

Exactly.

FREDDY

Hey, guys? I'm still in the room.

(LAWRENCE looks at him and smiles.)

LAWRENCE

Very well, Freddy, I'll teach you what I know.

FREDDY

Yes!

ANDRE

No!

LAWRENCE

(leading FREDDY to a full length antique mirror on a stand)

But from now on I want you to look in that mirror and see beyond the shallow, twodimensional creature that's there, to something finer...

ANDRE

Impossible.

LAWRENCE

Deeper.

ANDRE

Ridiculous.

LAWRENCE

Greater.

ANDRE

Disaster.

FREDDY

Y'know, I'm starting to think this guy doesn't like me.

See Production Note #3: "Chimp In A Suit" on page 156

LAWRENCE

Let's begin.

(LAWRENCE and three of his staff now begin to dress FREDDY as:)

ANDRE

I tell you it's madness.

DRESS UP A MONKEY IN ARMANI

HE MAY SEEM PRECOCIOUS AND CUTE

DESPITE ALL THE PRIMPIN'

YOU STILL GOT A CHIMP IN A SUIT.

(FREDDY moves downstage in an oversized jacket and bowler hat. LAWRENCE pulls him back. ANDRE just continues:)

TEACH HIM THE SECOND VERSE OF "SWANEE"

AND MOST OF "MOON RIVER" TO BOOT.

SURE, PEOPLE MAY GAPE

BUT YOU STILL GOT AN APE IN A SUIT.

SHPRITZ HIM 'TIL WET WITH THE EAU DE TOILETTE

BUT YOU'RE STILL GONNA GET A STENCH

DAMPEN HIM WELL IN A QUART OF CHANEL

IT WON'T COVER THE SMELL

I SHOULD KNOW, I'M FRENCH!

TAKE HIM TO SEE DON GIOVANNI

SHOW HIM CEZANNE'S LOVELY FRUIT

TEACH HIM TO COOK

FROM ESCOFFIER'S BOOK

HE'S STILL A GORILLA EN CROUTE

YOU STILL GOT A CHIMP IN A SUIT.

(FREDDY comes downstage and proudly holds up a pair of dress pants.)

FREDDY

Pleats! And underwear.

(As he starts back, he scratches himself and reveals a bit of buttock in the process. ANDRE continues:)

ANDRE

SO YOU SHAVED OFF HIS FUR

DECKED HIM OUT IN COUTURE

AND ENDOWED HIM WITH PURE SAVIOR FAIRE

YOU DRESSED HIM UP FANCY

AND TRAINED HIM TO DANCE, HE

REMAINS A CHIMP-AN-ZEE,

(ANDRE)

HE'S NOT FRED ASTAIRE!

GIVE HIM A DANDY LITTLE TOPPER
TIE ON A NATTY CRAVAT
BUY HIM A CASTLE,*
HE'LL STILL BE AN ASSHOLE
AND NOTHING YOU DO WILL CHANGE THAT

HE'S STILL JUST A STINKY LITTLE MINKEY IN A DINKY LITTLE SUIT AND A CHEAP LITTLE HAT!

#6a - Chimp In A Suit (Playoff)

^{* &}lt;u>Composer's note</u>: When performing this song, use Andre's accent to make "Castle" rhyme with "Asshole". Say "Cass-ole". See? Funny.

ACT ONE

Scene Four

(LAWRENCE and FREDDY enter in One.)

LAWRENCE

Now as the next step in your education, tonight you will observe me in action with the Oklahoma oil heiress, that Princess of Petroleum... Miss Jolene Oakes.

(He snaps his fingers and JOLENE appears in a spotlight.)

JOLENE

Hi.

LAWRENCE

Step one – we meet.

#6b - Tango

(LAWRENCE crosses to JOLENE and kisses her hand. JOLENE squeals in delight.)

Step two — I woo her.

(LAWRENCE takes JOLENE in his arms and tangos her across the stage. They dip. She squeals. LAWRENCE spins her offstage.)

And now -

(He snaps his fingers and the private room of a Riviera cafe is revealed.)

#6c - Restaurant Underscore

The perfect setting for our third and final tryst. The wine is chilled, the lights low, the air scented with regret as she makes her sizable contribution to the Prince's mission and tragically fades off into the night.

FREDDY

Sweet.

LAWRENCE

Now I want you to sit quietly and observe while I play her like a violin.

FREDDY

All right, all right.

(He moves to sit at the table.)

Not there.

(FREDDY moves to the other chair.)

No. Just go find someplace.

(FREDDY exits. We hear a car approach, stop, and a door slam.)

JOLENE (O.S.)

Yoohoo!

LAWRENCE

(looks to ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR:)

Maestro, if you please.

(A violin starts to play. LAWRENCE strikes a romantic and somewhat tragic pose, as JOLENE enters loaded down with shopping bags.)

Ah, Jolene, my dear -

JOLENE

Hey sugarpop. Sorry I'm late. I was just buying up France. Don't tell Daddy.

LAWRENCE

Forgive me if I seem distracted; I've just had a bit of bad news from the front.

JOLENE

Oh no!

LAWRENCE

Yes, the losses were quite staggering.

JOLENE

(pulling dress from shopping bag)

They gave me the wrong size. Oh well, I'll just give it to my cousin Arbutus; she takes a 16. She thinks it's the thyroid, but I think it's the pork rinds.

LAWRENCE

If only there was some way I could afford to rearm my men and regain the throne —

JOLENE

(not listening)

She's got such a pretty face. I told her if she loses seventeen pounds by Thursday, she can be my maid of honor.

(The STRINGS screech to a halt.)

LAWRENCE

Maid of honor?

JOLENE

Well, you'll meet her at the wedding. Are you inviting anybody?

LAWRENCE

(to ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR)

Excuse me – did I miss a scene?

JOLENE

(rummaging in bag)

Wait'll you see the veil I bought.

LAWRENCE

Jolene -

JOLENE

They told me nuns went blind, but, heck, it's not like they go skeet shootin'.

LAWRENCE

Jolene -

JOLENE

(back to rummaging in bag)

Huh?

LAWRENCE

When did we decide we're getting married?

(JOLENE stops. Beat. Looks at him:)

JOLENE

Alrighty. Remember the other night when you were telling me about your family ring?

LAWRENCE

Yes?

JOLENE

And then you said my eyes were like the ocean.

LAWRENCE

Yes?

JOLENE

And then I ordered the iced tea.

LAWRENCE

Yes?

JOLENE

Somewhere in there. Okay now listen up, I got Daddy's jet pickin' us up at the airport nine a.m. Europe time, then it's straight on to Oakes for the close of barbecue season and your bachelor party.

LAWRENCE

Jolene, as you might say, whoa.

JOLENE

That's cute. Now I should probably warn you the only fly in the syrup might be that my last coupla husbands ain't exactly been declared legally dead yet.

LAWRENCE

What?

JOLENE

Aw, look at that, you're gettin' all nervous-like. Don't worry, honey, you're gonna love Oklahoma. It's all so...flat and peaceful and flat. We're gonna be so happy!

#7 – Oklahoma (Part 1)

DOWN IN THE PANHANDLE,
WHERE WE MANHANDLE
ALL THAT BEEF CATTLE
AND THE SNAKES RATTLE.
AND THE WIND WHISTLES
THROUGH THE DEAD THISTLES
IT'S A LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN!

WITH A BIG HOUSE AND
LOTS OF BIG COWS AND
LOTS OF BIG SKY AND
LOTS OF DUST FLYIN'
AND I'LL BE SO HAPPY SINCE
I'M BRINGING HOME A PRINCE
TO MY LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN, OKLAHOMA!

LAWRENCE

(calls offstage for help)

Freddy!

JOLENE

DON'T YOU LOVE IT WHEN THE BOBCATS HOWL?

No.

JOLENE

DON'T YOU LOVE IT WHEN THE COYOTES COUGH?

LAWRENCE

No.

JOLENE

WELL, I KNOW A FEW TRICKS
WITH A THIRTY OUGHT-SIX
YOU CAN WATCH ME BLOW THOSE LITTLE FUCKERS HEADS
CLEAN OFF!

AND THEN OH BOY-O
WE'LL GO TWO-STEPPIN'
THROUGH THE ARROYO
WATCH WHERE YOU STEP IN
CAUSE THOSE CATTLE EAT THEIR SHARE
AND IT'S GOTTA GO SOMEWHERE
IN MY LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN, OKLAHOMA!

(Music continuing underneath:)

Oh, I know it may seem a little crickety to you after this place, but it's not like you'll be the only royalty in town.

LAWRENCE

(a tiny ray of hope)

Really?

JOLENE

There's a Dairy Queen right down the road. You're gonna fit right in. Can't you just see it?

#7a - Oklahoma (Part 2)

(The cafe window lowers and the Riviera vista changes to an Oklahoma scene. JOLENE whistles.)

See Production Note #4: Cafe Window on page 157

LAWRENCE

Oh, dear God.

(She squeals in delight. A group of cowboys and girls enter and dance with JOLENE. During this:)

JOLENE

Okay. First we're just gonna show you the basics.

(The dance continues. Then:)

All right honey. Now I'm really gonna kick some shit.

(The dance continues. JOLENE then moves to LAWRENCE and tries to get him to join in:)

Come on, sugar, dance with me.

LAWRENCE

Thank you, Jolene, I'm fine.

JOLENE

You can't just sit there on your keister all night. Let's dance.

LAWRENCE

Jolene, my keister is not in question here.

JOLENE

Well, it's gonna be.

(She takes a gun from a cowboy's holster, and shoots at LAWRENCE's feet.)

Now I said dance!

(The dance resumes as JOLENE shoots at LAWRENCES feet. Then:)

#7b - Oklahoma (Part 3)

AND WE'LL MOTOR INTO TULSA FOR THE WEEKEND

LAWRENCE

Oh?

JOLENE

THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF THE PICK-UP WE'LL BE PEEKIN'.

ENSEMBLE

(concurrent with the lines above)

OOH...

LAWRENCE

Ah.

JOLENE

NOT A TREE OR A JEW -

LAWRENCE

Huh?

JOLENE

- TO BLOCK THE LOVELY VIEW.

LAWRENCE

God.

JOLENE

THERE'S A RACE TRACK AND A ZOO

ENSEMBLE

AND ORAL ROBERTS U.!

AND WE'LL DRESS YOU UP NIFTY
IN A BIG STETSON

AND SOME SPF FIFTY
SO NO SUN GETS IN.

JOLENE

'CAUSE THAT FRECKLE ON YOUR SKIN
CAN DO A BODY IN;
AND THE SHADE IS MIGHTY THIN IN OKLAHOMA!
AND OUR LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IS MELANOMA.

ENSEMBLE

MELANOMA! HYAH!

#7c – Oklahoma (Playoff)

ACT ONE

Scene Five

(A staircase in Lawrence's villa. FREDDY and ANDRE are sitting on the stairs, as Lawrence reels in shock from his predicament.)

FREDDY

Well, she seemed nice.

LAWRENCE

Don't worry; I'll figure it out.

ANDRE

I told you. I warned you about his idiotic little distractions. Now look where you are.

LAWRENCE

I said I'll figure it out.

FREDDY

Ah, cheer up, buckeroo. Have some jerky.

LAWRENCE

Do you mind? I'm trying to think.

FREDDY

OK

(then)

L-A-H-O-M-A.

LAWRENCE

It's not funny.

(ANDRE laughs. LAWRENCE looks at him.)

ANDRE

It's a little funny.

(Through the following FREDDY tries to bite off a piece of the beef jerky, but it won't budge.)

LAWRENCE

Wait, I know. I've charmed her, now I'll simply have to find some way to uncharm her.

ANDRE

What do you mean?

LAWRENCE

Just show her some of my less desirable qualities. It will be a challenge, but after all, no one's perfect. I mean, there's — Well, no, actually that's quite excellent. Still,

there's always...

(notices his butt in the mirror)

My God, it's like The David.

(the despair of the flawless:)

Oh, whom are we kidding?

FREDDY

(still wrestling with the jerky)

Oh, c'mon, you gotta have something about you that can turn this chick off.

LAWRENCE

Nothing I can see, except...

(He turns and looks at FREDDY, who is now contorting himself to get the jerky to comply. LAWRENCE and ANDRE look at each other and smile. FREDDY looks up into the pause and notices, the strip of jerky still hanging from his mouth.)

FREDDY

What?

(The stage goes black. A pin spot picks up JOLENE at the top of the stairs, as:)

#7d - You Have a Brother?

JOLENE

You have a brother?

(And we continue over into...)

ACT ONE

Scene Six

(Continuous. The lights come back up. FREDDY and ANDRE are gone.)

LAWRENCE

Didn't I mention him?

JOLENE

(thrilled)

You mean I'm bringing home two princes?

LAWRENCE

Wherever I go, Ruprecht goes. He's in his room now. Would you like to meet him?

JOLENE

(starts to head up the stairs.)

Try and stop me.

LAWRENCE

Not that way, dear.

JOLENE

(moves back to LAWRENCE, looks around)

Oh. Well, where -?

LAWRENCE

Like all royalty, we must descend.

(They start down the stairs, and we hear dungeon sound effects — water dripping, something scurrying, etc.)

JOLENE

What's he doing down here?

LAWRENCE

Now it's nothing to be concerned about.

JOLENE

What isn't?

(They reach a door.)

LAWRENCE

Don't worry: he's going to love you as much as I do.

(kisses her cheek, then:)

No sudden moves.

(calls)

Ruprecht, it is I, your brother.

(LAWRENCE opens the door into a stone-walled chamber.)

(calls)

Ruprecht?

(no answer. to JOLENE:)

He must be taking his morning constitutional.

(tries again:)

Ruprecht? ...Perhaps we should have phoned first.

(FREDDY enters. He is now the mad Prince RUPRECHT. He wears a crested blue blazer, bermuda shorts, and holds a trident.)

Ruprecht?

See Production Note #5: Ruprecht on page 157

RUPRECHT

Yes?

LAWRENCE

Have you been in the aquarium again?

RUPRECHT

No.

(A goldfish comes peeking out of his mouth.)

LAWRENCE

How many times have I told you, we don't eat our pets?

(He gently returns the fish to the aquarium. To JOLENE:)

We've lost more cats that way.

(He looks to RUPRECHT, who holds out his arms for an apologetic hug.)

All right, cuddly cuddly.

(LAWRENCE crosses to the bed and hugs RUPRECHT, who hugs him back, then licks his face and finally gets him in a wrestler's grip, pulls him down on the bed and starts to mount him.)

No, Ruprecht... Ruprecht, no...

(He manages to push RUPRECHT off. The two brothers sit side by side on the bed and face JOLENE.)

He's very affectionate.

(He takes RUPRECHT's hand and leads him over to JOLENE.)

Come, Ruprecht, I'd like you to meet someone. This nice lady is Miss Oakes.

JOLENE

Hello, Ruprecht.

RUPRECHT

Mother?

LAWRENCE

No, Ruprecht, she's not our mother. But she is going to be your sister. Miss Oakes and I are getting married, and we're all going to live in Oklahoma.

RUPRECHT

Not Mother?

LAWRENCE

All right, if it makes you happy you may call her Mother.

(to JOLENE)

Keep smiling; he senses fear.

RUPRECHT

Mother!

(He throws his arms around JOLENE and hugs her tightly.)

LAWRENCE

No, Ruprecht. Ruprecht, no.

(He grabs RUPRECHT by the waist and tries to pull him off.)

Ruprecht...Ruprecht! Ruprecht, remember your manners. Do you want me to get the genital cuff?

(RUPRECHT immediately lets go, the momentum of which sends the two of them flying back. As LAWRENCE dusts himself off, he looks to JOLENE:)

Oh, dear, now he's upset you.

JOLENE

(voice cracking)

Not at all.

(LAWRENCE shakes a few drops from a bottle onto his handkerchief and holds it over RUPRECHT'S face.)

LAWRENCE

Nap time, Ruprecht.

(RUPRECHT passes out on the bed. LAWRENCE moves to JOLENE.)

(sighs)

I'm afraid it's the same old story every generation or so.

#8 - All About Ruprecht

The blood will be flowing along blue as the Danube, when suddenly a piece of mad genetic driftwood...

JOLENE

So your brother is...

LAWRENCE

Mmm. You see, my dear -

EVERY ROYAL FAMILY, BY ITS NATURE

HAS A KIND OF PRICE THAT IT MUST PAY.

EVERY NOBLE LINEAGE HAS ONE LOOSE GENE

SMALL AS A MOLECULE,

FLITTING 'ROUND THE FAMILY POOL.

IT'S THE SORT OF THING ONE SEES IN APPALACHIA

OR IN THE ODD INBRED BICHON FRISÉ

IT REALLY CAN BE SUCH A

NASTY STAIN ON THE ESCUTCHEON

WHEN A WISP OF DNA

BEGINS TO FRAY, THEN GOES ASTRAY.

CALIGULA HAD THE TEMPER

THE HAPSBURGS HAD THE CHIN

GEORGE THE THIRD WENT CUCKOO-BIRD

AND NERO HAD THAT VIOLIN

RICHARD, YOU'LL REMEMBER,

HAD THE HUMP AND THAT WITHERED LIMB.

THE BUSHES OF TEX WERE NERVOUS WRECKS

BECAUSE THEIR SON WAS DIM

BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!

ALAS, OUR FAMILY ALSO CARRIES A BIT OF A CURSE,

BUT, DARLING, IT COULD BE A GREAT DEAL WORSE.

THUS ENDS THE VERSE.

RUPRECHT'S ALL ABOUT SUN AND SODA-POP, PAWS ON PUPPY-DOGS, CANDY-CANES,

RUPRECHT'S ALL ABOUT CHOCOLATE BUNNIES AND BREEZY AFTERNOONS AND DAISY-CHAINS.

WITH A LITTLE BROTHER LIKE THIS
YOU CAN'T HELP BUT HAVE A HAPPY HOME.
WITH STYLE UPON GRACE
AND A SMILE UPON HIS FACE,
AND ALL THAT'S MISSING IS A CHROMOSOME.

BUT RUPRECHT'S ALL ABOUT HUGS AND VALENTINES THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ALL SAY HEY RUPRECHT! YOU'RE REALLY OKAY!

(RUPRECHT picks petals from a flower in Jolene's hair and eats them.)

He likes you. He's eating your flower.

RUPRECHT'S ALL ABOUT CAKE AND LEMONADE

RUPRECHT

MILK SHAKE ENEMAS

LAWRENCE

FUN AND PLAY RUPRECHT'S ALL ABOUT

RUPRECHT

BURMESE BELLY RUBS, FRESH-SHAVED TESTICLES ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

(He slides his hand into his pants.)

LAWRENCE

WITH A SMILE THAT'S A MILE AND A HALF AND A LAUGH AND A HEARTY 'HOW D'YA DO?'

(RUPRECHT pull his hand from his pants and shakes JOLENE's hand.)

RUPRECHT

Howdja do!

LAWRENCE

IT'S A CINCH THAT WE WILL BE A HAPPY FAMILY ONE PLUS ONE PLUS ONE —

RUPRECHT

MAKES TWO!

(RUPRECHT)

RUPRECHT'S CRAZY 'BOUT TAXIDERMY AND KY JELLY ON A RUBBER GLOVE!

LAWRENCE

SO GIVE HIM A CHANCE OR THREE LET HIM GET TO KNOW YOU AND YOU'LL AGREE THAT RUPRECHT'S...ALL ABOUT LOVE.

WHO'S THE HAPPY CHAPPY WITH THE ULCERATED EAR?

JOLENE

...Ruprecht.

LAWRENCE

WHO STAYS AWAKE ALL NIGHT HOLLERING OUT WITH FEAR?

JOLENE

Ruprecht?

LAWRENCE

WHO LIKES TO SPEND EVERY SATURDAY AT THE ABATTOIR?
WHO GETS THE CATTLE-PROD IF HE TRIES TO HUMP THE SAMOVAR?
WHO LIKES TO SAVE UP ALL HIS FARTS IN A MASON JAR?

You guessed it!

LAWRENCE, FREDDY & O.S. MALE ENSEMBLE

IT'S RUPRECHT!

MY BUDDY — RUPRECHT!

LAWRENCE

I LIKE HIM -

LAWRENCE, FREDDY & O.S. MALE ENSEMBLE

RUPRECHT!

(JOLENE has made her way to the cellar door. As she sneaks out:)

JOLENE

'Bye.

LAWRENCE

AND THAT'S ABOUT ALL.

(As the music buttons, LAWRENCE and RUPRECHT shake hands. An alleluia is heard in the distance.)

ACT ONE

Scene Seven

(The alleluia continues as UNDERSCORE. A simple indication of a church. ANDRE stands off to the side with A NUN who holds a collection basket. A statue and a group of tourists are moving into place. They are listening to a DOCENT, who has her back to us. All as the scene is arriving:)

ANDRE NUNS

With the compliments

of Monsieur Jameson

NUN

ALLELUIA ALLELUIA

ALLELUIA ALLELUIA

ALLELUIA ALLELUIA

Ah, merci. ALLELUIA

(As the NUN exits with ANDRE'S donation, we are hearing:)

DOCENT

The Abbey of Beaumont sur Mer was founded in the year 1403 with a grant from Charlemagne in commemoration of a miracle that is yet to occur. Thank you for your attention, and Ave Maria.

(The Group exits, the DOCENT turns around and ANDRE sees it is MURIEL.)

ANDRE

Madame...

MURIEL

Hello.

ANDRE

What are you doing here?

MURIEL

I have spent the last five days trying to find the Prince's country on the map. Is it to the right or the left of the Alps?

ANDRE

Yes.

MURIEL

Oh. Anyway, I thought as long as I'm here I should pitch in. I'm a docent at our museum back home and minored in Art History, so I know a lot about these places. Or I just make it up.

(as three more tourists enter:)

May I call your attention to the Rapture of Louise LeBoeuf. Following a brief career

(MURIEL)

as a Gregorian Chanteuse, this poor peasant girl married the CEO of a major pharmaceutical company, and after eighteen years of devotion caught him with a dental hygienist half his age. Praying for guidance, she took him to the cleaners, had some work done, and voila!

(The tourists move off.)

ANDRE

That's not her story.

MURIEL

No, it's mine, but that story works in every century... Did His Highness receive my scarf?

ANDRE

Ah, yes, it was the hit of the battlefield.

MURIEL

You know, I've been searching the papers, but there's not so much as a mention...

ANDRE

Well, it's just a little revolution, we don't like to make a fuss.

MURIEL

Oh, but you must. If you'd like I can talk to some of the other women around town, rally the troops. You know I'm in charge of snacks for our neighborhood watch and telemarketing coach for our local PBS fund drive.

ANDRE

You have a lot of energy, don't you?

MURIEL

Well, I have a lot of time.

ANDRE

Yes, well, let me talk it over with the other rebels and we'll get back to you. In the meantime, it was lovely running into you, have a safe journey home, and goodbye.

MURIEL

Goodbye.

(She exits. She immediately returns.)

Maybe I should stay. Should I stay? I should stay.

ANDRE

Why?

MURIEL

Should he need me, if there's something more I can do.

ANDRE

Madame, please. Your generosity is already legend.

MURIEL

Oh?

ANDRE

(confidentially)

Between us, there is talk of a statue.

MURIEL

Of me?

ANDRE

Try to act surprised.

MURIEL

Oh, I am. I only got a tote bag from PBS.

ANDRE

(beat, then pointing off)

Well, there goes your group. Don't lose them. Goodbye.

MURIEL

Goodbye.

(She exits. She immediately returns.)

Could I be a stamp instead?

ANDRE

A stamp?

MURIEL

(indicating head and shoulders)

I think I'd rather be a stamp.

ANDRE

Then a stamp you will be.

MURIEL

Really?

ANDRE

An entire nation will lick your head.

(points off)

Look, they're getting so small in the distance, like tiny little people going away. Go, be one of them.

MURIEL

Goodbye.

ANDRE

We'll miss you.

MURIEL

Will you?

ANDRE

Only if you leave.

(She starts out, doesn't even make it offstage this time.)

MURIEL

I can't tell you how much this means to me.

ANDRE

And yet you're going to, aren't you?

See Production Note #6: Transition from Scene 7 to Scene 8 on page 158

(She begins to sing:)

#9 - What Was A Woman To Do (Reprise 2)

MURIEL

WHEN I WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL,
SO YOUNG AND INNOCENT,
I'D KNEEL BESIDE MY LITTLE BED
AND SAY A PRAYER I STILL REMEMBER —
THIS IS HOW IT WENT —
"LET ME HAVE LOVE UNENDING;
LET ME LOOK GOOD IN SHORTS."

NOW I AM NOT A CHILD AND
(HMMM HMMM) YEARS HAVE PASSED,
I'D SAY MY MIRACLE IS DUE!
YET I'M STILL SEARCHING
VAINLY LURCHING AS THE WORLD SPINS ROUND.

WHAT IS A WOMAN, WHAT IS A WOMAN TO -

(Through the above, the set begins to change, the stained glass effect fading, the statue rotating to reveal a nude behind. MURIEL reacts to it and exits as we continue over into...)

ACT ONE

Scene Eight

(The Hotel set now moves on. ANDRE stands behind two easy chairs where two men sit reading newspapers which obscure their faces. JOLENE moves to the hotel desk. She slaps down her credit card.)

JOLENE

Here! Keep the card. Call me a cab, I'll wait outside. You didn't see me. Nobody saw me. I've never been to Europe, comprendo? Y'all are peculiar!

(JOLENE tosses her suitcase to a BELLBOY and exits. The newspapers are now lowered to reveal LAWRENCE and FREDDY in the easy chairs. They smile and toast each other with champagne. ANDRE moves to the HOTEL MANAGER beside the front desk.)

ANDRE

And as the pigeons say farewell to Beaumont sur Mer — a new flock comes home to roost.

(The HOTEL MANAGER hands him a dossier.)

HOTEL MANAGER

Miss Christine Colgate of Cincinnati, Ohio.

ANDRE

Age?

HOTEL MANAGER

Twenty-nine.

ANDRE

Married?

HOTEL MANAGER

Never.

ANDRE

Money?

HOTEL MANAGER

They call her The American Soap Queen.

ANDRE

Please extend Her Highness every possible courtesy of your grand hotel.

HOTEL MANAGER

Of course.

I will say we made quite a good team there.

FREDDY

Yeah, we did.

LAWRENCE

Of course I usually prefer working alone. However, special circumstances and all...

FREDDY

(agreeing)

Hey, I don't even like double solitaire.

LAWRENCE

(a moment)

So, I suppose you'll be moving on now.

FREDDY

(a bit surprised)

...Oh...Yeah... I guess so.

(A pause, as each waits for the other to ask for the proverbial second date. FREDDY coughs.)

LAWRENCE

I beg your pardon?

FREDDY

Sorry, what'd you say?

LAWRENCE

...Nothing.

FREDDY

Then neither did I.

LAWRENCE

Of course, if you'd prefer to stay on a bit, perhaps see what more you can learn.

FREDDY

I guess I could do that.

LAWRENCE

Oh good.

FREDDY

Y'know, just in case you get into another jam.

I don't get in jams.

FREDDY

Yeah, right.

LAWRENCE

Excuse me?

FREDDY

C'mon, if it weren't for me, you'd be out on the prairie plucking your own dinner.

LAWRENCE

Freddy, please. I will admit you were an effective prop, but -

FREDDY

Prop? Hey, Ruprecht was the star of that show; you were just the emcee.

LAWRENCE

I prefer to see myself as a ventriloquist.

FREDDY

Which makes me what? The dummy?

LAWRENCE

My God, that was easy.

FREDDY

Ha, ha, ha.

LAWRENCE

Oh, Freddy –

FREDDY

You know what? Forget it. I'm outta here.

LAWRENCE

Fine.

FREDDY

(a beat, then:)

I was doing swell on my own. I've been on my own since I was fifteen. You showed me the ropes. Thanks, thanks a yahoo. Don't worry about me. I'll do just fine.

LAWRENCE

Just you and your beets and your imaginary grandmother.

FREDDY

Hey. For your information that old broad was the most respected bookie in Saint Louis.

Saint Louis.

FREDDY

And she taught me a hell of a lot more about life than you. Talk like this, walk like that, zip your fly, don't snore at the Opera.

LAWRENCE

It was Wagner.

FREDDY

It was six hours! I mean, geez, I don't even want to have sex and eat bacon for six hours.

LAWRENCE

(a conciliatory feint)

I'm sorry, Freddy, I seem to have gotten under your skin.

FREDDY

(softening a little)

Yeah, well, y'know -

LAWRENCE

(hard and direct)

And that's why you'll never make it in this game.

FREDDY

Listen -

LAWRENCE

(calmly overriding)

No, you listen! This is an arm's length business, my friend. As the man said 'We are the stuff that dreams are made on.' Their dreams, not ours. What they want, not you. If you can have the patience and stay detached, which I highly doubt, you'll get your castle in time. But make sure you build your walls high, because as soon as you let someone else in, the game is over.

FREDDY

Yeah? Well, as the Coasters said, 'Yakety-yak.'

LAWRENCE

(murmurs)

I'm wasting my breath.

FREDDY

You know what? I think you're scared.

LAWRENCE

Of what?

FREDDY

Me. Face it, Pops, I'm younger than you, I'm charminger than you —

LAWRENCE

'Charminger?'

FREDDY

And I'm better looking than you.

LAWRENCE

(eyes narrowing)

All right, now you've gone too far.

FREDDY

If I was working this place, you'd be finished.

LAWRENCE

My boy, you wouldn't last two minutes.

#9a – The Bet

FREDDY

Wanna bet?

LAWRENCE

Are you challenging me?

FREDDY

Why not?

(A beautiful woman crosses the lobby.)

WOMAN

Hello.

LAWRENCE

Good evening.

FREDDY

Hey there.

(thinks a moment, enjoying the smell of the game)

Very well, Freddy, suppose we do this. We select a woman, set a price, and the first man who extracts the proper amount wins.

FREDDY

How much?

LAWRENCE

I'll make it easy for you. Say, fifty thousand dollars.

FREDDY

(almost chokes)

Fifty thousand dolla -

(covering)

Yeah, sure. I could use a little pocket money.

LAWRENCE

If you lose, you not only leave town graciously, you agree to work only in the following territories: China, Iceland, El Salvador and just to show there are no hard feelings, I'll throw in... White Plains.

(Note: Instead of White Plains, each production should substitute an appropriate nearby town or city.)

FREDDY

And if I win?

LAWRENCE

Then I abdicate.

FREDDY

Great!

(beat)

Um - ?

LAWRENCE

Step down.

FREDDY

Great!

(then)

So who's the dame?

(The staff moves toward the entrance in preparation for the arrival of an important guest.)

#10 - Here I Am

BELLBOY

She's here.

ENSEMBLE

THE SOAP QUEEN!

HOTEL MANAGER

She's here.

ENSEMBLE

THE SOAP QUEEN!

THE AMERICAN SOAP QUEEN!

(They all line up at the foot of the steps leading up to the hotel entrance, as if Dolly were returning to the Harmonia Gardens. A pause. No one enters. Then CHRISTINE COLGATE emerges from the waiting crowd.)

CHRISTINE

Oh, that's me.

(They all turn to face her.)

WOULDYA LOOK AT THAT COFFERED CEILING.

LOOK AT THAT CHANDELIER

EXCUSE ME BUT HOW I'M FEELING,

IS A HUNDRED PROOF

I COULD RAISE THE ROOF

I'M SO HAPPY TO BE HERE.

(LAWRENCE and FREDDY look at CHRISTINE, look at each other, nod and shake.)

LAWRENCE

Well?

FREDDY

You're on.

(They exit. Through the following number, we watch as CHRISTINE gets ready for her first night on the Riviera. All the while, accidentally and unknowingly, inflicting various injuries on the staff in her clumsy exuberance.)

CHRISTINE

I'VE BEEN KIND OF MISSING MOM AND DADDY SORT OF IN A SPIN SINCE CINCINNATI.

THE MORNING FLIGHT, A MAJOR BORE BUT THEN THEY OPEN THE CABIN DOOR AND ZOOT ALORS!

(CHRISTINE)

HERE I AM!

LORD KNOWS I HAD THE WILL AND THE RESOURCES
BUT MOM AND DAD KEPT SAYING "HOLD YOUR HORSES"
I GUESS THOSE PONIES COULDN'T WAIT
PARDON ME FOLKS BUT THEY'VE LEFT THE GATE
I MAY BE LATE, BUT
HERE I AM!

CHRISTINE ENSEMBLE

AH,

THE WAY TO BE, TO ME, IS FRENCH
OO OOO
THE WAY THEY SAY LA VIE IS FRENCH
OO OO
SO HERE I AM, BEAUMONT SUR MER,
OO

A BIG TWO WEEKS ON THE RIVIERA

IF I'M ONLY DREAMING PLEASE DON'T WAKE ME OOH AH
LET THE SUMMER SUN AND BREEZES TAKE ME OO OO

EXCUSE ME IF I SEEM JEJUNE

I PROMISE I'LL FIND MY MARBLES SOON

BUT – EVERYWHERE I LOOK OOH LOOK IT'S LIKE A SCENE FROM A BOOK OOH BOOK

OPEN THE BOOK AND

HERE I AM!

(Dance break. During this, CHRISTINE is offered a plate of food by a MAID.)

MAID

Escargot?

CHRISTINE

Goodness no.

ENSEMBLE WOMEN

ENSEMBLE MEN

BA BA BA BA BA BA BA

DOOT DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO

EE OW

BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BOW! DOOT DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO

(The dance continues. The BELLBOYS, carrying her suitcases, each punctuates his step by planting his foot on a suitcase. The final BELLBOY is carrying a small case. As he plants his foot, we suddenly hear a small dog yelp. Everything stops. He picks up the suitcase, looks inside, then, shamefaced, carries it off. CHRISTINE continues:)

CHRISTINE ENSEMBLE

I MEAN

THE AIR IS FRENCH OO—

THAT CHAIR IS FRENCH

THIS NICE SINCERE SANCERRE IS FRENCH

THE SKIES ARE FRENCH

OO

THE PIES ARE FRENCH

OO

THOSE GUYS ARE FRENCH!

PARDON ME IF I DOOT DOO DOO DOO

FLY OFF THE HANDLE

CAUSE NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH

CAN HOLD A CANDLE

DOO WEE OOH

DOT DA DA DA DA

OO EE OO WA

SO VENI VIDI VICI, FOLKS *

I'M SORRY TO SHOUT, BUT

LET'S FACE IT,

JE SUIS ICI, FOLKS!

EXCUSEZ MOI OOH

IF I SPOUT AH

I'M LETTING MY OOH

JE'N'SAIS QUOI OUT AH

HERE POW I WOW!

AM! DOOT DOO DOO DOO DOO

BAH DAH

DOOT DOO DOO DOO DOO

BAH DAH

DOOT DOO DOO DOO DOO

HERE I AM

(Through the last part of the song, the hotel moves off and the casino appears with its fashionably dressed crowd. CHRISTINE drinks in the glamour and excitement, as we move into...)

^{* &}lt;u>Composer's note</u>: I know it's not strictly correct, but please pronounce "Vici" as "VeeCee" so that it goes nicely with "Ici". Chalk it up to her exuberant innocence.

ACT ONE

Scene Nine

(The hotel casino. Continuous. CHRISTINE moves to the roulette table, passing LAWRENCE and ANDRE as she goes.)

LAWRENCE

Any sign of Freddy since we laid the bet?

ANDRE

None. Perhaps the Jackal has realized the folly of his geste.

LAWRENCE

(eyes on Christine)

Keep your eyes open; he'll turn up. I believe it's time the Soap Queen met the Prince.

(He hands ANDRE the dossier, puts on the royal ring and moves to the empty place beside CHRISTINE. She glances at him shyly. He smiles politely. She places her bet. He puts his chips beside hers. They look at each other, and LAWRENCE leans in to introduce himself, when suddenly there is a commotion behind them. The elegant crowd standing around the table begin to react one by one as if they were being goosed or bumped. The seas part, and a young decorated U.S. Army Officer in a wheelchair approaches the table. LAWRENCE gives him a courteous nod, starts to turn back to CHRISTINE, then stops, as he realizes the humble soldier is FREDDY.)

FREDDY

Excuse me, pardon me, I'm sorry.

(He wheels his chair effectively between LAWRENCE and CHRISTINE. A female gambler is crossing. FREDDY seizes the opportunity. With the pretext of getting out of her way, he forces LAWRENCE away from CHRISTINE through the maneuvers of his wheelchair. To a passing Casino patron:)

Excuse me, ma'am. Let me get out of your way.

(He wheels himself back and over LAWRENCE'S foot, then wheels himself back beside CHRISTINE and tries to place his bet with a sad little chip, then:)

Excuse me, Miss, would you mind placing a bet for me? It's sorta hard for me to reach.

CHRISTINE

Of course; what number?

FREDDY

Gee, the way my luck's been running lately... Why don't you pick?

CHRISTINE

(smiles warmly)

Oh, okay. Well, my birthday's in July, I'm the second oldest, I was a Kappa at Ohio

(CHRISTINE)

State... How about four?

(She places the bet. The CROUPIER spins the wheel.)

CROUPIER

Mesdames et messieurs, les jeux sont fait. Numero dix-sept. Rouge.

ALL

Awww...

CHRISTINE

(to FREDDY)

I'm sorry.

FREDDY

(bravely)

That's okay. Excuse me.

(He stifles back a sob and starts to wheel himself away, bumping his way through the crowd as he goes. LAWRENCE leans in to CHRISTINE again, is about to resume his introduction, when:)

CHRISTINE

Excuse me.

(She rises from the table and follows FREDDY out. LAWRENCE and ANDRE look at each other. The lights dim on the casino and come up on the garden just outside, where CHRISTINE is rushing to catch up with the whimpering soldier as he rolls away.)

#10a - Casino Terrace

Pardon me, are you all right?

FREDDY

Thank you, but I'd really rather be alone right now.

CHRISTINE

Oh, I'm sorry.

(She reluctantly starts to turn back inside, when FREDDY lets out a pitiful wail, grabs her hand and jerks her back.)

FREDDY

It's just that chip was my last hope. I thought maybe if I could spin it into enough to pay for the treatment... I'm so naive. I'm sorry; I can't believe I'm telling my troubles to a total stranger like this.

CHRISTINE

I'm Christine Colgate.

FREDDY

Sergeant Fred Benson.

CHRISTINE

(smiles)

See? Now we're not strangers anymore.

FREDDY

(smiles)

I guess you're right.

(then)

I don't mind for myself so much; it's just that Grandma was sorta counting on me to come back and run the farm.

CHRISTINE

Shouldn't the Army pay for your treatment?

FREDDY

It's a little more complicated than that. You see, my problem isn't really physical. It's emotional.

CHRISTINE

You mean -?

FREDDY

Yes, I'm afraid what I have is... Dance Fever.

CHRISTINE

What happened?

FREDDY

You see, I was engaged to the most wonderful girl back in the States. We loved to dance. We wanted to be professionals. Then one day some talent scouts came to town with a contest for 'Dance USA.'

CHRISTINE

I love that show.

FREDDY

Me too, oh my God. We decided if we won, we'd pay off the farm, put Grandma in a home, sell the horses for glue and live happily ever after. Then suddenly it was the big night... We won! Somehow in all the excitement, we got separated. I looked everywhere. Then I went back to the studio, and there they were. Dancing.

CHRISTINE

Dancing?

FREDDY

Naked.

CHRISTINE

Oh my God. Who was she with?

FREDDY

The 'Dance USA' Orchestra.

CHRISTINE

All of them?

FREDDY

Just the brass section. That night I tried to sleep, but I just kept dreaming of them dancing, making love, dancing, making love...The next morning I woke up, and I was numb from the waist down. I've been this way ever since.

CHRISTINE

There must be someone who can help you.

FREDDY

Well, there is one psychiatrist...Dr. Emil Shüffhausen of the Shüffhausen Clinic in Vienna.

CHRISTINE

Well, why don't you go to him?

FREDDY

A man like Dr. Shüffhausen is in demand all over the world. His fees are astronomical. It's just not something I can handle.

CHRISTINE

How astronomical?

FREDDY

Fifty thousand dollars.

CHRISTINE

That is a lot of money.

(FREDDY sighs and looks away. His face goes white. A young couple is dancing on the casino patio.)

What is it?

#10b – They're Dancing

FREDDY

Oh, God. They're dancing. Dancing!

CHRISTINE

(to the COUPLE)

Can't you see you're killing him?

(CHRISTINE makes a decision, grabs the back of Freddy's wheelchair and starts to push him off.)

We're going straight to my room and write a letter to Dr. Shüffhausen about your case.

FREDDY

I've tried; it's no use. The money -

CHRISTINE

Don't worry about that. When the time comes, you'll have the money.

FREDDY

Cool.

(And she wheels him off. LAWRENCE and ANDRE look out from between the garden's potted palms. They have clearly heard the whole thing.)

LAWRENCE

Well, it seems the teacher has underestimated the pupil.

(ANDRE removes a small black address book from his inside pocket and begins to leaf through it.)

ANDRE

There is a man I know — Pierre the Knife. A master with the stiletto and an absolute magician at hiding the body.

LAWRENCE

Andre!

ANDRE

I give you my word of honor as a policeman, the case will be investigated in a very slipshod manner.

LAWRENCE

(no)

I just need a moment to think...

(The lights come up on Christine's Hotel Suite set over the casino. CHRISTINE watches as FREDDY gorges himself from an elaborate room service cart and reads a letter.)

CHRISTINE

Are you feeling any better?

FREDDY

(through a mouthful of knockwurst)

A little.

CHRISTINE

(addressing envelope)

'To Dr. Emil Shüffhausen.' Do you think I should use an umlaut?

FREDDY

No, you smell great.

CHRISTINE

...Thank you.

FREDDY

(humbly)

I just wish you hadn't written all these things to Dr.Shüffhausen about me. You make me sound like a hero.

CHRISTINE

He'll listen, you'll see.

FREDDY

I'm almost afraid to hope.

CHRISTINE

Don't be. It will happen this time. It has to.

FREDDY

(full of emotion, as he sips his soup)

I want to believe that - ooh, hot soup - I'm just not sure I can.

#11 - Nothing Is Too Wonderful To Be True (Part 1)

CHRISTINE

How can you not?

LOOK AT THE WAY THE MOON BEHAVES

LOOK AT THE WAY SHE PAINTS A SILVER RIBBON ON THE WAVES.

ONE THING I'VE LEARNED AND I'LL SHARE WITH YOU —

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

EACH MOMENT OPENS LIKE A FLOWER
THE AGE OF MIRACLES COMES EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR.
TURN ANY CORNER THERE'S SOMETHING NEW
AND NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

IF I'M PERCEIVED TO BE NAÏVE TO BE THE WAY I AM LET PEOPLE SAY I AM A SILLY GOOF.

(CHRISTINE)

IS LIFE A PLATEFUL? AM I GRATEFUL? EVERY DAY I AM. IT'S AN AMAZING WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE AND I'VE GOT LIVIN' PROOF.

LOOK AT THE WAY THE MOON BEHAVES
LOOK AT THE WAY SHE PAINTS A SILVER RIBBON ON THE WAVES
LEADING DIRECTLY TO ME AND YOU.

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE. NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

Oh, can't you see it? Can't you see it?

FREDDY

You know, I think I can.

CHRISTINE

Tell me.

FREDDY

Uh...

MAGIC CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE
I KNEW THIS GUY AT CAMP WHO ATE HIS T-SHIRT ON A DARE.
MY HOTEL GIVES AWAY FREE SHAMPOO.
NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

CHRISTINE

Go on.

FREDDY

Geez...

SOMETIMES GOD GRANTS YOUR HEART'S DESIRES —
ONCE I WAS CALLER NUMBER EIGHT;
I WON A SET OF TIRES.
THEY HELD UP THAT MIDGET WITH KRAZY GLUE.
NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

FREDDY & CHRISTINE

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

(The lights cross fade to LAWRENCE and ANDRE in the garden below, where ANDRE continues to leaf through his book. Music continues underneath:)

ANDRE

Martine the Poisoner. A quick souffle, a peaceful sleep. Delicious, yet effective.

LAWRENCE

Relax, my friend, we both know my intimate relationship with Lady Luck. All I need is —

(He snaps his fingers. Nothing happens. Perplexed.)

One moment.

(Above them FREDDY and CHRISTINE look out from the doors of the balcony into the night.)

CHRISTINE

AND WHEN IT SEEMS
YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS
ARE ON THE RUN AGAIN,
BAD LUCK HAS WON AGAIN
AND IT WON'T STOP —

LAWRENCE

All right, just a simple —

(He snaps again. Nothing.)

CHRISTINE

THE CLOUDS WILL PART
AND YOU WILL START
TO SEE THE SUN AGAIN.
AND LIFE'S A BALL, YOU'RE STANDING TALL,
YOU'VE FOUND YOUR WAY BACK TO THE TOP!

LAWRENCE

Just -

(One more try. Nothing.)

CHRISTINE

BREATHE IN AND TASTE THE OCEAN BREEZE.

LOOK AT THE WAY THE LEAVES ARE DANCING IN THE BANYAN TREES.

LISTEN TO WHAT THEY ARE SINGING TO YOU —

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL —

FREDDY

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL -

CHRISTINE & FREDDY

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

(LAWRENCE stands a moment contemplating his defeat, as the lights slowly dim on the garden, and FREDDY and CHRISTINE turn back into the suite.)

CHRISTINE

You have so much to live for. You can't give up now.

FREDDY

I'll try.

CHRISTINE

You must -

(She reaches out to him and accidentally knocks a bowl of soup off the tray and into his lap.)

Oh, I'm sorry, the soup –

FREDDY

That's okay; I didn't even feel it.

CHRISTINE

You will soon. Look at that, you're all wet.

(She grabs a napkin and begins to wipe at his lap. A moment, as FREDDY sits there, then realizes his lap is starting to react.)

FREDDY

Yeah-okay-I-think-we're-good-now.

(CHRISTINE stops. Their eyes meet for a moment. CHRISTINE breaks the look.)

CHRISTINE

I'm going right downstairs and mailing this letter to Dr. Shüffhausen.

FREDDY

But all that money...

CHRISTINE

I told you, Sergeant Benson. You just leave that to me.

FREDDY

Gosh, Sergeant Benson sounds so formal. Please. Call me Buzz.

CHRISTINE

All right...Buzz.

(She smiles at him, clearly somewhat smitten. She licks the envelope. It sticks to her tongue and needs to be pried off. Or backs up, smiling at him, and conks her head on the door)

FREDDY

Are you all right?

CHRISTINE

Yeah; I do that a lot. See you.

(They smile. She exits. The minute the door closes, FREDDY jumps up from the chair and fans his crotch.)

FREDDY

Yow, that's hot!

(The lights fade on FREDDY, as down in the hotel lobby MURIEL is checking back in.)

#12 - Finale Act 1

ENSEMBLE WOMEN	ENSEMBLE MEN
DOO DOO DOO DOO	DOO DOO DOO
DOO DOO DOO DOO	DOO DOO DOO
DOO DOO DOO DOO	DOO DOO DOO
DOO DOO	DOO
	GIVE THEM
DOO	WHAT THEY WANT!
DOO DOO DOO	DOO DOO DOO
DOO DOO DOO DOO	DOO DOO DOO DOO
DO DO DO DOO	DO DO DO DOO
BA DA BA DA	DOO DOO DOO
BA	DOO DOO

ANDRE

Psst.

BA DOO DOO DOO

ANDRE

Psst.

ENSEMBLE WOMEN ENSEMBLE MEN

BA DA BA DA

DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO

BA

DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO...

BA

DESK CLERK

Welcome back, Madame. I thought you had left us for the season.

MURIEL

I had, but I can't imagine I won't be useful to someone in the second act.

(She exits. At the front desk, ANDRE whispers something to BELLBOY #2 and slips him some money. BELLBOY #2 picks up a message announcement stick, crosses and exits. CHRISTINE now enters, making her way through the lobby crowd on her way to the front desk. As we hear:)

SOLOS SOLOS

AH! OO OO OO OO AH!

CHRISTINE

Excuse me; pardon me, please.

SOLOS

AH! OO OO OO OO AH!

CHRISTINE

(moving to desk)

I have to send an urgent letter to Vienna!

ENSEMBLE WOMEN ENSEMBLE MEN

DOO DOO

DA

BA DOO BA DOO

DA

(Through the above, BELLBOY #2 has re-entered with the message stick and calls:)

BELLBOY #2

Paging the doctor.

ENSEMBLE WOMEN ENSEMBLE MEN

DOO DOO

DA

BA DOO BA DOO

DA

DA DA DA

BELLBOY #2

Paging Dr. Shüffhausen.

ENSEMBLE BELLBOY #2

DOO DA

BA DO DA

BA DOO DOO

DOO DOO DOO Paging Dr. Emil
DOO DOO Shüffhausen —

DOO DOO DOO

DOO DA

- of Vienna.

(CHRISTINE turns in surprise. From behind a highbacked easy chair, an arm reaches out and snaps its fingers. Back in Christine's suite FREDDY is drying his crotch with a portable hair dryer as CHRISTINE makes her way back to him.)

ENSEMBLE WOMEN

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL

CHRISTINE

Buzz!

ENSEMBLE MEN

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL

CHRISTINE

You'll never guess!

ENSEMBLE

OO OO OO WONDERFUL!

(FREDDY leaps back into the chair, lands on the hair dryer, extracts it from beneath him and assumes a casual pose, as CHRISTINE enters.)

CHRISTINE

Buzz, who is the one person in the world you would most like to see at this moment?

FREDDY

...Grandma?

CHRISTINE

Better.

(with fanfare)

Presenting Dr. Emil Shüffhausen!

(LAWRENCE enters, smiling and confident and with a Viennese accent.)

LAWRENCE

Good evening, Sergeant Benson.

(FREDDY just stares.)

FREDDY

(stammering)

But... but... but...

LAWRENCE

One moment please.

(He looks to the audience, smiles, snaps his fingers.)

ENSEMBLE

AHH!

(Blackout.)

CURTAIN

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

#13 - Entr'acte/Opening Act II

(In the darkness a light picks out a hand. The fingers snap and the lights come up on Christine's Hotel Suite, as we were just moments before the end of Act One. FREDDY sits in the wheelchair; CHRISTINE stands at the door.)

ENSEMBLE

OO OO OO OO WONDERFUL! OO OO OO OO WONDERFUL!

CHRISTINE

(with fanfare)

Presenting Dr. Emil Shüffhausen!

(The door slowly opens to reveal LAWRENCE smiling and confident with a Viennese accent.)

LAWRENCE

Good evening, Sergeant Benson.

FREDDY

Whoa, whoa, whoa; hold on. Didn't we do this part already?

LAWRENCE

I know, but I enjoyed it so much the first time...

FREDDY

Aw, geez.

LAWRENCE

As I told Miss Colgate, I am here on vacation from my clinic.

(leans in to FREDDY and gives him a slightly dangerous smile)

Small world, yes?

CHRISTINE

It's like a miracle.

FREDDY

(beat, then cheerfully for her benefit)

Hallelujah.

LAWRENCE

Now let's have a look at those legs, shall we? I understand you are completely numb from the waist down, is that correct?

FREDDY

Yes, sir.

LAWRENCE

No feeling whatsoever?

FREDDY

That's right.

LAWRENCE

Hm.

(pulls up FREDDY'S pants leg)

Hosen.

(removes FREDDY'S shoe)

Shoe.

(removes FREDDY'S sock)

Zocka.

(sniffs it)

Shmutzig.

(takes out feather)

Mein fedder... See if you feel this -

(tickles FREDDY'S foot)

Tickle, tickle, tickle.

(FREDDY tries to keep from laughing.)

FREDDY

...No.

LAWRENCE

I see. So....

#14 - Rüffhousin' Mit Shüffhausen

(wiggles FREDDY'S bare big toe.)

THIS LITTLE PIGGY SAYS -

FREDDY

- NOTHING.

LAWRENCE

AND THIS LITTLE PIGGY, THE SAME?

(FREDDY nods.)

I SUPPOSE THEN IT'S FUTILE TO WIGGLE OR DOODLE OR JIGGLE THIS PIGGLE? WELL, AIN'T THAT A SHAME.

AND THIS ONE?

FREDDY

LIKE WOOD.

LAWRENCE

AND THIS ONE? ZER GUT.

SO, THAT'S THE ENTIRE CONTINGENT.
WE'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE...

(He moves to a standing vase and picks out a long-stemmed pussy willow, whips it through the air.)

STRINGENT.

CHRISTINE

Stringent?

LAWRENCE

Trust me, Fraulein. I'm a doctor.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND I WAS CUTE AND I WAS IN THE INSTITUTE THEY BANGED IT IN US LIKE A DRUM THE CORPUS HIPPOCRATICUM.

SO JUST BEFORE YOU GRADUATE
YOU RAISE YOUR HAND AND STAND UP STRAIGHT,
AND EVERYBODY HAS TO QUOTE
THAT ZIPPY HIPPY-CRATIC OAT'H

YOU SWEAR TO GOD TO HEAL THE SICK BUT DO NO DAMAGE, THAT'S THE TRICK – EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO LOP A LEG OR, GOD FORBID, AN ARM.

(LAWRENCE)

IF IT'S FOR THE BEST, GO CRACK A CHEST OR SLICE 'EM OPEN LIKE A WURST BUT FIRST —
DO NO HARM.

(WHACK! He smacks FREDDY on the legs with the pussy willow. FREDDY'S eyes widen, as he tries not to react to the pain.)

YODELAYEEOO! Nothing?

FREDDY

(stifling his pain)

...Nope.

LAWRENCE

Hm.

A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
BEFORE HE STARTS A SESSION'LL
BE SURE TO PAUSE AND CLEAR HIS HEAD,
AND THINK ON WHAT OL' HIPPO SAID —

A REAL MENSCH WITH LOTS OF HEART,
BESTOWED ON US THIS NOBLE ART.
UND LET ME TELL YOU, THAT AIN'T EASY
IN THREE-HUNDRED AND EIGHTY B.C.

DEFEND THE WEAK AND MEND THE ILL,
PRESCRIBE A PILL, THEN SEND A BILL —
FOR MANY YEARS THE SYSTEM HAS
BEEN WORKING LIKE A CHARM.
BUT YOU MUST RECOLLECT WITH GREAT RESPECT
HIPPOCRATES AND WHAT HE VERSED —
FIRST —
DO NO —

(WHACK! He smacks FREDDY again. FREDDY turns his yowl of pain into a yodel.)

FREDDY

Yaaaaaaooo oo de lay hee hoo!

LAWRENCE

That's lovely, my boy.

CHRISTINE

But, Doctor, this seems so cruel.

LAWRENCE

On the contrary, Fraulein, Sergeant Benson would be the happiest man on earth if he could feel any pain... Right?

FREDDY

You bet!

LAWRENCE

Let's all yodel!

LAWRENCE & FREDDY [+CHRISTINE]

YO-DEL-AY-HEE

[YO-DEL-OD] EL-AY-HEE

[YO-DEL-AY-HEE-HOO]

LAWRENCE [+CHRISTINE]

YO-DEL-AY-HEE

[YO-DEL-OD] EL-AY-HEE

[YO-DEL OD] EL

CHRISTINE

YO-DEL-AY-HEE-HOO

LAWRENCE

I SAID YODEL!

(FREDDY joins in.)

LAWRENCE, FREDDY [+CHRISTINE]

YO-DEL-AY-HEE

[YO-DEL-AY-HEE-HOO]

[YO-DEL-HOO]

LAWRENCE

THE CORPUS HIPPOCRATICUM

LIKE BATS OUT OF THE ATTIC COME

LIKE POPES OUT OF THE VATI-COME

CHRISTINE

LIKE NYLON SHEETS WITH STATIC COME

LAWRENCE

LIKE JOCKEYS FROM THE PADDOCK COME

CHRISTINE

OR FISHSTICKS FROM THE HADDOCK COME

LAWRENCE

OR YOU PSYCHOSOMATIC COME TO ME.

(He suddenly turns and exits into the hall. A moment, as FREDDY and CHRISTINE look at each other puzzled.)

FREDDY

Well, I guess that's that. Anyway -

(And LAWRENCE comes running back in from the hall with the stick brandished — perhaps taking a gleeful little skip as he goes — using the running start to give FREDDY a truly good whack on the legs. A beat. The tiniest little squeak escapes from FREDDY'S throat.)

LAWRENCE

I LOOK AT HIM, THE SORRY FACE
I KNOW I HAVE TO TAKE THE CASE
IT'S WHO I AM, IT'S WHAT I DO,
IF YOU WERE ME, YOU'D HAVE TO TOO.

IF I WERE HIM OR I WERE YOU
I'D LOOK AT ME AND LIKE THE VIEW
FOR HERE I AM UND HERE WE GO
HIPPOCRATES WOULD WISH IT SO.

This man intrigues me; I will take Sergeant Benson on as a patient.

CHRISTINE

That's wonderful! Did you hear that, Buzz?

LAWRENCE

I am renting a villa in this area. We will move him in there, where I can really go to work on him.

CHRISTINE

Doctor, look: he's so happy he's crying. Do you really think you can have him walking again?

LAWRENCE

Walking?

I'LL HAVE HIM RUNNING, JUMPING, SHOUTING, SHRIEKING. OR MY NAME ISN'T...

(LAWRENCE)

(punctuating each word with a whack on Freddy's legs:)

DR.

(WHACK)

EMIL

(WHACK)

SHÜFFHAUSEN

(and just for good measure:)

THE THIRD!

(WHACK!)

ACT TWO

SCENE Two

(As we begin the transition, the HOTEL STAFF yodels their way across the lobby;)

#14a - Hotel Yodel

ENSEMBLE WOMEN & TENORS ENSEMBLE BASSES & 2 SOPRANOS

YO-DEL-AY-HEE

YO-DEL-OD-EL-AY-HEE YO-DEL-O YO-DEL-OD-EL-AY-HEE YO-DEL-O

YO-DEL-AY-HEE-HOO YO-DEL-AY-HEE-HO

YO-DEL-AY-HEE

OD-EL-AY-HEE-HOO
YO-DEL-HOO
YO-DEL-AY-HEE-HOO

ENSEMBLE WOMEN

YO-DEL-AY-EE-OO-EE

YO-DEL-AY-EE

YO-DEL-OO

YOD-EL-AY-EE

YOD-EL-AY-EE

YOD-EL-AY-HEE-HOO

(A BELLBOY enters with Freddy's folded wheelchair and a U.S. Army duffel bag, followed by CHRISTINE, followed by LAWRENCE carrying FREDDY in his arms like a baby. They are approached by ANDRE.)

ANDRE

Your car is waiting, Doctor.

LAWRENCE

Danke shone.

(They start across the lobby to the front doors, when suddenly a voice calls out:)

MURIEL (O.S.)

Your Majesty!

(LAWRENCE stops dead in his tracks, as he sees MURIEL approaching from across the way. He looks at her, looks at CHRISTINE, realizes he could be sunk.)

LAWRENCE

Oh, sheisse.

(a moment as he quickly thinks, then to ANDRE:)

Hold this.

(He passes FREDDY off into Andre's arms and turns to MURIEL, still maintaining his Viennese accent for Christine's benefit.)

Lady Muriel, how delightful to see you again.

MURIEL

(whispering)

How was your mission to Balahavula?

LAWRENCE

A great success thanks to you. Except for a few casualties, of course.

(He indicates FREDDY, who gives a little salute.)

MURIEL

(noticing FREDDY'S still bare foot)

Oh, a foot soldier. Your Highness -

LAWRENCE

Ja?

MURIEL

Your accent.

LAWRENCE

I am traveling incognito.

See Production Note #7: Costume Note for Act Two, Scene Two on page 160

MURIEL

(whispers)

Oh. Me too.

(She notices CHRISTINE.)

CHRISTINE

Hello.

MURIEL

Is she one of us?

(LAWRENCE just nods reassuringly. MURIEL gives CHRISTINE a knowing wink and secret handshake, then:)

(MURIEL)

Please, you must all join me for a drink.

LAWRENCE

That would be charming. Monsieur Andre, a moment?

ANDRE

Certainly.

(His arms full of FREDDY, ANDRE looks around for a beat, then just passes him off to the DESK CLERK. He and LAWRENCE step a discreet distance away.)

LAWRENCE

Andre, I'm afraid we teeter here.

ANDRE

So it seems.

LAWRENCE

All right, I'll get Miss Colgate away while you distract the other one.

ANDRE

How?

LAWRENCE

How else? She's a woman; you're French.

ANDRE

Only by birth and affectation.

LAWRENCE

You'll be fine.

(As LAWRENCE moves back to MURIEL:)

ANDRE

No, please -

MURIEL

Is the revolution afoot?

LAWRENCE

All right.

MURIEL

Perhaps I should pray for the Freedom Fighters. Should I pray? Let us pray.

LAWRENCE

Excellent idea.

(He puts his hand on top of Muriel's head and gently pushes her down to her knees.)

MURIEL

Of course, oh Protector of the Velt.

(She kneels into a deep bow and prays silently. LAWRENCE quickly exits with CHRISTINE. As they go:)

CHRISTINE

Who was that?

LAWRENCE

One of my former patients. You can't win 'em all.

(CHRISTINE nods in sympathy, and they exit. A moment, as ANDRE hovers nervously and MURIEL finishes her prayer.)

MURIEL

...So keep us in mind.

(looks up)

Where did he go?

ANDRE

Who?

MURIEL

The Prince.

ANDRE

Ah, the Prance. He was called away. There was a problem with the...

(improvising badly)

...court jester.

MURIEL

(starting off)

I must go to him!

ANDRE

But Madame -

MURIEL

I've done community theatre. Perhaps I can be of some help.

ANDRE

(suddenly seductively French)

You can. To me.

(He takes out two cigarettes; as he puts them both in his mouth:)

I must warn you, my dear, I am quite the master at the prancely art of seduction.

(ANDRE)

(He takes out a Zippo, opens it with a flourish, tries to light it. Nothing. He tries again. Nothing. One last time. He instead pulls out a pack of Juicy Fruit and offers it to MURIEL.)

Gum?

MURIEL

No, thank you.

ANDRE

I'm sorry, Madame, I am no Prance, I rule no kingdom; I merely live on its outskirts. Pardon.

(He starts off. MURIEL, pitching in as always stops him:)

MURIEL

Well, don't give up that easily. All you need is to set a mood.

ANDRE

(turns)

You think it would help?

MURIEL

It couldn't hurt.

ANDRE

(thinks a long moment, a couple of false starts, then, to ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR)

You got anything?

(The ORCHESTRA begins to play.)

#15 - Like Ziz, Like Zat

MURIEL

A little moonlight might be nice.

ANDRE

A moon?

MURIEL

Every good seduction needs a moon.

ANDRE

But we're indoors.

MURIEL

Give it a shot.

ANDRE

LIKE ZIS — ZE MOON,
AS ROUND AS A BALLOON,
SUSPENDED LIKE A BAUBLE IN ZE SKY.

(A moon appears.)

LIKE ZAT - A TUNE

ZAT WAFTS ABOVE THE DUNE

AND SWEETLY FLUTTERS LIKE A BUTTERFLY.

(A strolling accordion player enters.)

IF ZE PAST WERE PLUS PARFAIT
WE'D HAVE MET ANOTHER DAY
WHEN WE BOTH WERE YOUNG AND GAY
AND THIN.

(MURIEL checks her hips.)

BUT THE PRESENT'S RATHER TENSE,
SO I THINK IT MAKES SOME SENSE FOR US TO
BOTH GIVE UP,
GIVE IN.

LIKE ZAT – ZE SKY, A SHOOTING STAR GOES BY –

(It does.)

A MESSAGE YOU AND I CANNOT DISMISS.

SO I'M WISHING FOR A DOSE OF BEING NICE AND CLOSE LIKE ZIS, LIKE ZAT, LIKE ZIS.

How we doing?

MURIEL

Lovely, I just...

ANDRE

Yes?

MURIEL

I hate to quibble.

ANDRE

No, please, quibble me.

MURIEL

Oh, you're doing fine. It's just that, um...

(MURIEL is distracted by the strolling musician's tune. Trying to get the musician's attention:)

Excuse me...Excuse me, that's a little...

(She moves to the musician, takes the accordion.)

I don't mean to be rude... What am I saying? You're French!

(She plays brilliantly and then hands it back to the musician, who exits huffily.)

ANDRE

That's charming.

MURIEL

Well, it's all accordion to how you look at it.

OF ZE FUTURE, WHO CAN TELL, THOUGH WE HOPE IT TURNS OUT WELL NO ONE KNOWS JUST WHEN HIS BELL WILL TOLL.

SO LET'S LIVE IN ZE HERE AND NOW
AND LET IT SHOW US HOW
TO FIND A WAY
TO LOSE CONTROL

LIKE ZAT, A ROSE,
DELIGHTFUL TO ZE NOSE,
BUT NOWHERE NEAR AS PERFECT AS A KISS —

ANDRE

AND ZO I AM NO PRANCE -

MURIEL

No Prince.

ANDRE

MY LOOKS MAY MAKE YOU WANCE -

MURIEL

No, wince.

ANDRE

I OFFER YOU ROMANCE -

MURIEL Ro-mince. **ANDRE** (gotcha!) Ehp! Come on, let's dince. (They dance briefly. As they do:) We've never been formally introduced. MURIEL I'm Muriel of Omaha. **ANDRE** Pleased to meet you. MURIEL It's mutual. (The dance continues. Then, as they start up the steps, MURIEL pauses, exhausted:) That's it, I'm done. **ANDRE** That's it? MURIEL Oh, yes. **ANDRE** (also exhausted) Thank God. (they sit on the steps and look at each other fondly, if still a little shyly.)

LIKE ZAT,

MURIEL

ZE ROSE,

ANDRE

DELIGHTFUL TO ZE NOSE,

ANDRE & MURIEL

BUT NOWHERE NEAR AS PERFECT AS A KISS.

(They kiss, a bit timidly at first, then with more passion. They break, and she leans back against his shoulder.)

MURIEL

I LIKE ZIS.

ANDRE

You like zat?

MURIEL

I LIKE ZAT.

ANDRE

So do I.

MURIEL

I LIKE ZIS.

ANDRE & MURIEL

LIKE ZIS.

#15a – Like Zis Playoff

ACT TWO

Scene Three

See Production Note #8: Alternate Act Two, Scene Three on page 161

(LAWRENCE is showing CHRISTINE into his villa:)

LAWRENCE

Please come in. Welcome to my house, be it ever so humble.

(He moves to the staircase and strikes the same pose as in Act One, Scene Three, as CHRISTINE takes in the room. LAWRENCE snaps his fingers and the spotlight hits him as before.)

CHRISTINE

(looking around)

How gorgeous.

LAWRENCE

(misunderstanding)

Well, I just got a haircut.

CHRISTINE

I meant the villa.

LAWRENCE

Oh. Ja. That too. Why don't I show you around?

(He starts to lead her upstairs.)

CHRISTINE

What about Buzz?

(Suddenly FREDDY comes careening through the door, his chair screeching to a stop at the foot of the stairs.)

LAWRENCE

Ah, here he is.

(He continues to lead CHRISTINE up.)

FREDDY

(pathetically)

I'd like to come upstairs, too.

LAWRENCE

Certainly. Where are my manners? Please. Join us.

CHRISTINE

But he can't.

LAWRENCE

Of course he can; it's all in his mind.

(to FREDDY:)

Come on, alley-oop.

#15b - Staircase

(He leads CHRISTINE off, leaving FREDDY behind in frustration.)

CHRISTINE (O.S.)

Is he coming?

LAWRENCE (O.S.)

Perhaps.

(The lights fade on the living room and come up above on a small elegant salon. As they enter:)

First I must show you the music room.

CHRISTINE

Oh my.

(moving to a small antique music box)

Is that a music box?

LAWRENCE

Isn't it lovely?

CHRISTINE

My grandmother sent me one just like it once from Amish country.

LAWRENCE

...Indeed.

CHRISTINE

Except it was a pretzel.

(He opens the lid of the music box. As a lovely tune begins to play:)

#15c - Music Box

LAWRENCE

They say in the old days the happy couple would come up here, take each other in their arms and dance away the worries of the day.

(He offers her his arms. A little shyly, she accepts and they begin to dance. After a moment:)

CHRISTINE

I'm sorry, was that your foot?

LAWRENCE

I believe so, yes.

CHRISTINE

I do that a lot.

(He smiles gallantly. They continue to dance more smoothly, a bit romantically even, when FREDDY comes crawling into view in the doorway.)

FREDDY

Ohhhhh...

CHRISTINE

B1177!

FREDDY

I heard the music...and pulled myself up the stairs...and saw you and him...dancing! (CHRISTINE starts to move to him. LAWRENCE gently holds her back.)

LAWRENCE

Please. He's a man, not an egg. We mustn't coddle him.

(He continues to dance with her, as FREDDY moans.)

FREDDY

Dancing...

CHRISTINE

I can't stand seeing him like this.

LAWRENCE

Perhaps you're right.

(He moves to the door and shuts it, clunking FREDDY on the head as he does.)

FREDDY (O.S.)

(muffled)

Ow.

(LAWRENCE moves back to CHRISTINE and continues to dance with her.)

CHRISTINE

But doctor?

LAWRENCE

Believe me, Fraulein, it's for his own good. I know it's difficult, but we must be strong.

#16 - The More We Dance (Part 1)

The more we dance, the more fun we have, the more he will want to literally jump out of that chair and join us.

THE SQUISHY LITTLE WISHY-WASHY CRAZY LITTLE STRUDEL IN THE NOODLE MAKES HIM LAZY IN THE LEGS.

SO HOW CAN WE AFFECT HIS SOUL,
DIRECT HIS SOUL
TO MAKE HIM WHOLE'S THE QUESTION THAT HIS SITUATION BEGS

WAY DOWN DEEP DERE AT THE ROOT HE
REALLY WANTS TO SHAKE HIS BOOTY
SO I THINK HERE'S WHAT OUR DUTY WITH HIM IS

FIND A WAY WE MAY CONVINCE HIS MIND TO SEND A SIGNAL DOWN THE SPINE TO HIS BEHIND, WHERE ALL THE RHYTHM IS.

THE MORE WE DANCE, THE MORE HE SEES,
THE MORE WE TEASE, THE MORE HE BURNS,
THE MORE HE YEARNS TO MOVE HIS KNEES
LIKE CYD CHARISSE, THE MORE HE LEARNS

THAT LIFE IS BURSTING WITH JOY SO LIVE IT HERE IT IS BOY SO GIVE IT A CHANCE —

THE MORE WE DANCE, THE MORE WE DINE
THE MORE HE'LL WHINE, THE MORE HE'LL POUT
UNTIL HE FIN'LLY BOTTOMS OUT
AND THEN HE'LL RISE AND HE'LL SHINE AND HE'LL PRANCE —
SO LETS DANCE!

See Production Note #9: "The More We Dance" on page 164

#16a - The More We Dance (Part 2)

(They dance. The confines of the villa disappear, as they dance their way across the Riviera. Other couples join them, possibly including ANDRE and MURIEL at some point.)

THE MORE WE LAUGH, THE MORE WE GRIN THE MORE HE'LL HAVE TO JOIN RIGHT IN. THE MORE WE GLOW AND SHOW OUR JOY THE MORE I'M SURE WE'LL CURE THE BOY.

IT ISN'T EASY TO PUT HIM THROUGH IT REMEMBER, WE DO IT ON HIS BEHALF

SO LET'S GUFFAW IN HIS GU-FACE WHILE WE EM-BIBE AND WE EM-BRACE NO MORE 'I DON'TS,' NO MORE 'I WON'TS,' NO MORE MORE 'I CAN'TS' SO LET'S DANCE!

#16b - The More We Dance (Part 3)

(The scene moves to the dance floor of a Riviera night spot. LAWRENCE and CHRISTINE are dancing among the crowd, as FREDDY watches miserably, his chair near the bar.)

CHRISTINE

He looks so miserable.

LAWRENCE

(eyes on her)

Who?

(realizes)

Oh. Yes. That means the treatment is working. Come.

(He dances her over to FREDDY.)

Isn't she fabulous? Wouldn't you like to dance with her?

FREDDY

Listen, you big Vienna sausage -

LAWRENCE

All right, if you just want to sit there and miss all the fun.

(FREDDY just glares, as LAWRENCE dances her away.)

SAILOR #1

'Dance with her,' he says; I'd like to smack him one.

(FREDDY smiles. A plan. He turns to the SAILORS and sighs sadly.)

FREDDY

Oh, I wouldn't mind so much...but she used to be my girl.

LAWRENCE

(to CHRISTINE)

I have another idea. Love put him in that chair; perhaps love can get him out.

CHRISTINE

What do you mean?

LAWRENCE

THE MORE WE SQUEEZE THE MORE WE KISS

CHRISTINE

YOU MEAN LIKE THIS?

(She kisses him fervently. They break and for just a moment, LAWRENCE drops his decorum and Viennese accent.)

LAWRENCE

Holy Mother McCree!

CHRISTINE

Was that all right?

LAWRENCE

...Ja... Ja. Wunderbar.

(He is more effected than he expected. They continue to dance. FREDDY looks at the SAILORS and chokes back a sob.)

SAILOR #1

Listen, Mate. There's a cargo ship leaving for Honduras tonight. How'd you like your friend to be on it?

FREDDY

Gee, that would be playing kinda dirty, wouldn't it? ...Cool.

LAWRENCE

WE MUST BE CRUEL TO FUEL HIS DESIRE LET'S PUT ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE.

ENSEMBLE

WAH KA KA KA KA KA KA!

LAWRENCE

Come on, let's jump! Let's dip; maybe that chump will get a grip. Perhaps the Macarana will make him saner. As we say in Vienna...

ENSEMBLE

(concurrent with above)

BA BA BA BA BA BA YA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA SCOODLE-EE-YA DA DEE DA DOO DA
BA BA BA BA BA BA BA YA DA DA DA DA DA DA...

ALL

OLE! WOO!

AH, AH, AH, AH – THE MORE WE DANCE!

(The dance concludes as we black out.)

Scene Four

(The Hotel's Casino Garden. Later that night. CHRISTINE enters the garden with LAWRENCE, who is wheeling FREDDY in his chair.)

LAWRENCE

Well, here we are. I'm just going to walk Miss Colgate to the door.

FREDDY

Can I have a little kiss goodnight?

LAWRENCE

Very well.

(He kisses FREDDY on top of the head and gives the chair a little push, sending FREDDY sailing offstage.)

CHRISTINE

Goodnight, Buzz.

FREDDY

(his voice fading into the distance)

Goodnight.

CHRISTINE

Do you really think the therapy is working?

LAWRENCE

It's a stubborn little psychosis he has, but I have high hopes.

CHRISTINE

That's wonderful. I'm sorry about the delay in paying your fee. I should have it by tomorrow; it just took longer than I thought to raise the money.

LAWRENCE

You had to raise the money?

CHRISTINE

Well, the cash prize wasn't quite enough, so I had my father sell off the car, the furniture, and all the jewelry they gave me.

LAWRENCE

What cash prize?

CHRISTINE

From the contest. You know, I was selected as the American Soap Queen. That's how I'm on this all-expense-paid trip to Europe.

(LAWRENCE stares at CHRISTINE.)

LAWRENCE

You mean your father doesn't own the Soap Company?

CHRISTINE

(laughing)

No, I just use their laundry detergent. I never expected to win but they said they really liked the way I rhymed 'cleansing cream' with 'fencing team.

LAWRENCE

Yes, it's quite catchy.

(He looks at her a moment.)

CHRISTINE

What?

#16d - The Soap Queen

LAWRENCE

You hardly know Sergeant Benson and you'd sell everything you own to help him.

CHRISTINE

Well, not everything. They gave me a year's supply of fabric softener, too. I'm keeping that.

(LAWRENCE looks at her in wonder.)

Well... goodnight.

LAWRENCE

Goodnight.

(LAWRENCE watches her enter the hotel. A moment, then he turns and calls:)

Freddy. Freddy!

(FREDDY comes wheeling back on.)

FREDDY

Yeah, yeah, I heard.

LAWRENCE

The bet's off.

FREDDY

Why?

LAWRENCE

She doesn't have the money.

FREDDY

She's got the money.

LAWRENCE

Only by selling off everything she owns.

FREDDY

C'mon, she's keeping the fabric softener.

LAWRENCE

Freddy -

FREDDY

All right, all right, fine. Forget about her money, but the bet's still on. We'll think up a whole new bet.

LAWRENCE

Oh come on, what bet?

FREDDY

I don't know. A completely new bet.

LAWRENCE

Freddy, she doesn't have anything.

(A moment as they think, then:)

FREDDY

Then she's the bet.

LAWRENCE

What do you mean?

FREDDY

What do you think I mean?

LAWRENCE

No.

FREDDY

Look, if we just -

LAWRENCE

I said no.

FREDDY

(looks at him)

...Oh my God.

LAWRENCE

What?

FREDDY

You're falling for her aren't you?

LAWRENCE

Don't be ridiculous.

FREDDY

(calls)

Timber!

LAWRENCE

Nobody's falling for anybody. It's simply a question of professional ethics.

FREDDY

Y'know you've been running this game so long I think you've finally conned yourself.

LAWRENCE

I'll tell you one thing for certain. A woman like her would never give herself to a man like you.

FREDDY

You actually believe that?

LAWRENCE

I know that.

FREDDY

Wanna bet?

LAWRENCE

All right Freddy, it's a bet.

(reaches out to shake Freddy's hand. as FREDDY goes to meet it, LAWRENCE pulls his hand up and away:)

But — I'm not competing; I'm merely betting that you fail.

FREDDY

Loser leaves town?

LAWRENCE

Loser leaves town.

FREDDY

You're on.

(He snaps his fingers.)

What's that?

FREDDY

(points out over audience)

There.

LAWRENCE

Where?

(As LAWRENCE looks off, the SAILORS emerge from the potted palms.)

SAILOR #1

Here.

(They throw a fishing net over LAWRENCE and drag him off.)

FREDDY

Thar she blows.

Scene Five

(Christine's Hotel Suite. A knock. CHRISTINE, in a silk robe, answers it to find FREDDY in his wheelchair.)

CHRISTINE

Buzz.

FREDDY

May I roll in?

CHRISTINE

Of course... I thought Dr. Shüffhausen took you home.

FREDDY

He did, but I started thinking and couldn't sleep.

CHRISTINE

What were you thinking about?

FREDDY

You see, Christine, I realized tonight I've lost faith.

CHRISTINE

You can't.

FREDDY

I know that now. The problem isn't in my legs at all. Or in my mind. It's in my heart. It's like Dr. Shüffhausen said — how I could walk again if the desire was strong enough. If I just had someone to walk to.

CHRISTINE

What do you mean?

#17 - Love Is My Legs

FREDDY

I'm in love with you, Christine, and I think I could walk again, if I believed you loved me too.

CHRISTINE

Oh, Buzz.

FREDDY

I'm sorry; I shouldn't have said that. I'll just go.

(He turns toward the door.)

CHRISTINE

Don't.

FREDDY

Please don't toy with me, Christine.

CHRISTINE

I'm not.

(FREDDY turns back and looks at her questioningly. She smiles.)

FREDDY

I WAS ALONE AND COLD AND DAMP,
I TRIED TO FLY, BUT BOTH MY WINGS WOULD CRAMP
'TIL YOU CAME ALONG AND LIT THE LAMP
TO GUIDE ME TO MY EXIT RAMP.

LOVE IS MY LEGS AND YOU ARE MY LOVE
SO YOU ARE MY LEGS, MY LOVE.
FINALLY I UNDERSTAND
HOW HOPE IS THE HAND
THAT SQUEEZES A HEART
AND HELPS IT TO START ONCE AGAIN.

CHRISTINE

Now stand up and walk to me.

(She backs a little way across the room and holds out her arms encouragingly.)

FREDDY

I can't.

CHRISTINE

You can.

FAITH ARE THE TOES ATTACHED TO YOUR FEET SO I'LL BE YOUR FEET COMPLETELY ALWAYS THERE TO STRIVE IN YOUR SOCKS ALIVE IN YOUR SOCKS NO LONGER DEJECTED TWO FEET RESURRECTED

CONNECTED TO LEGS WHICH IS LOVE

(She opens the doors to the balcony and reveals the ENSEMBLE who hold candles and sing like a heavenly choir. Note: Neither FREDDY nor CHRISTINE reacts to their presence.)

FREDDY ENSEMBLE LOVE IS MY LEGS AΗ **CHRISTINE** Stand up. Come to me. **CHRISTINE ENSEMBLE** LOVE IS YOUR LEGS AΗ (FREDDY slowly pushes himself up from the wheelchair and stands.) **FREDDY** I'm standing! (an exaltation) I'm standing! FREDDY & [CHRISTINE] **ENSEMBLE** LOVE IS MY [YOUR] **LEGS** ΑН AΗ **CHRISTINE** (arms outstretched) NOW COME TO ME, SOLDIER OOH **FREDDY** I'm still afraid OOH **CHRISTINE** T **KNOW** OOH YOU CAN DO IT, PLEASE TRY. OOH (FREDDY takes a few faltering steps and staggers toward her.) **FREDDY** I did it. I'm walking. **CHRISTINE** Do you want to rest? **FREDDY** No. My legs are full of love. I want to keep going. Stand over there.

(He points her in the direction of the bed. She backs up a few feet.)

CHRISTINE

Here?

FREDDY

Further.

CHRISTINE

How far do you want to go?

FREDDY

All the way!

FREDDY CHRISTINE

LOVE IS

MY LEGS THE LEG-

BONE'S

AND YOU ARE MY LOVE CONNECTED TO ANKLE

BONES

SO YOU ARE MY CONNECTED TO FEETBONES OF LOVE FEETBONES OF LOVE

FREDDY & [CHRISTINE]) ENSEMBLE

HELP ME SCRAPE THE

RUST OOH

FROM MY HEART

BLOW THE

DUST OOH

FROM MY HEART

THEN

HELP OOH

ME [YOU] ADJUST TO THE

TRUST AH

THAT YOU [I] THRUST

IN MY [YOUR]

HEART AH

WITH YOUR LEGS FULL OF

LOVE

CHRISTINE & ENSEMBLE

LOVE IS YOUR LEGS

FREDDY

IT WAS ALL IN MY HEAD

CHRISTINE & ENSEMBLE

LOVE IS YOUR LEGS

FREDDY

NOW YOU GET ON THAT BED!

CHRISTINE & ENSEMBLE

(as she does)

LOVE IS YOUR LEGS

FREDDY

I'M COMING!

CHRISTINE

LOVE IS YOUR LEGS

FREDDY

HERE I COME.

HOPE IS YOUR HAND.

CHRISTINE

FAITH IS YOUR FEET

FREDDY

LOVE IS MY LEGS

CHRISTINE

LOVE IS YOUR LEGS

(They are now both on the bed. On their knees, they face each other. In the brief pause of the music, they scamper together on their knees, then:)

FREDDY & [CHRISTINE]

LOVE IS MY [YOUR] LEGS!

FREDDY

I did it.

CHRISTINE

Yes.

FREDDY

And all because of your love.

(He is about to kiss her when we hear:)

LAWRENCE

Our love, Buzz. We all love you.

(FREDDY looks around as LAWRENCE enters from among the choir.)

CHRISTINE

Oh, Doctor, you were right. No wonder they call you a genius. You said he'd come here tonight, and he did. You said he'd walk, and he did. Everything turned out just the way you said it would.

(to FREDDY, who is appropriately stunned)

Oh, Buzz. I'm beginning to believe this man really can perform miracles.

FREDDY

Me, too.

(LAWRENCE steps into Christine's suite and puts his arm around FREDDY.)

LAWRENCE

Come, my boy. You've had an exhausting evening. I will take you home to rest. (As he leads the very puzzled FREDDY out:)

CHRISTINE

Thank you, Doctor.

LAWRENCE

Believe me when I say it's moments like this that make my job worthwhile.

#17a - After Legs/Freddy's Abduction

(He leads FREDDY out into the hotel corridor. As soon as they exit the room FREDDY shakes him off.)

FREDDY

No! No! No! No! Shit! How the hell did you get off that ship?

LAWRENCE

Simple. I never got on it.

FREDDY

What about those two sailors?

LAWRENCE

Three sailors, Freddy.

FREDDY

What do you mean?

(LAWRENCE reaches into his breast pocket, pulls out his wallet and shows it to FREDDY.)

LAWRENCE

I'm a commander in the Royal British Naval Reserve.

FREDDY

(looking at Lawrence's i.d.)

Is that you in the hat?

LAWRENCE

Yes.

FREDDY

Cool hat.

LAWRENCE

Thank you.

FREDDY

Yeah, well...You think you got me, don't you? Trust me, it's only a matter of time. I'm just getting charmed up.

LAWRENCE

No, you're not. I'm putting –

(They are interrupted by ANDRE coming down the corridor in a hotel bathrobe, cigarette in mouth, police cap set jauntily on his head, and carrying an ice bucket.)

ANDRE

Pardon.

MURIEL

(Muriel enters, holds up champagne bottle)

Oh, Gendarme!

ANDRE

(ANDRE holds up another bottle, this one with handcuffs on it:)

I found champagne!

(She pulls him inside. LAWRENCE and FREDDY look at each other for a beat, just shrug and continue:)

LAWRENCE

I'm putting Miss Colgate on the next train out of here. I want her as far away from you as humanly possible.

FREDDY

Oh, yeah? And how do you plan to do that when I'm gonna be sticking to you like melted cheese from now on?

(LAWRENCE snaps his fingers.)

What's that?

(The two SAILORS emerge from behind the potted palms with a net.)

There.

FREDDY

Where?

SAILOR #1

Here.

(They throw the net over FREDDY's head. Or just lift him by the elbows.)

LAWRENCE

Anchors aweigh.

(LAWRENCE sticks a sailor hat in FREDDY'S mouth and the SAILORS carry him off.)

Scene Six

(The Train Station. A train waits, about to depart, as CHRISTINE and LAWRENCE enter.)

LAWRENCE

Here we are. You just have a few minutes.

CHRISTINE

But I didn't even check out.

LAWRENCE

Trust me, I'll take care of everything for you.

CHRISTINE

Can't I at least call Buzz to say goodbye?

LAWRENCE

Believe me, that's the worst thing you could do. His mind is still in a very precarious state. It could snap like a little ginger cookie.

CHRISTINE

But I think I really may have feelings for him. And if he has feelings for me too...

LAWRENCE

Then it's even more important that you go away for awhile. He must first learn to stand on his own two feet. Please, trust me this one last time.

(He hands CHRISTINE'S bags to a porter.)

CHRISTINE

Wait, what about your fee?

LAWRENCE

Do what I tell you, and you can forget about the fee.

CHRISTINE

Really?

LAWRENCE

You've already been more than generous.

CHRISTINE

I just did what anyone would do. Besides, knowing I helped a man like Buzz live his life again is worth more to me than a car or some furniture or all that jewelry. I really couldn't ask for a better prize than that.

(LAWRENCE stares at her a moment, genuinely moved.)

I never knew people like you existed. You are genuine, sincere...

CHRISTINE

(shyly)

Thank you.

(then)

Anyway, what about you? You gave up your vacation; you spend your whole life helping people.

LAWRENCE

Believe me, I'm no saint.

CHRISTINE

(smiles a little)

Is it okay if I believe you are?

LAWRENCE

That would be nice.

CONDUCTOR

Madame, your ticket —

CHRISTINE

Oh. I'm sorry, of course...

#18 - Love Sneaks In

(She moves to her luggage, on top of which sits her purse. The PORTER approaches LAWRENCE.)

PORTER

You are not going with the lady?

LAWRENCE

No. She's just a friend.

PORTER

Are you certain? She seems a bit moonstruck.

(He moves off. Through the following, LAWRENCE watches CHRISTINE, as she gives the CONDUCTOR her ticket, perhaps buys a newspaper, is approached by a flower seller and buys a carnation.)

LAWRENCE

LOVE SNEAKS IN WHEN EV'RYTHING SEEMS QUIET SETS THE BAIT AND LIKE A FOOL, YOU BUY IT

(LAWRENCE)

YOUR FAMOUS SELF-POSSESSION'S VANISHED FROM YOUR REPERTOIRE THIS IS WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU LEAVE THE DOOR AJAR.

AND LOVE SNEAKS IN AND WHISPERS TO YOU SWEETLY SILLY WORDS THAT CHANGE YOUR LIFE COMPLETELY.

YOU'RE FUMBLING IN THE DARK THE MASTER'S NOW THE MARK YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK IF LOVE SNEAKS IN ON YOU.

(The music continues under as CHRISTINE returns to LAWRENCE.)

CONDUCTOR

Mesdames et messieurs, en voiture.

LAWRENCE

Goodbye, my dear.

(She takes the flower and puts it in his lapel.)

What's this?

CHRISTINE

You're a wonderful man, Dr. Shüffhausen.

LAWRENCE

No.

(They look at each other, almost start to move together to kiss, stop.)

CHRISTINE

I'm sorry.

(She exits onto the train. LAWRENCE watches her go. A moment, then:)

LAWRENCE

THE PLAYER HAS BEEN NICELY PLAYED
THE MOCKER'S NOW THE MOCKED
THAT'S WHAT TENDS TO HAPPEN WHEN YOU LEAVE YOURSELF
UNLOCKED.

THEN LOVE SNEAKS THROUGH THE USUAL DEFENSES THE SIGHS AND SMIRKS AND STALE OLD PRETENSES

WHAT'S GONE IS WHAT YOU WERE WHAT'S LEFT IS ALL A BLUR

(LAWRENCE)

YOU'RE STUNG, YOU'RE STUCK IF LOVE SNUCK IN WITH HER.

(The lights slowly fade.)

#18a - Love Sneaks In Playoff

Scene Seven

(Muriel's balcony. The romantic strings of 'Love Sneaks In' continue over, as bright sunlight fills the stage. The balcony doors open, and MURIEL and ANDRE enter. They react to the sunlight with a harmonized 'Arrggh' of pain, shield their eyes and immediately exit back into the room. A moment, and they re-emerge now both in oversized sunglasses. ANDRE'S dress shirt is completely misbuttoned. MURIEL perhaps wears an oversized t-shirt that reads 'Property of BsMPD.' Bathrobes are also fine.)

MURIEL

You know, I'm starting to think someone put alcohol in that champagne.

ANDRE

I fear you may be right.

MURIEL

I'm sorry, I don't speak French.

(They remove their sunglasses, shyly look at each other.)

ANDRE

...Well, I should...

MURIEL

Me too.

(stands and formally offers her hand)

I'd like to thank you for a lovely time. I'll never forget the generous hospitality of you showing me the sights of your little town or the heat of you riding me cross-eyed like some glorious, bucking French stallion.

ANDRE

Excuse me?

MURIEL

It really is a charming place.

ANDRE

Yes, well, perhaps next time you pass this way I can show you the countryside. There is the most delightful little vineyard where you can once again wrap your legs around my head and squeeze it like a grape until the wine of your lust flows from my eyes.

MURIEL

What?

ANDRE

They make cheese too.

MURIEL

Ah. Well. I doubt I'll be back this way again.

ANDRE

You are quite the woman of the world.

MURIEL

Not really, I've just seen so much of it. You know how it is. You open a map and close your eyes and point and think maybe there. So you pack your bags full of dreams and go, only... Those bags can get awfully heavy after awhile.

ANDRE

Perhaps it's time to leave them behind.

MURIEL

My bags?

ANDRE

Yes.

MURIEL

They're Louis Vuitton.

ANDRE

Oh.

(beat)

Someone to help carry them then.

MURIEL

That might be nice.

ANDRE

Perhaps I could...

MURIEL

Yes?

ANDRE

That is we might always...

MURIEL

Yes...?

ANDRE

I'll call the porter.

MURIEL

Good idea.

(A moment. They look out over the vista.)

It really is lovely here. Even without a miracle.

OF THE FUTURE, WHO CAN TELL,

THOUGH WE HOPE IT TURNS OUT WELL

NO ONE KNOWS JUST WHEN HIS BELL

WILL TOLL.

(As she sings, FREDDY shuffles on below, completely encased from neck to ankle in rope. He spots ANDRE.)

FREDDY

Hey... Hey, Romeo!

ANDRE

Shh.

(He motions him to be quiet, as MURIEL continues singing.)

MURIEL

SO LET'S LIVE IN ZE HERE AND NOW AND LET IT SHOW US HOW TO FIND A WAY TO LOSE CONTROL

FREDDY

Look what those sailors did to me. I'm like... Dale Evans on her wedding night.

ANDRE

Please, the lady is singing.

FREDDY

Where's Christine?

ANDRE

Gone. The game is over.

FREDDY

What do you mean over?

ANDRE

I mean, you've lost. Bon voyage, my friend.

FREDDY

But -

ANDRE

Shh.

FREDDY

(as he exits)

Gone? She can't be gone. I've got to stop her.

(As he shuffles off, the balcony starts to move off. MURIEL, at an appropriate pause in the music looks at ANDRE.)

MURIEL

Is the balcony moving?

ANDRE

No.

MURIEL

Thank God.

Scene Eight

(Christine's Hotel Suite. The room is being changed over for the next guest; fresh linens, a welcoming bottle of champagne and fruit basket, etc. A maid is exiting the room with her cart, as FREDDY enters, calling:)

FREDDY

Christine. Christine, it's me.

(looks around, opens bathroom door)

Christine?

(moves back into the room, as he realizes:)

Oh, God. It's true.

(As he plunges into despair, he begins to purloin a few objects from around the room.)

She's gone.

(He takes an apple from the fruit basket and slips it in his pocket.)

She's really gone.

(He slips an ashtray into his other pocket.)

How could she leave without even saying goodbye?

(He picks up a candlestick and slips it in the waistband of his pants.)

Well, that's that; I lose...Goodbye, Riviera. Goodbye, great big stuff.

(CHRISTINE appears in the doorway of the suite with her purse and overnight case.)

Hi, Christine.

(Back to drama:)

Goodbye -

(He suddenly stops and realizes, turns back to her. She enters.)

CHRISTINE

Hi.

FREDDY

I thought you'd gone.

CHRISTINE

I tried. I know it might be wrong, but I just couldn't leave without seeing you again, not feeling the way I do.

FREDDY

What do you mean?

CHRISTINE I really am in love with you, Buzz. **FREDDY** Really? **CHRISTINE** Yes. **FREDDY** You love me? **CHRISTINE** Is that so hard to believe? **FREDDY** Well, no; I mean, I am pretty lovable; I just never... wow. (She moves to him. They start to kiss, both tilt their heads to the right. They try again, only this time both tilt their heads to the left.) You go that way, okay? **CHRISTINE** Okay. (*She tilts her head to the left; he to the right. They kiss tenderly.*) ... Buzz, now that you can walk, do you think you can also...? **FREDDY** Dance? **CHRISTINE** No. (She smiles sexily, if still a little shyly.) **FREDDY** Oh. (beat. Realizes:) Oh. (then, humbly) Gosh, I guess I can try. (He puts his arms around her and holds her closely.) **CHRISTINE** (startled) Buzz!

FREDDY

What?

(realizes)

Oh.

(He reaches into his pants and pulls out the candlestick. Perhaps CHRISTINE gives a slightly disappointed little snap of the fingers, as:)

CHRISTINE

...I'll go get ready.

FREDDY

Okay.

(She picks up her overnight case and heads to the bathroom, looks back at him and smiles. He smiles back and blows a kiss. The bathroom door closes and his fist goes up into the air in a victory salute.)

I win!

(A little victory dance, as MUSIC begins)

#20 - Son of Great Big Stuff

I WIN! I WIN, I WIN, I WIN!

(As he moves through the room, dims the lights, closes the curtains, etc.)

I GET THE DOUGH, I GET THE BROAD

I'M GETTIN' RID OF SIGMUND FRAUD

I'M GETTIN' PAID

FOR ALL MY WORK

PLUS I GET LAID -

NOW THERE'S A PERK!

I'M GETTIN'

GREAT BIG STUFF

NO FRIGGIN' DOUBT ABOUT IT.

GREAT BIG STUFF

HOW DID I LIVE WITHOUT IT?

GREAT BIG STUFF

I FIN'LLY GET MY TASTE

AND IT'S GOING TO MY HEAD

I MEAN THE ONE BELOW MY WAIST.

(He begins to dance, all of it focused on and emanating from below his waist.)

(FREDDY)

I'M SO VERY... VERY... HAPPY!
I MADE HER LIKE ME
I MADE HER CARE
AND NOW SHE'S READY
AND RIGHT IN THERE.

SHE SAYS SHE LOVES ME SHE SAYS SHE —

(He pauses and realizes what he's just said:)

She said she loves me?

(A harp is heard off, as FREDDY takes this in for a moment, then banishes the thought with a dismissing 'Ugghh.' He launches back into the song:)

GREAT BIG STUFF!

(Suddenly a light hits the bathroom door, behind which we now see CHRISTINE in silhouette and hear:)

CHRISTINE

LOOK AT THE WAY THE MOON BEHAVES...

(FREDDY is momentarily drawn to the sound and emotion of the song and sings even louder to banish the thought:)

FREDDY

GREAT BIG STUFF!

CHRISTINE

LOOK AT THE WAY SHE PAINTS A SILVER RIBBON ON THE WAVES. LEADING DIRECTLY TO ME AND YOU...

(FREDDY sticks his fingers in his ears and blathers:)

FREDDY

GREATBIGSTUFFGREATBIGSTUFF.

(The bathroom door opens and CHRISTINE stands there in a nightgown, lit from behind.)

CHRISTINE

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL...

FREDDY

GREAT BIG...

(FREDDY looks up, takes in a breath, about to retaliate with his strongest 'GREAT BIG STUFF' yet. But what comes out is a pure, sweet and totally capitulating:)

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL...

(The orchestra takes up the last line with a glissando, as FREDDY and CHRISTINE start to move together into each other's arms. The momentum of the movement and Christine's natural clumsiness unfortunately prove too much for the moment, as they come together to kiss, their heads clunk, and FREDDY is knocked out.)

CHRISTINE

Buzz? ...Buzz?

(a look of dismay)
I do that a lot.

#20a - Ow!

Scene Nine

(LAWRENCE is on the stairway of his villa, as ANDRE enters.)

ANDRE

Monsieur Lawrence.

LAWRENCE

Andre -

ANDRE

I'm afraid I have some bad news.

LAWRENCE

What?

ANDRE

It seems Miss Colgate was seen returning to the hotel.

LAWRENCE

But I took her to the train.

ANDRE

Then she never got on it.

LAWRENCE

Oh my God, where's Freddy?

ANDRE

They have been together in her room since early this morning.

LAWRENCE

How do you know?

ANDRE

I heard him moaning through the hotel walls myself... happening to be there on official police business, of course.

(He removes his handkerchief from his breast pocket, wipes his brow. Actually it's not a handkerchief, but Muriel's stocking.)

LAWRENCE

Of course.

(thinks for a moment, then, quietly:)

You know what this means, don't you?

ANDRE

I do. You should have let me buy you that big pencil.

No, my friend, a bet's a bet. Loser leaves town. It's time I packed up and moved on.

(The doorbell rings.)

I'm sure that's the Jackal right now, here to gloat over his victory, no doubt.

ANDRE

May I at least trip him as he enters?

LAWRENCE

Oh, please do.

(It is not FREDDY at all, but CHRISTINE who stands there distraught.)

CHRISTINE

Oh, Dr. Shüffhausen!

(She bursts into tears and runs to him. He puts his arms around her and leads her to a chair.)

LAWRENCE

(back in character)

My dear, what's the matter?

CHRISTINE

I know what you said, but I just had to see him again... I thought I was in love with him. I went back to the hotel... and he was in my room, and we... and we...

LAWRENCE

... I see.

CHRISTINE

(nods)

I mean, except for the little concussion, it was really quite romantic. At least I thought it was. But then we fell asleep, and when I woke up, he was gone. He took my money, my jewelry, my traveler's checks, even my little change purse. What kind of man would do something like that?

LAWRENCE

What kind, indeed... Monsieur Andre –

ANDRE

Consider it done.

(ANDRE exits.)

CHRISTINE

I'm beginning to think he could walk all along, that he made up this whole thing just to get to me and my money... It was all my savings, the prize money, everything — fifty thousand dollars!

But I told you I'd waive my fee.

CHRISTINE

It had already gotten here. I had it in my bag. What am I going to tell my father? Some of that money was his.

(She breaks down again. LAWRENCE looks at her, makes a decision, then speaks into an intercom:)

LAWRENCE

Please have my car brought around.

(He moves to the safe, opens it, removes a large amount of cash and puts it in a briefcase.)

CHRISTINE

What are you doing?

LAWRENCE

Simply covering your losses.

CHRISTINE

But you're not responsible. How could you have known?

LAWRENCE

Any good-looking psychiatrist should have seen he was a charlatan. In any case, it's cheaper than a malpractice suit, which I've no doubt you would win.

(He closes the briefcase and hands it to her with some keys.)

My car's out back. You can call and let me know where to pick it up.

CHRISTINE

I don't feel good about taking your money.

LAWRENCE

I feel good about it. Now go.

CHRISTINE

(looks at him)

Sometimes I wish I...

LAWRENCE

Yes?

(She seems momentarily troubled by something. We should not know what. A moment, and she pushes it away.)

CHRISTINE

If you're ever in Cincinnati, would you give me a call?

Of course.

(She kisses him tenderly. He watches as she starts out through the back exit, then suddenly calls to her:)

Christine -

CHRISTINE

(turns back)

Yes?

(LAWRENCE looks at her for a moment, about to say something. He can't.)

LAWRENCE

...Have a safe trip.

CHRISTINE

Thank you.

(She exits. A moment as LAWRENCE gazes after her, when suddenly she runs back on. LAWRENCE opens his arms to embrace her, as she runs to him and just shoves the briefcase back into his arms.)

I can't take this. It doesn't belong to me. Besides, I'll always have something from you worth so much more.

(She runs back out. LAWRENCE looks after her, as in the background we hear a police siren approaching. ANDRE enters.)

ANDRE

The Jackal has been captured.

LAWRENCE

Hah!

(The door opens and two POLICEMEN enter, escorting FREDDY, who is wearing Christine's robe and fuzzy slippers.)

ANDRE

They found him at the hotel, returning to the scene of the crime.

FREDDY

What crime? What are you guys talking about?

LAWRENCE

I knew you were low, but I never thought you —

FREDDY

Me? What are you trying to pull now?

You worm.

FREDDY

You louse.

(They both just start sputtering with rage:)

LAWRENCE

You -

FREDDY

You -

LAWRENCE

You -

FREDDY

You -

LAWRENCE

You're the kind of man that gives swindling a bad name.

FREDDY

(re: his nightgown)

Boy, this thing is ventilated.

LAWRENCE

Listen, Freddy, this time she really is gone. You'll never see her again.

FREDDY

What? You let her go? You've got to stop her!

(runs to the terrace doors and calls)

Hey! Hey!

(turns back to LAWRENCE)

You... you... Ruprecht! You let her get away.

LAWRENCE

How could you do that to her?

FREDDY

Do what to her?

#21 - The Reckoning

WE'RE IN HER ROOM, THE LIGHTS ARE LOW.

(FREDDY)

I'VE GOT IT MADE, ALL SYSTEMS GO.

I'M IN. SHE'S DOWN —
THE HAIR, THE GOWN.
WE GO TO KISS; SHE CONKS ME OUT.

THEN I WAKE UP
WITH NOTHING ON.
SHE TOOK MY CLOTHES.
MY SHOES ARE GONE.

MY WALLET'S GONE,
MY WATCH IS GONE,
AND HERE I AM A SCHMUCK IN A ROBE.

LAWRENCE

And you expect me to believe that when she just returned the fifty thousand dollars I gave her?

FREDDY

What fifty thousand dollars?

LAWRENCE

The fifty thousand dollars that you stole from her!

FREDDY

I didn't steal fifty thousand dollars from her!

(Music stops short. LAWRENCE and FREDDY look at each other for a moment, then run to the briefcase. LAWRENCE opens the briefcase.)

Hey, there's my clothes.

(LAWRENCE reaches into the briefcase and pulls out a white embossed card. As he reads, in the Orchestra pit, the CONDUCTOR turns around, and we see it is CHRISTINE:)

CHRISTINE

'Goodbye, boys. It was fun. Love, The Jackal.'

(She climbs over the Orchestra rail and exits via the audience. LAWRENCE and FREDDY look at each other, as it comes together. Then:)

LAWRENCE

AMAZING.
THE TIMING.

(LAWRENCE)

SHE REALLY HAD ME DOWN -

ANDRE

(concurrent with above)

AMAZING.

ZIS IDIOT.

I HATE TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO.

FREDDY

(concurrent with above)

THE MORE I CRIED, THE MORE SHE CARED THE MORE I LIED, THE MORE SHE BARED THE MORE I SANG, THE MORE SHE SUNG I MEAN, COME ON, SHE GAVE ME TONGUE.

ANDRE

SO YOUNG, SO GOOD, SO RIGHT, SO NICE. SHE PLAYED YOU LIKE A PAIR OF DICE.

LAWRENCE & FREDDY

(concurrent with last two lines above)

HMM, SHUH, YES, GRRR, HA, NUTS, WHOA, OOF -

LAWRENCE

THE EYES, THE SMILE, THE JOY, THE HOPE, THE HAIR, THE CLOTHES, THE SOAP.

LAWRENCE, ANDRE & FREDDY

THE SOAP!

LAWRENCE & ANDRE

THE SOAP!

FREDDY

THAT LOUSY, STINKING,
LYING, CHEATING, TOTALLY DISHONEST,
DIRTY, ROTTEN —

LAWRENCE

(laughing)

Yes, Freddy. Isn't she wonderful?

SCENE Ten

(The airport. MURIEL enters in her travelling clothes, followed by ANDRE loaded down with Louis Vuitton bags. A few steps and he drops them, then in one gasp:)

#21a – Airport

ANDRE

You were right; they are a little heavy.

(A moment, as they look at each other.)

MURIEL

Well...

ANDRE

Well...Have a safe journey home.

MURIEL

I'll probably just take a Benadryl over Lisbon and sleep straight through.

ANDRE

I too have often been grateful for the power of the mild antihistamine.

MURIEL

Well, goodbye.

ANDRE

Goodbye.

(He exits and immediately returns:)

Perhaps I should help you to the gate.

MURIEL

Thank you; I'll just call the porter.

ANDRE

Of course. Well ...

MURIEL

Goodbye.

ANDRE

Goodbye.

(He exits and immediately returns.)

Maybe some chewing gum for the flight. The pressure on the ears can be quite distressing.

MURIEL
I think I have some in my bag.
ANDRE
Magazine, peanuts, Toblerone?
MURIEL
I'll be fine, thank you.
ANDRE
I could blow up your little neck pillow.
MURIEL
Goodbye.
ANDRE
Goodbye.
(He starts out again, pauses, turns back and looks at her, then simply and directly:)
I'll miss you.
MURIEL
Will you?
•
ANDRE Only if you leave.
MURIEL Ask me.
(as he starts to open his mouth:)
Yes.
ANDRE Yes?
MURIEL
I like it here.
ANDRE
But there's no prance.
MURIEL
I know.
ANDRE No kingdom.
MURIEL
I know.

ANDRE

No fantasy.

(A moment, as they consider this then:)

Although there was that one last night -

MURIEL

The Prussian butler?

ANDRE

And the French maid.

MURIEL

And the eskimo pie.

(They look at each other and smile.)

ANDRE

Are you certain?

MURIEL

No. Are you?

ANDRE

Not at all.

MURIEL

If only we had some sign, some way to be sure.

(The ACCORDION PLAYER enters, playing 'Like Zis/Like Zat' – possibly with a moonlit light change as well. ANDRE and MURIEL look at each other.)

#21b - Muriel & Andre Exit

That'll do it.

(ANDRE picks her up and carries her off.)

ACT TWO

Scene Eleven

(The terrace of Lawrence's villa. LAWRENCE and FREDDY, duffel bag at his feet, sit side by side in beach chairs.)

FREDDY

...When do you think she was on to us?

LAWRENCE

From the beginning, Freddy; she was on to us from the very beginning.

FREDDY

I still can't believe we fell for it.

LAWRENCE

We mustn't feel too bad. After all, she didn't do it alone. She had accomplices.

FREDDY

Who?

LAWRENCE

Us. She was just giving the people what they want.

FREDDY

So what will you do now?

LAWRENCE

It's going to be quiet around here. The season's over. Autumn's coming. I'm shutting up part of the house. It may be time to go back home for awhile.

FREDDY

London?

LAWRENCE

Detroit.

FREDDY

...Well, there's always next season.

LAWRENCE

Maybe.

(FREDDY looks at him in surprise.)

FREDDY

But maybe not?

(LAWRENCE just looks at him.)

(FREDDY)

Nah.

(beat)

Really?

(beat)

Nah.

LAWRENCE

Freddy –

YOU MAY BE MASTER OF YOUR CHOSEN OCCUPATION
WITH SEVERAL STRINGS OF POLO PONIES IN YOUR STABLE,
YOU MUST REMEMBER ALL THE SAME
THAT AT THE CRUX OF EVERY GAME
IS KNOWING WHEN IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE TABLE.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE ARTFUL IN YOUR EXIT —
NO TURNING BACK, YOU MUST ACCEPT THE CON IS DONE
BUT NOW AND THEN, YOU MIGHT RECALL
THE MOMENTS WHEN YOU HAD IT ALL —
YOU HAD THE CHARM, YOU HAD THE TALENT
AND, MY GOD, YOU HAD SOME FUN.

IT WAS A BALL, IT WAS A BLAST
AND IT'S A SHAME IT COULDN'T LAST
BUT EVERY CHAPTER HAS TO END, YOU MUST AGREE.
IT WAS A JOY, IT WAS SUBLIME
A SPLENDID WAY TO EARN A DIME
FOR A DIRTY ROTTEN GUY LIKE ME.

WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON ALL YOUR CONQUESTS AND DECEPTIONS YOU SEE A THOUSAND FLAWLESS PEARLS SET IN A STRAND, LAID OUT FROM BIARRITZ TO ROME, EACH ONE AS PERFECT AS A POEM, AN OPUS TO BE PROUD OF THOUGH IT'S WRITTEN IN THE SAND.

IT WAS A BALL, IT WAS A THRILL
YOU HAD THE GRACE, YOU HAD THE SKILL
TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO SAY AND WHAT TO DO.

(LAWRENCE)

YOU WOULDN'T TRADE A SINGLE DAY OR HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY — A DIRTY ROTTEN GUY LIKE YOU.

FREDDY

IT'S ALMOST A RELIGION
THE NEED TO TAKE A PIGEON
AND TO PLAY YOUR PART WITH ELEGANCE AND ZEST

BUT WHEN IT'S TIME TO FOLD THE ACT
AND YOUR DUFFEL BAG IS PACKED
TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT
THAT YOU'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THE BEST.

IT WAS A BLAST, IT WAS A BALL
IT WAS A GAS, I LOVED IT ALL
'CAUSE I WAS HANGING WITH THE MAN AND THAT'S A PLUS

LAWRENCE

Aw, Freddy,

YOU'VE GOT THE VERVE

FREDDY

YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS -

LAWRENCE

YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE -

FREDDY

YOU'VE GOT THE NUTS

LAWRENCE

I GUESS WE'RE -

LAWRENCE & FREDDY

- DIRTY ROTTEN CROOKS, DIRTY ROTTEN SHNOOKS -

IT WAS A TRIP, IT WAS A BLAST
IT WAS A SHAME IT COULDN'T LAST
'CAUSE IT WAS ALMOST TOO PRODIGIOUS TO DISCUSS.

LAWRENCE

SO WE GOT SCREWED FOR FIFTY-GRAND

FREDDY

I THINK WE STILL DESERVE A HAAAAAAND -

LAWRENCE & FREDDY

DIRTY

ROTTEN

GUUUUUUUUUYS

LIKE US!

(As the song ends, they land back in the beach chairs and tilt their hats over their eyes. A moment, then they look at each other.)

FREDDY

Well, I guess I –

LAWRENCE

Yes.

(They stand.)

FREDDY

Thanks for letting me stay the extra week.

LAWRENCE

My pleasure. Let me say, Freddy, what you lack in grace you more than make up for in vulgarity.

FREDDY

Thank you. I gotta tell ya, you're a smooth guy. You'll always be the best.

LAWRENCE

I hope you can still say that when I'm old and gray.

FREDDY

I just did.

LAWRENCE

Well, it was fun.

FREDDY

(skeptical)

Yeah, okay.

(He waits for the punch line, sees that LAWRENCE is serious.)

Yeah. It was.

LAWRENCE

Goodbye, Freddy.

FREDDY

Goodbye.

(They shake hands. A long moment and a sense they don't quite want to let go. FREDDY turns and starts off, but is stopped by the sound of voices off. They look at each other puzzled, look off toward the sound, as a group of elegantly dressed people enter, talking and laughing. The voice we hear most is that of a WOMAN, as she pushes her way through the crowd.)

WOMAN

Hold it... Hold on... Excuse me... Can I get past here? Gawd, what a hike.

(pulls out a walkie-talkie and speaks into it)

Ahoy, ahoy. Yacht there. We made it; bring up the bags, pronto.

(She whips off her hat and sunglasses and we see it is CHRISTINE.)

CHRISTINE

So, there you are. Long time, no see, huh, boys?

(LAWRENCE and FREDDY just stare at her stunned.)

So, first, intros. Nikos! Nikos! Get over here!

(She pulls a wealthy looking older MAN from the group and brings him over to LAWRENCE and FREDDY, who are wondering what the hell is going on.)

C'mon, everybody, I want you to meet Mr. Big Stuff.

(to LAWRENCE)

I was showing Nikos some property in Boca. He says, 'Paula, if I'm gonna invest sixteen million bucks, I want to do it someplace special.' I go, 'Like where?' He goes, 'How about Majorca?' And then it hits me, boom! Majorca, what are you kidding me? We gotta go meet Señor Majorca himself. So I go, 'Why not?' He goes, 'Why not?' And pretty soon, we're all going —

CROWD

(as one)

Why not?

CHRISTINE

So... Nikos Passalopolos, I'd like you to meet the king of Spanish real estate... Don Diego Fernando Alahambra.

#23 – Finale

(There is a long pause. CHRISTINE looks deeply at LAWRENCE. A few notes of 'Give Them What They Want' are heard.)

Well?

(The notes are heard again. LAWRENCE looks to FREDDY, who just slowly shakes his head no.)

(CHRISTINE)

(to LAWRENCE)

Aren't you going to say anything?

(LAWRENCE looks at CHRISTINE. He realizes he can go along with her or he can lose her. He takes a beat, then extends his hand to NIKOS:)

LAWRENCE

(in Spanish accent)

Còmo està, Nikos? Diego Fernando Alahambra de España.

NIKOS

Hello.

CHRISTINE

You still got any of those situations available along the coast?

LAWRENCE

No, Paula. Sadly, they are all gone. Que lastima, eh? Never mind, Nikos. There's more where they came from, yes? Come on up to the house. We'll make up a big pitcher of sangria and talk.

(The group is starting off to the house, when CHRISTINE stops them, indicating FREDDY:)

CHRISTINE

Hey, wait a minute, we forgot somebody... Mr. Junior Partner himself, the little hombre Diego can't do without... the wiz kid...Randy Bentwick.

(Note: This line works best, when Bentwick is almost imperceptibly divided into two words. FREDDY looks at CHRISTINE. He too takes a beat, is about to say something, when:)

LAWRENCE

Unfortunately, Randy is a mute.

(FREDDY immediately closes his mouth and glares at him. LAWRENCE points the group offstage toward his villa:)

Vaya con Dios.

(The group is talking happily as CHRISTINE ushers them off. She turns back and looks at LAWRENCE and FREDDY, drops the character, smiles.)

CHRISTINE

Sometimes you get homesick for the damndest things.

LAWRENCE

Welcome home.

CHRISTINE

Y'know, boys, I cleared over five million dollars last year, but your fifty thousand was the most fun I ever had.

IT WAS A BALL,

IT WAS A BLAST,

'CAUSE I WAS HANGIN' WITH THE BOYS AND THAT'S A PLUS.

YOU GOT THE CLASS,

YOU GOT THE CHEEK,

LAWRENCE

YOU GOT THE BRAINS.

CHRISTINE

LET'S GET THAT GREEK.

FREDDY

I GUESS WE'RE DIRTY ROTTEN CROOKS...

LAWRENCE

DIRTY ROTTEN SHNOOKS...

CHRISTINE

DIRTY ROTTEN GUYS...

LAWRENCE & MEN

ОН,

FREDDY, LAWRENCE & CHRISTINE

IT WAS A TRIP,

IT WAS A BALL,

IT WAS A KICK,

I LOVED IT ALL,

'CAUSE IT WAS ALMOST TOO PRODIGIOUS TO DISCUSS.

CHRISTINE

AND THOUGH TWO ACES BEAT YOU BLIND,

THEY'LL NEVER BEAT THREE OF A KIND!

ALL (WITH O.S. ENSEMBLE)

FILTHY, SHAMELESS, LYIN', CHEATIN', DIRTY, ROTTEN, GUUUUUUYS...

LAWRENCE

Wait a minute, where's my wallet?

(CHRISTINE holds it up. LAWRENCE holds up FREDDY'S watch. FREDDY holds up CHRISTINE'S necklace. They laugh as the orchestra concludes the number with no vocal accompaniment.)

THE END

#24 – Bows/Exit Music

APPENDIX

Production Note #1: Alternate Act One "Train Scene"

If desired, for scenic or financial considerations, the interior train can be eliminated. The following can be substituted and take place in the Hotel Lobby (which would have to be moved in during or immediately following the opening number), or on its patio. Should you decide to do this, the subsequent line in Lawrence's villa, would simply need to refer to his encounter with "that beeteating Jackal in the hotel" rather than "the train."

(Immediately following "Give Them What They Want." As LAWRENCE takes in his applause, FREDDY enters with his duffel bag. He crosses downstage of LAWRENCE, interrupting his moment.)

FREDDY

Excuse me, pardon me, coming through.

(He plops himself in an easy chair beside RENEE, a beautiful woman in her thirties, smiles politely and humbly at her, pulls out a well-worn bible and begins to read. As LAWRENCE watches, ANDRE moves to him with a newspaper and whispers:)

ANDRE

You may want to take a look at this. From today's Le Monde. They say a clever young American con artist nicknamed "The Jackal" has been working his way along the southern coast of France.

LAWRENCE

Andre, please, if he's made the front page, how clever can he be?

(A WAITER approaches FREDDY with a menu. Through the following, LAWRENCE stands behind them and reacts with amused incredulity as appropriate:)

WAITER

Monsieur --

FREDDY

(eyes on the bible)

One second please.

(He continues to read another moment, comes to the end of a passage and looks up at the WAITER.)

FREDDY

That Judas. What a character, huh?

(FREDDY)

(takes menu)

Thanks, I'm starving.

(scans prices)

Whoa! Is this to rent or to buy?

(hands back menu)

I'll just have a napkin, please.

WAITER

One napkin.

(The WAITER moves off. FREDDY reaches into his bag, pulls out a beet, dusts it off, takes a bite.)

RENEE

The food here is very good.

FREDDY

I'm sure it is. But I had such a big breakfast --

(suddenly seizes up and moans)

RENEE

Are you all right?

FREDDY

Hunger pains; they'll pass.

RENEE

You must eat something.

FREDDY

To be honest with you I never was very good with money. I just seem to take whatever salary the Red Cross pays me and donate it right back to them. At this rate Grandma will never get her operation.

RENEE

Your grandmere, she is ill?

FREDDY

No, she just tips over sometimes. I can't wait to see her face Christmas morning when she wakes up and finds that new hip under the tree.

RENEE

(opening her purse)

You must let me help.

FREDDY

Oh, no, I couldn't.

RENEE

Nonsense. Waiter, bring this gentleman the specialty du jour.

(FREDDY takes Renee's hands in his, looks her in the eyes and leans in sincerely.)

FREDDY

Thank you. Gosh, I never knew angels had such beautiful breasts.

RENEE

Well...

(Suddenly a very large MAN enters.)

MAN

Renee?

RENEE

Oui, ici, Gerard.

(to FREDDY)

This is my husband Gerard. And you are?

(FREDDY stands to introduce himself to this rather imposing husband.)

FREDDY

Father Peter O'Malley.

RENEE

Excuse us, mon Père.

FREDDY

(as they go)

See you in church.

(They exit. FREDDY shrugs philosophically, sits, puts aside the Bible, pulls out a Mad Magazine, removes a bookmark from it and begins to read. LAWRENCE takes RENEE'S place in the adjacent easy chair, then, casually over his shoulder)

LAWRENCE

My condolences to your grandmother.

(FREDDY looks up)

You said she tends to tip over.

FREDDY

Only when she's loaded.

LAWRENCE

...Oh. I see.

FREDDY

Uh-huh.

LAWRENCE

Rather a dirty trick, isn't it?

FREDDY

Just givin' the people what they want.

LAWRENCE

Which is?

FREDDY

Beautiful woman like that, how often does she get to feel all good and charitable about herself? And what did it cost her? Looka this -- she gave me twenty bucks.

LAWRENCE

Wow.

FREDDY

You know what it feels like to take a woman for twenty bucks?

LAWRENCE

(laughs)

No. I'm afraid that's a little out of my class.

FREDDY

Ah, don't sell yourself short. Ya want, I can show you the ropes. What I've seen, some dames really go for your type.

LAWRENCE

Really?

FREDDY

Sure. They like 'em older.

LAWRENCE

Well, to tell you the truth I've never had much luck with women.

(MURIEL appears on a balcony)

MURIEL

LAST NIGHT I MET A MAN BENEATH A PALE AND HAUNTED MOON -- A MAN NO WOMAN COULD REFUSE.

BOLD AND ASSERTIVE WITH A FURTIVE AIR OF MYSTERY.

(MURIEL)

MAGICALLY LONG OF LASH, TRAGICALLY SHORT OF CASH.

AS HE APPROACHED HE WORE AN AURA OF NOBILITY, I WORE THESE FERRAGAMO SHOES.
THIS WAS AT LAST, I KNEW, MY RENDEZVOUS WITH HISTORY.
WHAT WAS A WOMAN, WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

AND WHEN HE SMILED HE LIT THE NIGHT
WITH GRACE AND CONFIDENCE.

HIS TEETH WERE STRAIGHT AND CLEAN AND WHITE
JUST LIKE A PICKET FENCE.

I COULDN'T LOOK DIRECTLY AT THEM -- THEY WERE THAT INTENSE.

WHAT WAS A WOMAN, WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

(Back in the lobby:)

FREDDY

Freddy Benson. What's yours?

LAWRENCE

Lawrence Jameson.

FREDDY

See, Lar, I got this gift. I can just zoom in on someone and know straight off what they want, who they are. I'm sizing you up for a...banker.

LAWRENCE

No.

FREDDY

Salesman. Lawyer. Maitre d'. Locksmith. Shepherd.

LAWRENCE

Actually, I'm a dentist.

FREDDY

I was just gonna say dentist.

LAWRENCE

Amazing.

FREDDY

Well, some of us got it, some of us ain't.

LAWRENCE

I'll say.

(We return to MURIEL on the balcony:)

MURIEL

I NEVER REALIZED HOW LONG MY HEART HAD BEEN IGNORED HE SANG MY NAME AND IT RANG OUT JUST LIKE SOME MAJOR CHORD IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, HE ATE MY SMORGASBORD. WHAT WAS A WOMAN...

(Several other of LAWRENCE'S conquests appear as they join MURIEL in song:)

WOMAN #1

WHAT WAS A WOMAN

WOMAN #2

WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

(Back in the lobby, FREDDY is holding out his cheek as LAWRENCE looks in his mouth, possibly with a pen light:)

FREDDY

Ahhhhh.

LAWRENCE

Well, no danger of wisdom teeth.

FREDDY

That's a relief.

LAWRENCE

Indeed.

FREDDY

How much do I owe you?

LAWRENCE

(as if waving it away)

Ohhh --

FREDDY

Thanks, Doc..

LAWRENCE

(snatching RENEE'S bill from FREDDY'S hand:)

- Twenty should cover it (OR "This should cover it.")

FREDDY

But -

(We return to MURIEL and the WOMEN)

WOMAN #3

LAST NIGHT I MET A PRINCE

AND SUDDENLY MY LIFE HAS CHANGED

WOMAN #4

LAST WEEK I MET A PRINCE AND I -

WOMAN #1 & 3

I HAVE A PURPOSE AND A CAUSE

WOMAN #1

'CAUSE TO HELP MY DREAMY ROYAL BOYFRIEND

MURIEL

HE'S OFF REBELLING AND I'M KVELLING HERE, BUT NEVER MIND.

WOMAN #2

HE'S JUST SO — OOO!

WOMAN #3

SO SUAVE IT MAKES YOU MENTAL

MURIEL

SO GODDAMNED CONTINENTAL

WOMAN #4

WHO'D GUESS THAT I WOULD BE THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM HE'D TURN -

WOMAN #1

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE FOR -

WOMAN #2

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE -

WOMEN #1, 3, 4

THIS MAN OF BRIO

WOMAN #1, 2, 3, 4

AND PANACHE

MURIEL

HE GAVE ME ROMANCE AND THE FEELING I WAS YOUNG AGAIN.

WOMAN #1

I GAVE HIM HOPE AND STRENGTH AND

WOMAN #1, 2, 3, 4

A CHECK MADE OUT TO CASH

(They are now joined by an USHERETTE out in the theatre.)

USHERETTE

HE HAD THE MOST AMAZING EYES THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN HE CAME IN WITH A TICKET FOR THE SECOND MEZZANINE I RIPPED IT UP AND PUT HIM RIGHT DOWN THERE IN J-13.

(A beat. She feels MURIEL glaring at her from the stage, looks up.)

MURIEL

Oh, for God's sake. Anyone else?

USHERETTE

WHAT WAS A WOMAN

(The USHERETTE timidly moves off. MURIEL comfortably retakes focus.)

WOMAN #1, 2, 3

WHAT WAS A WOMAN --

MURIEL

WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO?

(The lights fade on the women as the number ends. Back in the lobby:)

FREDDY

Nice little town ya got here.

LAWRENCE

We like it.

FREDDY

Yeah. What I hear this place is supposed to be crawling with rich dames just waitin' to pickle my beets, if you know what I mean.

(A moment, as LAWRENCE assesses the situation.)

LAWRENCE

Hm.

FREDDY

What?

LAWRENCE

Nothing. It's just I'm afraid you've been misinformed. Beaumont used to be a lively spot, but that was years ago. These days it's almost entirely populated by older, retired couples.

FREDDY

Really?

LAWRENCE

Actually, I'm considered to be the town playboy, if that gives you any idea.

FREDDY

Yikes.

LAWRENCE

Yikes indeed. No, this year all the social activity has moved a bit farther down the coast.

FREDDY

To where?

LAWRENCE

Do you speak Spanish?

FREDDY

No.

LAWRENCE

It's called Isla de los Muertos. You simply board the train to the end of the line, transfer to the bus to Malaga, rent a row boat and head out into the Strait of Gibraltor.

FREDDY

No foolin'?.

LAWRENCE

Would I lie to you?

FREDDY

Huh.

LAWRENCE

Well, I should be moving on. Bingo Night, you know.

(FREDDY is considering what LAWRENCE has just told him. If possible, this might be a good place to have him see an old couple cross the lobby.)

FREDDY

(distracted)

Yeah. See ya.

LAWRENCE

If you need a place to stay, you're more than welcome. I have a sister I'd love you to meet. Everyone says she's the prettiest girl in town.

FREDDY

Oh yeah? What's she look like?

LAWRENCE

A bit like me actually. Except for the mustache, of course.

FREDDY

You don't have a mustache.

LAWRENCE

No.

FREDDY

...Y'know, I think I'm gonna check out this Isla place.

LAWRENCE

Ah, well. Bertha will be disappointed, but perhaps it's for the best.

FREDDY

Yeah. Hey, listen, thanks for the tip.

LAWRENCE

Freddy, believe me, it was my pleasure. Bon voyage, my friend.

(He kisses him on both cheeks. Across the lobby, MURIEL enters, unseen by LAWRENCE, and witnesses this.)

FREDDY

Okay, settle down.

(LAWRENCE pats him on the back and exits. FREDDY looks around and decides to cut his losses. He gathers his bags and is starting out through the main lobby doors, when:)

MURIEL

Psst.

(FREDDY pauses, looks around, starts out again.)

Psst.

(FREDDY pauses again, looks behind him, notices her.)

I see you're a comrade of the Prance.

FREDDY

The Prance?

MURIEL

The man you were just kissing.

FREDDY

Hey, he was kissing me. I didn't even enjoy it.

MURIEL

Viva la Resistance!

FREDDY

Thanks, you too.

MURIEL

My poor brave soldier. I can't tell you how selfish I felt doing nothing, just lying on my back while he tended to the front.

FREDDY

Listen, lady, I think you may be a little off here. That guy's name was Lawrence Jameson.

MURIEL

His nom de guerre! It's all right; he swore me to secrecy, too. We met at the casino here last night.

FREDDY

(working it out)

And he told you he was a Prince.

MURIEL

I barely believed it myself till he showed me his scepter.

FREDDY

(starting to catch on)

Is that so?

MURIEL

Oh, yes. In fact, it's my money that's financing his mission.

FREDDY

(as it clicks in)

Your money, huh? Well, well, well...

MURIEL

Perhaps he mentioned me. Did he mention me? I'm sure he mentioned me. Muriel Eubanks of Omaha, Nebraska? Lady Muriel by moonlight.

(a proud confidence)

He made me a dame.

FREDDY

I'll just bet he did.

MURIEL

I can't tell you how proud I am to have the Eubanks fortune support such a worthy cause.

(removing scarf)

Please. For His Highness to wear into battle. You'll be sure to give it to him, won't you?

FREDDY

Oh, I'll be giving it to him all right.

(MURIEL steps down to the footlights, as FREDDY and the lobby move off:)

MURIEL

SO FATE HAS HAD ITS WAY AND LEAVES ME HERE IN SOLITUDE.

MY PRINCE GOES OFF TO WAR AND ONCE AGAIN I'M ROY'LLY SCREWED.

PERHAPS A XANEX AND A HALF WILL BRIGHTEN UP MY MOOD...

(The ORCHESTRA picks up the end of the song as the scene shift to...)

Continue to Act One, Scene Three on page 23.

Production Note #2: Turntable

A turntable is not necessary, and may be eliminated, for scenic or financial considerations, if desired. If a turntable is not used, simply cut the line "Oh, my God, the whole things turns" on the bottom of page 26.

Production Note #3: "Chimp In A Suit"

If a number needs to be cut for time considerations, "Chimp in a Suit" could be eliminated. To accomplish this, simply cut from Freddy's line "I'm beginning to think this guy doesn't like me" in Act Two, Scene Three and move directly to Lawrence's first line in Act One, Scene Four, adjusting it so that instead of reading "Now as the next step in your education" it would read "Now as the first step in your education."

Production Note #4: Cafe Window

The lowering of the cafe window (and the change from a Riviera vista to an Oklahoma scene) is not necessary and may be eliminated, for scenic or financial considerations, if desired.

Production Note #5: Ruprecht

The portrayal of "Ruprecht" is a bit of a tricky task. He has been created by Lawrence and Freddy to scare off Jolene, but we should never feel he is physically abusive or threatening to her. Equally important he must never come across as "mentally challenged," but rather as delightfully (to us, if not Jolene) insane. He is childlike, rude, vulgar, inappropriate, and completely unfiltered. It's a delicate tightrope, but one that certainly can be walked, so by all means, please have fun with it and remember the more joy Lawrence and Freddy find in working together here, the more we will root for them throughout the rest of the show.

<u>Production Note #6</u>: Transition from Act One, Scene Seven to Act One, Scene Eight

In the Broadway production, Act One, Scene 7 buttoned with Muriel singing, as the turntable moved to reveal the nude backside of the statue of Louise LeBoeuf. She noticed it, reacted and moved off. The Hotel Lobby then moved in with Andre carrying us through from one location to the next.

If this is not possible, substitute the following transition:

(*She begins to sing:*)

MURIEL

WHEN I WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL, SO YOUNG AND INNOCENT, I'D KNEEL BESIDE MY LITTLE BED

ANDRE

(trying to interrupt her)

Madame -

MURIEL

(continues singing)

AND SAY A PRAYER I STILL REMEMBER -THIS IS HOW IT WENT -"LET ME HAVE LOVE UNENDING;
LET ME LOOK GOOD IN SHORTS."

ANDRE

Madame -

MURIEL

(continues singing)

NOW I AM NOT A CHILD AND (HMMM HMMM) YEARS HAVE PASSED, I'D SAY MY MIRACLE IS DUE!

(ANDRE gives up. He signals off-stage, and the Shrine set moves off, as the Hotel Lobby moves on. MURIEL just continues singing, oblivious to the action around her:)

MURIEL

YET I'M STILL SEARCHING
VAINLY LURCHING AS THE WORLD SPINS ROUND.
WHAT IS A WOMAN, WHAT IS A WOMAN TO —

ACT ONE

Scene Eight

(Continuous. The Hotel now in place, ANDRE tries one more time:)

ANDRE

Madame!

(MURIEL stops, looks around and realizes she is in the wrong scene.)

MURIEL

...Oh.

(then)

Goodbye.

ANDRE

Goodbye.

(She exits. Continue with the dialogue for the top of Scene Eight as written.)

Production Note #7: Costume Note for Act Two, Scene Two

In this scene, when Lawrence tells Muriel he is "traveling incognito," she replies "Me too." This line refers to the costume Joanna Gleason wore in this scene during the Broadway production. It was a very chic jacket and skirt, which Muriel had clearly had made for herself out of camouflage material. If your costume doesn't support this, simply cut her "Me too."

Production Note #8: Alternate Act Two, Scene Three

For scenic or financial considerations, the two locations in ACT TWO, SCENE THREE can be combined into a single set. Instead of moving upstairs to the Music Room as written, all can take place in the main room of Lawrence's villa, with the following adjustments:

(LAWRENCE is showing CHRISTINE into his villa:)

LAWRENCE

Please come in. Welcome to my house, be it ever so humble.

(He moves to the staircase and strikes the same pose as in Act One, Scene Three, as CHRISTINE takes in the room. LAWRENCE snaps his fingers and the spotlight hits him as before.)

CHRISTINE

(looking around)

How gorgeous.

LAWRENCE

(misunderstanding)

Well, I just got a haircut.

CHRISTINE

I meant the villa.

LAWRENCE

Oh. Ja. That too.

CHRISTINE

(moving to an antique music box)

Is that a music box?

LAWRENCE

Isn't it lovely?

CHRISTINE

My grandmother sent me one just like it once from Amish country.

LAWRENCE

...Indeed.

CHRISTINE

Except it was a pretzel.

(LAWRENCE reacts, then opens the lid of the music box. As a lovely tune begins to play:)

LAWRENCE

They say in the old days the happy couple would dim the candles, take each other in their arms and dance away the worries of the day.

(He offers her his arms. A little shyly, she accepts and they begin to dance. After a moment:)

CHRISTINE

I'm sorry, was that your foot?

LAWRENCE

I believe so, yes.

CHRISTINE

I do that a lot.

(He smiles gallantly. They continue to dance more smoothly, a bit romantically even, when FREDDY comes crawling into view in the doorway.)

FREDDY

Ohhhhh...

CHRISTINE

Buzz!

FREDDY

I heard the music...and pulled myself up the front stairs...and saw you and him...dancing!

(CHRISTINE starts to move to him. LAWRENCE gently holds her back.)

LAWRENCE

Please. He's a man, not an egg. We mustnít coddle him.

(He continues to dance with her, as FREDDY moans.)

FREDDY

Dancing...

CHRISTINE

I can't stand seeing him like this.

LAWRENCE

Perhaps you're right.

(He moves to the door and shuts it, clunking FREDDY on the head as he does.)

FREDDY (O.S.)

(muffled)

Ow.

(LAWRENCE moves back to CHRISTINE and continues to dance with her.)

CHRISTINE

The poor thing.

LAWRENCE

Trust me, Fraulein, I'm a doctor. I know it's difficult, but we must be strong. The more we dance, the more fun we have, the more he will want to literally jump out of that chair and join us.

Continue with song as is on page 95.

Production Note #9: "The More We Dance"

In the Broadway production, the dance break during "The More We Dance" was punctuated by three moments in which Freddy chased Lawrence and Christine across the stage. In each, Lawrence and Christine would dance their way from one wing to the other, moving among the ensemble. They were first followed by Freddy in his wheelchair, then by Freddy with his wheelchair being pushed by a Nun, then finally with Freddy on a moped, which we ultimately heard loudly crash offstage. (For the tour, the moped was replaced with a Segway.)

In earlier, more complicated drafts, Lawrence and Christine first danced across the stage and were followed by Freddy in his wheelchair. They then water skied across the stage and were followed by Freddy in a rowboat. Finally they rode a bicycle built for two across and were followed by Freddy in a little cart being pulled by a goat (a la "Porgy & Bess.")

Either of these interpolations would work. Or feel free to invent your own. In one foreign production, Freddy didn't chase them at all (leaving the dance break to Lawrence, Christine, and the ensemble) and simply rejoined them when the scene shifted to the nightclub.

The only important thing to remember is that this number should give us the sense that in this time with Christine, Lawrence is coming alive and enjoying himself in a way he hasn't felt for years.

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OVERTURE

1

TACET

Lawrence, Andre, Lenore, Women

WHAT THEY WANT (Part 1)

2







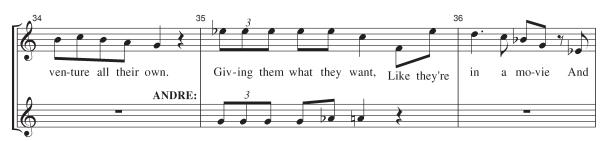




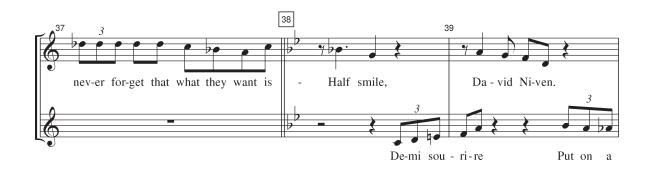


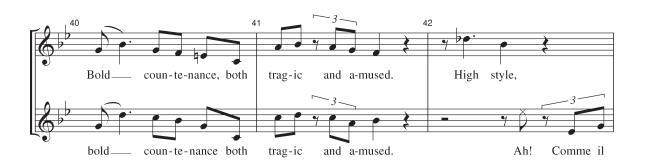
#2 - What They Want (Part 1)





Giv-ing them what they want,

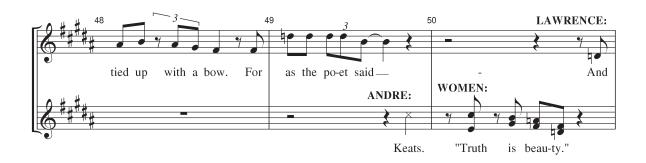




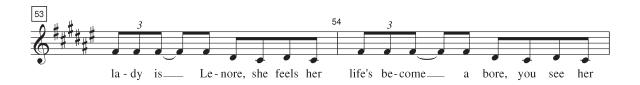
#2-What They Want (Part 1)







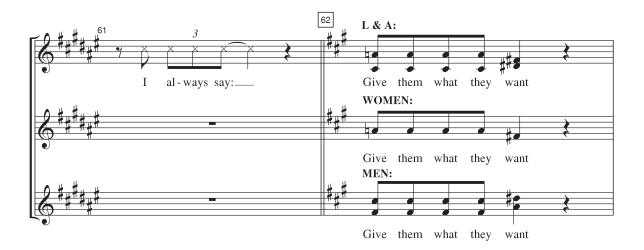


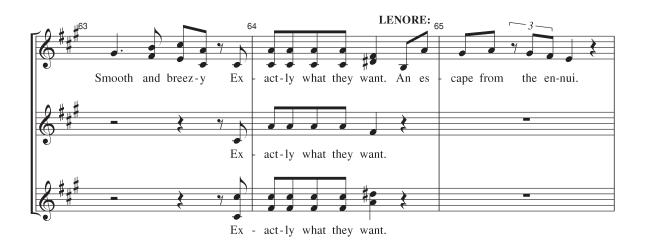


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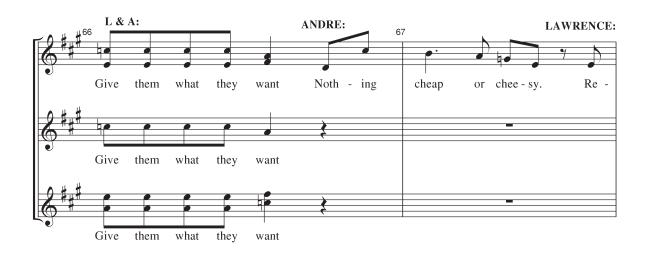








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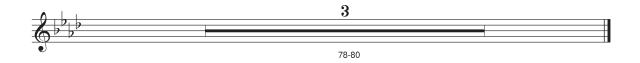








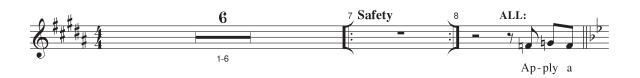


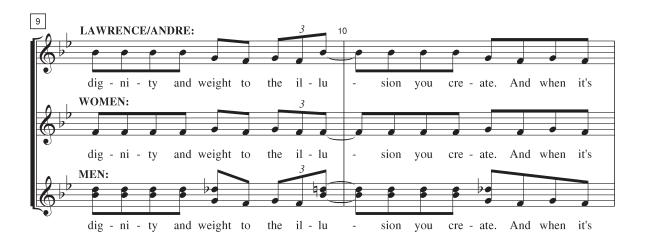


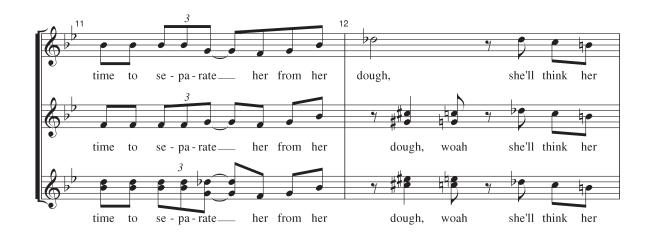
Lawrence, Andre, Men, Women

WHAT THEY WANT (Part 2)

2a







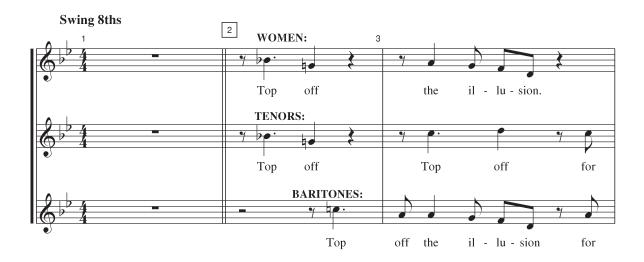


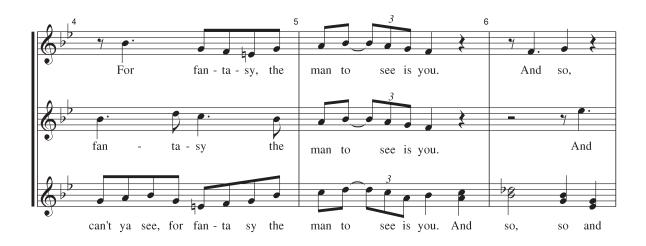
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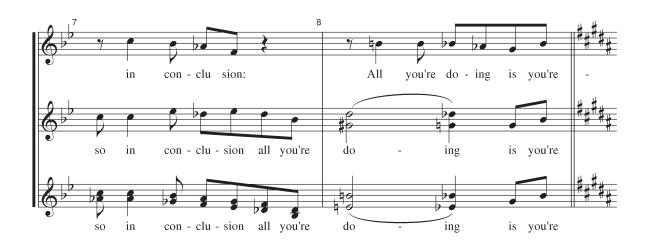
Lawrence, Lenore, Sophia, Andre, Men, Women

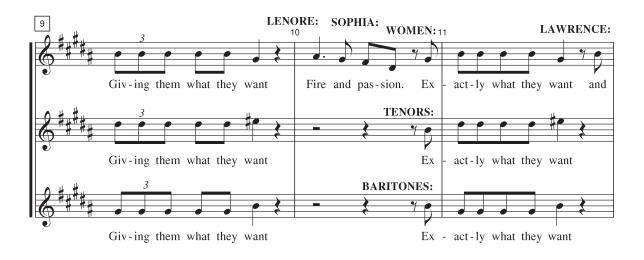
WHAT THEY WANT (Part 3)

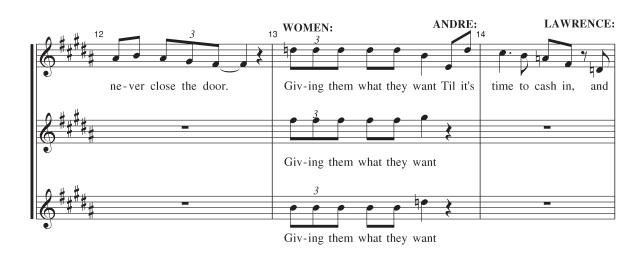
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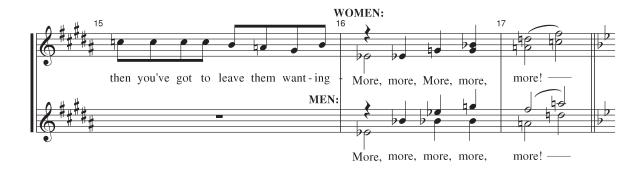


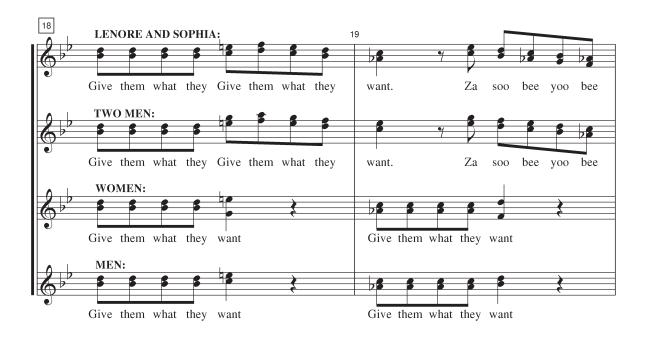


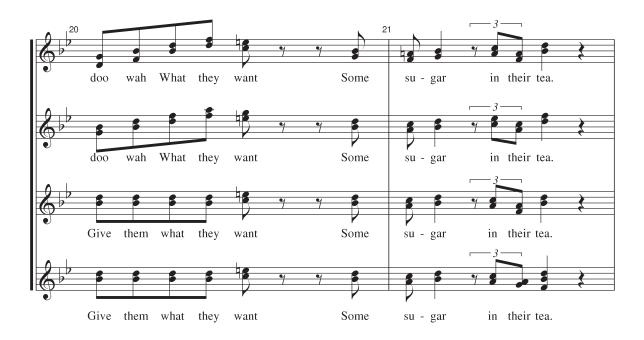




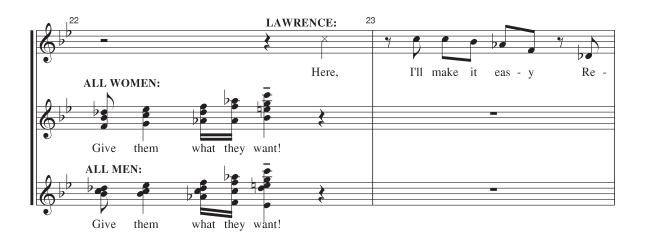


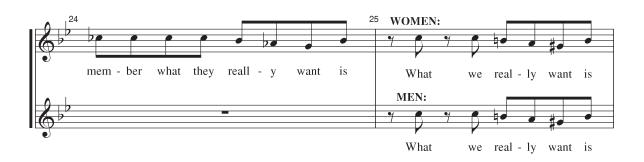


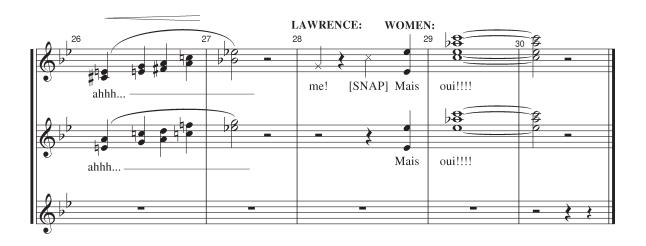




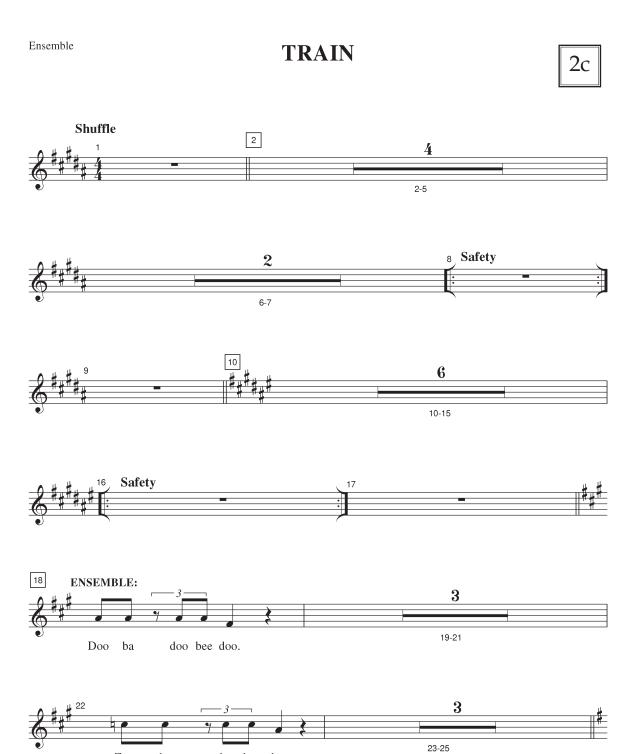
#2b-What They Want (Part 3)







#2b-What They Want (Part 3)



#2c-Train

doo bee day.

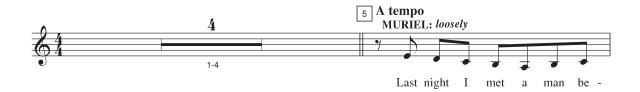
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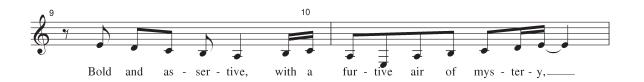


Muriel, Women

WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO





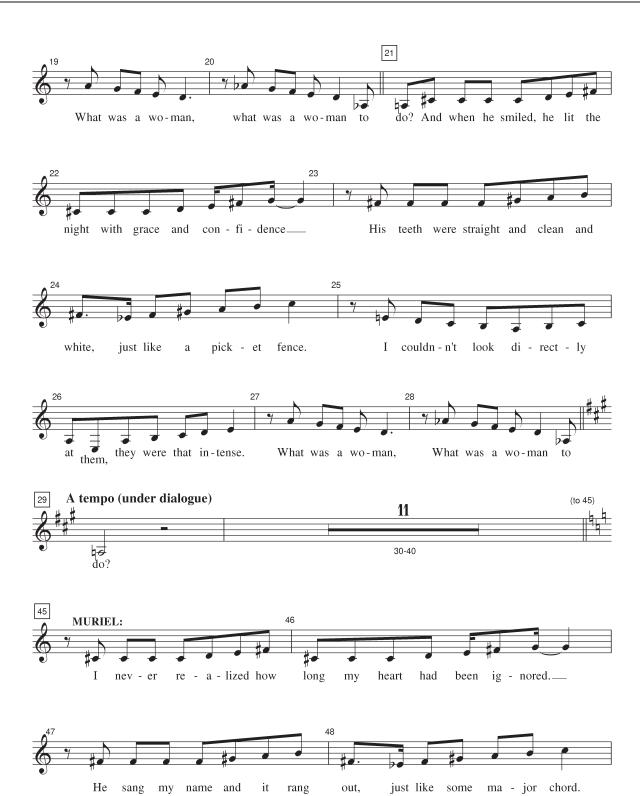








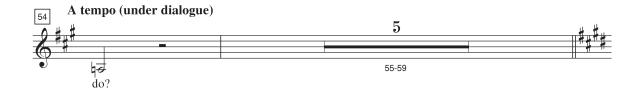
#3-What Was A Woman To Do

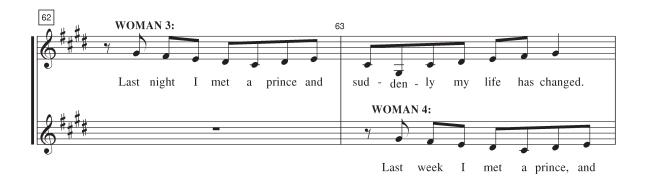


#3 - What Was A Woman To Do

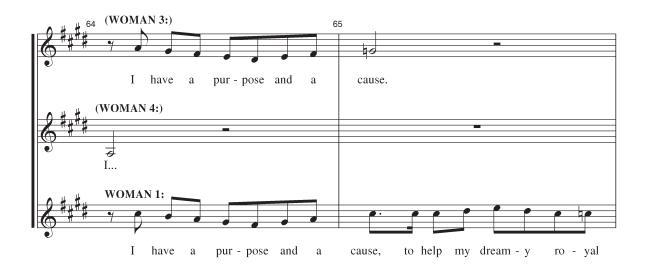


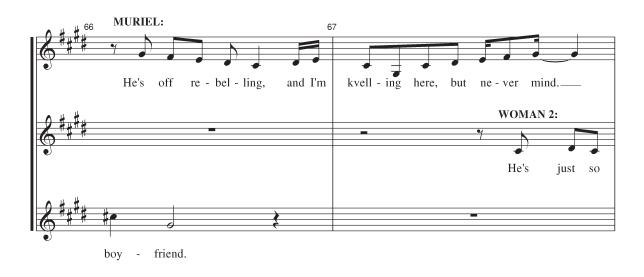




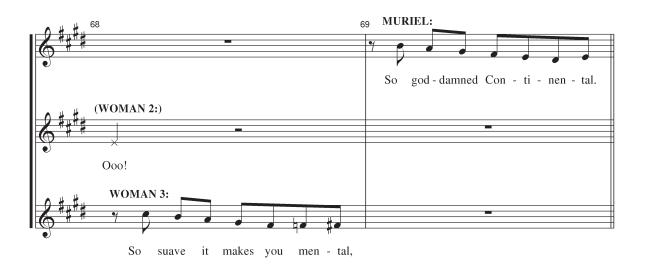


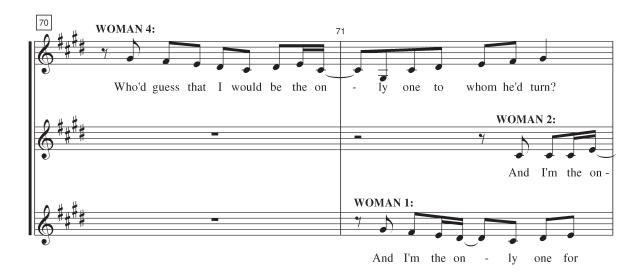
#3 - What Was A Woman To Do



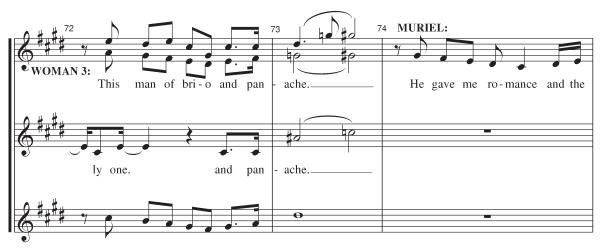


#3 - What Was A Woman To Do





#3 - What Was A Woman To Do



this man of bri-o and pan - ache.

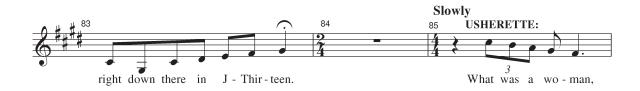


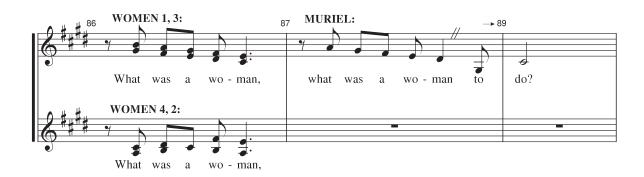






#3-What Was A Woman To Do







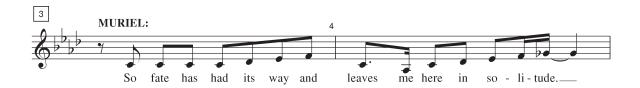
ON ARRIVE A BEAUMONT SUR MER TACET

3a

Muriel

WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO (Reprise 1)











VILLA REVEAL

4a

Freddy, Women

GREAT BIG STUFF













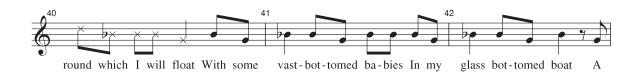




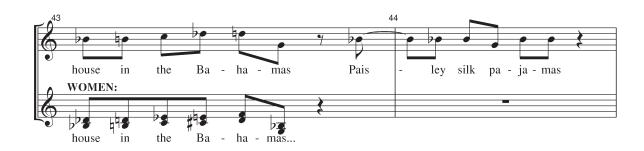




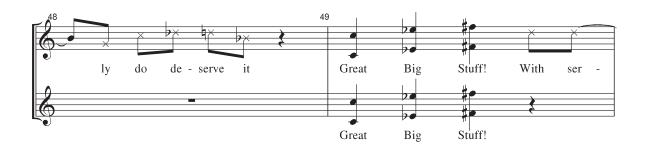


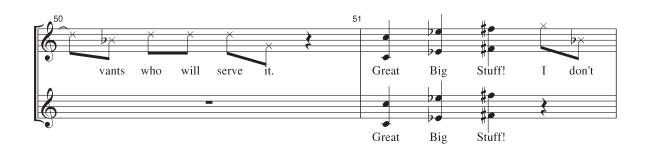


#5 – Great Big Stuff

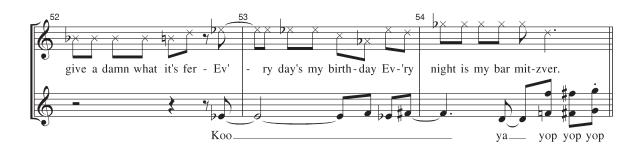


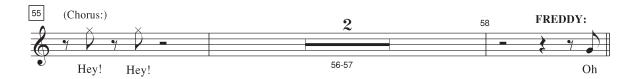


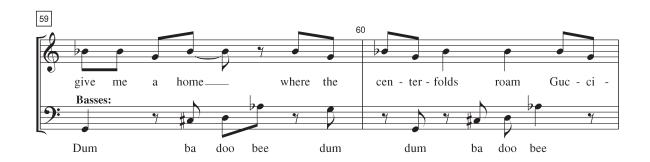


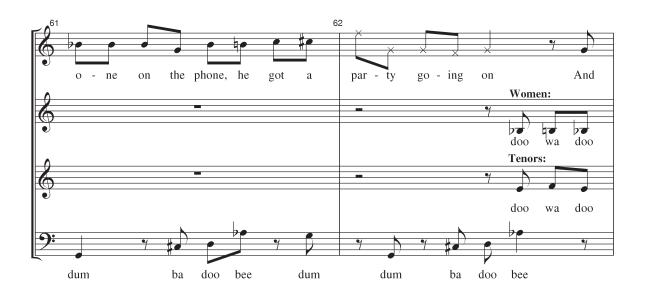


#5 - Great Big Stuff

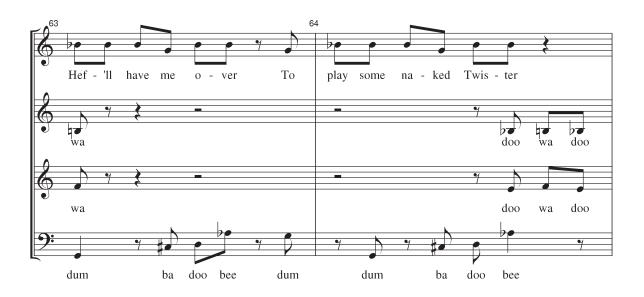


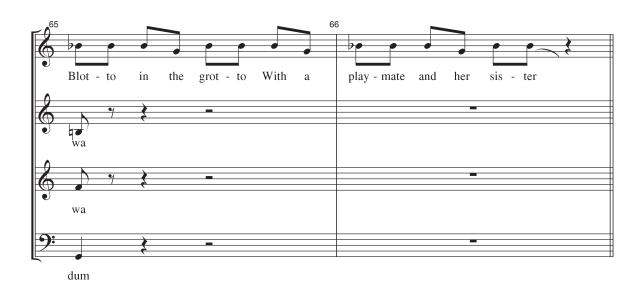






#5 – Great Big Stuff



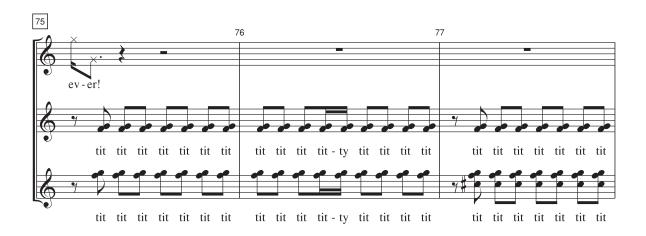


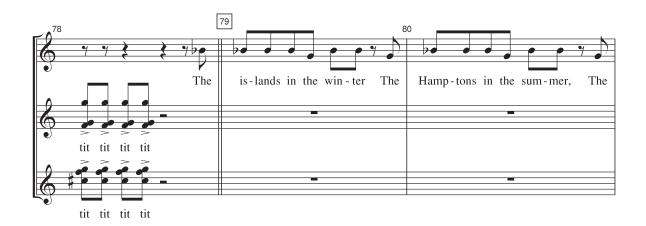


#5 - Great Big Stuff

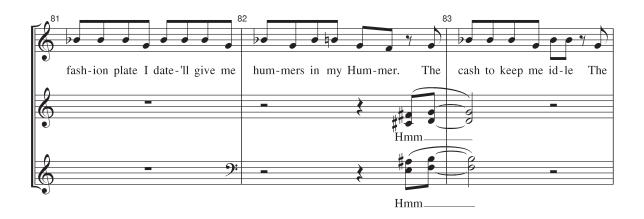


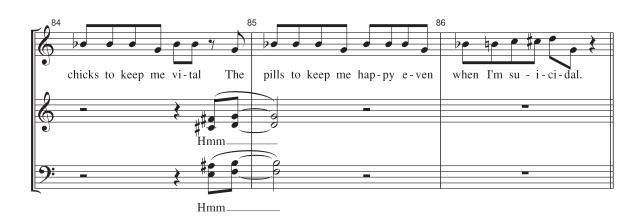


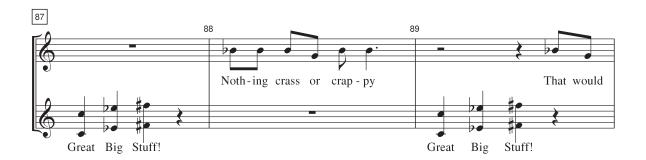


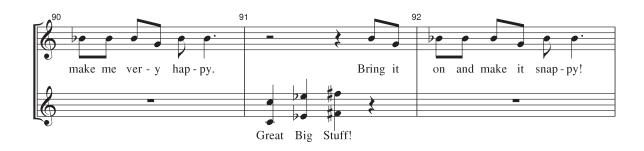


#5 - Great Big Stuff

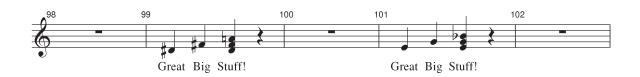


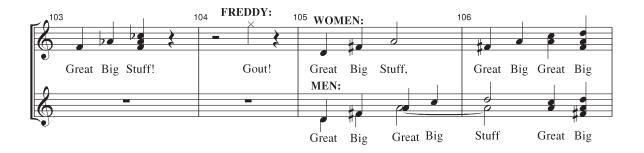


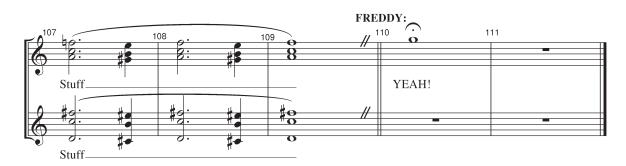












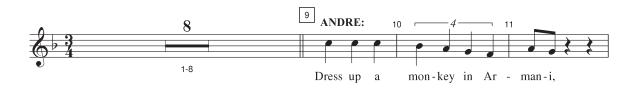
#5 – Great Big Stuff

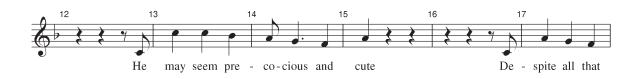
5a

A HYMN TO HMMM

Andre

CHIMP IN A SUIT













#6 - Chimp In A Suit

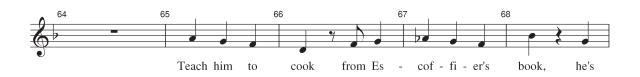


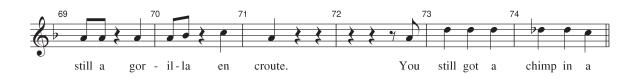


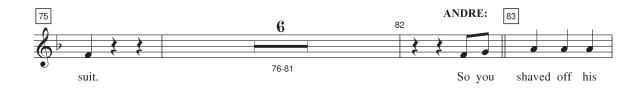


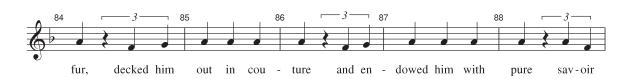






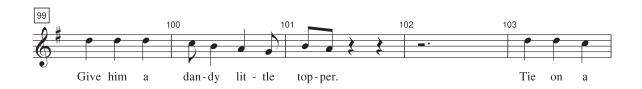


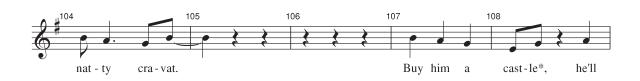








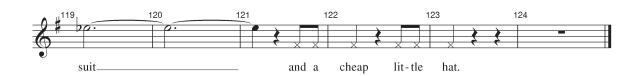






*Composer's note: When performing this song, use Andre's accent to make "Castle" rhyme with "Asshole". Say "Cass-ole". See? Funny.





CHIMP IN A SUIT (Playoff)

6a

6b

TANGO

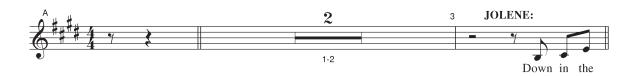
TACET

6c

RESTAURANT UNDERSCORE

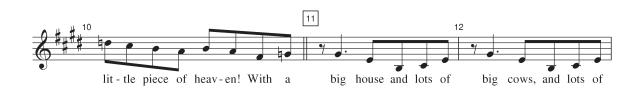
Jolene

OKLAHOMA (Part 1)







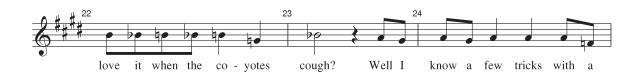






#7-Oklahoma (Part 1)



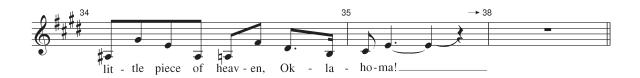














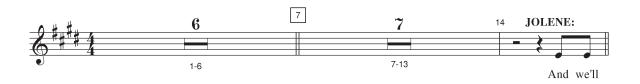
7a

OKLAHOMA (Part 2)

Jolene, All

OKLAHOMA (Part 3)











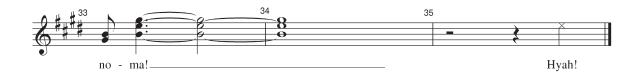




#7b - Oklahoma (Part 3)







OKLAHOMA (Playoff)

7c

7d

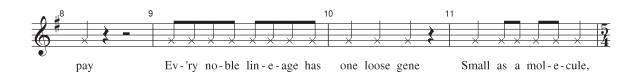
YOU HAVE A BROTHER?

Lawrence, Ruprecht, Jolene, Men

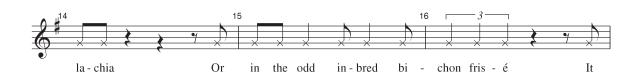
ALL ABOUT RUPRECHT

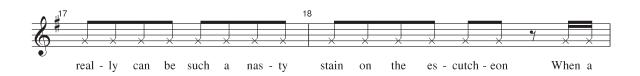


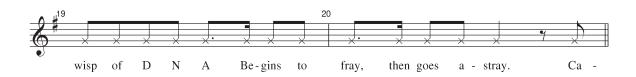


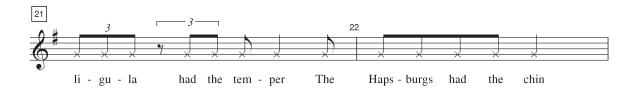


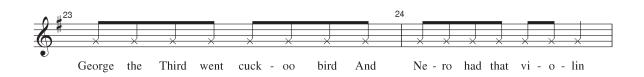




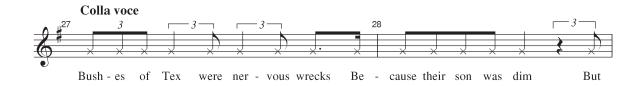




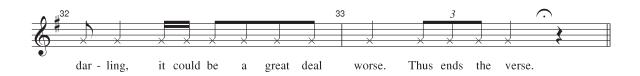


































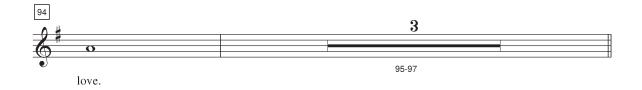


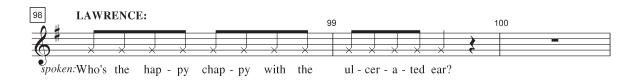


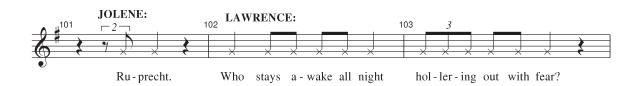


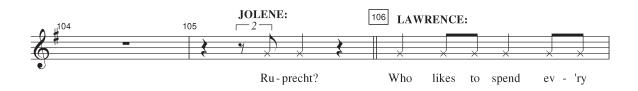


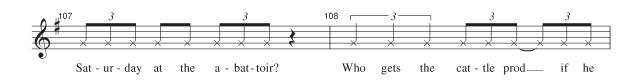








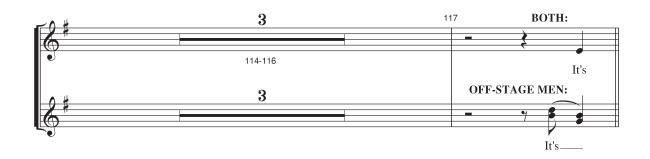


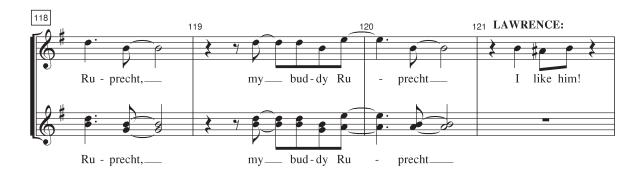


#8-All About Ruprecht



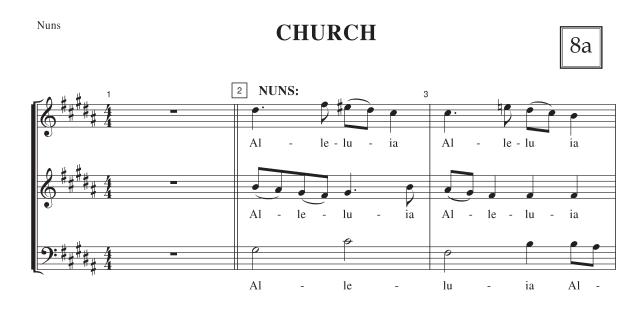


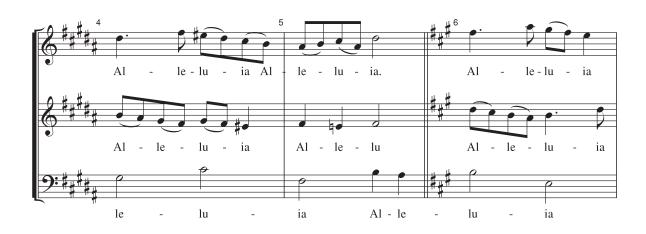


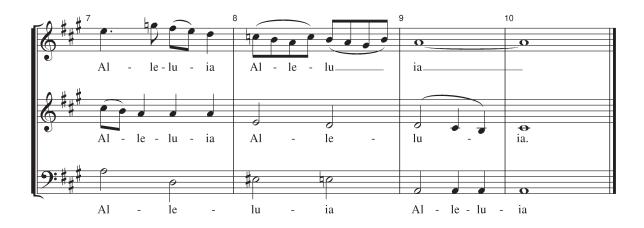




#8-All About Ruprecht







#8a-Church

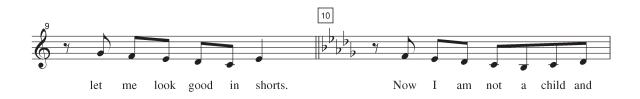
Muriel

WHAT WAS A WOMAN TO DO (Reprise 2)









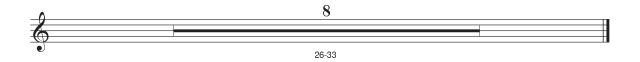


#9 - What Was A Woman To Do (Reprise 2)









THE BET

9a

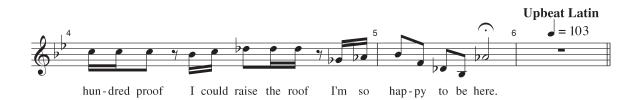
Christine, Ensemble

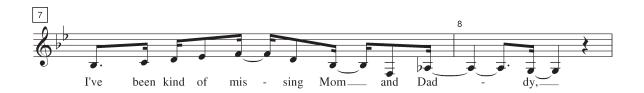
HERE I AM









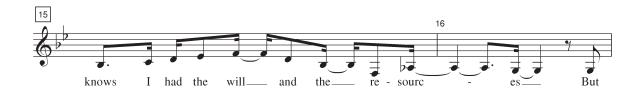




#10 - Here I Am





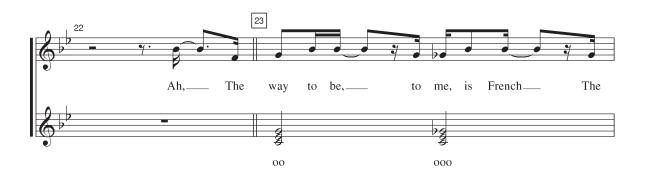


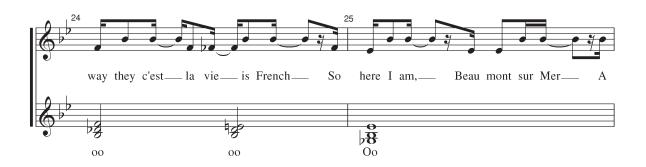




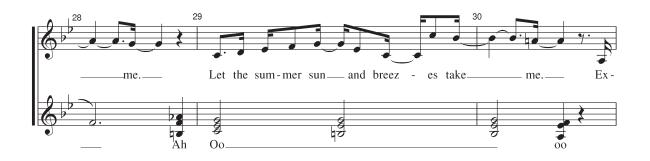


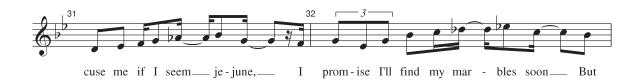
#10 - Here I Am

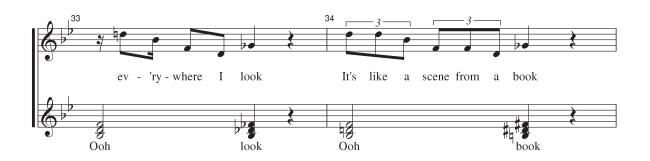




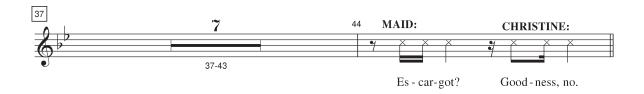


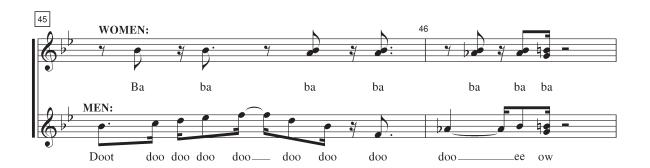




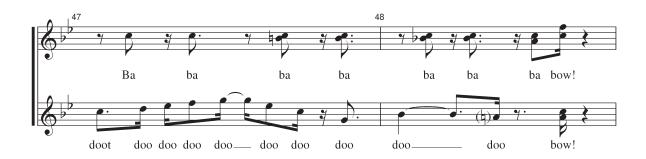




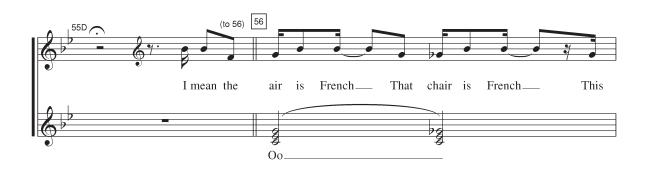


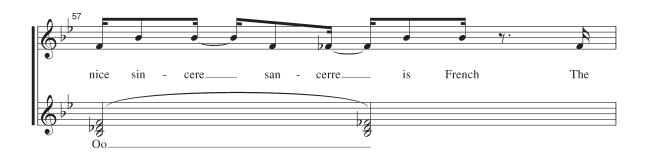


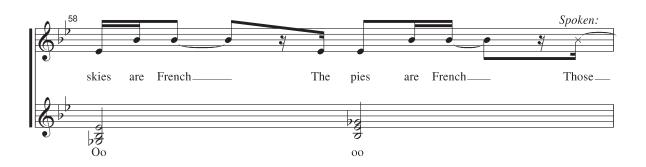
#10 - Here I Am

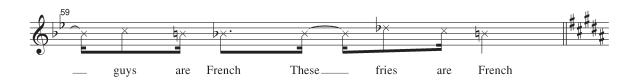




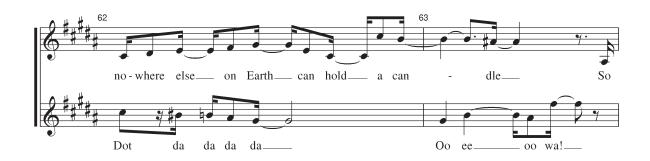






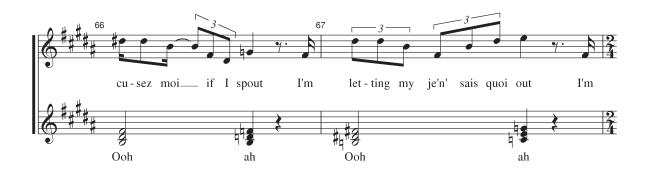


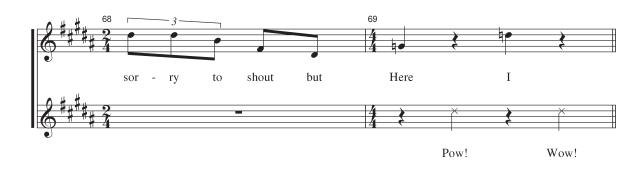


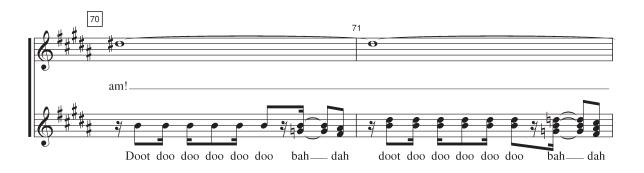


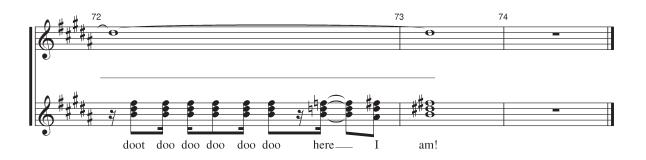


*Composer's note: I know it's not strictly correct, but please pronounce "Vici" as "VeeCee" so that it goes nicely with "Ici". Chalk it up to her exuberant innocence.









10a

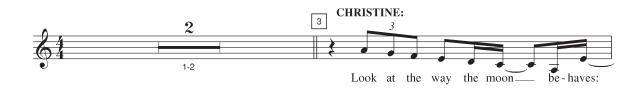
CASINO/TERRACE

THEY'RE DANCING

10b

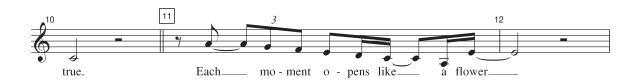
Christine, Freddy

NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE (Part 1)













#11-Nothing Is Too Wonderful To Be True (Part 1)



#11-Nothing Is Too Wonderful To Be True (Part 1)





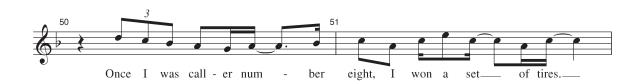




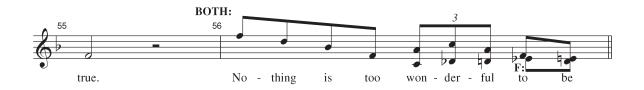




#11-Nothing Is Too Wonderful To Be True (Part 1)



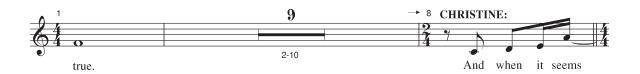




Christine, Freddy

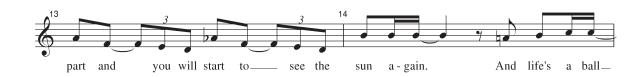
NOTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE (Part 2)

11a









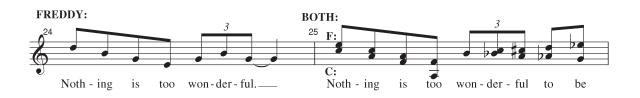




#11a-Nothing Is Too Wonderful To Be True (Part 2)



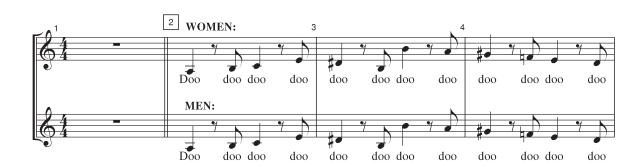


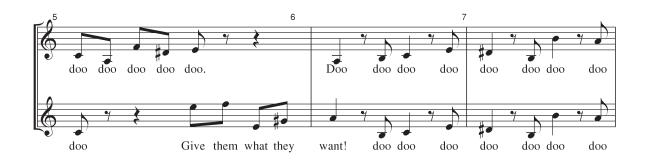


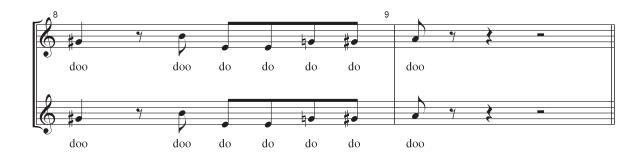


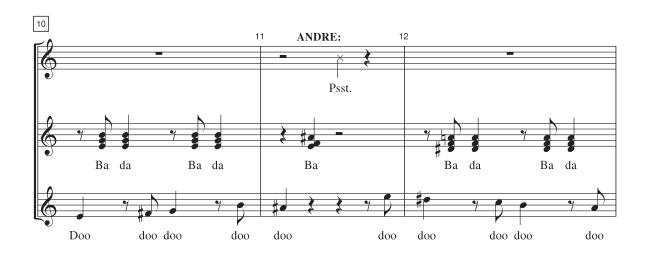
Andre, Ensemble

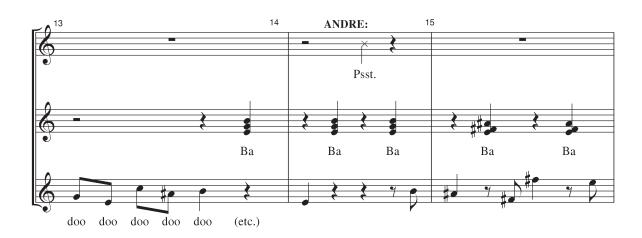
FINALE ACT I

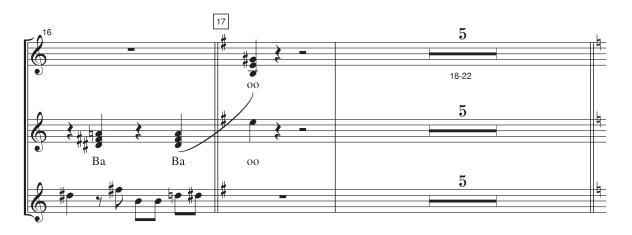




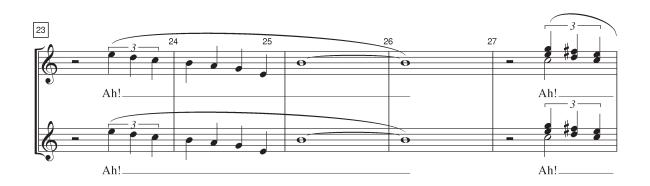


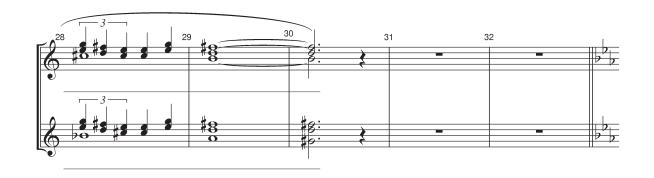


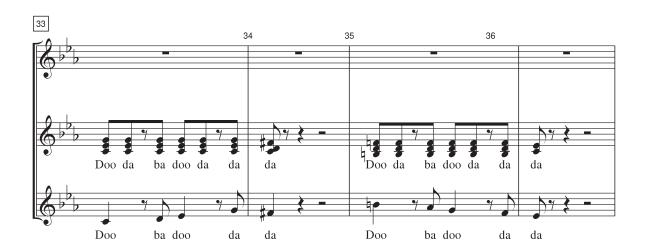




#12 - Finale Act 1







#12 - Finale Act 1



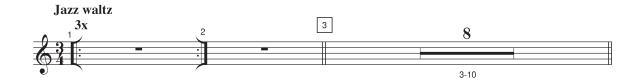


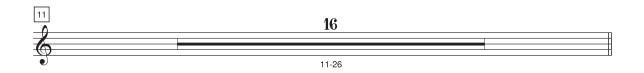


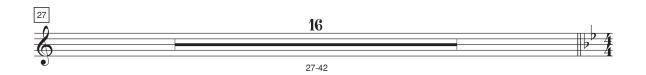
#12 - Finale Act 1

Ensemble

ENTR'ACTE / OPENING ACT II

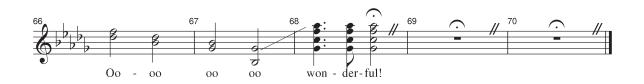








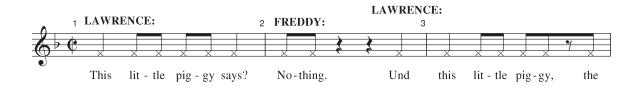




#13 - Entr'acte / Opening Act II

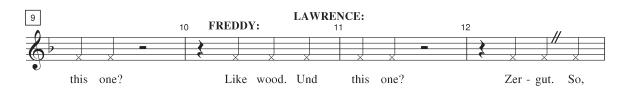
Lawrence, Freddy, Christine

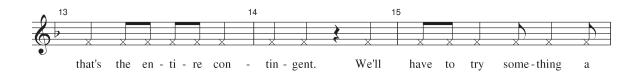
RUFF HOUSIN' MIT SHUFFHAUSEN













#14 - Ruffhousin' With Shüffhausen









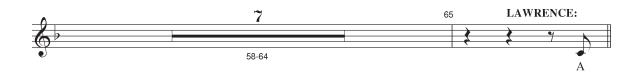






#14 – Ruffhousin' With Shüffhausen













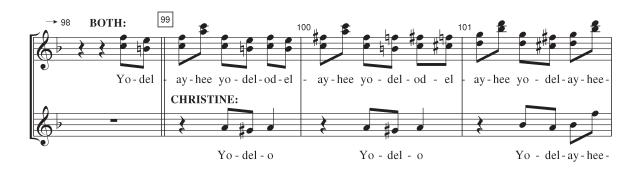


#14 - Ruffhousin' With Shüffhausen



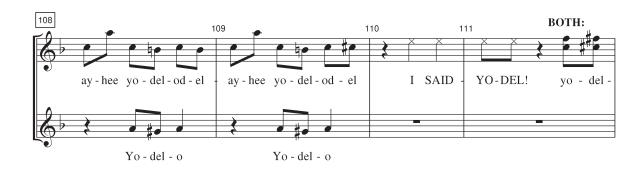


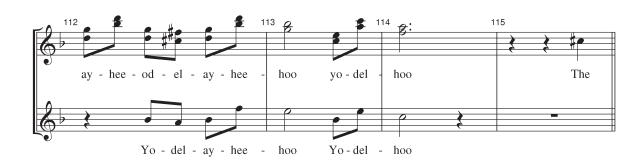






#14 - Ruffhousin' With Shüffhausen











#14 - Ruffhousin' With Shüffhausen

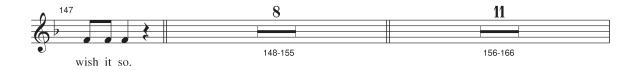




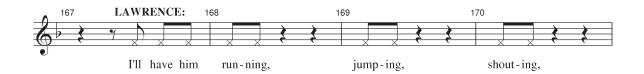


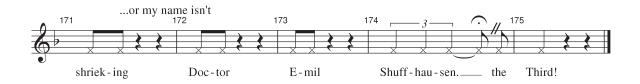






#14 - Ruffhousin' With Shüffhausen

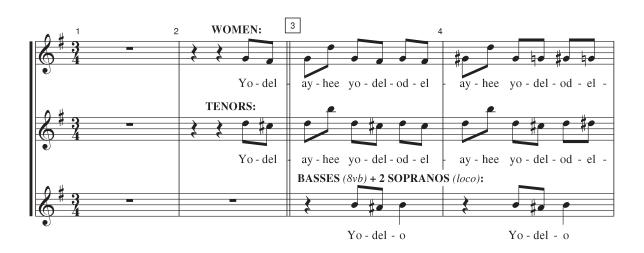


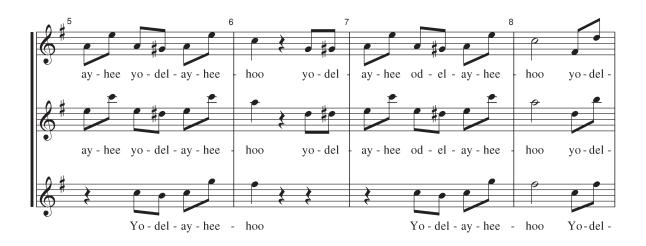


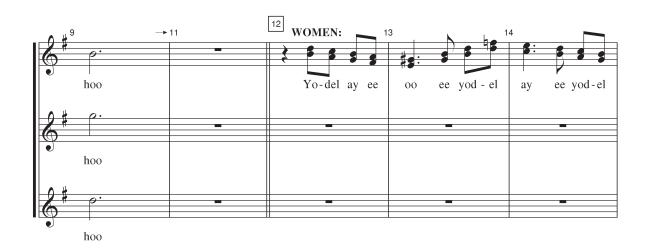
Ensemble

HOTEL YODEL

14a



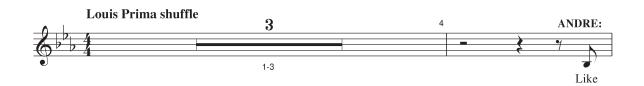


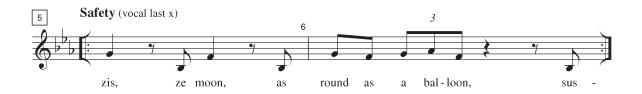




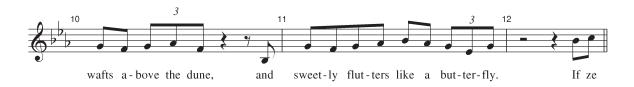
Andre, Muriel

LIKE ZIS, LIKE ZAT

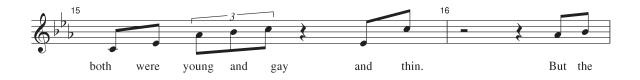








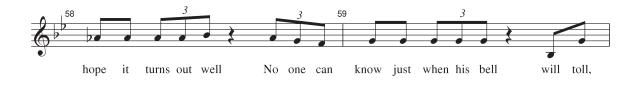




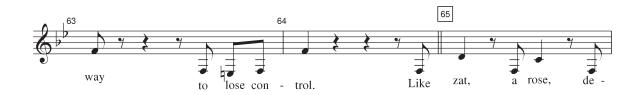
#15 – Like Zis, Like Zat



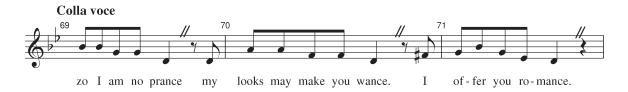
#15 - Like Zis, Like Zat









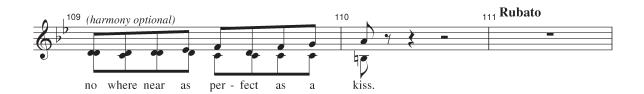






#15 - Like Zis, Like Zat









15a

LIKE ZIS PLAYOFF

STAIRCASE

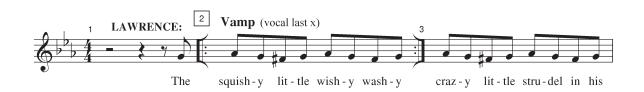
15b

15c

MUSIC BOX

Lawrence

THE MORE WE DANCE (Part 1)





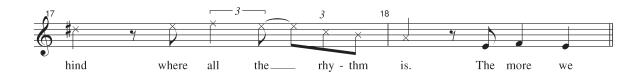








#16-The More We Dance (Part 1)







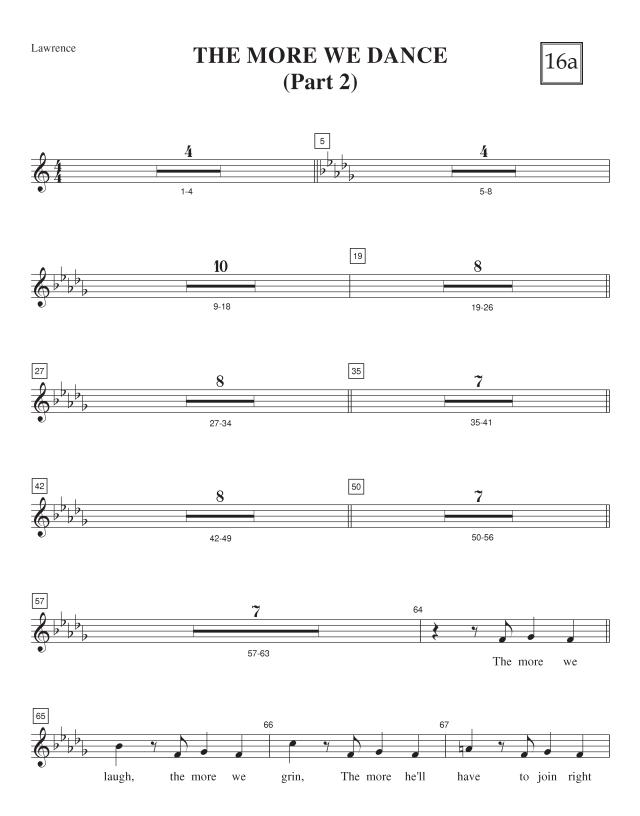








#16-The More We Dance (Part 1)



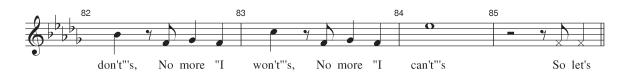
#16a-The More We Dance (Part 2)











Segue as one to Part 3

#16a-The More We Dance (Part 2)

Lawrence, Christine, Ensemble

THE MORE WE DANCE (Part 3)

16b

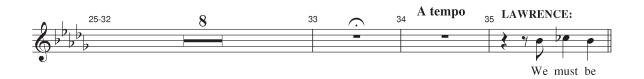




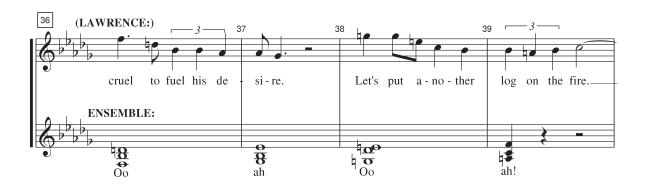


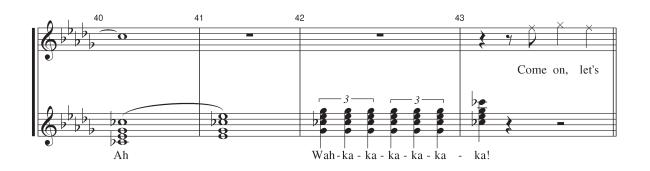


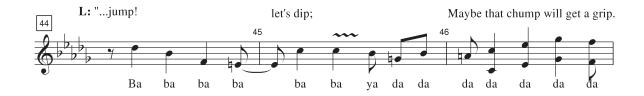




#16b-The More We Dance (Part 3)



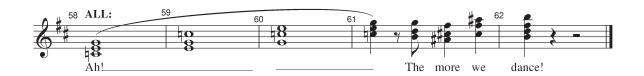








#16b-The More We Dance (Part 3)



16d

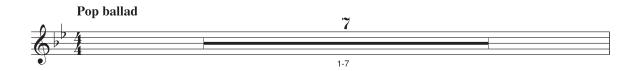
THE SOAP QUEEN

LOSER LEAVES TOWN

16e

Freddy, Christine, Ensemble

LOVE IS MY LEGS







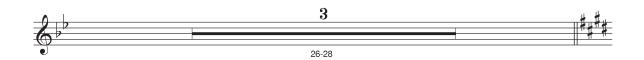






#17-Love Is My Legs

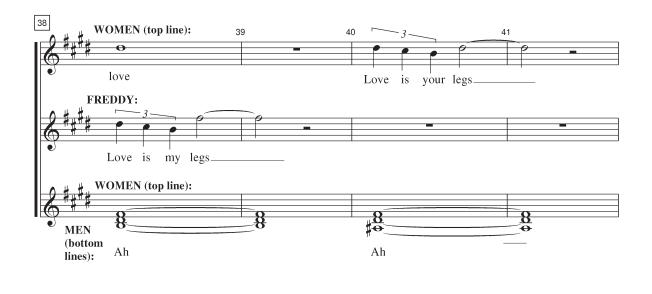


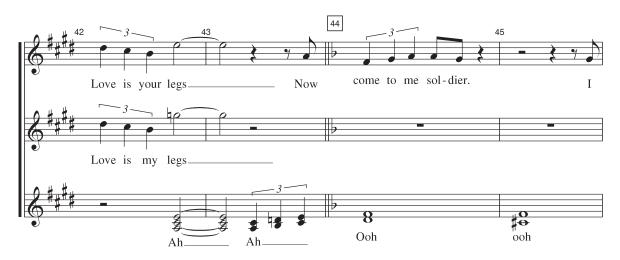


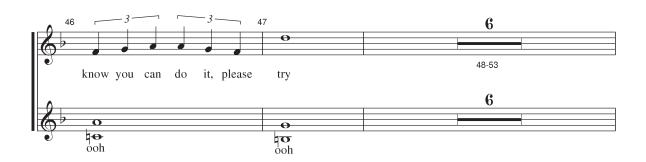




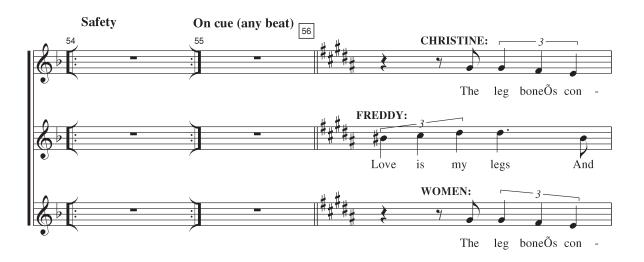


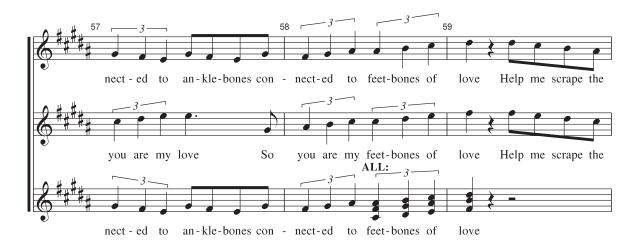


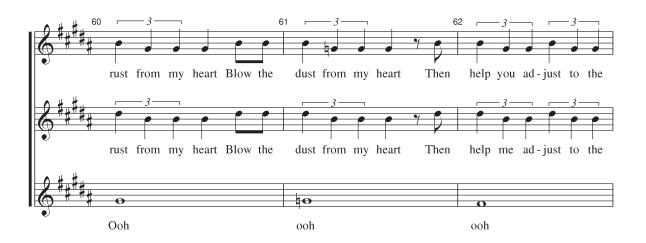


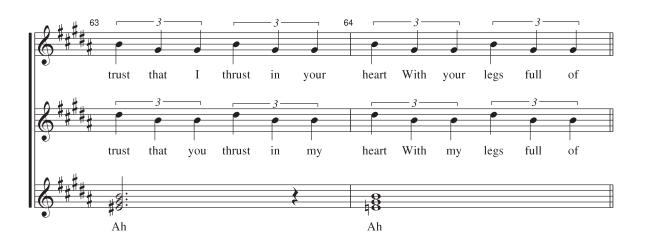


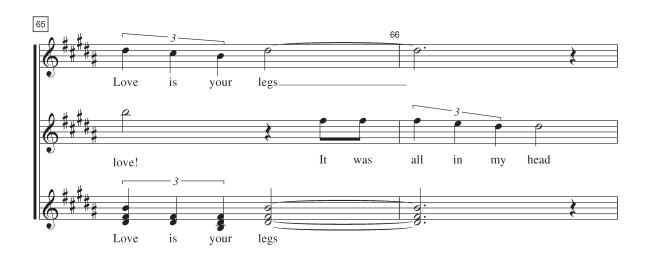
#17-Love Is My Legs

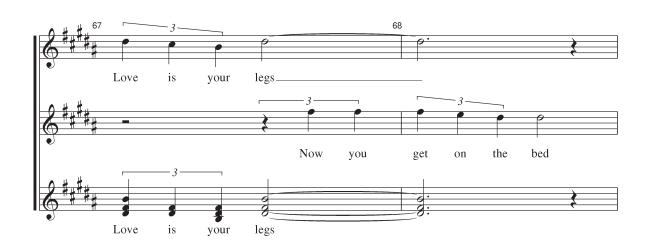


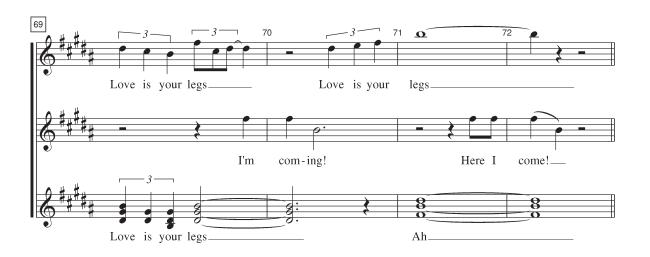


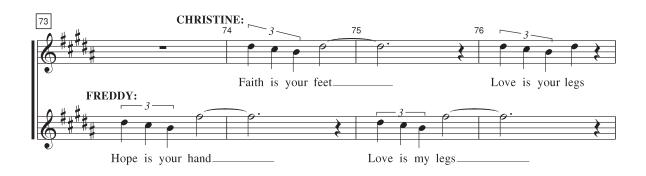


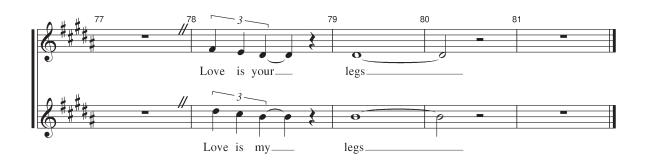












#17-Love Is My Legs

AFTER LEGS/FREDDY'S ABDUCTION

17a

Lawrence

LOVE SNEAKS IN





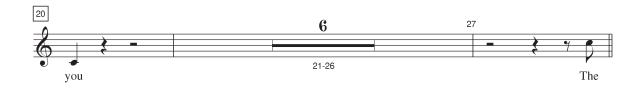






















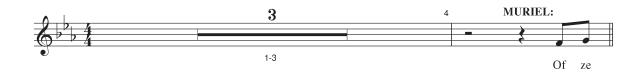


LOVE SNEAKS IN PLAYOFF

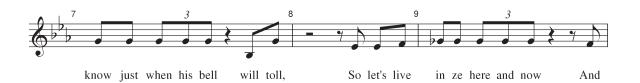
18a

Muriel

LIKE ZIS/LIKE ZAT (Reprise)













#19-Like Zis, Like Zat (Reprise)

Freddy, Christine, Ensemble

SON OF GREAT BIG STUFF

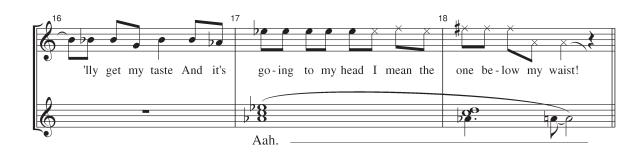








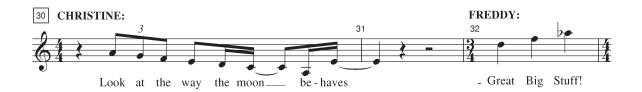


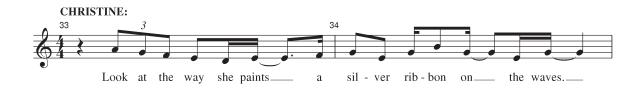












#20 - Son of Great Big Stuff





OW!

20a

Lawrence, Freddy, Andre

THE RECKONING







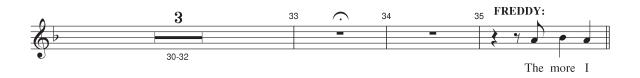


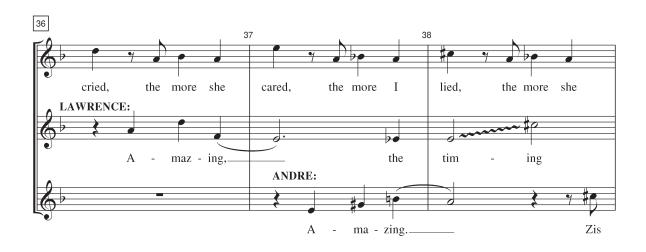


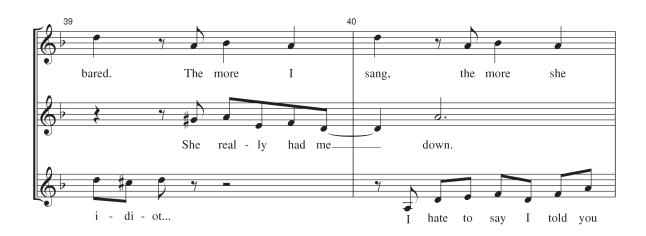


#21 – The Reckoning



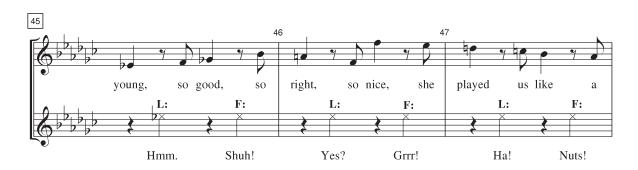


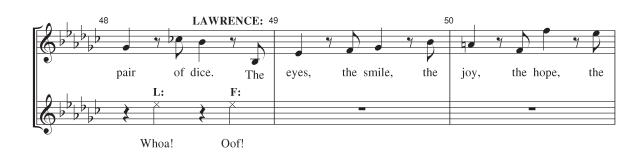




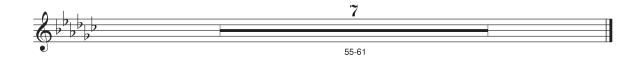
#21 – The Reckoning











21a

AIRPORT

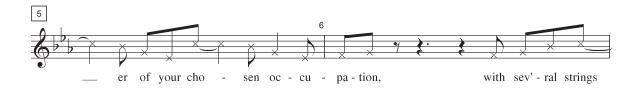
MURIEL/ANDRE EXIT

21b

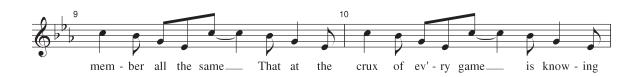
Lawrence, Freddy

DIRTY ROTTEN













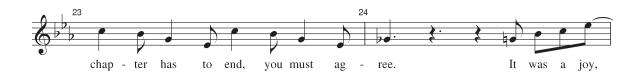
#22 - Dirty Rotten







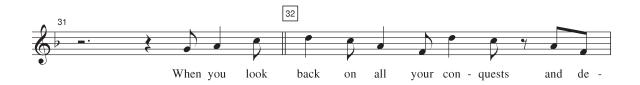




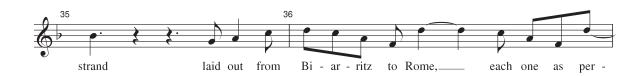




#22 - Dirty Rotten



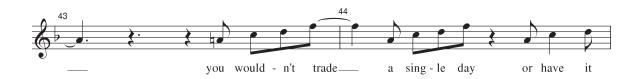






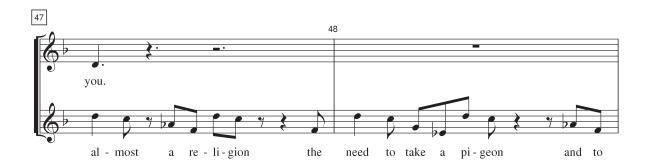






#22 - Dirty Rotten







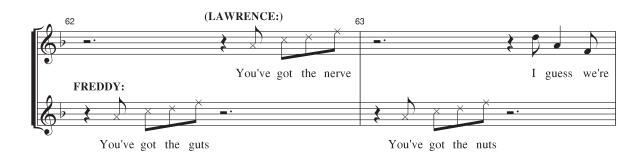


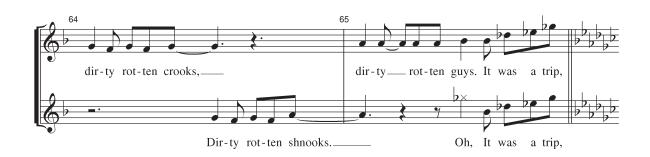




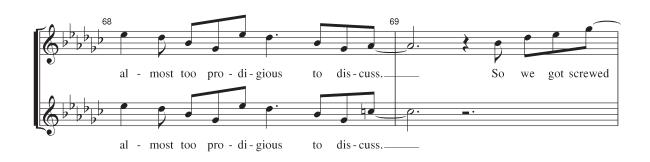


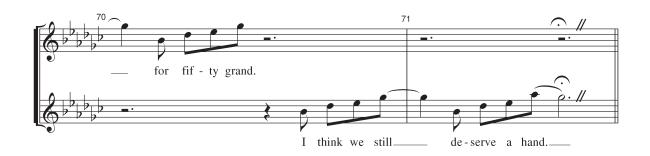


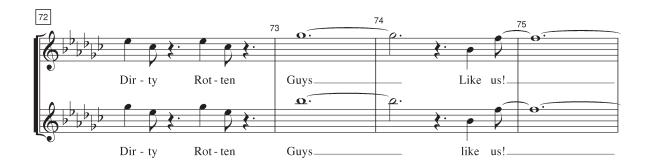


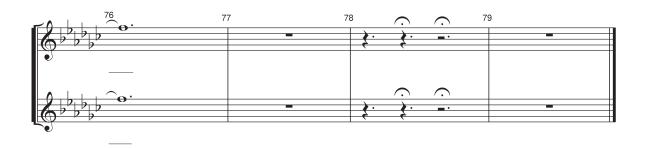












Lawrence, Christine, Freddy

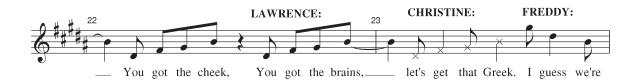
FINALE

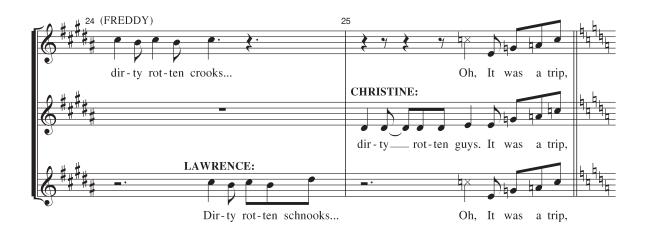




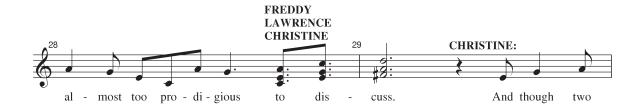




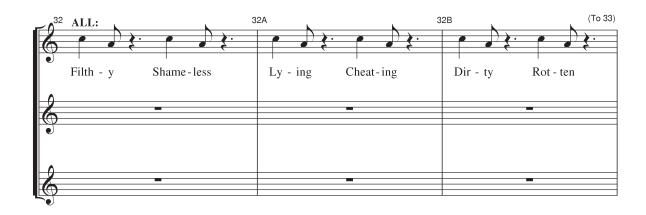


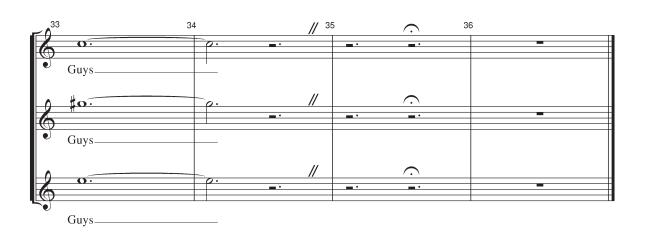












#23 - Finale

24

BOWS/EXIT MUSIC