

GREAT WALL

7-31-2015 Draft

Aug 31, 2015

Music & Lyrics: Kevin So

Book: Kevin Merritt

Creative Consultant: David Henry Hwang

CHARACTERS

in order of appearance

Kevin: Male (late 20's) Asian American

Victor: Male (early-mid 20's) Asian American

Stanley: Male (mid 50's) Asian American

Grace: Female (mid 50's) Asian American

Henry: Male (late 20's) Asian American or Mixed Race

Michelle: Female (late 20's) Asian American or Mixed Race

Record Execs & Ensemble: mixed ages, genders and ethnicities

***Ensemble size can vary based on the production.*

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ACT I

(On a dark stage there is a television, circa early 1990's, with dated concert and fan footage. A "god-like" voice over is heard.)

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

He had a rise to fame that defined a silk road to musical stardom. This tale of incredible talent and persistence stands as an iconic symbol of the American Dream, The Asian SensAsian, serving up a flavorful stir fry of unique hits, uniting the sweet taste of success with the sour notes of disappointment. This is the story...behind the Woo...

[SONG - AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN]

TV AWARD SHOW ANNOUCER

Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce to you, Victor Woo, The Average Asian American!

(In a sudden MTV-like "reveal", Victor enters center stage through a cloud of fog pierced by bright, concert style stage lights. There's a team of dancers and back up singers performing with him as if part of a modern MTV VMA's performance. Victor is relishing in his superstar role.)

VICTOR

IN SPITE OF WHAT YOU HEARD, NO MATTER WHAT I'M PAID
I'M STILL THE HIGH SCHOOL NERD WHO CAN'T GET LAID
THOUGH I EAT BEAN CURD AND I WEAR MY JADE
YOU CAN REST ASSURED I'M AMERICAN MADE!

ALL

AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

VICTOR

THIS AIN'T NO PLACE FOR A BROTHER LIKE ME
CAN'T LIVE UP TO WHAT THEY'RE CALLING
THE MODEL MINORITY
I GREW UP ASHAMED OF MY CULTURE YOU SEE
I WISH I WAS THE MARLBORO MAN
BUT I GUESS IT'LL NEVER BE
DON'T KNOW KUNG FU, I AIN'T RELATED TO BRUCE LEE
DON'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT FENG SHUI OR TAI CHI
PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME

RECORD EXEC 1

Where are you really from?

VICTOR

SOME EVEN GOTTS THE NERVE TO SAY

RECORD EXEC 2

"Ching cho chom"

ALL

AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

VICTOR

THIS AIN'T NO PLACE FOR A BROTHER LIKE ME
CAN'T LIVE UP TO WHAT THEY'RE CALLING
THE MODEL MINORITY

ALL

MODEL MINORITY

VICTOR

I GREW UP ASHAMED OF MY CULTURE, YOU SEE
I WISH I WAS THE MARLBORO MAN
BUT I GUESS IT'LL NEVER BE

(Stanley, Grace, Michelle & Henry
appear on the side, not fully part of
the scene.)

ALL

LOOK UP IN THE SKY !

HENRY

It's a bird!

MICHELLE

It's a plane!

ALL

IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

HENRY

DIDN'T THINK HE COULD FLY!

MICHELLE

WELL HE MUST BE INSANE!

ALL

IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

STANLEY

I thought you'd have a real job.

GRACE

I thought you'd want a career.

ALL

IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

STANLEY

Like an accountant,

GRACE

a doctor,

STANLEY & GRACE

computer engineer

ALL

AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

(Dance break.)

(Underscoring/Vamp to Average Asian American.)

(Light ups on four record execs. They are speaking out to the audience. Their lines are paced with a sense of urgency.)

RECORD EXEC 2

You're obviously different you know.

RECORD EXEC 3

Different "niche" market.

RECORD EXEC 4

You see, our record label is all about creating and avoiding the niche.

RECORD EXEC 2

Hey, I'll be honest- I'm not sure what "niche" means, but with young kids these days and free downloading...

RECORD EXEC 3

We have to be wise about our "niches." I mean, if we get too deep in a niche we may never get out!

RECORD EXEC 1

Our parent company is Japanese, but it seems like all your songs are in English. Do you speak Japanese?

RECORD EXEC 4

I think he's Chinese.

RECORD EXEC 2

Ah. Chinese! I love good Chinese food.

RECORD EXEC 1

That's interesting. So if you know Chinese, Japanese
can't be too hard to learn. I imagine it's just
learning a couple new words here and there.

(Beat. Then song continues.)

VICTOR
 YOU WON'T SEE MY FACE ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN
 UNLESS I GOT A BOWL CUT AND GLASSES AND
 I'M STANDING BY A LAUNDRY MACHINE
 IT'S TIME WE SAW AN ASIAN MALE ON MTV
 NOT A KUNG FU FIGHTER BUT A SINGER SONGWRITER
 LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM!

ALL
 CALL THE FBI! CALL THE CIA!

VICTOR
 IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

RECORD EXEC 1
 KEEP AN EYE ON THAT GUY! HE'S COMING THIS WAY!

ALL
 IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

RECORD EXEC 2
 HE'S CHANGING THE WORLD!

RECORD EXEC 3
 HE'S SMART!

RECORD EXEC 4
 AND HE'S QUICK!

ALL
 IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

RECORD EXEC 1
 And according to this black girl he's gotta big...

ALL
 IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

VICTOR
 Honda Civic

(Our perspective slowly spins around
 and the audience sees the dancers and
 Victors as if they are backstage
 looking out to the huge crowd. Victor
 & dancers are projected on the

screens.)

ALL

AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN

IT'S THE AVERAGE ASIAN AMERICAN!

(On his final line, Victor does a stage
dive upstairs into the "crowd". There
is a classic award show "explosion"
with a blinding flash of light & smoke.
Victor and the dancers are gone from
stage. A beam of light highlights a
samll bed with Kevin asleep. A phone
is ringing loudly.)

(Kevin suddenly awakens from his dream.)

KEVIN

Hello? Mom?

GRACE

Come over right now. Baba died.

(Silence. Faint dial-tone in the background for effect. Kevin is frozen. He doesn't notice Victor.)

(Kevin exits. Victor remains on stage as a "Super 8" projection of Kevin as a young boy with his parents is projected on the wall.)

(Scene changes around Kevin so we are now in his family's restaurant, Great Wall. It is a clean, but modest place in Boston's Chinatown. Grace, Kevin's mother is enters from the kitchen. She turns to see Kevin and they pause for a moment without saying anything. Grace is stoic & detached.)

KEVIN

Hey mom.

GRACE

(Avoiding the obvious.)

I made some soup if you want soup.

KEVIN

No thanks.

(Kevin pauses, then gives his mother a modest "Chinese" hug. Grace exits.)

VICTOR

So what now?

KEVIN

What are you doing here?

VICTOR

Ask yourself. You created me.

KEVIN

Exactly. You're not real.

VICTOR

Not yet.

KEVIN

Not ever. You were a fantasy.

VICTOR

A very good looking fantasy I might add.

(Beat)

You brought me back.

KEVIN

Get outta my head.

VICTOR

We have another chance. What are you waiting for?

KEVIN

My father just died.

VICTOR

Life is short.

(Beat)

You are working at a Chinese restaurant. You should be a star.

(Beat)

What happned to you?

(Beat)

(The silence is broken by the ensemble entering the restaurant as guests at Stanley's wake. There is a small altar for Stanley.)

(Underscoring to Leaving the Lights On begins.)

[SONG - LEAVING THE LIGHTS ON]

(Kevin addresses the group as Victor observes.)

KEVIN

Thank you all for coming. Looking around I realize that I know what each and every one of you orders. The restaurant meant everything to him. To us all. And it will continue to be his legacy.

KEVIN

(Colla Voce.)

MY DAD IS NOW GONE, BUT LIFE MUST GO ON.
WE'LL BE ALRIGHT AS LONG AS WE HAVE EACH OTHER.
HE HAD A WONDERFUL LIFE.
LOTS OF FRIENDS, A BEAUTIFUL WIFE.
AND ONCE AGAIN HE'S TAUGHT ME TO BE STRONGER.
OH HE'S ALRIGHT, YES HE'S ALRIGHT.

KEVIN & ENSEMBLE

AND WE ALL GET BY SOMEHOW.

KEVIN

IT WAS A LONG NIGHT

ENSEMBLE

BUT HE'S ALRIGHT.

KEVIN & ENSEMBLE

YES HE'S ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT NOW.

(Underscoring continues.)

(Henry approaches Kevin.)

HENRY

That was a nice service.

KEVIN

Henry.

(Pausing, not sure how he feels about seeing him. Underscoring fades out.)

HENRY

I had to come. Stanley was more of a father to me than my own.

KEVIN

I know.

HENRY

I can't believe we live in the same town and never see each other.

KEVIN

Life.

HENRY

It's been a while. We should catch up. I'll come by.

KEVIN

Sure. Anytime.

(Awkward silence.)

How's the life of a lawyer?

HENRY

Not too exciting.

KEVIN

You get paid.

HENRY

I do.

(Awkward silence.)

How's "Victor Woo?"

KEVIN

(Kevin can't help but smile for a quick moment.)

We lost touch.

VICTOR

Lost touch?! You killed me off.

HENRY

That's too bad.

(Pause)

Was was thinking about it recently. Remember the album covers we created. That one where the "W" had wings on it.

VICTOR

That was epic.

KEVIN

Yeah. Very "Journey". That was a long time ago.

HENRY

Not really.

(Grace enters.)

GRACE

Look at you two. Like brothers.

(To Henry)

You're so grown up! So successful.

(Michelle enters from among the guests.)

MICHELLE

Right? Who would have guessed that Henry would dress in a suit and tie.

HENRY

(Surprised to see her.)

Michelle!

MICHELLE

Not exactly the perfect student.

VICTOR

(To Kevin)

She looks way hotter than in high school!

HENRY

(Joking with Kevin.)

Yeah, we switched.

KEVIN

Switched?

HENRY

I mean like, how did I end up at Harvard? I was the rebel. You, were the straight A student.

GRACE

How things change.

VICTOR

(To Kevin)

Don't let her get to you.

HENRY

(To Michelle)

And look who's back in Boston. It's been a while.

GRACE

You look beautiful.

MICHELLE

So do you.

GRACE

(Joking with them.)

You three behave yourself. No late parties.

(To Kevin)

We open again tomorrow.

KEVIN

Of course.

MICHELLE

Don't worry, I head back to the city on the bus soon.

GRACE

Great to see you.

MICHELLE

You too. And I'm so sorry.

(Grace exits. Michelle turns to Kevin.)

You doing ok?

KEVIN

Getting by. Working here.

MICHELLE

You still playing music?

KEVIN

Of course.

VICTOR

Liar.

KEVIN

It's just hard to squeeze everything in.

MICHELLE

I'd love to listen to some of your stuff.

KEVIN

What exactly do you do?

HENRY

She's a "big wig" now at Universal Music.

MICHELLE

"I work with young dreamers and help them become stars." That's the glamorous job description.

HENRY

She'll make you famous.

MICHELLE

I don't work with friends. Too tricky.

KEVIN

We aren't friends. I haven't seen you in years.

MICHELLE

(Amused by this.)

I'll make you a deal. When you play in NY I'll bring some folks... But only if I "like your sound kid".

HENRY

Tough executive talk.

MICHELLE

You gotta play the part or no one takes you seriously.

(Underscore to Blink of and Eye starts.)

HENRY

Do you remember when we were kids? Taking our guitars
to Boston Common. Outta school. Didn't have to go
home yet. Kind of miss those days.

[SONG - BLINK OF AN EYE]

HENRY

6 O'CLOCK TIME TO GO DOWNTOWN
THAT'S WHERE ALL THE COOL KIDS ARE HANGIN' OUT
WHERE NOBODY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF PERSON I AM
WHETHER I'M AN IMMIGRANT OR WHETHER I'M AMERICAN

BOYLSTON STATION I TIP MY HAT REAL LOW
TO THE ARCADE PAST THE COMBAT ZONE
WITH MY HEADPHONES ON I TURN THE MUSIC UP LOUD
KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT, BLEND IN WITH THE CROWD

MICHELLE

I NEVER FIT IN AT SCHOOL NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED
BUT I CAN BE WHATEVER I PLEASE SOON AS I STEP OUTSIDE

KEVIN

Feels like it's been forever.

MICHELLE

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

KEVIN

Last time I saw you, you had tube socks.

MICHELLE

So did you.

KEVIN

OO, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

HENRY

And now you're "big time" in N.Y.C.

KEVIN

Ooh... swanky.

MICHELLE

GET MY PIECE OF THE PIE
(Spoken)
Don't worry. I am still a geek.

MICHELLE

UP THE FLIGHT OF STAIRS I JOIN MY THEATER GROUP
THERE'S ALLA, RANDI, AND A WHITE GIRL, TOO

HENRY
SPINNING ON THEIR HEADS ON THE HARD WOOD FLOOR

MICHELLE
I USED TO BE SHY

KEVIN & HENRY
[YOU] AIN'T SHY NO MORE

KEVIN
SO I ROLL UP MY SLEEVES PUT DOWN MY DUFFLE BAG JOIN
THE OTHER THREE IN A FRIENDLY GAME OF TAG

HENRY
START TWISTING ON MY BACK MY BRAIN ALL DIZZY I CAN
HEAR RANDI YELLING,

KEVIN & MICHELLE
"GO HENRY GET BUSY"

KEVIN, HENRY, MICHELLE
I LOVE A SITUATION WHERE NO RULES APPLY
LIFE'S TOO SHORT TO NOT TAKE CHANCES,

KEVIN, HENRY, MICHELLE &
VICTOR
GONNA LIVE BEFORE I DIE.

HENRY
It's the old gang back together again.

KEVIN
I'm impressed, we can still groove.

VICTOR
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

HENRY
Now we just need ourselves a little Victor Woo!

MICHELLE
Oh shit! I totally remember that.

VICTOR
OO, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

MICHELLE
He was like your imaginary friend, right?

KEVIN

He was more than that.

HENRY

He was like the next Prince!

VICTOR

GET MY PIECE OF THE PIE

MICHELLE

Oh, I know. You guys were kind of obsessed with him.

VICTOR

OO, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

HENRY & KEVIN

GO VICTOR GET BUSY

GO VICTOR GET BUSY

VICTOR

OO, GET MY PIECE OF THE PIE

HENRY, KEVIN & MICHELLE

GO VICTOR GET BUSY

GO GO

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

[SONG - UPSTAIRS]

KEVIN

UPSTAIRS IS WHERE INTO MY ROOM MY DAD [WOULD] CREEP.
[HE'D] SIT ON THE BED. [HE'D] STROKE MY HEAD.
YEAH HE THINKS THAT I'M ASLEEP.

UPSTAIRS IS WHERE NO ONE CAN HEAR ME CRY.
SHED A TEARDROP ON MY ROOFTOP.
TELL MY TROUBLES TO THE SKY.

(Victor enters, singing to Kevin.)

VICTOR

UPSTAIRS IS WHERE, THE FANTASY BEGINS.
I CAN HEAR THE CROWD, GIRLS SCREAMING LOUD.
WHEN I DO MY DOUBLE SPINS

UPSTAIRS IS WHERE I CAN WAIL ON MY GUITAR.
I'M A SINGER SONGWRITER, NOT SOME KUNG FU FIGHTER.
I'M A CHINESE SUPERSTAR

(Victor reaches up to a shelf in the
closet and pulls out an old shoe box.
He hands the box to Kevin.)

VICTOR

Open it.

(Kevin opens the box and finds a pile of old cassette tapes. He removes one. The tape has been pulled out of the cassette and it is slightly tangled.)

KEVIN

Cassette tapes. Relics of ancient history.

(He uses a pencil to untangle and take up the slack on the cassette. He puts the tape in his old stereo and presses play.)

KEVIN ON TAPE

(Prerecorded. Playing from the tape.)

Hey, this is your man Woo, playing the tunes for you. The beats on the streets.

(Drums sounds from a Casiotone keyboard are heard on the tape.)

(Overtaken by emotion, Kevin stops the tape. Music stops.)

VICTOR

Why stop?

(Pause)

Be something.

(Kevin looks down and the tape recorder and decides to press play again.)

STANLEY ON TAPE

(Prerecorded. Playing from the tape.)

Wake up! Time for school.

(Intro to New Day Begun begins.)

KEVIN ON TAPE

(Prerecorded. Bad Wolfman Jack impression.)

Well, gotta go folks. Wolfman Woo signing off here in Boston. Enjoy this little groove for the road...

(Howl)

(Stanley enters in flashback.)

STANLEY

Wake up! Time for school.

[SONG - NEW DAY BEGUN]

STANLEY

WAKE UP SON THE DAY'S BEGUN
FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF SCHOOL
YOU'RE TWELVE AND A HALF, I CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH.
I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS LIKE YOU.

GET UP GET DRESSED YOU'VE HAD YOUR REST.

GRACE

(Yelling upstairs.)

It's seven forty-nine!

STANLEY

WE CAN'T BE LATE. YOUR MOM'LL HATE ME
IF I DON'T GET YOU THERE ON TIME.

WAKE UP SON THE DAY'S BEGUN
COME ON COME ON COME ON A NEW DAY BEGUN
YEAH WAKE UP SON THE DAY'S BEGUN

GRACE

Come on. Come on. Stanley, you are late!

STANLEY

WE'LL TAKE THE CAR IT'S NOT TOO FAR,
TWENTY MINUTES DURING RUSH HOUR.
WE CAN STOP AND EAT. GET SOME GOOD STUFF CHEAP.
WE CAN SPLIT A GAY MAY BOW.
BUT WE CAN'T STAY LONG WE GOTTA MOVE ON
THE FIRST DAY IS ALWAYS WEIRD
THERE'LL BE LOTS OF KIDS AND YEAH I KNOW HOW IT IS
I JUST WANT YOU TO BE PREPARED.

WAKE UP SON THE DAY'S BEGUN
COME ON COME ON COME ON A NEW DAY BEGUN
YEAH WAKE UP SON THE DAY'S BEGUN
COME ON COME ON COME ON A NEW DAY BEGUN

AFTER I DROP YOU OFF TELL THEM THE FAULT WAS MINE.

GRACE

(parlando)

Tell them he got lost that he barely know how to drive.

STANLEY

IF THEY GIVE YOU HELL IF THEY KEEP YOU AFTER SCHOOL
HAVE THEM GIVE ME A CALL AND EVERYTHING WILL BE COOL.

IT'S ALL RIGHT DID YOU STAY UP ALL NIGHT?
WERE YOU PICKING OUT CLOTHES TO WEAR?
PUTTING NEW LACES ON YOUR OLD ADIDAS?
YEAH, YOU DO THIS EVERY YEAR
BUT YOU NEED YOUR SLEEP SO NEXT DAY YOU'LL BE
WIDE AWAKE AND FEEL THE MORNING BREEZE
WHEN I WAS TWELVE LIKE YOU I HAD TO QUIT SCHOOL.
HAD TO WORK FOR MY FAMILY.

STANLEY (& ENS?)

WAKE UP SON THE DAY'S BEGUN
COME ON COME ON COME ON A NEW DAY BEGUN
YEAH WAKE UP SON THE DAY'S BEGUN
AW COME ON COME ON COME ON A NEW DAY BEGUN
I SAID COME ON COME ON COME ON A NEW DAY BEGUN

(Segue to Henry vamp.)

(Kevin & Henry are on a school bus and sitting next to each other barely acknowledging one another. Henry has a guarded "roughness" and cynicism about him.)

KEVIN

(Looks at Henry and tries to make conversation.)

I like your Adidas.

HENRY

(says nothing)

KEVIN

I tried to get new ones this year, but my dad said that my feet are growing too fast it doesn't make sense to buy a new pair...otherwise I would have gotten them.

(Henry looks at Kevin's shoes, says nothing.)

I am going to get new ones...probably next week...

HENRY

(says nothing)

KEVIN

(pointing at his Larry Bird lunchbox)

Nice lunch box. Larry Bird. He's cool.

HENRY

(says nothing)

KEVIN

I've never seen him play. I can't watch TV until I finish homework...and violin practice.

(Says this for shock value.)

~~I think~~ I'll be the first Chinese point guard.

HENRY

(looks at him like he is crazy)

Where? In China?

KEVIN

~~For the Celtics!~~ I'm gonna be famous.

HENRY
Like Bruce Lee or something?

KEVIN
"You have offended my family..."

(they both laugh)

HENRY
A movie star?

KEVIN
A rock star with a ton of girls screaming for me.

HENRY
A Chinese rock star?

KEVIN
I'll let you play in my band.

(Henry cracks a reluctant smile)

[SONG – HENRY]

KEVIN

I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL BE FRIENDS FOREVER,
 YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING ?
 I FEEL NO TENSION AS WE SIT TOGETHER,
 IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN
 YOU'RE INTO ALL THAT JUNK. I'M JUST A JEALOUS MONK
 AS WE BOTH DREAM ABOUT FAME.
 WHO KNOWS WHICH ONE OF US WILL TURN OUT BETTER

KEVIN

So what's your name?

HENRY

My name's
 HENRY.

KEVIN

SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST DAY I'M NERVOUS, HOW ABOUT
 YOU?

HENRY

(parlando)

It's just another frickin' day on a school bus.
 You'll make it through

KEVIN

HOPE NO ONE PICKS ON ME, I'VE NEVER HAD A B
 I'VE NEVER BEEN IN FIGHTS, TOO
 YOU REMIND ME OF MY FIRST GRADE BUDDY MARCUS
 A BLACK KID MY FOLKS NEVER KNEW

HENRY

I'm sorry man, what'cha gonna do?

KEVIN

IF WE GO STRAIGHT HOME AND FINISH UP OUR HOMEWORK
 WE CAN PULL OUT THE GUITARS AND JAM
 MAYBE THAT'S NOT THE WAY THAT YOU WERE BROUGHT UP
 BUT HENRY HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.

(Time has passed. Young Kevin and Young
 Henry have quickly become close
 friends. They take their time walking
 home from school instead of taking the
 bus.)

HENRY

I HOPE THAT ONE DAY YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO DRIBBLE,
I'LL LEARN HOW TO PASS

KEVIN

I'LL BAIL YOU OUT WHENEVER YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.
We're gonna kick some ass!

HENRY

WE'LL MAKE A KILLER TEAM, YOU GIVE-AND-GO AND I'LL
SCREEN

KEVIN

WE'LL PICK-AND-ROLL LIKE THE CELTICS DO

HENRY & KEVIN

WE ARE A LITTLE BIT LIKE BIRD AND MCHALE

HENRY

Like they say, "it's always two."

KEVIN

Yeah that's me and you.

HENRY

WE CAN STAY INSIDE AND LISTEN TO THE BEATLES
I'LL BE PAUL AND YOU BE JOHN

KEVIN

OR WE CAN GO OUTSIDE LOOK AT ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE
A SLICE OF PIZZA AND SOME

KEVIN & HENRY

DONKEY KONG!

HENRY

I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL BE FRIENDS FOREVER, CALL IT A
HUNCH

KEVIN & HENRY

THE KIND OF FRIENDSHIP THAT NO ONE CAN SEVER

KEVIN & HENRY

JUST THE TWO OF US

KEVIN

IT DOESN'T MATTER MUCH BUT I'VE GOT MY CALCULATOR
WATCH

I'M ALWAYS CONSCIOUS OF THE TIME
THERE IS A REASON WHY WE'RE SITTING TOGETHER,
I think it's a sign.

HENRY

Whatever.

KEVIN

HENRY

KEVIN & HENRY

YEAH

(Henry and Kevin exchange a handshake.
Henry exits and Kevin enters Great
Wall. He is immediately confronted by
Stanley.)

STANLEY

Where have you been? You were supposed to be here working an hour ago. You think I can run this restaurant by myself? Why do you think I had a son?

KEVIN

Dad, calm down. I was hanging out with Henry.

STANLEY

Henry?

KEVIN

Just thought I could have some fun.

STANLEY

You're a kid. Have fun later.

(Grace enters from the kitchen.)

GRACE

After Harvard.

STANLEY

Grace...(ad lib in Chinese)

KEVIN

I got my report card today.

(Grace & Stanley pause. Grace holds out her hand. Kevin gives it to Grace.)

[SONG — DON'T BLOW IT KID]

GRACE
(looking it over)

Hmm.

(Kevin smiles. Grace glances sharply
at him. Music starts.)

YOU'RE DOING BETTER THAN THAT KID PETER CHOW
HE WAS THE SMARTEST IN THE CLASS TIL NOW
YOU GOT A 97, HE GOT A 94
HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S A' KNOCKIN' ON YOUR DOOR

STANLEY
(impressed)

97 huh? That's not bad.

GRACE
But some kids get 100.
(firmly to Victor.)
PETER'S A GOOD BOY, I SEE HIM EVERY SUNDAY AT CHURCH

STANLEY
Grace... (ad lib again in Chinese)

GRACE
SINGING WITH THE GOSPEL CHOIR,
YEAH HE KNOWS EVERY VERSE.
HE'S A MODEL SON.

STANLEY
THOUGH HE MIGHT BE A LITTLE STIFF

GRACE
HE'S BETTER THAN YOUR FRIEND HENRY
WHOSE MIND TENDS TO DRIFT

KEVIN
Henry and I are going to start a rock band.

(Grace and Stanley look at each other
in disbelief then snap to Kevin.)

GRACE & STANLEY
YOU'RE DOING BETTER THAN THAT KID PETER CHOW
HE WAS THE SMARTEST IN THE CLASS TIL NOW

STANLEY

YOU GOT 5 A+S

GRACE

HE ONLY GOT 4

GRACE & STANLEY

HARVARD—UNIVERSITY'S A' KNOCKIN' ON YOUR DOOR.

KEVIN

I don't want to go to Harvard.

(Underscoring abruptly cuts out like a record player needle scratch. Stanley & Grace stunned as if they have lost their breathe.)

I am gonna be in a band.

(Kevin mocks playing the guitar.)

STANLEY

Like Bruce Lee!

KEVIN

John Lennon. Billy Joel. Have you ever heard of Michael Jackson?

GRACE

Michael Jackson is not Chinese.

KEVIN

I'm not Chinese. I've never been to China. I don't speak your language. I don't have a stupid accent. I am American.

STANLEY

(cutting him off)

You are Chinese! And when we came here FROM CHINA we did not have dreams of being in rock band. We dreamed of finding a job! Any job.

GRACE

(butting in)

Harvard is the best. And you are the best.

STANLEY

Wake up! You're not Elvis Presley, your not Jordan. Take off that basketball costume and help me out.

KEVIN

How do you know I am not the next Larry Bird?

STANLEY

(Thoroughly amused by this.)

Larry Bird! That'll be the day when there is a professional Chinese basketball player!

GRACE

YOU'RE GONNA BE RICH,

STANLEY

YOU'RE GONNA BE SUCCESSFUL

GRACE

MAKE A SIX FIGURE SALARY,

STANLEY

MIGHT BE A LITTLE STRESSFUL

GRACE

(Spoken in time)

You're gonna be loaded! Then you're gonna get married.

STANLEY

(Spoken in time)

Gotta stay focused. Won't struggle like we did.

GRACE

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS

GRACE & STANLEY

KEEP DOING YOUR HOMEWORK AND

DON'T BLOW IT, KID... DON'T BLOW IT, KID...

DON'T BLOW IT, KID... DON'T BLOW IT, KID...

DON'T BLOW IT, KID... DON'T BLOW IT, KID...

~~YOU'RE DOING BETTER THAN THAT KID PETER CHOW~~

~~HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S A' KNOCKIN' ON YOUR DOOR~~

STANLEY

(Not waiting for applause, dialog cuts off song. Fatherly.)

Someday, you will turn to us and say, thank you.

Thank you Baba. Thank you for starting as a dishwasher. Thank you for working hard. Thank you for being Chinese.

(Kevin & Grace exit. Stanley is left
alone onstage.)

(Intro to When I Come home begins. It's later that evening. Stanley is closing up the restaurant and heading home for the night.)

[SONG - WHEN I COME HOME]

STANLEY

WHEN I COME HOME I WILL TAKE OFF MY BLACK SHOES
PUT THE MONEY ON THE TABLE
A COLD APPLE FROM THE FRIDGE
THEN I'LL CHECK UP ON THE KID
I WILL GO UPSTAIRS TO MAKE SURE THAT HE'S ALL RIGHT

WHEN I COME HOME I WILL TURN ON THE TV
BUT BEFORE I WATCH THIS MOVIE
BRUSH MY TEETH AND WASH MY FACE
LOCK THE DOORS ON THIS OLD PLACE
LIKE AN ASTRONAUT PREPARING TO TAKE FLIGHT

I LEAN BACK IN MY CHAIR AND LOOK AROUND
REFLECT UPON THE FORTUNE I HAVE FOUND

WHEN I COME HOME I WILL COUNT THE EVENING'S PAY
'TIL IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SAY GOODNIGHT.

(Stanley leans back in the chair as if to finally fall asleep and immediately Kevin enters from upstairs. He is visibly excited.)

KEVIN

Hey dad.

STANLEY

What are you still doing up?

KEVIN

I finished a new song.

STANLEY

(Pauses, not sure how to react.)

Does it have violins?

KEVIN

Huh?

STANLEY

Good songs have violins. None of that "Yum Yum Tree" stuff.

KEVIN

Yum Yum Tree? What are you talking about?

STANLEY

You know, sitting under the tree going... La, la, la, la, la. Don't make a fool of yourself. If you're gonna sing, sing something people care about.

KEVIN

Like what?

STANLEY

Chinatown.

KEVIN

People care about Chinatown?

STANLEY

I care about Chinatown.

KEVIN

That's one.

STANLEY

Many people love Chinatown. Shark fin soup. I brought some home. Lots of food.

KEVIN

Ah! Good Mahjong night?

STANLEY

Yes. Very good. Mahjong! People in Chinatown can listen to your yum yum songs while they play Mahjong!... I'd listen.

KEVIN & HENRY

(Getting frustrated.)

You and... millions of radio listeners?

STANLEY

Could be a...a... "nee-chee" market.

KEVIN

Be serious!

STANLEY

This is America. Freedom of speech. You write about what you want. Chinatown is America. Bruce Lee sings about Chinatown.

(Grace enters from her room. She has been woken.)

GRACE

What is going on? Why are you both up?

STANLEY

Think's he can be on the radio. Writing "American" songs. Yum Yum Tree.

KEVIN

They're not "Yum Yum Tree".

STANLEY

You don't look American. We have to work on that.

KEVIN

(His frustration has built to anger.)

You've never heard me sing!

(Grace looks at Stanley with hints of surprise and fear, then to Kevin.)

[SONG — CRUSH ON YOU]

(A la Brian McKnight, but tentatively.)

Performed a capella or with minimal
accompaniment.)

BABY I STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU
BABY I THOUGHT I WAS OVER YOU
BABY I STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU
BABY I STILL GET A RUSH
STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU

(Silence. Grace and Stanley are frozen
staring at Kevin as if they don't
recognize him. Finally Grace interrupts
the silence.)

GRACE

(Aside to Stanley)

Ho chi hak gwai.

KEVIN

(Shocked by his mom's comment.)

Huh?

GRACE

You sound like a black girl.

STANLEY

A pretty black girl.

KEVIN

(in disbelief)

What?

STANLEY

Maybe you need a better tune. Too much "oh baby", "oh
baby". You know

(mimicking the song)

"oh baby, I love you.. oh baby I crush you.. oh baby"

KEVIN

I have a crush on you!

STANLEY

Oh.... What's that mean?

GRACE

(Has had enough. An intense side of
Grace we have not seen before.)

You sound stupid!

You are living in a dream world!
 You are not going to be famous.
 You are not going to be a "star".

(Lights out quickly on Stanley and Grace and they disappear. Flashback has ended. Kevin is left alone onstage. Victor appears behind Kevin.)

VICTOR

They didn't know who you could be.

(Underscoring Vamp to Average Asian American begins.)

(On upstage screens Victor Woo is being interviewed as if part of a Behind The Music special on VH1. Characters are live onstage but filmed and projected with titles/graphics. Pacing should be VERY quick representing the rapid cuts of a high energy television promo. The whole sequence is an exaggerated fantasy.)

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

(This voice has that distinctive, raspy and dramatic, "Behind the Music" sound.)

From the unlikely origins of a small Boston suburb, Victor Woo emerged as one of the most influential voices of his generation.

(Victor is on-camera looking very cool and serious. A lower third reads, "Really Famous Recording Artist Victor Woo." Victor is performing ridiculous Bruce Lee inspired moves with his guitar.)

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

But it wasn't always roses for Woo. Growing up with non-English speaking immigrants, Victor Woo not only had to overcome cultural stereotypes of his peers, but also that of his own family.

(Stanely & Grace together appear on the

screen. A lower third reads "Concerned Parents.")

GRACE

I never understood his songs.

STANLEY

No violins.

GRACE

You so smart. Why don't you do computer?!

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

And thus the young and scrawny Woo created his own persona, modeling himself after Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Prince...

KEVIN

(Getting frustrated, he talks back to the screens, correcting them.)

Ray Charles?

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

...and Ray Charles.

KEVIN

Thank you.

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

Often the future "Asian SensAsian" would be caught sneaking into black R&B clubs.

KEVIN

"Asian SensAsian"? That's stupid.

VICTOR

(overly serious)

I did anything I could to play.

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

And "do anything" he did, including playing at the famed Mississippi blues venue, Club Ebony, dressed in black face...

KEVIN

What! I never dressed in black face! Who wrote that?

VICTOR

(overly serious)

It was a risk. But an artist has to take risks.

(Record execs to Kevin.)

RECORD EXEC 3

You want my advice? Try to get yourself out of the minority market.

KEVIN

My music is American.

(There is a dramatic light change and four record execs surround Kevin as if circling their "prey". Their lines are paced with a sense of urgency. NOTE: Ideally record execs 2 & 4 should be black.)

RECORD EXEC 2

Yes, but you're a "minority"...

KEVIN

Stevie Wonder's a minority. You're a minority.

RECORD EXEC 1, 2 & 4

Well of course, but...

RECORD EXEC 3

(Referring to the black record execs.)

They are the Entertainment Minority. You are the... Computer Minority?

RECORD EXEC 1

They control music and sports.

RECORD EXEC 4

We grabbed golf about 15 years ago, which you must admit was quite impressive.

KEVIN

Tiger's part Asian.

ALL RECORD EXECs

Oooh...

(They all look at Kevin as if it all

now makes sense. Nodding their heads
they exit. Underscoring changes to New
Sensation/Sexy Asian Man vamp.)

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

But success would still elude him. His first album,
"Singing Like a Soul Food Man" was shelved before
mastering and Victor Woo was hustling the street
booking small-time gigs in no-name venues.

KEVIN

(yelling at the screen)

This is ridiculous. None of this happened!!

(Victor is surrounded onstage by a
television interviewer and crew. She
shoves a microphone in his face.)

INTERVIEWER

With so many obstacles in your way, what drove Woo to
persevere?

VICTOR

I was tearing down walls, defying stereotypes.
Defining a new era where one wouldn't have to hide
their identity.

(Henry appears onscreen. The cameras
turn to him. A lower third reads,
"Successful Friend.")

HENRY

It was the chicks! The girls at his gigs are hot!

KEVIN

Henry?!

HENRY

Being a lawyer ain't bad, but musicians still have a
leg up in the female department.

(Stanley appears onscreen. The cameras
turn to him. A lower third reads,
"Model Minority".)

Dad, they are gonna put this on TV.

STANLEY

Victor could have gone to Harvard, but he wanted girls. Lots of girls.

KEVIN

(Unable to take it anymore.)

Stop!!!

(Michelle appears onscreen. She is with the other record execs. A lower thirds reads "Hot Record Executive.")

MICHELLE

(Overly sexual.)

I was aroused by his career for years. I knew he had that "thing"... and it needed to be stroked.

(Grace appears onscreen.)

GRACE

(Sincerely to the camera.)

I just want him to marry a nice Chinese girl. Please help.

(A lower third appears reading, "Abandoned Mother.")

(Kevin buries his head in his hands. An explosion is heard.)

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

Lightening would finally strike in 2003 when the hit "Crush On You" was discovered by an employee in the Universal Motown I.T. department. The song rose the charts that year along with a video where Mr. Woo was played by "Men In Black" star Will Smith...

(The entire cast turns to watch Victor worshiping him as a religious guru.)

VICTOR

I don't consider what I do just "music". It's more like...soul painting.

(An uptempo, overtly over-the-top,
music video, or Today Show, version of
Crush On You begins.)

[SONG – CRUSH ON YOU]

VICTOR

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I STILL FEEL THIS WAY
I THOUGHT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT YOU ANYMORE
BUT SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE, WE MAY GET OLD AND GREY
BUT NOW THE FEELING'S EVEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE

VICTOR & ENSEMBLE

BABY I STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU
I THOUGHT I WAS OVER YOU
BABY I STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU
STILL GET A RUSH, STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU

VICTOR (& ENSEMBLE)

REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN YOU AND I WENT ROLLER SKATING
REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN WE PLAYED FRISBEE BY THE POND
I ONCE HAD A DREAM THAT WE WERE KINDA SORTA DATING
REMEMBER THE NIGHT YOU KISSED ME ON THE LIPS
JUST WHAT WENT ON? CAN I MOVE ON?

VICTOR & ENSEMBLE

BABY I STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU
I THOUGHT I WAS OVER YOU
BABY I STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU
STILL GET A RUSH, STILL GOT A CRUSH ON YOU

(Blackout.)

KEVIN

(Kevin is alone on stage. Yelling out to Victor.)

Enough with your bullshit fantasy! You know it's not the truth. I wrote songs. I booked gigs. No one cared.

(At an empty club in Boston, Stanley enters in flashback. He is the only one at the show.)

STANLEY

I liked your "gig".

KEVIN

No one was here dad.

STANLEY

I was here.

(Kevin doesn't respond.)

You have a nice voice.

(No response.)

It's ok.

KEVIN

No.

STANLEY

(Tries to cheer him up.)

You can play in Chinatown. I know lots of people...

KEVIN

You deserve better. Maybe it's time...

STANLEY

Let's go eat.

KEVIN

I have to work tomorrow. Great Wall. Lot's of customers.

(Kevin puts his guitar on his back and starts to exit.)

STANLEY

You don't have to be onstage to be a star.

(There is silence. Kevin exits.)

(The location changes to Great Wall around Stanley. Stanley starts cleaning up around the tables. Grace enters from the kitchen in flashback.)

STANLEY

My Princess in America... most beautiful woman in the world.

GRACE

Let's go see a movie.

STANLEY

You are my movie star.

(Underscoring to Call It A Day begins. Stanley grabs Grace and they waltz around the restaurant smiling and laughing with each other. He stops, bows to her and kisses her hand.)

GRACE

Let someone else close up.

STANLEY

I'd love to, but who? It's just us.

GRACE

I know. But wouldn't it be fun? To just let it go for a night.

[SONG - CALL IT A DAY]

GRACE

PUT DOWN EVERYTHING, TURN AROUND THE SIGN
LET THE TELEPHONE RING, LEAVE YOUR WORK BEHIND
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO? NO REASON FOR YOU TO STAY
YOU GOTTA DRAW THE LINE
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE CALL IT A DAY?

STANLEY

Some day. I promise.

(Dismissing her.)

It's been a good day.

(Stanley exits.)

GRACE

FOR SUCH A BRILLIANT MAN
YOU DON'T KNOW WRONG FROM RIGHT
YOU'VE GOT YOUR LONG TERM PLAN,
BUT WHAT ARE WE DOING TONIGHT?
SOMETHING'S BOUND TO BURST
IF IT'S ALL WORK AND NO PLAY
THIS SUFFERING'S GOTTA STOP
WHY DON'T WE CLOSE THE SHOP AND CALL IT A DAY?

(Stanley re-enters, visibly older as if
some years have past. He is again
cleaning up around the restaurant, but
looking a little more tired.)

(Underscoring continues.)

STANLEY

Suffering Grace? We're not suffering. Lot's of
customers.

GRACE

You are right. The customer is not suffering.

STANLEY

It's been a good day.

GRACE

It's always a good day Stanley. It's been a good day
for 20 years.

STANLEY

So what else do you want?

GRACE

A break.

STANLEY

A vacation? Sure Grace. Soon, we will take a trip.

GRACE

A real break.

STANLEY

And what happens to Great Wall? We can't just stop.
Employees, they are family.

GRACE

(cutting him off)

Our son will run it. Like it should be.

STANLEY

Our son is a musician.

GRACE

Musician. When have you seen him perform? Real musicians play in orchestras. Violin, Flute... Symphonies in big concert halls. He is not a real musician - he is a fool.

STANLEY

That's enough.

GRACE

YOU WOULDN'T BE GIVING UP.
NO, YOU WOULDN'T BE SETTLING DOWN

STANLEY

I am not going to quit. Not yet.

GRACE

JUST A BREAK FROM ALL THIS STUFF

STANLEY

Go home Grace. I will clean up.

(Stanley takes out a cigarette and
lights it.)

GRACE

FROM ALL THIS RUNNING AROUND

(Stanley exits.)

GRACE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "NOT YET"?
IS SOMETHING STANDING IN YOUR WAY?
PUT YOUR HAND IN MINE.
LET'S KILL THIS BOTTLE OF WINE AND CALL IT A DAY

YOU GOTTA DRAW THE LINE
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME..?

(Grace looks to the kitchen and then

exits. Seque into next scene.)

(Grace enters from the kitchen with Henry. Henry puts on his jacket getting ready to leave. Victor & the ensemble observe from a far.)

GRACE

Thank you for everything, Henry. I appreciate the help.

HENRY

Of course. Please call me any time.

(Grace exits back into the kitchen.)

You too buddy. It's great to see you again.

(Kevin doesn't respond.)

Your mom's gonna need a lot of help. She can't do this alone.

KEVIN

I've been helping.

HENRY

Not just waiting tables. Real responsibility.

(Lecturing him a little.)

This is an opportunity... To really care about something.

(Henry turns to exit. Grace enters with a folder of documents.)

GRACE

Henry.

HENRY

Oh yeah. Almost forgot.

(Henry, skims through the folder and pulls out a bound set of papers. He places the rest of the folder on the counter.)

I'll look these over and get back to you.

GRACE

Thank you.

(Henry exits. Grace starts setting the tables for the next day.)

KEVIN

What was that?

GRACE

Stanley's will.

KEVIN

I can look them over for you.

GRACE

Henry's a lawyer.

(Kevin doesn't have a response.)

He is very successful.

KEVIN

I know mom.

GRACE

(Under her breath.)

You could have been lawyer...

KEVIN

I know mom.

(Takes a moment to look at Grace.)

Was this your dream?

GRACE

I don't understand.

KEVIN

Or was this what dad wanted?

GRACE

That is a silly question.

(Grace is silent. She looks at Kevin trying to understand why he is asking her this.)

KEVIN

You were happy?

GRACE

We need to close up.

KEVIN

What did you want?

GRACE

It doesn't matter. Lot's of customers tomorrow.

KEVIN

Maybe Henry can help.

GRACE

Henry is a lawyer.

KEVIN

(Explodes on her.)

I know Henry is a fucking lawyer!

(Grace is silent and then exits.)

(Victor enters.)

VICTOR

You're wasting time.

KEVIN

They never took her trip.

VICTOR

And you never took yours.

KEVIN

I let them down.

VICTOR

She abandoned you.

(Kevin is in his childhood room packing up some boxes of old cassette tapes. Victor's voice is heard offstage coming from different angles like voices in his head.)

VICTOR'S VOICE

You are quitting?

KEVIN

(Out to Victor in the darkness.)

I'm being realistic.

VICTOR'S VOICE

You're being a coward!

KEVIN

I tried. But there is no point. I need people to come to my gigs. I need money to record my songs.

VICTOR

Those are just excuses.

KEVIN

This is humiliating. I am wasting my potential!

VICTOR'S VOICE

You are wasting your talent!

KEVIN

You are *my* fantasy and I can kill you.

(Victor enters.)

VICTOR

Go ahead. Kill me. Abandon the god-given gift you were given. Abandon the people out there waiting to hear your songs. Abandon the young kid begging someone to show him that he can dream big. This is not just about you. When the world gives you a talent, puts it in your lap, you owe it to everyone to do something with it. You can kill me, but you can't kill what you were meant to be.

[SONG - THE CHOSEN ONE]

(Begins a cappella. Ensemble enters as a greek chorus keeping the beat and joining in the call & response. The scenery moves away.)

VICTOR

YOU CAN SEE THE WORLD FROM YOUR WINDOW
 YOU CAN LOOK IT STRAIGHT IN THE EYE
 YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW LIFE IS SIMPLE
 DON'T LET A SINGLE THING PASS YOU BY

YOU'VE BEEN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, THUNDER
 MAN YOU GOT A LOADED GUN
 COZ YOUR WORDS ARE FRIGHTENING, GINSBERG
 SWEAR YOU ARE A POET'S SON
 AND YOUR MOJO'S RISING, DANGER
 JESSE JAMES IS ON THE RUN
 THERE AIN'T NO DENYING, HUNGER
 YOU MUST BE THE CHOSEN ONE

YOU CAN FIT MY RING ON YOUR FINGER
 PUT IT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND
 IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SONG, NOT THE SINGER
 YOUR BOTTLE'S BURIED DEEP IN THE SAND

YOU'VE BEEN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, THUNDER
 MAN YOU GOT A LOADED GUN
 COZ YOUR WORDS ARE FRIGHTENING, GINSBERG
 SWEAR YOU ARE A POET'S SON
 AND YOUR MOJO'S RISING, DANGER
 JESSE JAMES IS ON THE RUN
 THERE AIN'T NO DENYING, HUNGER
 YOU MUST BE THE CHOSEN ONE

YOU HAVE FOUND TRUE LOVE AS YOUR SAVIOUR
 YOU DON'T CARE FOR FORTUNE OR FAME
 CARDS ARE STACKING UP IN YOUR FAVOR
 BUT YOU DON'T WANNA BE JESSE JAMES(?)

YOU'VE BEEN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, THUNDER
 MAN YOU GOT A LOADED GUN
 COZ YOUR WORDS ARE FRIGHTENING, GINSBERG
 SWEAR YOU ARE A POET'S SON
 AND YOUR MOJO'S RISING, DANGER

JESSE JAMES IS ON THE RUN
 THERE AIN'T NO DENYING, HUNGER
 YOU MUST BE THE CHOSEN ONE
 YOU MUST BE THE CHOSEN ONE

KEVIN

Get out of my life!

(Blackout. Then, solo special up on Kevin as he is wiping down a table at the restaurant. The Great Wall appears around him. We are back in the present day.)

(Underscoring to Don't Blow it Kid starts.)

(Kevin & Victor stay in the present however Kevin talks directly to the images from his past. When they speak they are talking to the Kevin in the past and look straight out to the audience. However, they look at each other when talking to characters in the flashback other than Kevin. The ensemble slowly enters as a greek chorus like before.)

(Stanley & Grace enter)

STANLEY

Grace, it's time to go. We can't be late

GRACE

I'm not going.

VICTOR

She didn't go to your graduation!

STANLEY

Grace, we promised we would go. He is singing at the ceremony.

GRACE

Why would I waste my time?

VICTOR

She never heard you.

GRACE

He sounds like a child.

KEVIN

I just needed a year. To make a CD.

STANLEY

A year to make a CD?

GRACE

You should be going to college.

STANLEY

You can earn the money for your recording working at Great Wall.

VICTOR

I was the only one who stood by you.

KEVIN

Victor Woo was *our* dream. Henry & I.

HENRY

We were twelve. Dreams change.

VICTOR

He left you too.

GRACE

Henry's going to college.

HENRY

You totally could've gotten into Harvard. You're smarter than I am.

KEVIN

I didn't want to go to Harvard.

VICTOR

You're different.

MICHELLE

I can't believe we are finally graduating.

VICTOR

But you let every opportunity go. You quit.

MICHELLE

New York is not that far. Come visit me.

VICTOR

She believed in you. You had your chance.

KEVIN

I needed a year.

VICTOR

To make a CD?

KEVIN

To get ready.

VICTOR

You are ready.

KEVIN

You're crazy.

VICTOR

We need to go to New York.

KEVIN

I can't just leave.

VICTOR

You left me.

KEVIN

You're not real!

VICTOR

I can be.

KEVIN

This. This place. This is real. Not just a fantasy. Not crowds of screaming fans. The same customers everyday. Here to eat, talk about their jobs, or the kids, or where they want to travel. He knew how spicey they liked their food. My dad created something much bigger than himself.

VICTOR

Exactly, and you need *your* chance. To create *your* magnum

opus.

KEVIN

I had my chance.

HENRY

Come on. They are gonna
start announcing names. It's
time.

KEVIN

My mom. The restaurant. They need me.

VICTOR

They betrayed you.

KEVIN

What are you talking about?

VICTOR

They could have lent you the money?

STANLEY

You can earn the money for your recording.

VICTOR

They could have let you use your college fund...

GRACE

Your college fund is gone.

VICTOR

What do you think happened to it?

GRACE

Henry's going to college.

KEVIN

He didn't have the money...

HENRY

We were twelve. Dreams change.

(Kevin looks at Grace. While the below
dialog is happening he walks over and
picks up the folder of financial
documents that has been left on the

counter.)

MICHELLE

I can't believe we are finally graduating.

VICTOR

Never showed up.

STANLEY

He is singing at the ceremony.

HENRY

You totally could've gotten into Harvard.

GRACE

Your college fund is gone.

MICHELLE

New York is not that far.

VICTOR

We have another chance.

(Underscoring stops. Kevin looks
stunned and stares at a piece of paper
which is presumably a note indicating
the loan of money to Henry for
college.)

VICTOR

It's not about them anymore. If you let this go I die.
Victor Woo dies.

[SONG - LONG TRAIN RIDE]

KEVIN

LEAVING MY FAMILY, I'M LEAVING MY FRIENDS
MOVING OUT OF THE CITY TO SOME FAR AWAY LAND
DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE HAPPY, I DON'T WANNA SAY GOODBYE
BUT I GOTTA GET READY FOR THIS LONG TRAIN RIDE

(Stanley appears subtly in the
background.)

ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN, WHAT I'M DOING FEELS RIGHT
I WANNA BE THAT PERSON, WHO KEEPS SHININ' YOUR LIGHT
SO WHAT IF NOTHING'S WORKIN',
LEAST I CAN SAY THAT I TRIED
~~LEAST~~ I'LL BE THE FIRST ONE ON THIS LONG TRAIN RIDE

(Grace steps forward to Kevin in the
present. Kevin talks straight out to
the audience.)

GRACE

We need to go through Stanley's things. Tomorrow we
open on time.

KEVIN

I have a duty.

VICTOR

(To Victor.)

To yourself.

KEVIN

To Victor Woo.

GRACE

Who is Victor Woo?

(Kevin turns and walks away from Grace.
Victor hands him his sunglasses which
he puts on.)

KEVIN

MOMMA DON'T WORRY, I GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS PLACE
PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT PERS'NLY
WE GOT OUR OWN ROADS TO FACE
I NEED MY INDEPENDENCE AND I WILL NOT BE DENIED

I'M GONNA GO THE DISTANCE ON THIS LONG TRAIN RIDE

KEVIN & VICTOR

CLOSE THE CURTAIN, TURN DOWN THE LIGHT
KEEP A WINDOW OPEN, FEEL THE AIR OUTSIDE EVERYBODY'S
WORKING JUST TO GET THROUGH THE NIGHT IT'S GONNA BE
ANOTHER LONG TRAIN RIDE

KEVIN

(Victor smiles at Kevin in
encouragement.)

I JUST KNOW I'M GONNA MAKE IT, WON'T STOP TIL I'M
SATISFIED

VICTOR

I GOT A ONE WAY TICKET AND A LONG TRAIN RIDE

KEVIN, VICTOR & ALL

CLOSE THE CURTAIN, TURN DOWN THE LIGHT
KEEP A WINDOW OPEN, FEEL THE AIR OUTSIDE
EVERYBODY'S WORKING JUST TO GET THROUGH THE NIGHT

KEVIN

IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER LONG TRAIN RIDE

(Slow fade to blackout.)

END OF ACT 1

ACT II

(Kevin appears on a dark empty stage
lit by one overhead light.)

[SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN]

KEVIN

MAMA, WHY ARE YOU SO HARD TO PLEASE
I'M TRYING MY BEST.
I WISH I COULD MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME AND NOT UPSET.
LEARN YOUR LANGUAGE
AND YOU'LL LEARN MINE WE'LL FIND A COMMON TONGUE.
SPEAK IT SLOWLY
AND BUILD A ROAD THAT MEETS THE SMART AND DUMB.

YOU DIDN'T RAISE NO OLD BUM
AND SOON THAT DAY WILL COME
WHEN YOUR FAMOUS SON LIVES UP TO YOUR DREAMS
RIGHT NOW I'M SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN
SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN
SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN

(Direct segue to Our America.)

(A young Grace crosses downstage past Kevin. The year is 1967.)

[SONG - OUR AMERICA]

GRACE

WE [SAIL] ACROSS THE WATER
 WE [SOAR] ACROSS THE SKY
 [WALK] ACROSS THE WESTERN BORDER
 OUR HEARTS AND HOPE HELD HIGH
 A FATHER AND HIS FATHER
 A MOTHER AND HER CHILD
 [SEEK] A PLACE WHERE WE [CAN] LIVE
 BEYOND THE OCEAN WILD

WE [COME] IN SEARCH OF OUR AMERICA
 LEAVE HOME TO LOOK FOR OUR AMERICA
 [DREAM] A DREAM OF OUR AMERICA
 WE [COME] AND [MAKE] IT OUR AMERICA
 WE [PLANT THE] SEEDS IN OUR AMERICA
 [RAISE] THE FLAG OF OUR AMERICA
 [STAND] OUR GROUND IN OUR AMERICA
 WE [COME] AND [MAKE] IT OUR AMERICA

AMONG THE SOARING MOUNTAINS
 ALONG THE SPARKLING SANDS
 [PLACE] OUR MARK UPON THE SOIL

(Stanley enters from upstage.)

GRACE & STANLEY

WE [WORK] IT WITH OUR HANDS

GRACE

WE [BUILD] [THE] NATION'S RAILROADS
 WE [FEED] AND [CLOTH] IT, TOO

GRACE & STANLEY

[MARCH] IN PEACE, [DIE] IN HONOR
 SOMEHOW [WE'LL MAKE] IT THROUGH

GRACE, STANLEY & ENSEMBLE

WE [COME] IN SEARCH OF OUR AMERICA
 LEAVE HOME TO LOOK FOR OUR AMERICA
 [DREAM] A DREAM OF OUR AMERICA
 WE [COME] AND MAKE IT OUR AMERICA

WE [PLANT THE] SEEDS IN OUR AMERICA
 [RAISE] THE FLAG OF OUR AMERICA
 [STAND] OUR GROUND IN OUR AMERICA

GRACE & STANLEY
 WE [COME] AND [MAKE] IT OUR AMERICA

STANLEY
 MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE
 CELEBRATE OUR LEGACY

GRACE
 WEAVE US IN YOUR TAPESTRY
 WRITE A PAGE IN HISTORY

STANLEY
 THIS IS AMERICA

GRACE
 SWEET LAND OF

GRACE, STANLEY & ENSEMBLE
 LIBERTY
 LA LA LA, LA LA LA, LA LA, LA
 LA LA LA, LA LA LA, LA LA

[SONG - THE SYSTEM]

(The scene changes to Greenwich Village. Kevin walks towards Grace & Stanley. Before he has a chance to get close to them he is surrounded by a "parade" of musician clones. Grace & Stanley exit.)

MUSICIANS ENSEMBLE

(Vocals only. Jarring and raw.)

I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE
COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT I MAKE

(Band enters.)

(The musicians, with guitars on their shoulders, move robotically in sync like a scene out of the Fantasia's "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." Kevin spots Victor among the crowd.)

KEVIN

Victor! Victor!

(Victor turns around to look at Kevin, but the parade of musicians walks between them blocking their view.)

MUSICIANS ENSEMBLE

I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THATS THE SYSTEM.
~~I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT~~
~~I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THATS THE SYSTEM.~~

(The musicians clear and Kevin spots Victor again. He approaches him.)

VICTOR

This is it. New York City!

KEVIN

They are going to eat me alive.

VICTOR

You got this. Just play your music.

MUSICIANS ENSEMBLE

I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THATS THE SYSTEM.

(Kevin steps pushes his way through the
musicians to and enters the doors to a
music club. A music booker/bartender is
sitting at a table doing a crossword.)

KEVIN

Hey there. I need a place to gig.

BOOKER

(not looking up from the paper)

You have a demo? Just leave it in the pile.

KEVIN

I am looking for something soon.

BOOKER

(cutting him off, but not looking up
from the paper.)

This is New York. Leave it in the pile. And please
put your name on it. You'd be surprised how many
people don't do that. How the fuck are we supposed to
contact you?!

MUSICIANS ENSEMBLE

I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM.

BOOKER

(Kevin is not leaving. The booker stays
focused on his crossword puzzle)

You do crosswords? What's a five letter word for
"clueless"?

KEVIN

(proud of himself)

Stupid?

BOOKER

(looks up at Victor)

That's six.

(back down at the crossword)

Ah, "naive". N-A-I-V-E. Got it.

(Pause. While waiting for Kevin to

leave. Kevin doesn't leave.)
 How's Monday night? I have an opening. You want it?

KEVIN
 Yeah. You don't need to listen to my music first?

(Kevin hands the Booker his CD.)

BOOKER
 Not really. Shit, I don't care if you play one note.

MUSICIANS ENSEMBLE
 I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
 I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THAT'S THE SYSTEM.

BOOKER
 (rattling this off)
 You need to bring twenty-five people. Tell your
 friends it's a five dollar cover with a two-drink
 minimum. 45-minute set *including* your set up time.
 They can stay to see the next band...*if* they pay five
 more bucks and buy two more drinks.

VICTOR
 Twenty-five people?

BOOKER
 Start hustling. That's *your* job. You promote your own
 shows. We don't get involved in that.

VICTOR
 Don't you have regulars?

BOOKER
 Sure. People you invite.

MUSICIANS ENSEMBLE
 I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
 I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM.

VICTOR
 What if no one shows up?

BOOKER
 You owe fifty bucks to the sound guy...and we'll never
 have you back...but we still let you play that night.

(Pause)
 You want it or not?

VICTOR

I'll take it.

BOOKER

That's what I thought. Hey, keep your demo. I am sure it's great.

MUSICIAN

(**Optional Bridge Section**)

HEY MAYBE I'LL TURN OUT TO BE AS FAMOUS AS THE
PRESIDENT BUT THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE FINALLY PAYING
ATTENTION THEY'RE JUST SOME PEOPLE THAT SOME PEOPLE
SENT
I WISH THEY'D MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS
THEY'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE A STEP BEHIND
BUT ONE STEP AHEAD WHEN IT COMES TO WAVING THAT DOLLAR
THAT YOU'RE CHASING ALL OVER TOWN
NOBODY'S KIND AND EVERYONE IN MANHATTAN'S GOT AN AX TO
GRIND AND THAT INCLUDES ME - WISH I COULD PRESS REWIND
PICK UP THE VIOLIN OR PLAY THE TENOR SAXOPHONE
WHENEVER I GOT SOMETHING THAT I NEED TO GET OFF OF MY
CHEST

MUSICIAN

(**Optional Rap Section**)

WHEN I'M TIRED AND WEARY, BABY, I NEED A PLACE TO FALL
THIS HUSTLE STRUGGLE COUPLE BURNING BURDEN IS A WALL
COZ IT'S THAT TIME OF DAY WHEN THE SUBWAY GUYS SPRAY
CLEANING FLUID SO YOU KNOW THAT I AM COMING HOME LATE
ENTER THE TRAIN AND HEADS ARE LAIN, BROWN BODIES
TENDING THE PAIN
WALKMAN ON PASSED OUT, EVERYBODY HOME ASSED OUT
DREAMING A DREAM OF CASH CLOUT, BUT IF IT DON'T PAN
OUT
WE PRAY FOR OUR SEEDS TO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL MAKE IT
OUT THIS MADHOUSE

MUSICIAN(S)

(Can split verses between ensemble.)

I'M NOT LIVING OUT MY DREAMS. I DON'T RIDE IN
LIMOUSINES BUT I BREAK EVEN. I BREAK EVEN.
FOR WHAT LITTLE THAT I OWN, WORK MY FINGERS TO THE
BONE UNTIL THEY'RE BLEEDIN', TIL THEY'RE BLEEDIN'

MUSICIANS ENSEMBLE

I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
 I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THAT'S THE SYSTEM.
 THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THAT'S THE SYSTEM.
 THAT'S THE SYSTEM.

(Kevin fights through the crowd to get
 to Victor. Immediately the line of
 musicians become restaurant employees
 and over take Kevin once again. They
 are slowly going through the daily
 grind of working at a restaurant.)

(The System - "Resturant" version)

I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
 I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THAT'S THE SYSTEM.
 I MAKE HALF OF WHAT I TAKE COZ THEY TAKE HALF OF WHAT
 I MAKE BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM. THAT'S THE SYSTEM.

(Kevin stops and notices a young
 Stanley. Stanley does not see Kevin.)

STANLEY

I need a job.

MAN

What can you do?

STANLEY

I am good with customer.

MAN

Do you speak English?

STANLEY

Not very well.

MAN

Start in the kitchen.

(Man exits. Underscoring to Great Wall
 begins.)

(Stanley looks around the restaurant.
 It is a very humble place with the
 standard Chinese restaurant decor.
 Stanley picks up a dish and starts
 cleaning/drying it. He addresses the

audience.)

STANLEY

When you start you have to wash dishes. Everything. You have to learn how to use the machine. Washing machine. You don't use the hand. In America you don't use the hand, right? Because everything is a... by machine. Everything commercial. Not like in China, you know the old town.

[SONG - GREAT WALL]

STANLEY

I CAME HERE WITH MY TWO HANDS NOT A PENNY ON ME THEN
 FOUND A JOB THROUGH AN OLD FRIEND MY NEXT DOOR
 NEIGHBOR
 BUSSING TABLES, TENDING BAR
 I WOULD STAY THE EXTRA HOUR
 AND IT PAID OFF I'M NO LONGER A POOR WAITER
 YEAH EVEN I GOT PUSHED AROUND
 BUT IF SOME BULLY KNOCKED ME DOWN
 LIKE A BASKETBALL I BOUNCED RIGHT BACK UP AGAIN
 I WILL BEND BUT NEVER BREAK
 BECAUSE I LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES
 I SERVE THE BEST FIVE DOLLAR PLATES, JUST ASK ANYONE

MY WORK IS ALMOST DONE
 THE DAY IS GONNA COME
 WE'LL WATCH THE SETTING SUN TOGETHER
 YES WE WILL CELEBRATE
 IT WILL BE WORTH THE WAIT
 SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

I GOT A [BABY] AND [A] WIFE
 THAT IS A MAJOR SACRIFICE
 WITH A FAMILY COMES THE PRICE OF HARD EARNED MONEY
 EVERY QUARTER EVERY CENT
 BUT I'LL SAY IT'S BEEN WELL SPENT
 IT'S ENOUGH TO PAY THE RENT WITH TIME ON SUNDAY
 TO TAKE US ALL TO LINCOLN PARK
 TO FALL RIVER UNTIL DARK
 WE'LL COME HOME AND THERE'LL BE SHARK FIN SOUP THAT MA
 MADE
 DRINK IT SLOWLY WITHOUT HASTE
 DON'T LET A DROP GO TO WASTE
 THAT IS JUST HOW I WAS RAISED AND NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED

(On another part of the stage, Kevin
 enters a restaurant in NYC. He is
 looking for a job. He does not see or
 interact with Kevin.)

KEVIN

I need a job.

MAN

You have experience?

KEVIN

My family owns a restaurant in Boston.

MAN

New York experience.

KEVIN

I'm not afraid to start at the bottom.

(The man hands Kevin an apron and a rag.)

KEVIN

(Cleaning the tables.)

DAD, I'VE BEEN BUSY JUST LIKE YOU AND THERE IS ALWAYS WORK TO DO.

THE MORE I WORK THE MORE I LOSE THE URGE TO TRAVEL
AS I RUSH THROUGH EMPTY STREETS, AS I HUSTLE TO MAKE
ENDS MEET,
THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN SELF DEFEAT EVEN THE BATTLE
NOTHING'S EASY IN THIS LIFE AND I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE
SIGHT.

STANLEY

WILL WE EVER TAKE THAT FLIGHT ACROSS THE OCEAN
TO MY VILLAGE IN CANTON WHERE WE CAN "YUM CHA YOW SIC
FAN"

KEVIN

"SERNG TUNG NAY GONG DO DEE ZHONG MON, NGO JI HAY HO
LAN"

STANLEY & KEVIN

MY WORK IS ALMOST DONE THE DAY IS GONNA COME
WE'LL WATCH THE SETTING SUN TOGETHER

STANLEY

WE'RE GONNA CELEBRATE

KEVIN

IT WILL BE WORTH THE WAIT

STANLEY & KEVIN

SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, THAN NEVER,

THAN NEVER...

(Henry enters the restaurant. Grace is visibly anxious but holding it together. She is very happy to see Henry.)

GRACE

Henry, thank you so much for coming.

HENRY

Of course.

GRACE

I need your help.

HENRY

What happened?

GRACE

He left.

HENRY

Let me give him a call.

GRACE

Don't waste your time.

(Grace composes herself.)

I need your help, here.

HENRY

(Caught off-guard. He doesn't know how to respond.)

GRACE

I know... You have a job.

HENRY

Yes. I have a job. I'm a lawyer, it's a busy...

GRACE

I know.

(Pause)

It's ok.

HENRY

You know I would do anything for you.

GRACE

And for Stanley.

HENRY

Exactly.

(Takes a moment to think.)

I can come after work every day. I'll help you close up and can keep the books in order. I know it's not ideal but...

GRACE

I don't need you all day. Just help me keep going.

(Pause)

I don't have anyone else.

HENRY

And I can help on the weekends.

GRACE

Thank you. Thank you. You have always been like a son.

HENRY

You were there for me.

GRACE

I can't let this go.

HENRY

(Pause)

He loves you.

(Grace doesn't respond.)

Let's get this place ready for business.

(Henry hangs up his jacket and exits into the kitchen.)

(Kevin & Victor are outside a small music club in New York prior to Kevin's show.)

KEVIN

No one's here.

VICTOR

She'll come.

KEVIN

She's the only one.

VICTOR

She's all we need.

KEVIN

She doesn't "work with friends."

VICTOR

So "unfriend her."

(Michelle enters with 2 record execs.)

VICTOR

(Sees Michelle.)

I told you.

(Michelle notices Kevin standing
outside.)

MICHELLE

(To the execs.)

I'll meet you guys inside. Save me a seat and grab me
drink.

(The record execs enter the club.)

MICHELLE

You got a gig! And I brought some folks from work like
I promised.

KEVIN

I don't think you'll have trouble finding a seat.

MICHELLE

Not a big crowd?

KEVIN

You're it.

MICHELLE

Ooh. A private concert. My favorite kind. How is New
York treating you so far?

KEVIN

(With a sense of humour)

It sucks.

MICHELLE

Perfect. You got the spirit.

KEVIN

Where dreams are made, right?

MICHELLE

And broken.

KEVIN

Are you trying to make me feel better?

MICHELLE

No.

KEVIN

Can I get some of your confidence?

MICHELLE

You can't "get" it. It's in your blood. The ones who make it are the broken ones...who survive.

(Underscoring starts. Michelle points out people on the street passing by them.)

Look closely. Playwright. Jazz musician. Comic book illustrator, voice actor... Terrified artists just like you...We all suffer in tiny apartments and bitch about the crappy F train service.

KEVIN

So why do you stay?

MICHELLE

(Stating the obvious.)

It's New York.

[SONG - NEW YORK CITY]

MICHELLE

ALL OF MY LIFE I ALWAYS KNEW WHAT I WAS GONNA DO
 WHETHER OR NOT MY CHILDHOOD DREAMS WERE EVER COMING
 TRUE
 I HAD TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF IF THIS DECISION WAS
 RIGHT
 SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME WAS JUST DYING TO GET OUTTA
 THERE
 ONE THING FOR CERTAIN WAS I WOULDN'T LAST ANOTHER YEAR
 I HAD TO MOVE OUT TO A PLACE WHERE ANY DREAM COULD
 TAKE FLIGHT

IF I SUCCEED OR IF I FAIL?
 WELL AT LEAST I'LL LIVE TO TELL THE TALE
 ABOUT A GIRL WHOSE SOUL WAS LIFTED TO NEW HEIGHTS

I'M LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.
 RICH MAN PARTY AND THE POOR MAN ROAM.
 I'M LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.
 A MILLION PEOPLE AND YOU'RE STILL ALONE.
 I'M LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.
 I AIN'T GIVING UP AND GOIN' BACK HOME.
 LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

MOST OF MY FRIENDS ARE EITHER MARRIED OR THEY'VE GOT A
 CHILD
 DON'T CARE TO TRAVEL AND THEIR SPIRIT IS NO LONGER
 WILD
 YOU WANT TO STAY, ADOPT THEIR WAYS BECAUSE IT'S HARD
 TO MOVE ON
 INVEST YOUR MONEY, MEET SOMEBODY, START TO SETTLE DOWN
 YOU TAKE YOUR TURN YOUR TWO FEET FIRMLY PLANTED IN THE
 GROUND
 YOU FOOL YOURSELF INTO BELIEVING THEY WERE RIGHT ALL
 ALONG

BUT CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S ONE BIG LIE
 IF YOU'RE NOT REACHING FOR THE OPEN SKY
 THERE'S A CROWD OF PEOPLE
 JUST WAITING TO HEAR YOUR SONG

MICHELLE & ENSEMBLE

[YOUR] SINGING IT IN NEW YORK CITY.
 RICH MAN PARTY AND THE POOR MAN ROAM.
 [YOUR] LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.
 A MILLION PEOPLE AND YOU'RE STILL ALONE.
 [YOU'RE] LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.
 [YOU] AIN'T GIVING UP AND GOIN' BACK HOME.
 LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

KEVIN

NOT A MINUTE GOES BY THAT I THINK
 "DID I MAKE A MISTAKE ?" AND "SHOULD I TURN AROUND?"

MICHELLE

WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY, LOOKING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

KEVIN & MICHELLE

MY TRUE COMPANION YET TO BE FOUND
 YEAH I'M FILLED WITH SELF DOUBT
 WONDERING WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT
 COME TO FIND OUT THAT THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM TO GROW

KEVIN

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING HERE IN BROOKLYN
 JUST GETTING READY FOR THE BIG SHOW.

MICHELLE

THIS BABY'S LOOKIN' LIKE IT WANTS TO BLOW...

(Short instrumental break. Kevin is now
 in the club.)

KEVIN

IF I SUCCEED OR IF I FAIL?
 WELL AT LEAST I'LL LIVE TO TELL THE TALE
 ABOUT A MAN WHOSE SOUL WAS LIFTED TO NEW HEIGHTS

(Onstage to the audience in the club.)
 I'M LIVIN' IN NEW YORK CITY.

MICHELLE & ENSEMBLE

RICH MAN PARTY AND THE POOR MAN ROAM.

KEVIN

I'M LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

ENSEMBLE
A MILLION PEOPLE AND YOU'RE STILL ALONE.

KEVIN, MICHELLE & ENSEMBLE
I'M LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

KEVIN, MICHELLE & ENSEMBLE
I AIN'T GIVING UP AND GOIN' BACK HOME.

KEVIN
I'M LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

MICHELLE & ENSEMBLE
LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

KEVIN
YEAH, YEAH...

(Musical outro...)

(Henry is at the Great Wall late at night counting receipts. Grace is cleaning up the tables.)

GRACE

He left because of me.

HENRY

That is not true.

GRACE

I knew you would be successful.

HENRY

(finding this funny)

That is not true either! I was the bad influence.

GRACE

When he was a little boy, every night before he went to bed he would play his violin for me. He practiced every day. First, it was very bad. Twinkle, twinkle... a whole year...Oh. But then it changed. He played real music. I'd close my eyes and imagine I was in a big concert hall... It made me cry. My little boy, my tiny little boy, so small I could hold him all right here...and now...he was playing beautiful music just for me. I miss that.

HENRY

Every parent wants their child to be an *artist*... until they actually want to *be*... an artist.

GRACE

I don't understand.

HENRY

It's not important.

(Henry stops counting the receipts.
And looks at Grace.)

What do you want?

GRACE

What do you mean?

HENRY

(Looking around the restaurant.)

This.

GRACE
(Doesn't respond.)

HENRY
You have a choice.

GRACE
Don't be silly.

HENRY
We can get a good price.

GRACE
Sell Great Wall?

[SONG - CALL IT A DAY REPRISE]

HENRY

IT'S ONE THING TO BE STRONG
ANOTHER TO BE WISE
DON'T YOU WAIT TOO LONG
CAN'T LET LIFE PASS YOU BY
A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD
SAIL ALL THE WAY
AN EASIER HILL TO CLIMB
I REALLY FEEL IT'S TIME
TO CALL IT A DAY.

HENRY

Just think about it.

(Henry exits.)

GRACE

YOU GOTTA DRAW THE LINE
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME
to...

(Lights fade on Grace.)

(Michelle calls Kevin.)

MICHELLE

They want to see you?

KEVIN

They?

MICHELLE

My label. I sold them on you. You got something...
different goin' on.

KEVIN

Good different?

MICHELLE

Great different. They want to meet.
(Kevin is silent.)

Hello?

KEVIN

Wow.

MICHELLE

Don't get too excited. They could very well hate
you... And I might change my mind.

KEVIN

The honesty of NYC.

MICHELLE

Look, I am not going to let you screw this up. My
reputation is on the line. I need you over at my
apartment ASAP. I'll text you the address. You need a
little superstar training.

KEVIN

I'll be right over.

MICHELLE

It's time to become Victor Woo... I hope your ready.

(Light out on Michelle. Victor sneaks
up behind Kevin. He takes off his
leather jacket and puts it on Kevin.)

[SONG - NEW YORK CITY REPRISE]

VICTOR
LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

KEVIN
It's all working out.

VICTOR
LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

KEVIN
I can hear the crowd, girls screaming loud.

VICTOR
LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

KEVIN
I AIN'T GIVING UP AND GOIN' BACK HOME.

KEVIN & VICTOR
LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY.

(Blackout.)

(Victor & Kevin are in Michelle's
apartment. Michelle only sees & hears
Kevin.)

MICHELLE
So is that how you are going to walk in the door?

KEVIN
Did I do something wrong?

MICHELLE
Don't just walk in.

VICTOR
Make an appearance.

MICHELLE
You need to believe that everyone in the room is dying
to see you.

KEVIN
I don't even know these poeple. I am trying to be
humble.

MICHELLE

Humble is boring.

(Kevin walks in the room again, but
very cocky.)

MICHELLE

Too cocky.

VICTOR

No one likes cocky.

KEVIN

(Getting frustrated.)

Which is it?! Humble or cocky?

MICHELLE

Humbily cocky.

(slightly annoyed)

You're not singing for your mom!

KEVIN

My mom hasn't heard me sing.

MICHELLE

Really?

KEVIN

Once.

MICHELLE

And?

KEVIN

She laughed.

(Michelle looks dumbfounded.)

She's not exactly my "demographic."

MICHELLE

Well, I don't like her hot & sour soup.

(Kevin looks confused.)

I'm just saying. I defend my artists.

KEVIN

So I'm your artist?

MICHELLE

Finding the next big thing is my job.

VICTOR

Don't blow it kid.

MICHELLE

(Playing the role of exec.)

"Why should we sign you? The odds of you making it are minuscule."

KEVIN

Cause you like my music?

MICHELLE

Don't say that.

VICTOR

Come on! Show her you are a star!

MICHELLE

(Teaching him how to answer the question.)

What you should say is, "What do odds matter if you're the one who gets struck by lightning? Even with the odds in your favor. You're dead."

KEVIN

That's morbid.

MICHELLE

That's stardom. "Why do you sing?"

(Underscore starts.)

KEVIN

To create awareness, challenge beliefs, open people's minds...

MICHELLE

Ooh...like Milli Vanilli.

KEVIN

No!

MICHELLE

Exactly. You sound ridiculous. This isn't the sixties. Get off the peace train.

VICTOR

(Victor sneaks behind Kevin.)

Don't let her break you.

MICHELLE

(Repeats the question.)

"Why do you sing?"

KEVIN

(Catching on)

There's an addiction to it.

MICHELLE

Much better...

KEVIN

It's like a drug. I have moments in performance...

MICHELLE

(Cuts him off.)

Where are you performing?

KEVIN

In a club.

VICTOR

Bigger.

KEVIN

(Corrects himself.)

...in a a fifteen thousand seat arena.

VICTOR

A smoky haze covers the stage.

KEVIN

...and all I can hear are screaming fans. But I don't see anyone.

VICTOR

I am the only person in the room.

KEVIN

I walk out on stage...

VICTOR

...and time stops.

KEVIN

My hands seem to be playing on their own.

VICTOR
I've lost all control of my body.

KEVIN
The words I sing I've never really heard before.
They're...

VICTOR
...unexpected...different.

KEVIN
And then it hits me...

VICTOR
...the energy of fifteen thousand people

MICHELLE
...pulsating as one laser beam that hits you right
here.

(She points to his heart.)

KEVIN
The feeling is so amazing that I want to just grab it.

MICHELLE
And hold it?

VICTOR
Pure ecstasy...

KEVIN
Just enough...

MICHELLE
...to make you want more.

KEVIN
See what I mean? We all belong in rehab.

MICHELLE
You...are the New Sensation.

VICTOR
Something the world has never seen.

MICHELLE
(Coming on to him strong.)
Something we didn't even know we craved. Sing for me.

KEVIN

What do you want to hear?

MICHELLE

What do I need?... I'm your demographic.

(Without losing the energy of the
moment.)

Close your eyes if that helps. Imagine a blond.

KEVIN

Now you're making fun of me.

MICHELLE

If you want to get signed you better be able to turn
it on for the ladies in the room.

KEVIN

I can be sexy.

MICHELLE

Prove it.

KEVIN

(Sings this. Seriously.)

"Purple Rain. Purple Rain"

MICHELLE

That is not sexy.

KEVIN

Come on, the motorcycle, the big hair, the ruffled
shirt... the fog.

MICHELLE

I need a Victor Woo song.

VICTOR

That can be arranged.

(Victor & Kevin exchange a glance.
Victor steps away as Kevin starts to
sing.)

[SONG - TONIGHT AND THE MORNIN' AFTER]

KEVIN

(Seductively sings a cappella a la
Justin Timberlake.)

I'M GONNA LOVE YA BABY TONIGHT AND THE MORNIN' AFTER.

MICHELLE

You would look nice in a ruffled shirt.

KEVIN

WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER LATER. DON'T STAY HOME IF YOU
DON'T HAVE TO.

MICHELLE

We need some fog.

(A thin layer of evening fog fills the
stage. Purple lights highlight the
mood. Victor turns and watches Kevin
become him. He slowly fades away.)

KEVIN

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH TIME IN ONE DAY.
LET'S LIVE IT WITH JOY AND LAUGHTER

MICHELLE

Now we're talking.

KEVIN

HEY GIRL WITH THE RED DRESS ON
DO YOU WANNA BE MY LOVER ?
ARE YOU WORKIN' IN THE MORN?
YOU CAUGHT MY ATTENTION THOUGH I CAN'T BE DISTRACTED
AWAY FROM MY MUSIC, BUT LIKE MUSIC - I SHOULD PRACTICE

MICHELLE

Oh, that's good.

KEVIN

WORK MY INTRODUCTION, SMOOTH OUT THE CLOSING LINE
WISH I HAD INSTRUCTION TO SEDUCE A WOMAN SO FINE
SMARTER THAN ALL MY EX-GIRLFRIENDS COMBINED
I'M NOT ASKIN' FOR A ONE NIGHT STAND...

MICHELLE

Smooth.

KEVIN

I WANNA LOVE YA BABY TONIGHT AND THE MORNIN' AFTER.
WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER LATER. DON'T STAY HOME IF YOU
DON'T HAVE TO.

MICHELLE

HOLD ON OUR FRIENDSHIP'S GOIN' REAL STRONG
I'M AFRAID TO SABOTAGE IT. DO YOU THINK THIS IS WRONG?

KEVIN

LET'S TAKE IT UP A LEVEL, LIFT UP THE BASS AND TREBLE
YOU GOT ME THINKING WE COULD CUT A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

MICHELLE

YOU'RE DELIRIOUS

KEVIN

BUT I'M SERIOUS. WOULD IT BE BETTER IF I SEND THIS IN
AN EMAIL?

MICHELLE

HOW YOU GONNA TYPE OUT THE WORDS OF A FEELIN' IN FULL
DETAIL...?

KEVIN

I WANNA LOVE YA BABY

MICHELLE

TONIGHT AND THE MORNIN' AFTER.

KEVIN

I WANNA RUB YOUR TUMMY

MICHELLE

Hmm!

I FEEL MY HEART BEATIN' FASTER.

KEVIN & MICHELLE

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH TIME IN ONE DAY.
LET'S LIVE IT WITH JOY AND LAUGHTER TONIGHT AND THE
MORNIN' AFTER.
TONIGHT AND THE MORNIN' AFTER.
TONIGHT AND THE MORNIN'....

(Kevin and Michelle kiss.)

(Kevin & Michelle break off the kiss.
Kevin is in shock. Michelle breaks the
silence.)

MICHELLE

(Bluntly.)

I think you will do just fine at the meeting.

(Kevin exits. Lights out.)

(Grace is alone at the restaurant. It
is late at night.)

GRACE

(Sung to modified Brighter Day melody.)

THE SUN IS SHINING AND I'M ON MY WAY

GUM YET HO TEEN YEE GAH LAI GAN.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD

JERNG LOY WOY JUNG HO DEE

Remember our song? Our silly dreams?

(Looks around the restaurant.)

It seemed like only yesterday it was just me and you.

(Imitating Stanley.)

No speak English but I should be a waiter.

(Talking to Stanley as if he is there.)

You talk funny, you know?

(Imitating Stanley.)

My Chinese Princess in America.

(For a moment she is overwhelmed by
sadness and emotion. Her eyes become
teary.)

I'm sorry.

(Stanley enters in flashback. Grace is
slowly pulled back into her memory of
Stanley's last night alive.)

STANLEY

We are not selling the restaurant. Great Wall will not
die.

GRACE

(With tears.)

I don't want this anymore.

STANLEY

This? Our livelihood? Our legacy? Our dream?

GRACE

(The tears build to anger.)

Your dream.

STANLEY

America is everyone's dream.

GRACE

You promised me an American life...not Chinatown...not Mahjong!

STANLEY

We are not done yet.

(Underscore starts.)

GRACE

We will still never be better than any of those "fresh off the boat". You think you have built a palace, but "Great Wall" is nothing more than cheap takeout.

[SONG - STREETS OF CHINATOWN]

STANLEY

HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT IT'S NOT ENOUGH?
 HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT OUR LIFE AIN'T GREAT?
 THAT ALL MY WORK DON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH
 WHEN THERE'S NEVER BEEN A DAY YOU'VE HAD AN EMPTY
 PLATE

WELL IF YOU'RE WONDERIN' WHY I'M IN A RUSH
 TO LEAVE THE HOUSE, AND WHY I'M OUT REAL LATE
 GOTTA STAY GROUNDED, GOTTA STAY IN TOUCH
 GOTTA GAMBLE WITH THE BOYS AND HANG BY THE GATE

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME FROM GOING TO CHINATOWN
 IT'S A BIG PART OF WHO I AM
 I WAS RAISED ON THE STREETS OF CHINATOWN
 IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I UNDERSTAND

(Grace exits.)

CAN'T DESCRIBE TO YOU JUST HOW I FEEL
 I'VE GOTTEN GOOD WITH THE PRESSURE OF THE FAST FOOD
 WORLD
 MAH JONG ALL NIGHT, HAVE A NICE MEAL
 AT THE FREEMASON LODGE NEXT TO CHINA PEARL
 BUT YOU WANT ME AT HOME ? IS THAT THE DEAL ?
 SLIPPERS ON MY FEET, MY HAIR ALL PERMED ?
 NO DOMINOS ? NO SPINNIN' THE WHEEL ?
 JUST YOU AND ME IN A WHITE SUBURB ?

YOU CAN TAKE THE MAN OUT OF CHINATOWN
 BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE CHINATOWN OUT OF THE MAN
 LIKE A SEED THAT'S SEWN DEEP UNDERGROUND
 LIKE A WEED THAT'S BEING PULLED BY YOUR HAND, GOD
 DAMN.

(Instrumental break as required by
 staging.)

I'M SORRY I PROMISED YOU. MORE SORRY FOR BACKING OUT
 I'M SORRY I CAN'T COME THROUGH, NO MATTER WHAT I GIVE
 IT'S NOT THE RIGHT AMOUNT
 OH GRACE WHAT DID I MISS ? DID I TAKE YOU FOR
 GRANTED, TOO ?
 I WANT YOUR HAPPINESS BUT YOU'RE TRAPPED IN WISHES
 THAT WON'T COME TRUE.

I KNOW HE'S ON THE LOOSE. I KNOW TIME'S SLIPPIN'
AWAY.
AND I'M JUST A POOR EXCUSE FOR YOUR DREAM NOT TO EVER
SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.
BUT THAT'S WHERE I'M COMIN' FROM.
PERHAPS IT'S DANGEROUS
WHEN IT'S ALL BEEN SAID AND DONE, THAT FAMILIAR PLACE
IT REMAINS IN US

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME FROM GOING TO CHINATOWN
IT'S A BIG PART OF WHO I AM
I WAS RAISED ON THE STREETS OF CHINATOWN
IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I UNDERSTAND

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME FROM GOING TO CHINATOWN
IT'S A BIG PART OF YOUR OLD MAN
YOU CAN'T STOP ME I'LL FIND MY WAY AROUND
I'M GONNA MAKE IT THERE OR I'LL BE DAMNED!

(The flashback ends and Grace is back in the present. Everything in the restaruant reminds her of Stanley. She notices an old photograph of her and Stanley on the wall. It was from the day of their opening. She is young & beautiful and they were in love.)

[SONG - IF IT WERE UP TO ME]

GRACE

IF IT WERE UP TO ME YOU WOULD NOT GO OUT EVERY NIGHT
 YOU'D STAY HOME AND HOLD ME TIGHT
 IF IT WERE UP TO ME
 I WOULD RUB YOUR SHOULDERS WHEN YOUR DAY IS OVER
 IF IT WERE UP TO ME

IF IT WERE UP TO ME THEN WE WOULD FALL IN LOVE AGAIN
 IT DOESN'T HAVE TO END
 IF IT WERE UP TO ME
 WE WOULD FLY TO PARIS, SAVE OUR MARRIAGE
 IF IT WERE UP TO ME

(Stanley, as a "ghost" appears behind Grace. She does not see him.)

SO HOW LONG DO I WAIT ?
 HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH ?
 WILL IT BE TOO LATE
 MY MENDING HEART WILL HAVE ITS MOMENT

(On another side of the stage Henry delivers this this as a monologue out to the audience.)

HENRY

Hey, it's Henry. I feel a little weird calling you since we never really talk any more... but I need to let you know what going on with your mom. She is thinking of selling Great Wall. It's what's best. I have been here almost everyday since you left but it's still too much for her to handle. Don't worry, I'll help her get a good price. She'll be fine. Anyway, thought you should know... In case you wanna call her... You still feel like a brother to me. Take care.

(Lights fade on Henry.)

IF IT WERE UP TO ME
THEN I'D TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
NO KID JUST YOU AND I
IF IT WERE UP TO ME
YOU WOULD WHISPER SWEETLY "WEN YOON WO AY NI"
IF IT WERE UP TO ME, IF IT WERE UP
...to me.

(Kevin enters the stage. Stanley gets up from the chair, appearing to Kevin as a ghost. Time has frozen for a moment.)

KEVIN

Dad, I miss you.

STANLEY

How have you been?!

KEVIN

I am working at a restaurant in New York City.

STANLEY

How's their "Pu Pu Platter"?

KEVIN

Italian food. No "Pu Pu Platter."

STANLEY

Why do you work in Italian restaurant?

KEVIN

I don't know. I'm Chinese.

STANLEY

You're American.

(They laugh.)

(Underscoring to Great Wall Reprise begins.)

STANLEY

I named our restaurant "Great Wall" because I promised myself when I "made it" in America, I would go back to China and take my *entire village* to see the Great Wall.

(pause)

It took a long time to make the Great Wall. Many years, many people. In one lifetime it's hard to see how each brick fits.

KEVIN

Or if it fits. Sometimes I wonder.

STANLEY

Yes. It can take more than a lifetime to build a Great

Wall. Dreams somehow get misplaced along the way.

KEVIN

Why didn't you go?

STANLEY

When you build a wall, it can be hard to get out.

KEVIN

I don't build walls.

STANLEY

We all build walls.

KEVIN

But how do I know what choice is right? Where *my* brick fits?

STANLEY

Where you should be is exactly where you are. That makes it easy.

[SONG - GREAT WALL REPRISE]

STANLEY

I WILL SHINE A LIGHT ABOVE YOU
I'LL BE THE ONE WHO'S THINKING OF YOU

KEVIN

FEELS LIKE I'M WALKING DOWN THE SAME ROAD
CHASIN' THAT SAME TALL MOUNTAIN OF GOLD

STANLEY

SO AS YOU'RE CLIMBIN' UP A STEEP SLOPE
I WILL GUIDE YOU AND GIVE YOU SOME HOPE
BECAUSE I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY
EVERYTHING THAT YOU'RE GOIN' THROUGH

STANLEY & KEVIN

OUR WORK IS ALMOST DONE
THE DAY IS GONNA COME
WE'LL PUT OUR BURDENS ALL BEHIND US

WE'RE GONNA CELEBRATE
A BOX OF FRESH MOON CAKE

STANLEY

WE'LL WALK ALONG THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

KEVIN

WE'LL WALK ALONG THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

STANLEY & KEVIN

WE'LL WALK ALONG THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA
OF CHINA, OF CHINA

STANLEY

They are ready for you.

(Stanley exits and Michelle enters.)

MICHELLE

They are ready for you.

(She walks past Kevin, then turns to
look back.)

Give 'em some Victor Woo.

(The offices of her record label appear
around them.)

RECORD EXEC 2

You are very talented and we are not here to waste
your time...

RECORD EXEC 4

...so let's cut to the chase.

RECORD EXEC 3

We think you...

RECORD EXEC 1

...and your music

RECORD EXEC 2

...has that very special quality that we are
interested in for our label.

VICTOR

(Performed rap/spoken word style with
beat underneath.)

THIS THIRTY YEAR PASTIME OF
FUNKY BEATS AND CLEVER RHYME
KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES, YES IT BARS NO RACE
STARTED BACK IN AFRICA,
THEN AMERICA — THE JAZZ KINGDOM
IDIOM BORN OF HIP-HOP, STYLE, AND GRACE
YES IT GOES WAY BACK, LAID BACK, MADE BLACK
ROBERT JOHNSON, LIGHTNIN' HOPKINS, ELLINGTON, BASIE
CHUCK BERRY, LITTLE RICHARD, MILES DAVIS, JAMES BROWN
SAM COOKE, JIMI HENDRIX, FAST FORWARD TO JAY Z

(Record execs enter in suits &
ties and gather around a
conference room table.)

RECORD EXEC 2

NOW ASIAN THINGS ARE COOL! YOU'VE GOT THAT CRAZY ASS
TATTOO

RECORD EXEC 1

IT MEANS TRANQUILITY, GOOD FORTUNE, SOMETHING
MEANINGFUL LIKE THAT

RECORD EXEC 4

THERE'S A WOK IN EVERY KITCHEN.

RECORD EXEC 3

I HAD SOME BOK CHOY LAST WEEKEND.

RECORD EXEC 1

MY UNCLE IS THE TAILOR OF CHOW YUN FAT!

VICTOR

THERE'S MORE IDEAS COMING. EASTERN SCALES WE'RE
HUMMING.

RECORD EXEC 3

SURE, YOU MAY BE ONTO SOMETHING,
MIGHT BE THE NEXT BIG THING.

RECORD EXEC 2

HOW 'BOUT A BUDDHIST RING TONE?

RECORD EXEC 4
HOW 'BOUT AN ALMOND "EYE" PHONE?

VICTOR
AND YOU BEHIND IT ALL - IN ENGLISH, CANTONESE, AND
MANDARIN

(Direct segue to song.)

[SONG - NEW SENSATION (SEXY ASIAN MAN)]

VICTOR

LADIES LOOK AT HIM, REAL WORLD WANTS HIM IN
 NOW WILLIAM MORRIS WANTS TO BOOK THIS GENTLEMAN
 COLOR YELLOW'S BACK IN STYLE, MAH JONG'S IN, PASS A
 TILE
 I JUST WANNA KNOW... IS THIS GAME'S GOIN' FOR A WHILE?
 I SEE THE LATEST CHOICE, I SEE THE POSSIBILITY
 THE BROTHER'S GOT A VOICE AND HE'S GOT MAD AGILITY.
 I FEEL LIKE MY JOB IS DONE, TRUST THAT THE DAY'S ABOUT
 TO COME
 WHEN THE ASIAN MAN'S FINALLY NUMBER ONE

MALE BACKUP

IT'S THAT SEXY ASIAN

FEMALE BACKUP

IT'S THE NEW SENSATION!

MALE BACKUP

KICKIN' IT ACROSS THE NATION!

ALL BACKUP

IT'S THAT SEXY ASIAN!

BACKUP 3 (FEMALE)

BARBIE JUST SPLIT WITH KEN, WANTS SMOOTH DARKER SKIN

BACKUP 4 (FEMALE)

FIRST IN LINE WHEN A MOVIE'S COMING OUT WITH JACKIE
 CHAN

BACKUP 3

MAYBE THAT MYTH IS WRONG, MAYBE HE'S GOT A BIG SCHLONG

BACKUP 4

(as an aside)

GETS HER SO EXCITED THAT SHE WEARS THICKER THONG

BACKUP 3

BUT HE'S SENSITIVE, MAJORED IN EASTERN PHILOSOPHY
 MIXED WITH BEAT POETRY, RAISED ON MONOPOLY

BACKUP 4

WON'T FIND HIM GOIN' TO JAIL, HE'S HANGIN' WITH A
 WHITE FEMALE

CAPTAIN OF THE LOVE BOAT ABOUT TO SET... SAIL

ALL BACKUP

IT'S THAT SEXY ASIAN ! IT'S THE NEW SENSATION !
FIT FOR ANY OCCASION ! IT'S THAT SEXY ASIAN !

KEVIN

USED TO BE ON THE OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN
USED TO THINK IT WAS BECAUSE THE COLOR' YA' SKIN
MAYBE YOU JUST WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH
HEY GUESS WHAT, NOW YA' GOT THE RIGHT STUFF

ALL BACKUP

SO LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT
LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT

FEMALE BACKUP

HE'S A GUITAR SLINGER,

MALE BACKUP

R&B SINGER

ALL BACKUP

MAKING LADIES SCREAM AND SHOUT, WOO!

VICTOR

GOT GIGS IN DIFFERENT TOWNS, STARTIN' TO SPREAD HIS
NAME AROUND
THIS HOT YOUNG MUSICIAN'S MOVING UP THE LADDER QUICK

ALL BACKUP

WORD!

BACKUP 3

CONTROLLING HIS BAD TEMPER, KEEPING HIS HEAD TOGETHER

VICTOR

OOOH TEMPTATIONS ARE COMING ON THICK

BACKUP 4

AFTERPARTIES AT 4AM, GORGEOUS LADIES, KNOW WHAT I'M
SAYIN'?

BACKUP 3

BUT THE REASON WHY HE'S DOING THIS? IT WON'T SLIP AWAY

BACKUP 1 (MALE)

ANSWERS HIS MAMA'S CALL

BACKUP 1 & 2 (MALE)
AVOIDS EVERY PITFALL

VICTOR
SEEN "BEHIND THE MUSIC" A MILLION TIMES

BACKUP 2 & 4
IT'S OKAY

VICTOR
KEEPIN' THE FIRE BURNING, NO THE RIDE AIN'T SWERVING

BACKUP 4
HE'S FOCUSED, WON'T BLOW THIS OPPORTUNITY YOU CAN BET

BACKUP 1
COZ THERE'S ANOTHER BROTHER CIRCLING

BACKUP 1 & 3
WANTS TO OVERTHROW THE KING

BACKUP 1
CAN'T REST NOW, MORE CHALLENGES AHEAD

VICTOR
THE FUTURE IS SHINING

BACKUP 2
AND IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING

BACKUP 3
YOU'RE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE MOST RECENT CROWD THAT YOU
WORK

BACKUP 2
WE'RE RIGHT HERE BEHIND HIM AND YOU MIGHT JUST FIND
HIM

VICTOR
CHILLING IN CHINATOWN, FRIDAY NIGHT!

VICTOR & BACKUP
NEW YORK!

BACKUP 3
IF YOU FOCUS ON YOUR MIND, YOUR BODY, YOUR HEALTH
CAN'T NOBODY STOP YOU FROM CLIMBING

BACKUP 1

CAN'T NOBODY TELL YOU YOU AIN'T PRETTY ENOUGH
NOT RANDY, NOT PAULA, NOT SIMON

BACKUP 4

GONNA ROCK THE HOUSE AND MAKE HISTORY

FEMALE BACKUP

THIS EXPLOSION IS GONNA BE BLINDING

VICTOR & FEMALE BACKUP

ALL YOU BROTHERS AND SISTERS COME SING WITH ME

ALL BACKUP

IF YOU DON'T THEN YOU BETTER START GRINDING

BACKUP 4

YEAH

ALL BACKUP

IT'S THAT SEXY

BACKUP 4

ASIAN!

ALL BACKUP

IT'S THE NEW SENSATION!
ON YOUR RADIO STATION!
IT'S THAT SEXY ASIAN!
SEXY ASIAN MAN

RECORD EXEC 3

Absolutely.

RECORD EXEC 4

Our strategy in bringing American artists to Asia is to build local brands

RECORD EXEC 2

...that can feel "home grown".

KEVIN

Asia?

RECORD EXEC 3

We should clarify. Obviously, Asia represents a large continent.

RECORD EXEC 4

We aren't talking about India or Pakistan...

RECORD EXEC 1

Or North Korea.

RECORD EXEC 2

Although who knows someday...

RECORD EXEC 4

We'll start with Hong Kong. Develop a base there.

RECORD EXEC 2

And then expand out further in an organic way.

RECORD EXEC 1

You'll just, you know, fit in.

KEVIN

But I'm not Asian.

RECORD EXEC 3

Exactly. You aren't really from Asia, but you are... from Asia..

RECORD EXEC 4

According to our research, young Asians today have grown tired of Western artists.

RECORD EXEC 3

To them, you'll be fresh.

RECORD EXEC 1

Exotic.

RECORD EXEC 4

You'll be different.

(There is silence as Kevin doesn't know how to respond. Record Exec 2 breaks the silence.)

RECORD EXEC 2

Welcome aboard. We'll be in touch.

(Each record exec shakes Kevin's hand and then exits. Record Exec 3 feels inspired to give him a hug. Kevin and Michelle are left alone. Victor observes their conversation.)

MICHELLE

That was it!

KEVIN

Hong Kong?

MICHELLE

Exactly. Hong Kong.

KEVIN

I don't know anything about Hong Kong.

MICHELLE

Wikipedia it.

KEVIN

I've never even been to Canada let alone China!

MICHELLE

America is so 90's. Asia is where it's at.

KEVIN

It's just...

MICHELLE

Not what you were expecting.

KEVIN

Not exactly the American Dream.

MICHELLE

You mean that disease you get from watching too much TV?

KEVIN

It's a lot to consider.

MICHELLE

It's the same dream that brought your parents here, that created Great Wall. Now in reverse.

KEVIN

Exactly. I am confused.

MICHELLE

You're different. You're "Victor Woo".

KEVIN

You really believe that.

MICHELLE

I wouldn't go to Hong Kong if I didn't.

KEVIN

What do you mean?

MICHELLE

I've been offered a promotion... in Asia.

KEVIN

You're not making this easy.

MICHELLE

(Leans into to Kevin and whispers in his ear.)

I think I am.

(Michelle exits. Victor walks towards him with a camera and starts shooting photos of him as if he were a celebrity. The photos one-by-one appears as projections until the entire

wall is filled.)

VICTOR

This is just the beginning.

(Slowly, Victor fades away and Kevin
is left alone onstage.)

(Intro to Different begins.)

[SONG - DIFFERENT]

KEVIN

FOR YEARS NOW I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING
ALL THE PUSHING, ALL THE SHOVING
MAYBE I'M JUST PUSHING IT TOO HARD
I SHOULD SIT BACK AND WAIT
AND LEAVE IT UP TO FATE
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT WRITTEN IN THE CARDS

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT
MAYBE IT'S MEANT TO BE
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I DREAM

FOR YEARS NOW I'VE BEEN PLAYING
THIS MUSICIAN I'M PORTRAYING
HOPING THAT ONE DAY I'LL BE A STAR
I SHOULD RELAX AND NOT WORRY
TAKE A DEEP BREATH ON THIS JOURNEY
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT WRITTEN IN THE CARDS

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT
MAYBE IT'S MEANT TO BE
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I DREAM

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS BUT I KNOW IT'S GONNA BE
ALRIGHT
THIS HIGHWAY'S GOT FIVE LANES AND I'M READY
TO DRIVE ALL NIGHT.

(Underscoring continues.)

(Victor appears. Kevin removes his jacket.)

VICTOR

You're giving up.

KEVIN

I'm just getting started.

VICTOR

But you're turning them down.

KEVIN

It's my story.

VICTOR

What about Michelle?

KEVIN

She loves Victor Woo.

VICTOR

We were so close. Hong Kong!

KEVIN

That's what *you* do.

(Kevin offers the sunglasses to Victor.)

I need to build my own walls.

VICTOR

"The Asian SensAsian".

KEVIN

There's always another Chinese kid wanting to be a star.

(Victor doesn't take the glasses so Kevin drops them on the floor. Victor looks at Kevin and smiles. Kevin smashes the sunglasses with his foot. Alt: Use jacket.)

(Victor turns and walks upstage into the same bright, concert style stage lights that he entered from at the top of the show.)

KEVIN

AS I WATCH THE SUN SET SLOWLY
I REMEMBER WHAT A FRIEND ONCE TOLD ME

(Grace enters. She is at the
restaurant taking it in as if it is the
last time she will see it.)

GRACE & KEVIN

WHERE YOU SHOULD BE IS EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE

GRACE

FORGET ABOUT THE PLACES YOU'RE NOT GOING

KEVIN

FORGET ABOUT THE CHANCES YOU'VE BEEN BLOWING

KEVIN & GRACE

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT
WRITTEN IN THE CARDS
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT
MAYBE IT'S MEANT TO BE

GRACE

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I DREAM

KEVIN & GRACE

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT
MAYBE IT'S MEANT TO BE
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I DREAM,
DREAM.

(Grace turns around a sign to reveal
"Closed". Kevin enters the restaurant.)

GRACE

I made some soup if you want soup.

KEVIN

No thanks.

GRACE

How's music?

KEVIN

You wouldn't understand.

GRACE

Oh — I understand. You don't make any money.

(Pause)

Hai ney-ga-see.

("That's your predicament".)

(Grace gives Kevin a moment to let it
sink in that Great Wall is gone.)

KEVIN

I got offered a record deal.

GRACE

They liked your song?

KEVIN

They said it needed violins.

(Pause)

I'm turning them down.

GRACE

I don't understand.

KEVIN

I told you.

GRACE

Time for a new dream.

(Pause)

What do we do now?

KEVIN

Dim sum?

GRACE

No thanks.

(Pause)

I have some extra money...for your recording.

(Pause. Kevin smiles.)

I made some soup if you want soup.

KEVIN

Sure.

(Grace turns to the kitchen and exits.
Lights out.)

[SONG - A BRIGHTER DAY]

(One year later, Kevin appears at a piano in a small Boston club. There is stack of cd's on a corner table with a homemade sign reading reading, "CD Release Concert. CD's \$10.")

KEVIN

HARD TIMES, YEAH EVERYBODY'S GOT FOR SURE
 THAT'S FINE, I'LL MAKE IT THROUGH JUST LIKE BEFORE
 I WAS BLIND, NOT LOOKING AT THE POSITIVE
 I HAVE SOME FRIENDS WILLING TO GIVE
 ME HELP WITH ANY FEAR I'M FACING
 THEY SAY DON'T EVER THROW THE TOWEL IN
 NO WAY — IF MUSIC IS YOUR MEDICINE
 OKAY. I NEED TO HEAR IT NOW AND THEN
 REMINDING ME ABOUT THE DREAM I'M CHASING

THE SUN IS SHININ' AND I'M ON MY WAY
 THE SUN IS SHININ' AND I'M ON MY WAY
 I'M LOOKING FORWARD, I'M LOOKING FORWARD
 TO A BRIGHTER DAY, A BRIGHTER DAY

AND WHEN IT FEELS LIKE YOUR BACK IS UP AGAINST THE
 ROPES
 HOLD TIGHT. YOU AIN'T ABOUT TO GIVE UP HOPE
 ALRIGHT. YOU'RE NOT THE FLAVOR OF THE MONTH
 YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT SOME PEOPLE WANT
 YOU'RE NOT A JUGGLER IN THE CIRCUS
 CHIN UP AND KEEP YOUR EYES UPON THE PRIZE
 LIFE'S ROUGH, IT'LL TRY TO CUT YOU DOWN TO SIZE
 TAKES GUTS. THIS DREAM YOU HAVE — CAN'T LET IT DIE
 TO ME A CLEAR BLUE SKY IS NEVER PERFECT

ALL

THE SUN IS SHININ' AND I'M ON MY WAY
 THE SUN IS SHININ' AND I'M ON MY WAY
 I'M LOOKING FORWARD, I'M LOOKING FORWARD
 TO A BRIGHTER DAY, A BRIGHTER DAY

DARK CLOUDS MAY ROLL ON OVER BUT THEY WILL NOT BRING
 ME DOWN

ENSEMBLE

WILL NOT BRING ME DOWN

KEVIN
 GOT ANGELS LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER
 AND THEY'RE TAKING ME TO HIGHER GROUND

KEVIN & ENSEMBLE
 THEY'RE TAKIN' ME TO HIGHER GROUND,
 TAKIN' ME TO HIGHER, TO HIGHER GROUND

(Instrumental break.)

(On video screens, Victor is performing
 to huge crowds.)

BEHIND THE MUSIC VO

With sold out concerts all
 over Asia, Victor Woo has
 become one of the biggest
 names in popstar history.
 Breaking records, defying
 stereotypes and tearing down
 walls has become the
 trademark of his amazing
 journey. For Victor Woo and
 the world, a new day has
 begun.

(Back at the club with Kevin and fans.)

KEVIN
 I'VE FOUND THE ROAD TO MY RECOVERY
 TOUCHDOWN. I'M BACK IN TOUCH WITH WHAT IS ME
 A NEW ROUND, BEEN THROUGH THIS BUMPY, UPHILL CLIMB
 I'VE HAD TO JUMP IN DOUBLE TIME,
 TURN ON A DIME AND NEVER LOSE IT
 THIS GAME OF LIFE THAT WE ALL PLAN TO WIN
 THERE'S NO SHAME IN FEEDING OFF ADRENALIN
 REFRAIN FROM WHAT COULD BE THE END OF US
 BESIDES THE FINEST DRUG IS MADE OF MUSIC

(Lights up on Grace who we notice for
 the first time. She is at the small
 Boston club and has finally come to see
 Kevin play. Victor appears on video
 screens singing to huge crowds in
 Asia.)

ALL

THE SUN IS SHININ' AND I'M ON MY WAY
THE SUN IS SHININ' AND I'M ON MY WAY
I'M LOOKING FORWARD, I'M LOOKING FORWARD
TO A BRIGHTER DAY
I'M LOOKING FORWARD, I'M LOOKING FORWARD
TO A BRIGHTER...

ALL

A BRIGHTER DAY

END OF ACT 2