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"EGG ON MY FACE"  
ACT ONE, SCENE

DARKNESS. A piano begins to PLAY the title song AS LIGHTS COME UP on a modest farm in Underbury, Connecticut. There is evidence of an apple orchard, grass, flowers, as well as a wooden fence that separates the orchard from an adjoining farm. The SOUND of a twin-prop airplane is added to the music, distant but drawing ever closer.

DOWNSTAGE CENTER, a MAN sitting in a chair is revealed in a light special. The Man wears aviator goggles and steers aircraft controls with practiced precision. The pilot is none other than DOCTOR HORATIO GALAPAGUS, zoologist, adventurer and procurer of rare animals. Suddenly, the sound of the engines begins to cough as Doctor Galapagus experiences a lapse of power. Galapagus reaches for his radio and calls for help.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
Mayday, Mayday! This is Tango,  
zero, niner, niner, four on route  
from Calcutta, can anybody hear me?  
I repeat, this is Tango, zero,  
niner, niner, four out of Calcutta,  
running low on fuel, does anybody  
read me?!

The engine coughs again and then begins to sputter, now WE HEAR THE SOUND of an airplane losing altitude!

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
Mayday, Mayday! This is Doctor  
Horatio Galapagus out of Calcutta,  
carrying rare zoological specimens  
and losing altitude rapidly!  
Request assistance, does anybody  
read me?!

SOUNDS of panicked birds join the music and the engines.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
Hannibal, alps and elephants!  
Everybody hang on, this could be a  
bumpy landing!

LIGHT SPECIAL GOES OUT on Doctor Galapagus as he goes into a dive, struggling with the controls.

Now the SOUND of a forced landing - tree branches breaking, the muffled impact of landing gear, a fence being crashed!

(CONTINUED)

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Shortly after, Doctor Galapagus staggers ONSTAGE, a little shaky and carrying a fuel can. He stops and looks around to get his bearings.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

I've got to get that fuel gauge fixed, that was a close call. Oh my, I really busted up that fence, that's going to be expensive to repair.

Doctor Galapagus spies something excitedly in the distance.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Great Caesar's ghost! There's a gas station right down the road, what luck!

Galapagus runs happily OFF STAGE RIGHT to the gas station.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN & PROFESSOR PENGUIN waddle DOWN STAGE LEFT.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

What a stroke of luck, Professor Penguin, running out of gas and having to put down like that!

PROFESSOR PENGUIN

"Lucky" my webbed foot, Protector Penguin, he almost did us in, landing down here in the middle of nowhere!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Stop complaining, this is the chance we've been waiting for!

PROFESSOR PENGUIN

But we don't know where we are!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

We'll figure that out later, just get moving!

PROFESSOR PENGUIN

But what about our contract? We'll be in big trouble if we break it and run away.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

That contract's bogus and you know it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PROTECTOR PENGUIN (CONT'D)

Besides, I'm tired of performing on  
cruise ships for day old mackerel  
and bad accommodations! And if  
that jailor who calls himself a  
"doctor" thinks I'm going back to  
that prison that he calls a ZOO,  
he's got another thought coming!!

PROFESSOR PENGUIN

But we can't leave the kookaramonga  
behind!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

She's pregnant, she'll never be  
able to run fast enough. I'm sorry  
but it's every bird for himself  
right now! No more "buts", RUN!!

Protector and Professor Penguin RUN OFF STAGE RIGHT.

Almost immediately, the pregnant KOOKARAMONGA appears, moving  
with some difficulty towards CENTER STAGE. She stops by the  
broken fence and to her great relief, lays a large egg  
directly on the property line.

Music begins to play again, the Kookaramonga looks up and  
realizes that someone is approaching. Alarmed, she runs off  
in the direction of the airplane, leaving the egg behind.

WALTER ROBERTS ENTERS STAGE LEFT, a red checkered jacket  
swung over his shoulder. He sings "MOTHER NATURE DOES IT  
BEST".

WALTER

You can't deny that horses fly  
Or cows and pigs can dance  
That sheep can sing on fallen  
spring  
If given half a chance.  
It all boils down to nothing  
If you put it to the test  
Good old Mother Nature does it  
best. Trees can walk and flowers  
talk on sunny afternoons  
butterflies can close their eyes  
and sing romantic tunes it all  
boils down to nothing if you put it  
to the test good old Mother Nature  
does it best.  
Old Mother Nature always moves the  
world along, when things get out of  
hand, she sings the same old song  
And rivers run and have their fun  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WALTER (CONT'D)

Every night and day,  
 Summer nights wear purple tights  
 And dance the night away. It all  
 boils down to nothing If you put it  
 to the test  
 Good old Mother Nature does it  
 best.

Walter picks an apple from a nearby branch, shines it.

UPSTAGE, Doctor Galapagus appears, his gas can now refilled. Wanting to avoid the issue of the broken fence, he tip toes past, as Walter continues his song.

WALTER

The clouds roll by and play I spy  
 while eating caviar Just today the  
 Milky Way Made milk shakes on a  
 star It all boils down to nothing  
 If you put it to the test  
 Good old Mother Nature does it  
 best.  
 Old Mother Nature always moves the  
 World along, when things get out of  
 Hand, she sings the same old song  
 A young giraffe once made me laugh  
 So much I thought I'd die  
 An elephant who said "I can't"  
 Stole my best bow tie  
 It all boils down to nothing  
 If you put it to the test good old  
 Mother Nature does it best.

As Walter takes a bite of apple, he hears the SOUND of Doctor Galapagus's engine starting up.

WALTER

Now what in tarnation is that?

Walter looks RIGHT and sees Galapagus's airplane taking off.

WALTER

Hey! HEY! What are you doing on  
 my property with that airplane?!

Looking around, Walter realizes his fence is all broken up.

Now really irritated, Walter waves his arms at the plane.

WALTER

Hey, wait a minute here! What  
 about my fence?  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WALTER (CONT'D)

You land down here, break up my  
fence and now you're going to just  
TAKE OFF?! LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED?

SOUND of Galapagus's plane in the air and getting away.

WALTER

Hey, you come back here!

Walter shakes his fist in futility but the plane is gone. He crosses over to the fence to survey the damage and sees the egg that the Kookaramonga left behind.

WALTER

Mother of Mercy, look at the size  
of that egg! Looks like an ostrich  
laid it, or a baby dinosaur.

Kneeling down, Walter reaches out and touches the egg.

WALTER

Lord, it's still warm. Whoever was  
in that plane must have left it  
behind. But why? Doesn't make any  
sense, an egg like this, it must be  
special.

Walter wraps his checkered jacket carefully around the egg.

WALTER

Well, I certainly can't leave you  
out here in the orchard by your  
lonesome. Just take you back to  
the farm and find a way to incubate  
you till I figure out who you  
belong to.

Cradling the egg in his arms, Walter looks up at the sky.

WALTER

My God, Luella. Ever since you  
left me, my days get stranger and  
stranger.

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE ONE.

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP on Walter's farmhouse, later that afternoon. The interior is warm but Spartan in fixtures - a wooden table and chairs, a large television and a framed picture of Walter and Luella are the prominent features of the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Walter ENTERS, still carrying the egg, crosses to the table.

Underneath, piano croons "SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO SAY GOODBYE".

WALTER

Well, so much for that old egg incubator! Hunk of junk wouldn't keep a partridge egg warm, let alone a guy your size!

Setting the egg down gently on the table, looks around.

WALTER

Now what am I going to do with you? Certainly can't put you in the oven, that'll never do.

Walter looks at the television and starts to get an idea.

WALTER

Oh, Luella, you wouldn't like to hear what I'm thinking about right now.

Walter walks to the back of the television and examines it.

WALTER

It's probably a good thing you're not around to see what I'm doing here. I know this television was your pride and joy, so to speak.

Walter unscrews the back panel of the TV and removes it.

WALTER

Looks like there's enough room in there for it. Now what about the heat?

The TV lights up as Walter points a remote at it.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCER

Welcome back to "America's Dumbest Home Video's".

Canned laughter plays and Walter changes the channel.

WALTER

Oh, no, we're not listening to that!

Melodramatic music plays underneath a French soap opera.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

FRENCH ACTOR

(In bad French accent)

Comment ca, tu ne sais pas de quoi  
je parle? Voila que je rentre a  
l'improviste au milieu de l'apres-  
midi et je tie trouve dans la  
cuisine en train de t'amuser a  
faire FRENCH TOAST?!

Walter changes the channel again, gets classical music.

WALTER

By golly, Luella, you've got more  
channels on this thing than stripes  
on a tiger.

Classical music plays. Walter checks temperature in the set.

WALTER

That feels warm enough to me.

Walter takes the egg and places it carefully inside the TV.

WALTER

It's not ideal but it'll have to  
do.

He walks back to the table and looks at the framed picture.

WALTER

Now I know what you'd say, Luella -  
"Walter Roberts, you do some of the  
darndest things." All right, time's  
a wasting, there's work to be done.

As he heads towards the door, the phone begins to ring.

WALTER

Oh, now what is it?

Walter hesitates but then decides to pick up the phone.

WALTER

Hello?

(Beat)

Well, hello Sarah. I'm fine,  
actually. How are you?

(Beat)

That sounds terrific, new clients  
are always good, sure, sounds like  
things are going really well.

(Beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (7)

WALTER (CONT'D)

No, no, you're not keeping me from anything.

Crossing to the table, Walter sits down, his mood changed.

WALTER

Actually, I'm glad that you called, didn't know if I'd hear from you again. You still planning to come up for the summer? If you can tear yourself away from the big city that is?

(Beat)

Good, good. Be nice to see you. What am I doing now? Well, I'll tell you Sarah, it's been a funny day..

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE TWO.

SCENE THREE

LIGHTS UP on the farmhouse, three weeks later, early evening.

Walter and SARAH GOLDSTEIN are sitting at the table, with dinner dishes and the remnants of a meal.

A history show throbs softly on the TV, the egg still inside.

SARAH

So you've been incubating that egg for almost three weeks?

WALTER

That's right.

SARAH

You honestly think that it's going to hatch in there?

WALTER

Eggs hatch all the time, Sarah. It's not unusual, a bird coming out of a shell.

SARAH

No, but in a television set?

WALTER

That's just because you're used to thinking of it as a television set.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

SARAH  
How else would I think of it?

WALTER  
As a warm, dry, controlled  
environment - which is exactly what  
this little guy needs to succeed.

SARAH  
I had no idea you were so  
interested in this egg.

WALTER  
Let's just say I've "taken him  
under my wing."

Sarah groans and gets up, she starts stacking plates.

SARAH  
You and your bad puns. On that  
note, I'm going to do the dishes.

WALTER  
Leave those, I'll do them later.

SARAH  
Walter, you made dinner, it's the  
least I can do.

WALTER  
I didn't ask you over 'cause I  
needed help with the dishes.

SARAH  
Nobody said you did.

Sarah stops stacking the dishes and looks at Walter.

SARAH  
So why did you ask me over?

WALTER  
I don't know.

SARAH  
Yes, you do.

She goes back to stacking up the dishes, Walter gets up.

WALTER  
You make it sound like I've got an  
agenda or something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

SARAH

Everybody's got an agenda. Or something.

WALTER

I wanted to know how you were.

SARAH

Fine, great, I'm a big girl.

WALTER

I wasn't sure. Things got a little weird last time I saw you.

SARAH

No, things didn't get weird, you got weird.

WALTER

I'm sorry, I was a little inappropriate.

SARAH

Walter, there's nothing inappropriate about kissing a girl good-night at the end of a date. If she makes it clear that she likes you, which I did. And she wants you to kiss her, which I did. What's inappropriate is telling a girl you're going to call her and then not.

WALTER

Sorry about that, I wanted to.

SARAH

Look, I know things have been hard for you since Luella passed but you can't grieve forever, you've got to move on.

WALTER

I don't want to grieve forever.

Sarah moves closer to Walter, looks at him carefully.

SARAH

It's been three years. More. You're entitled to the rest of your life and you shouldn't feel guilty for wanting a little magic in it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

WALTER  
I wouldn't mind a little magic  
right now.

Suddenly, there's a minor explosion in the television set!

Walter grabs Sarah and pulls her back protectively.

WALTER  
Sarah, watch out, something's  
happening with the egg!

SARAH  
Good lord!

The TV splits open and out steps RAYMUNDO, a Kookaramonga.

Raymundo is handsome, svelte, and has a nice head of  
feathers.

RAYMUNDO  
Hi everyone! I'm so happy to be  
here!

SARAH  
My goodness, he's speaking!

WALTER  
I don't believe it, how's that  
possible?

Raymundo starts dancing and singing "EGG ON MY FACE".

RAYMUNDO  
I woke up this morning with egg on  
my face  
It started spreading All over the  
place!  
My doctor said he'd never  
Seen such a case of Waking up with  
egg on my face! I added some bacon  
to The egg on my face It started  
spreading All over the place! My  
doctor said he's never  
Seen such a case of Bacon and egg  
on my face!

Dancing around the table, Ray interacts with Walter and  
Sarah.

RAYMUNDO  
I added some toast to  
The egg on my face  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

RAYMUNDO (CONT'D)

It started spreading  
 All over the place!  
 My doctor said he'd never  
 Seen such a case of toast  
 And bacon and egg on my face! I  
 added some ketchup to The egg on my  
 face It started spreading All over  
 the place!  
 My doctor said he's never seen  
 Such a case of ketchup and  
 Toast and bacon and egg  
 On my face!  
 What do you do with  
 Egg on your face?  
 You mess it around  
 All over the place! I looked in  
 the mirror and Said "what a  
 disgrace" when I saw the ketchup  
 and toast  
 And bacon and egg on my face!

Ray jumps up on a chair in his excitement, still singing.

RAYMUNDO

I had myself a breakfast now  
 There isn't a trace of  
 Waking up with egg on my face! I  
 looked in the mirror and said "what  
 a disgrace" when  
 I saw the ketchup and toast  
 And bacon and egg on my face!  
 I had myself a breakfast now  
 There isn't a trace of Waking up  
 with egg on my face! I've  
 recovered from  
 The egg on my face!!

WALTER

That was quite a song!

RAYMUNDO

Thanks! Are you my mom and dad?

SARAH

Um, that's a complicated question.

RAYMUNDO

Meaning there's a complicated  
 answer?

SARAH

Uh, right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

RAYMUNDO

Okay, we can talk about it later.  
Can I have something to eat?

WALTER

Of course, you must be hungry after  
all this time.

RAYMUNDO

Starving!

WALTER

I'm not sure what to offer you.  
We've got some nice bird seed in  
the barn.

RAYMUNDO

No, I'll have what you're having.

SARAH

You want pizza?

RAYMUNDO

As long as it's vegetarian, sure!

Ray sits at the table while Walter makes a plate for him.

RAYMUNDO

It's really nice to be able to move  
around after being "cooped up" for  
so long.

SARAH

That's an interesting way to put  
it. Seems like you've got your  
father's "gift" for puns.

RAYMUNDO

Right, from the English noun, as in  
a cage, or the verb, which means to  
contain. Not to be confused with  
the French coupe, which is a  
fencing term that means "to cut".

WALTER

Wow, I've never met a bird who  
could speak English, let alone  
French.

SARAH

How do you know all those things?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

RAYMUNDO

I don't know, I just do.

Walter gives Ray some pizza, he starts eating hungrily.

SARAH

Wait a minute, didn't you say that you left the television on, ever since you found the egg, Walter?

WALTER

That's right, and I've been changing the channels periodically, just so I wouldn't go crazy listening to some of that bad programming.

SARAH

So our friend here's been exposed to roughly..?

WALTER

..Twenty one days of public television, the French and Spanish channels and good dose of the history show.

SARAH

That's where you got your education! Say, what are we supposed to call you anyhow?

RAYMUNDO

(Take a moment)  
Call me "Raymundo".

WALTER

Fine, then, Raymundo it is. This is Sarah and you can call me Walter.

RAYMUNDO

I'm so pleased to meet you.

SARAH

Likewise.

Sarah and Walter sit down with Ray at the table.

RAYMUNDO

So how did I get here? And where exactly is here? You don't mind me asking, do you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

WALTER

No, not at all. I found you three weeks ago, when you were still an egg down in the orchard by the south fence.

SARAH

By the property line, between Walter's farm and mine. Actually, it was right on the property line you said, right?

WALTER

More or less, yes.

SARAH

So, Raymundo, when you asked about us being your Mom and Dad, well, there's no simple answer. Obviously, you're a bird and we're not, so we couldn't technically be your parents.

RAYMUNDO

Where are my parents?

WALTER

Impossible to say. The mysterious man in the airplane might know.

RAYMUNDO

Who's that?

Ray finishes eating, pushes his plate aside, intrigued.

WALTER

The guy who left the egg behind and flew away. But who knows if we'll ever see him again.

SARAH

So for the time being, since we don't know anything about your biological parents, you can think of us as your stand-in Mom and Dad.

RAYMUNDO

"Stand-ins"?

SARAH

It's a show business term, it's someone who stands in for the star when they're not available.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (15)

RAYMUNDO

Oh. Are you in show business,  
Sarah?

WALTER

Sure, she's a big talent agent in  
New York City.

SARAH

Walter, never tell a woman she's  
"big".

RAYMUNDO

Ouch.

SARAH

I'm kidding. And on that note, I'm  
going home, I've got some important  
phone calls to make.

WALTER

I'll walk you to your car.

SARAH

Thank you, I'd like that. It was a  
real pleasure meeting you,  
Raymundo, I want to talk to you  
some more tomorrow.

RAYMUNDO

Sure, same here. What are we going  
to talk about?

SARAH

Your future, Raymundo. Trust me, I  
think you've got a promising one  
ahead of you.

WALTER

You can bed down on the couch  
tonight, Raymundo. We get up  
pretty early around here, so you'll  
want to get a good night's sleep.

RAYMUNDO

Wow, I'm so excited, I don't know  
if I'll be able to sleep at all!

WALTER

Try counting sheep, that always  
works for me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

RAYMUNDO  
All right, I'll try.

Sarah and Walter cross UP to the farmhouse front door.

WALTER  
I didn't know you were so  
"interested" in being a stand-in  
parent?

SARAH  
Well, you did find Ray directly on  
the property line, so that does  
make him partly my responsibility.  
Right?

WALTER  
If you say so.

SARAH  
Besides, I know a good thing when I  
see it.

WALTER  
What's that supposed to mean?

SARAH  
Walk me to my car, handsome, and  
I'll tell you.

Sarah and Walter EXIT, as Ray bunks down on the couch.

RAYMUNDO  
Boy, I sure am lucky that Walter  
found me on his property line and  
brought me home. Who knows what  
might have happened if he hadn't  
come along? And who's that  
mysterious man in the airplane and  
why did he leave me behind? Gee,  
so many questions my head suddenly  
hurts. Maybe Walter's right and I  
should get some sleep - tomorrow's  
another day.

Raymundo sings "THE SHEEP SONG" as Protector Penguin peers in  
the doorway, keeping vigil.

RAYMUNDO  
One, two, three, four, counting  
sheep  
I'm very tired but cannot sleep If  
I count my little friends  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

RAYMUNDO (CONT'D)

Then I will be asleep again. One  
 Sheep,two sheep,three sheep,four  
 Sandman is listening at my door  
 Waiting for my eyes to close  
 He walks away on tippy toes.

Protector does a comedic, interpretive dance to the song.

A few feathers fall from the penguin as he exerts himself.

RAYMUNDO

One, two, three, four I'm asleep I  
 have counted all the sheep  
 Morning's coming won't be long Then  
 the sheep will all be gone. One  
 sheep,two sheep,three sheep,four  
 Sandman is listening at my door  
 Waiting for my eyes to close  
 He walks away on tippy toes. One,  
 two, three, four I'm asleep I have  
 counted all the sheep  
 Morning's coming won't be long  
 Then the sheep will all be gone.

Lights fading, Raymundo closes his eyes and sleeps.

BLACK OUT, END  
 SCENE THREE.

SCENE FOUR

LIGHTS UP outside Walter's farmhouse, the following  
 afternoon.

Walter strides to the house, carrying a hammer and some nails

WALTER

Hurry up, Raymundo, don't dawdle!  
 That south fence still needs fixing  
 and at this rate, we're never going  
 to get to it.

Raymundo scurries after him, clearly a little overstimulated.

RAYMUNDO

Sorry, Walter, I don't mean to be a  
 slowpoke, but the farm's such a  
 busy place that I keep getting  
 distracted. And why do I keep  
 finding feathers all over the  
 place?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (18)

WALTER

It is a farm.

RAYMUNDO

I know but these feathers look different from the other birds around here. I don't know, maybe I'm just feeling a little overwhelmed.

WALTER

I understand, it's a big first day out in the world for you but trust me, all those things aren't going anywhere.

RAYMUNDO

How do you know that?

Walter gets his tool box from the porch, checks for a hammer.

WALTER

Because the world has a certain way of working and when you've been around as long as I have, you get familiar with that.

RAYMUNDO

But what if another war breaks out and it gets nuclear and all the world leaders panic and hit the green button at the same time? All this stuff might not be around then, would it?

WALTER

Boy, I wish I didn't leave that history show on as much as I did, it's put some funny ideas in your head.

RAYMUNDO

I'm just saying things can happen and just 'cause you don't expect them, doesn't mean they won't. You didn't expect a plane to fall out of the sky or me to come along but here I am.

WALTER

Ray, is something bothering you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (19)

RAYMUNDO

No. Yeah, kind of.

WALTER

You're upset about the way some folks in town reacted to you this morning?

RAYMUNDO

A little. I don't think they meant anything by it, but I still felt a little weird.

WALTER

Don't worry about it, Ray, people just need a little time to adjust to new things and you're the newest thing to hit this county in 25 years.

RAYMUNDO

So there's nothing wrong with me?

Taking Ray's shoulders, Walter looks him in the eye.

WALTER

Not a thing, Ray, not a thing. Besides, you were a real hit with that busy-bee Charmbury Clampers and you practically had her dancing on air when you sang that little song of yours. And your timing on that one was perfect, 'cause I couldn't listen ANYMORE about her nephew graduating from Harvard Law School!

RAYMUNDO

What's a busy-bee?

WALTER

Someone who can't mind their own bee's wax.

RAYMUNDO

Oh, I get it.

WALTER

Trust me, Ray, in 48 hours that woman will have the entire county "buzzing" about you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (20)

RAYMUNDO

Ouch! Is that a good thing?

WALTER

Good, bad, or inevitable, it's all part of living in the country.

Walter sings "LIVING IN THE COUNTRY".

WALTER

You just can't beat Living in the  
country Being close to nature In a  
world of green. You just can't  
beat Living in the country  
Breathing in the cleanest Air  
you've ever seen. You just can't  
beat Living in the country Watching  
all the butterflies Go flutter by.  
You just can't beat  
Living in the country Always brings  
a tear  
Right to my eye.

Walter calls a squaredance, showing Ray how to do it.

WALTER

Hey down hoe down Allemande right  
Come on everybody  
Going to dance all night.  
Bees can sting Mosquitoes bite  
Dance and sing  
With all your might.

They continue to dance as Sarah appears and watches.

WALTER

You just can't beat  
Living in the country Something  
'bout the country  
That you can't explain.  
You just can't beat living in the  
country better get the chickens in  
It looks like rain.

SARAH

Hey, that looks like fun! Can I  
try?

WALTER

Sure, why not?

Ray calls, as Walter and Sarah dance a pass together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (21)

RAYMUNDO

Hey down hoe down  
Allemande right come on everybody  
going to dance all night. Bees can  
sting Mosquitoes bite Dance and  
sing With all your might. You just  
can't beat Living in the country  
Working in the garden  
'neath a sky of blue.  
You just can't beat Living in the  
country The cows and pigs and  
Horses love it too. And now I've  
got some  
Chores I'd better do!

SARAH

You're pretty light on your feet  
for a farmer, Walter.

WALTER

I get by.

SARAH

And you do make a good case for  
weekends in the country.

WALTER

You should try staying for more  
than a weekend, see what it's  
really like.

SARAH

No, I'm a city gal, I don't think I  
could handle that much fresh air.

WALTER

Guess if you like all that carbon  
monoxide and craziness it's okay.

SARAH

It's more than that. There are  
lots of wonderful opportunities in  
New York that you don't get out  
here in the sticks.

WALTER

Hey, I wouldn't exactly call  
Underbury "the sticks!"

SARAH

Walter, how many flavors of ice  
cream do you have in that market of  
yours?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (22)

WALTER

I don't know.

SARAH

You got three, I counted them -  
vanilla, chocolate and coffee. You  
don't even have strawberry. How  
many movies does your movie house  
show?

WALTER

One.

SARAH

Any place I can get a lobster  
dinner?

WALTER

No, not that I know of.

SARAH

Any place I can kick up my heels on  
a Saturday night?

WALTER

Um, there is the Underbury  
Community Center.

SARAH

You are kidding now, right?

WALTER

What's your point?!

SARAH

You're living in the sticks. Face  
facts, it's true.

WALTER

Even if that's so, most of us enjoy  
it up here, away from all that  
hustle and bustle you seem to like  
so well.

SARAH

I never said there was anything  
wrong with that, I mean it's fine  
for you, you've got a farm here,  
you're settled. But for someone  
like Raymundo, who's got his whole  
life ahead of him, there aren't  
that many opportunities!

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (23)

RAYMUNDO

What kind of opportunities are you talking about, Sarah?

SARAH

Well, there's so many it's hard to know where to begin - plays, Broadway musicals, concerts, museums, galleries! For over a century, New York has been a Mecca for the finest architects, musicians and artists from all over the world!

RAYMUNDO

That sounds incredible!

SARAH

Not to mention the design houses of fashion, Lincoln center, Carnegie hall, the list just goes on and on!

RAYMUNDO

I'd like to see those things, Walter.

WALTER

Sure it's a nice place to visit.

RAYMUNDO

You mean you've never been there? All those things and it's only a few hours away?

WALTER

Can't say as I have.

SARAH

It's only a train ride away. Or even easier if you have a "friend" with a car.

RAYMUNDO

Sarah's got a car, she's got a BMW!

SARAH

Oh yes, a very fast car.

WALTER

Well, that's a nice idea, Sarah but it's not a good time right now. I've got a fence to fix in the south meadow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (24)

SARAH

That fence isn't going anywhere.

WALTER

And I've got an orchard of apples to look after.

SARAH

You're not going to harvest those apples for another ten weeks, you told me so.

WALTER

Besides, New York is a pretty dangerous place, there's lots of crime down there.

SARAH

Don't worry, I'll protect you.

Raymundo laughs as Walter looks at Sarah sternly.

SARAH

I'm kidding.

Walter finally smiles, in spite of himself.

SARAH

Besides, Raymundo's got an appointment on Monday he really shouldn't miss.

WALTER

"Appointment?"

SARAH

Actually, it's more of an audition.

RAYMUNDO

"Audition?!" For what?

SARAH

A television show!

WALTER

Now see here -

RAYMUNDO

- Wow! -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (25)

SARAH  
- and not just any show but a  
television talk show and they're  
looking for a HOST!

RAYMUNDO  
Wow, Sarah, that's the most  
exciting news I've ever heard!

WALTER  
Now don't go flying off the handle.

SARAH  
It's a great opportunity.

WALTER  
Sarah, you said we'd talk about  
things like this.

SARAH  
We are talking about it.

WALTER  
Beforehand!

RAYMUNDO  
What time are we leaving?

SARAH  
It just came up, these things  
happen very quickly sometimes.

WALTER  
Absolutely not! I forbid it!

SARAH  
Excuse me?

WALTER  
There's no way I'm letting Ray out  
of my sight.

RAYMUNDO  
You mean I can't go?

WALTER  
You said you were just going to  
make some phone calls!

SARAH  
I did make some calls, they called  
back, that's how it works.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (26)

RAYMUNDO

Walter, what's wrong?

WALTER

I don't trust those people in New York!

SARAH

Meaning you don't trust me?

WALTER

That's not what I said!

SARAH

No, but it's what you meant!

RAYMUNDO

Walter, Sarah, please don't fight!

WALTER

Don't put words in my mouth!

SARAH

Fine, if that's the way you want it, just forget about it! I'll call the producer and tell him you're not interested!

Sarah turns and walks OFF, Raymundo is very upset by now.

RAYMUNDO

But I want to go! Sarah, wait, don't leave! Walter, go after her! Oh, what's wrong?!

Walter starts to go but stops himself, Ray embraces him.

WALTER

Don't worry, Raymundo, everything's going to be OK, you hear me? It's all going to be OK.

BLACK OUT, END SCENE FOUR.

SCENE FIVE

LIGHTS COME UP on the interior of Walter's farmhouse, later the following morning. The farmhouse front door is open.

Walter sits at the table with a pile of bills and some coffee.

Sarah appears in the doorway, knocks on the doorframe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (27)

SARAH  
Morning. Can I come in?

WALTER  
Sure, of course.

SARAH  
Are you all right?

WALTER  
Yeah, just trying to balance my books.

SARAH  
That's never any fun.

WALTER  
Tell me about it, wolf's at the door every time I turn around.

SARAH  
Where's Raymundo?

WALTER  
Out back, watering the garden I think.

SARAH  
He's a very special...

WALTER  
What?

SARAH  
I was going to say "boy" but that's not exactly true. He's a bird, a very rare and wonderful bird, and he's got lots of human qualities but he still came out of a shell.

WALTER  
You don't have to tell me any of that, I was here all along. Ray and I went through the incubation period together, I think it kind of bonded us in a way.

SARAH  
You really do love him, don't you?

WALTER  
Yes, I do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (28)

SARAH

I'm sorry I came on so strong about the audition. I just think Raymundo's a huge talent and he could have a lot of wonderful possibilities, and I kind of got carried away.

WALTER

I'm sorry too, I got a little hot under the collar.

SARAH

Maybe just a little. Hot head.

Walter smiles, a little embarrassed by the whole exchange.

SARAH

You know, you're one of the few men left in the world that can still blush. I find that endearing for some reason.

WALTER

You're a big flirt.

SARAH

So are you. Just in a different way. And on that note, I'm going.

WALTER

Back to the big city.

SARAH

"There's gold in them there hills".

Raymundo suddenly appears excitedly in the doorway.

RAYMUNDO

Sarah, you came back!

SARAH

I wanted to say goodbye to you.

RAYMUNDO

Are you going back to New York City?

SARAH

Yes, I'm leaving early so I can beat the afternoon traffic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (29)

RAYMUNDO

I'll bet you have a lot of auditions to take care of.

Ray gives Walter a look but doesn't say what he wants to.

SARAH

A few. But I'll be canceling yours first thing tomorrow, so that'll be one less thing to worry about.

WALTER

You haven't canceled it yet?

SARAH

No. Thought I'd give you a day to think it over but I see you haven't changed your mind.

WALTER

Actually I have.

RAYMUNDO

What?

WALTER

Raymundo, do you still want to go on that audition?

RAYMUNDO

Can I?

WALTER

If Sarah still wants to take you.

SARAH

Walter Roberts, you sure are full of surprises. What changed your mind?

WALTER

What you said yesterday, about our three flavors of ice cream, you were right. We are a little isolated up here. And Ray does have his whole life ahead of him, he should explore his options. I just didn't want him taken advantage of by anybody.

SARAH

I would never let that happen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (30)

WALTER

I know you wouldn't, I was just being over-protective.

RAYMUNDO

Does that mean we're going?

WALTER

You better get your things, Ray, Sarah's got traffic to beat.

Ray runs OFF excitedly to pack himself an overnight bag.

SARAH

I'd love if it you'd come along too Walter. I could put the two of you up for a few days, I've got room.

WALTER

Wish I could but I've got a farm to take care of.

SARAH

That's a dodge. You've got apples getting ripe out there and helpers with the other stuff.

Walter puts money in an envelope and writes on it.

WALTER

Don't tell me my business and I won't tell you yours.

SARAH

I thought Raymundo was your business?

WALTER

I'm trusting you to make it yours.

SARAH

Walter, are you trying to flatter me? Next thing I know you'll be bringing me flowers.

WALTER

How about some "Indian corn"?

SARAH

Not as good but I'll take what I can get.

Sarah puts her hand on Walter's shoulder as Ray returns.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (31)

RAYMUNDO  
I'm all ready, Sarah!

SARAH  
Wow, that was fast.

RAYMUNDO  
I didn't have a lot to pack.

WALTER  
Now Ray, so here's some cash in  
this envelope and my phone number's  
on the front if you need to call  
me.

RAYMUNDO  
OK, I'll call you when we get to  
Sarah's so you know we're all  
right.

Raymundo gives Walter a big, sincere hug that's returned.

WALTER  
Good boy. And just be careful and  
have a good audition.

SARAH  
In show biz, we say "break-a-leg".

WALTER  
I'll leave that up to you.

SARAH  
All right, Raymundo, let's get  
going.

Grabbing his things, Raymundo runs out the door and OFF.

RAYMUNDO  
Yeah!

Sarah and Walter walk to the front door and stop.

SARAH  
Last chance, there's still room for  
three.

WALTER  
Next time.

SARAH  
Life's short. Might not be a next  
time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (32)

WALTER  
I'll just have to take my chances.

SARAH  
Fine. Kiss me for luck then.

Sarah kisses him quickly and ducks out the door.

SARAH  
Bye!

A little surprised, Walter watches Sarah go.

After a moment, he walks back into the farmhouse, thinking.

Piano plays a little of "SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO SAY GOODBYE" as he looks at the photo of Luella on the table.

WALTER  
Yeah, I know what you'd say Luella  
and you'd be right.

Walter looks back at the door, his heart tugging at him.

WALTER  
Darn it, Luella, don't you get  
tired of always being right?

He looks at the photo again and then turns it over.

Crossing back to the door quickly, Walter calls out.

WALTER  
Hey! Hey, guys, wait up! I'm  
coming with you! You hear me? I'm  
coming with you!!

Walter goes out the door as the MUSIC PICKS UP AND SWELLS.

BLACK OUT, END  
ACT ONE.

ACT TWO, SCENE

In the darkness, the piano picks up the theme of "THAT'S WHY I LOVE NEW YORK, NEW YORK" in a spirited tempo.

LIGHTS UP ONSTAGE to reveal a corner in Times Square.

There is evidence of bright lights and a very big city.

Ray runs ON excitedly, with Sarah and Walter walking behind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (33)

RAYMUNDO

Holy cow, is this really your neighborhood?!

SARAH

Better believe it! Been living in the theater district for over twenty years and I wouldn't be anywhere else. All that energy, the people, their expectation, not to mention all those lights.

WALTER

It really IS an eyeful.

SARAH

Still missing the farm, Walter?

WALTER

Not at the moment, no.

RAYMUNDO

I think New York is the most beautiful city I've ever seen!

WALTER

It's the only city you've seen. But I have to admit, it is something.

SARAH

Be careful, boys, or you'll fall head over heels with this town.

RAYMUNDO

What do you mean?

SARAH

Well, there are windy cities, and merry cities, cities of hills and lights and canals - you name it and odds are it's out there. But the "city that never sleeps" is the most seductive one of all.

Sarah begins to sing "THAT'S WHY I LOVE NEW YORK, NEW YORK" in a dreamy, romantic rhythm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (34)

SARAH

I've been to Paris, Budapest  
Niagra, 'Frisco and the rest It  
doesn't matter where I roam I  
always keep on coming home New York  
is one big Broadway show It's all a  
circus where I go New York, New  
York I'll always love you  
Washington Square to Madison Avenue  
That's why I love New York, New  
York

Sarah turns, directs this next part to Walter.

SARAH

You'll have the greatest time  
You've ever had if  
You learn to take  
The good with the bad  
One day it's winter  
Then a hundred degrees  
You've forgotten your name  
Next day it's on a marquee  
With a live chimpanzee

RAYMUNDO

You guys aren't going to get mushy  
again are you?

SARAH

Don't knock it until you've tried  
it, Ray.

Sarah begins to move around as the song picks up in tempo.

SARAH

And when my world is upside down I  
love to visit Chinatown Or ride the  
Hudson River line  
And leave my troubles all behind  
There's always something In this  
town to lift you up when you feel  
down New York, New York I'll always  
love you 42nd Street to Madison  
Avenue  
That's why I love New York, New  
York

A STREET VENDOR dances on and gives Walter and Ray both "I  
Love New York" caps - the three dance as Sarah keeps singing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (35)

SARAH

You'll have the greatest time That  
you've ever had if You learn to  
take The good with the bad One day  
it's winter, Then a hundred degrees  
You've forgotten your name  
Next day it's on a marquee  
With a live chimpanzee

Sarah dances with the Vendor, who we realize is actually  
Protector Penguin in disguise.

As they dance, Protector inadvertently loses more feathers.

SARAH

I love to jog through Central Park  
and stroll through Times Square  
After dark when I am Blue or  
feeling down There's always magic  
to be found There's entertainment  
in the street You never know just  
who you'll meet New York, New York  
I'll always love you Carnegie Hall  
to Liberty Statue  
That's why I love New York, New  
York!

A ROBBER steals Walter's hat and runs away with it.

WALTER

Hey! Hey, that guy stole my hat!  
And I just got it!

SARAH

That's why I love New York, New  
York.

RAYMUNDO

Don't worry, we can get you another  
one Walter.

WALTER

That's not the point!

SARAH

Come on guys, it's your first night  
in Times Square, we've got to get  
you both a hot dog.

WALTER

A hot dog? Are you serious?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (36)

RAYMUNDO

That sounds great! We'll get a  
real taste of New York!

WALTER

You sure those things are safe to  
eat?

SARAH

'Course it's safe to eat, it's a  
hot dog! Let's go, 42nd street's  
right around the corner.

Sarah heads OFF STAGE with Walter and Ray trailing behind.

WALTER

I don't know about that. I just  
read an article in the paper  
recently about bacteria in public  
places, that was really alarming.  
And why are there feathers all over  
Times Square??

SARAH

I think you've got birds on the  
brain.

As they walk OFF, Protector Penguin follows them discretely.

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE ONE.

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP ONSTAGE as the screen goes dark, with Sarah and Ray  
entering the studio. DOWN LEFT are some chairs, with several  
actresses seated in them. The actresses wear power outfits,  
hold resumes and scene pages, and silently rehearse their  
scenes, over and over.

A stage manager with a clipboard, NEEDLES, walks up to Sarah.

SARAH

Hey Needles, how's life at NBC  
television?

NEEDLES

Morning, Ms. Goldstein, same as  
ever.

SARAH

Seen any exciting talent lately?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (37)

NEEDLES

Wish I could say I had, Ms. Goldstein, it's not like the old days. Mostly all we get now are these pop stars with their pop talent that excites people for twenty minutes but then it's over 'cause there's no substance.

SARAH

Yeah, Needles, I know what you mean. But I've recently made a discovery that I think may change some of that.

NEEDLES

From your mouth to the entertainment god's ears, Ms. Goldstein.

SARAH

If only I had that pipeline, Needles. Would you let the producers know that we're here?

NEEDLES

Right away.

Needles leaves, Raymundo fidgets nervously from foot to foot.

RAYMUNDO

Why is he called "Needles"?

SARAH

Because he's from New Orleans and he carries around a voodoo doll and if you make him angry than he sticks needles into it until you get really sick and feel awful.

RAYMUNDO

You gotta' be kidding me.

SARAH

'Course I'm kidding, I just said that to distract you from being nervous. You are a little nervous, aren't you?

RAYMUNDO

I feel like I'm ready to throw up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (38)

SARAH

Don't worry, that's normal to feel that way at auditions.

RAYMUNDO

You're sure about that?

SARAH

You'll do fine, trust me. Look I've got to check in with the office, I'll be back in a bit. Why don't you go talk to one of those pretty gals over there and try to relax?

RAYMUNDO

Oh, I don't know if I can do that.

SARAH

Sure you can.

RAYMUNDO

But I don't know what to say.

SARAH

Thrill them with some facts from the science channel.

RAYMUNDO

Are you sure Walter's all right?

SARAH

We left him at a bookstore, he can't get into any trouble there.

RAYMUNDO

Yeah, why'd we do that?

SARAH

Because he had more ants in his pants than TEN stage mothers and that's the last thing we need! Now go sit down and stop worrying so much.

RAYMUNDO

All right.

Sarah goes OFF, Ray sits by the actresses, still rehearsing.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (39)

RAYMUNDO

Hi there. Did you know that black holes are gravitationally so dense that even light can't escape from them?

The ACTRESS speaks to Ray like an automaton on full auto.

ACTRESS

What? What? A black hole? What's a black hole? Does it have anything to do with me? With me? With me?

RAYMUNDO

Excuse me?

ACTRESS

Me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me! Oh my god, did they just call my name?! Did somebody just call my name? Was that my name?

RAYMUNDO

I don't know, what's your name?

ACTRESS

Oh my lord, I just realized, you're a talking bird! You're a bird THAT TALKS, that is SO weird!

Needles ENTERS and calls a name off his clipboard.

NEEDLES

"Constance Cunningham".

Actress leaps up like a gazelle, still staring at Ray.

ACTRESS

That's ME! Boy, a talking bird, that's really weird, did anybody ever tell you that?

Needles and the Actress go OFF as Ray cringes a little.

RAYMUNDO

Holy cow, what was that?

DOROTHY

Somebody with issues. Hi, I'm Dorothy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (40)

DOROTHY puts her hand out to Ray, he takes it tentatively.

RAYMUNDO

Nice to meet you, Dorothy. I'm Raymundo. You don't think I'm weird?

DOROTHY

Why would I think that? Come on, it's New York City, everybody's a little weird here.

RAYMUNDO

I guess so.

DOROTHY

Seriously, if everybody was totally the same, the world would be pretty boring, don't you think?

RAYMUNDO

That's true. Are you here for an audition?

DOROTHY

I am. I'm reading for the ingenue on this new daytime show. How about you?

RAYMUNDO

I'm here for the new talk show.

DOROTHY

Oh, you're so colorful, I think you'd be perfect for that!

All of a sudden, Dorothy covers her face with her hands and starts rocking back and forth.

DOROTHY

Oh, oh no!

RAYMUNDO

Dorothy, what's wrong?

DOROTHY

Nothing, it's just an anxiety attack.

RAYMUNDO

Because of the audition?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (41)

DOROTHY

No. Yes. They're going to find out that I'm a fake, a phony.

RAYMUNDO

What are you talking about?

DOROTHY

I'm crashing the audition, I don't really have an appointment, I don't even have an agent! I just made up a name and said there must be some oversight or something.

RAYMUNDO

So, that's no big deal, you can say you're with my agent.

DOROTHY

Wow, that's really nice of you but it's not just that. It's because I'm telling a lie and I've got instant karma.

RAYMUNDO

Oh, even if that's true, it's just a white lie. It's not like it's going to harm anybody.

DOROTHY

That's true, you're right. I'm probably overreacting.

RAYMUNDO

Maybe just a little.

DOROTHY

OK, you're right. I'm just going to breathe and everything will be fine.

Dorothy looks at Ray as if for the first time.

RAYMUNDO

What's the matter now?

DOROTHY

Nothing. I'm just noticing something about you.

RAYMUNDO

What? That I'm a bird?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (42)

DOROTHY  
No, that you're kind of cute.  
Anyone ever tell you that?

RAYMUNDO  
Nobody like you.

DOROTHY  
Well, you are. Very cute.

Needles ENTERS again with his clip board, calling out.

NEEDLES  
"Raymundo Roberts".

RAYMUNDO  
That's me. I've got to go.

Dorothy gives Ray a quick peck on the cheek.

DOROTHY  
Break-a-leg, Raymundo! If you ever  
want to look me up, I'm staying at  
the Martha Washington Residence for  
Ladies.

RAYMUNDO  
Thanks, Dorothy. Yeah, I will!

Ray rubs his cheek and follows Needles out through a door.

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE TWO.

### SCENE THREE

LIGHTS UP on a standard network rehearsal room, with a folding table and chairs, as well as piano. Behind the table sits a PRODUCER with the orchestra piano player seated at the piano.

NEEDLES  
This is Raymundo Roberts.

PRODUCER  
Hi, Raymundo. I'm Nelson Anderson,  
the producer of this show and this  
is our accompanist, Byron.

Byron plays a little flashy something, just to say hello.

RAYMUNDO  
It's a pleasure to meet you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (43)

PRODUCER

Raymundo, I want you to think of this as an informal little chat, a "go see" as we like to call them.

RAYMUNDO

Okay.

PRODUCER

So I'm going to ask you a few questions, just to get the ball rolling.

RAYMUNDO

Sure, go ahead.

PRODUCER

Who would you be sitting next to if you were interviewing Bill Gates?

RAYMUNDO

Mr. Gates is the founder of Microsoft Corporation, the creator of the Windows operating system that runs most of the world's computers and a generous donor to many charities.

PRODUCER

What would you ask him if he were on your talk show?

RAYMUNDO

Who spends more money for a bad haircut - Bill Gates or Donald Trump?

Needles and Producer chuckle appreciably at Ray's response.

PRODUCER

Good. What would be a clever question to ask Venus and Serena Williams, two of the greatest tennis players that ever lived?

RAYMUNDO

"Who serves dinner?"

PRODUCER

How about Taylor Swift? What would you ask her?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (44)

RAYMUNDO

What's it like dating a werewolf?

PRODUCER

Sarah Goldstein says you were born singing and dancing. Is that true?

RAYMUNDO

Absolutely.

PRODUCER

Why don't you give us a sample?

RAYMUNDO

I'd love to!

Ray hands over his sheet music and starts singing "HAPPY".

RAYMUNDO

Birds in the sky I'm so happy  
 Feeling alive I'm so happy You're  
 gone I'm on Front stage right on  
 center Look out world 'cause here I  
 enter There was a time we we were  
 together We only had sunny weather  
 But you went and I spent Every  
 single day without you  
 Now I hardly think about you  
 I've opened up my eyes  
 To this world around me  
 I've started living my life and I'm  
 fancy free I've learned to reach  
 out and touch the world around me  
 I'll keep singing a happy song you  
 wait and see I'm on my own I'm so  
 happy Living alone I'm so happy  
 Home free, that's me From now on  
 the skies the limit Look out world  
 'cause I'm still in it I smell a  
 rose I'm so happy  
 When I see sun I'm so happy  
 Misdeal, big wheel

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (45)

From now on I found my senses From  
 now on I've no pretenses I've  
 opened my eyes To this world around  
 me I've started living my life And  
 I'm fancy free I've learned to  
 reach out And touch the world  
 around me I'll keep singing a happy  
 song You wait and see I've opened  
 up my eyes To this world around me  
 I've started living my life And I'm  
 fancy free  
 I've learned to reach out And touch  
 the world around me I'll keep  
 singing a happy song You wait and  
 see Birds in the sky  
 Feeling alive  
 I'll keep singing a happy song!

Raymundo finishes his song to a smattering of applause.

BYRON

Lovely, just lovely!

PRODUCER

Thanks, Raymundo, that was just  
 great!

Needles gets up and shows Ray out the door gracefully.

NEEDLES

OK, we gotta' keep moving, we've  
 got a lot of people to see today.

PRODUCER

Thanks again, Raymundo, we'll be in  
 touch. Tell Sarah Goldstein I said  
 hello!

With Ray gone, Needles closes the door for a moment.

NEEDLES

What do you think?

PRODUCER

I don't know. He's charming, he's  
 clever, he can sure carry a tune -  
 I'm just not sure.

NEEDLES

What's the problem?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (46)

PRODUCER

Well, frankly, he's a singing bird and that's kind of weird. I just don't know if an audience will buy it.

NEEDLES

Hey, they bought a singing sponge at the bottom of the ocean and that was really weird!

BYRON

Good point.

PRODUCER

All right, fine, bring in the talking alligator.

Needles opens up the door but then turns back to Producer.

NEEDLES

You got it. Oh, there's just one little issue with the alligator. He only speaks Chinese.

PRODUCER

You're kidding me, right?

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE THREE.

SCENE FOUR

LIGHTS COME UP on Walter and Sarah, seated on a bench in Central Park, eating lunch.

Behind them, Protector Penguin, appears disguised as a park ranger and hiding behind a moveable bush.

Protector moves up on them carefully, as Walter looks up and calls out to Ray in the distance.

WALTER

All right! Just stay where I can see you!

SARAH

Will you eat your sandwich and stop being such a mother hen? Ray's a big boy, he's can take care of himself.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (47)

WALTER

Are you calling me a "dumb cluck"?

SARAH

Uggh, you and your puns.

SARAH

No, I'm saying that he's playing frisbee with some kids, and it's no big deal. Eat your hamburger, it's going to get cold.

WALTER

All right, all right.

Walter starts eating his enormous pastrami sandwich.

WALTER

This is really good.

SARAH

Told you. New York City has the best food in the world, I don't care what the French say.

WALTER

You weren't kidding. How'd you ever end up in show business anyhow?

SARAH

I don't know, like anybody else, I had ambitions of being a movie star or something nutty like that. I just didn't have what it takes, so I did the next best thing which is represent people that do.

WALTER

I could see you up on the screen.

SARAH

Oh, I worked, at least when I was a kid. I just didn't have IT, and when you don't have IT, you never get to the next level.

WALTER

What's IT?

SARAH

Nobody knows exactly but you know it when you see it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (48)

SARAH (CONT'D)

It's elusive, it's ephemeral, it's what some agents call "star quality". Me, I call it fairy dust.

WALTER

"Fairy dust?"

SARAH

Yeah, you know, the stuff that Tinkerbell and Peter Pan use to fly? Good old fashioned magic - that's really what it is Walter. The kind of stuff that lights up a screen, or a room, or somebodies' eyes when they look at you a certain way.

WALTER

I think those are different types of magic, Sarah.

SARAH

Sir, I have to take exception with you there. To me, magic is all the same, the only true difference is who it effects and how it affects them.

WALTER

Boy, you sure like to argue.

SARAH

I protest! I never argue, I merely haggle. It's so much more attractive on a woman.

WALTER

Well, you certainly have that going on by the handful, I'll give you that.

SARAH

What? Haggling or being attractive.

WALTER

Both.

Walter hesitates, a little overcome by his emotions.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (49)

SARAH

It's our third date, Walter, you can say whatever you want. I won't stop you.

WALTER

I'm a little out of practice.

SARAH

Well, practice makes perfect. You don't think you're going to get to Carnegie Hall without that, do you?

He sings "THE ROMANCE IN ME" to Sarah.

WALTER

I lost something special  
 More precious than gold  
 I patiently waited for  
 Things to unfold  
 I never imagined that  
 You'd come along  
 I never imagined  
 I'd be singing this song  
 You light up a feeling  
 That's deep down in me  
 My heart skips a beat and  
 I'm weak in the knees  
 We're good together  
 I hope you agree  
 You bring out the romance in me  
 You spray on your perfume  
 And give me the eye  
 I'm perfectly willing  
 To give it a try  
 I never imagined that  
 You'd come along  
 I never imagined  
 I'd be singing this song  
 We're good together  
 I hope you agree  
 You bring out the romance in me.

Walter kisses Sarah as the song ends and the music fades.

After a moment, Sarah breaks the kiss, sensing something.

WALTER

What's wrong?

SARAH

I don't know, feels like we're being watched.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (50)

She looks around and see the penguin in the ranger's uniform.

SARAH

Oh, hi there Mister Ranger!  
Everything okay there in the  
bushes?

Sarah waves at the "ranger", a little creeped out.

WALTER

Hi there, nice day.  
(To Sarah)  
You're sure that's a ranger?

SARAH

He's wearing a uniform.

WALTER

I know, but he seems awfully small.

SARAH

Public servants aren't what they  
used to be, that's for sure.

Sarah's cell phone rings, she checks it.

WALTER

Good lord, does that thing ever  
stop?

SARAH

Sorry, duty calls.  
(On the phone)  
This is Sarah Goldstein. Hello,  
Nelson, nice to hear from you. I  
take it the talking alligator  
didn't pan out so well? Couldn't  
understand a word he said, huh?  
Really? You absolutely loved  
Raymundo! You want to give him a  
spot in your evening line up?

Grabbing Walter's arm, Sarah tugs on it emphatically.

SARAH

With "Ben Ten Again" as a lead-in?  
Well, that doesn't sound so bad at  
all. What kind of time commitment  
are you proposing?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (51)

SARAH (CONT'D)

Well, no, I don't think we could accept anything less than twelve weeks on the initial contract, 'cause we can't call it a commitment if you're not ready to make one, right?

Sarah smiles at Walter and pantomimes - "This is going great!"

SARAH

You're very quick Nelson, that's one of the things I like about you. Look, I'm kind of in the middle of something right now but why don't you send over the contract and we can haggle about money tomorrow over coffee? Great, talk soon! Bye.

Hanging up, Sarah looks at Walter and throws open her arms.

SARAH

Baby, we are "in like Flynn!"

WALTER

What are you talking about?

Sarah grabs Walter and starts spinning around him happily.

SARAH

Just the sweetest deal for an animal act since Morris the Cat!

WALTER

You mean Raymundo got the part?

SARAH

Not a part, Walter, he got his own show! In a prime time slot! Do you know what that means?!

WALTER

I guess it means Raymundo would have to move to New York.

SARAH

You're missing the point here, Walter. I'm talking about a once in a lifetime opportunity, I'm talking about fame, fortune, licensing and enough money to take care of all of us!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (52)

Walter takes Sarah's shoulders and looks at her firmly.

WALTER  
You're forgetting some things,  
Sarah.

SARAH  
Such as?

WALTER  
Maybe Ray doesn't want to do this  
show.

SARAH  
Of course he wants to do it!

WALTER  
He's just a kid.

SARAH  
A very SPECIAL kid. And in his  
case, even the term "kid" is  
subject to debate. I mean, it's  
not like he's human, right?

WALTER  
Meaning his feelings deserve less  
consideration?

SARAH  
I'm not sure I like your tone.

Walter says nothing and the silence hangs.

SARAH  
What's the other thing I'm  
forgetting?

WALTER  
I found Ray, I'm his guardian and  
if it's not in his best interests,  
I won't let him do it.

SARAH  
Yeah. That's where you're wrong.

WALTER  
Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (53)

SARAH

Ray's actually a signed client of Goldstein International Talent and he's also waived power of attorney over to me, so I make all his contractual decisions for him.

Sarah pulls out a contract from her pocket and holds it out.

WALTER

Since when?

SARAH

Since ten-thirty this morning. You'll see it's notarized and witnessed, it's quite legal.

Walter reaches out for the contract, Sarah withdraws it.

SARAH

Sorry, look with your eyes, not your hands please.

Looking at the contract, Walter's incredulous to a fault.

WALTER

Can't believe you did this.

SARAH

You honestly don't think I'd walk into a network studio with a runaway talent like Raymundo and not have some kind of legal protection for myself? I'd be a fool if I did that.

Turning away, Walter tries to process what's happened.

WALTER

No, I'm the fool!

SARAH

Look, there's no reason to get all hot under the collar, no one's planning to cut you out of the deal!

WALTER

It's the principle of the thing!

SARAH

But there IS going to be a deal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (54)

WALTER

He didn't know what he was signing!  
And how DARE you get him to sign  
ANYTHING without talking to me!

SARAH

And don't YOU come charging down at  
me from the moral high ground!  
You're not the only one looking out  
for Raymundo here, I'm just SMART  
enough to get down in writing!

WALTER

Maybe you'd call it "smart" but I  
can think of other words for it!

SARAH

Don't you get snide with me, Walter  
Roberts! Just for your  
information, Goldstein  
International employs a crack squad  
of legal eagles who live for this  
sort of thing!

WALTER

Bring 'em on! I'll have you know  
that you're not the only person  
with friends in high places!

SARAH

Big talk.

WALTER

We'll see who laughs last.

Walter grabs this things in a huff and starts to leave.

SARAH

Where do you think you're going?

WALTER

Out of this city and back to the  
farm! While I still have a shirt  
on my back and a shred of decency  
to my name!

He heads OFF, with Sarah hot on his heels in a fury.

SARAH

Don't you walk away from me,  
Mister!

Moments later, Ray runs ON, flushed but happy from playing.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (55)

RAYMUNDO

Walter, the kids want to go for ice cream! Is it OK if I go along?

Ray looks around and suddenly realizes that he's alone.

RAYMUNDO

Sarah? Walter? You didn't leave and forget about me, did you?

Suddenly afraid, he looks wildly back and forth for them.

RAYMUNDO

What could have happened to them? Did I not get the part? And they got ashamed of me? WALTER? SARAH? WHERE ARE YOU??

Dejected and depressed, Ray sits on the park bench.

RAYMUNDO

Did they just disappear like the mysterious man in the airplane? I don't know what happened, I thought they were my friends, I thought maybe they even loved me. What's going to happen now?

Music picks up and Ray sings "HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?"

RAYMUNDO

Feels like all the sun inside me  
 Left with no good-byes  
 Feels like it's going to Rain  
 inside me Feel it in my eyes Feels  
 like all the best of both worlds  
 Left with no good-byes Feels  
 there's no hope left inside me  
 Feels I'm gonna' cry What about me?  
 What about me?  
 Don't you know I have feeling too  
 What about me?  
 What about me? Don't you know I am  
 missing you What about me? What  
 about me? What about me? Feels  
 like there is no tomorrow  
 Left with no good-byes  
 Feel the sun will never shine again  
 Feel "why even try?" Feels like I  
 have lost my spirit Left with no  
 good-byes Feel the clouds went dark  
 and gloomy  
 Feel I'll never fly  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (56)

RAYMUNDO (CONT'D)

What about me? What about me?  
 Don't you know I have feelings too  
 What about me? What about me?  
 What about me? Feel my world is  
 coming to an end Left with no good-  
 byes Feel I'm gonna' have to just  
 pretend to Feel my wings and fly  
 What about me? What about me?  
 Don't you know I have feelings too  
 What about me? What about me?  
 Don't you know I am missing you  
 Missing you, missing you  
 Both of you

Ray finishes the song, as the lights and the music fades.

RAYMUNDO

Boy, the sun went down pretty  
 quickly, I wonder what I should do?

Stretching his arms, Ray yawns, clearly spent by his day.

RAYMUNDO

It's been such a long day, maybe  
 I'll just count sheep for a little  
 bit and see what happens next.

Exhausted, Ray starts counting, eventually drifting off.

RAYMUNDO

One, two, three, four, five...

FADE TO BLACK,  
 END SCENE FOUR.

SCENE FIVE

NIGHT SOUNDS OF THE PARK, as LIGHTS GROW to reveal Ray, now  
 sleeping on the park bench, several hours later.

MUSIC PLAYS UNDERNEATH THIS ENTIRE SCENE, at first the music  
 is dreamy but grows more ominous as the action darkens.

Still carrying the bush, Protector Penguin walks over to  
 Raymundo, who stirs at the sound of his approach.

RAYMUNDO

Oh my goodness! Are you a robber?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

No. Why would you think that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (57)

RAYMUNDO

Uh, you're sneaking up on me in the dark in Central Park?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

I wasn't sneaking, I was just being careful.

Protector throws away the bush and his ranger hat.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Protector Penguin, at your service!

RAYMUNDO

What are you doing here?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

I'm your guardian penguin, I'm here to look out for you.

RAYMUNDO

I never heard of a guardian penguin.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Some people have guardian angels, other have guardian penguins. Count yourself lucky, we're more fun.

RAYMUNDO

So you're here to take care of me?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Well, my job description's not that expansive.

RAYMUNDO

What does that mean?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

It means I don't do domestic duties, pick up dry cleaning or baby sit. But if you have a specific problem that needs solving, then we'll do our very best to help you out.

RAYMUNDO

I'm sorry, I'm a little confused, you said "we"? Meaning there's more than one of you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (58)

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Oh, of course, I can't do everything, I'm just the leader. I have a number of guardian assistants such as Piano Penguin, Party Penguin, Prankster Penguin, Professor Penguin..sorry, I can't remember everyone's name right now but you'll meet them soon enough.

Wind begins to pick up and SOUNDS of a distant storm.

RAYMUNDO

Wow, I had no idea. Now that you mention it though, I do have a problem.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Do tell.

RAYMUNDO

I've lost Walter and Sarah, and have no idea what to do.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Hmm, the first thing I'd suggest is that we get you out of here.

RAYMUNDO

You think I'm in danger?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Well, it is Central Park, it's dark and there's probably some robbers around, so there's only one likely outcome here. Besides, I think a thunder storm's about to hit.

RAYMUNDO

Let's get out of here then!

Protector and Ray start to go, but then they stop.

The music begins to change now, grows more foreboding.

RAYMUNDO

Wait a minute, I have to ask you something.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

OK but hurry, I've got a bad feeling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (59)

RAYMUNDO

If you're my guardian penguin, how come I didn't see you until now?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Oh, I've been following you from the beginning, ever since you were an egg at the farm. I've just been in disguise all the while.

The SOUNDS of the storm now grow closer and closer.

RAYMUNDO

Really? You've been with me all this time?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Of course, that's what guardian penguins do!

RAYMUNDO

That's why we've been finding feathers everywhere!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Sorry, I tend to molt in the summer.

RAYMUNDO

So you know about my mother and the mysterious man in the plane?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Oh, never speak of him!

RAYMUNDO

What's wrong? What do you mean?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

He's an awful man, a terrible man, with a heart as black as midnight and a nose the size of DELAWARE!

RAYMUNDO

But why did he leave me at the farm with Walter?!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Leaving you was a mistake, it wasn't intentional.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (60)

PROTECTOR PENGUIN (CONT'D)

His plane ran out of gas and he had to make an emergency landing and while he wasn't looking, me and the other penguins ESCAPED!

RAYMUNDO

"Escaped?" But what from?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

From him! Because he's a jailor, an evil man who traps animals and sells them into bondage for his own profit!

RAYMUNDO

But what about my mother?!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

She was too pregnant to run away but she did the best she could to save you! She left you behind so you'd have a chance of freedom!

RAYMUNDO

What happened to her?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

He captured her and took her away in the plane, no one knows for sure where! Come on, we have to get out of here!

RAYMUNDO

But the man in the plane, who is he?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

A terrible man, an awful man, a man as diabolical as his very name!

RAYMUNDO

Who-is-he?!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

DOCTOR-HORATIO-GALAPAGUS!

A terrible clap of thunder cracks the air at this name.

RAYMUNDO

Protector, the storm, it's here!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

We have to find shelter!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (61)

Suddenly, amplified, dark laughter cuts through the storm.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
BA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN  
Oh, no! It's him, he's returned!

The looming figure of Galapagus steps from the shadows.

RAYMUNDO  
What do we do?!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN  
Run for your life!

RAYMUNDO  
But what does he want?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN  
It's as I feared, he's come back  
for you, Raymundo! You have to get  
away!

They try to run but can't make any progress against the storm.

RAYMUNDO  
I can't run, the storm, it's  
keeping us here!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN  
Keep going, I'll try to hold him  
off!

Protector wrestles with Galapagus but is tossed aside.

RAYMUNDO  
Protector, no!

Galapagus slowly turns and points dramatically at Raymundo.

RAYMUNDO  
You get away from me!

Sarah appears, tries to hold Galapagus back, falters.

SARAH  
Run, Raymundo, run!

After a moment, Sarah too falls, unable to stop Galapagus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (62)

RAYMUNDO  
Stop it, stop it!

Now Walter joins the struggle in Ray's living nightmare.

WALTER  
You leave my boy alone!

The farmer attacks Doctor Galapagus with all his might.  
For a moment, it looks like Walter is actually winning.  
Unfortunately, Galapagus is too strong and overpowers Walter.

RAYMUNDO  
What do you want from me?!

Galapagus laughs diabolically and begins to drag Ray off.

RAYMUNDO  
Let me go! I have a life! Let me  
stay! I WANT TO STAY!

Ray reaches out desperately for Walter, Sarah and Protector.

BLACK OUT, END  
ACT TWO.

ACT THREE, SCENE ONE

DURING INTERMISSION, an STAGE MANAGER will distribute penguin masks to audience members of the front row, for some moments of audience participation later in Act Three.

LIGHTS FADE UP on the interior of the farmhouse, morning.

WALTER  
Raymundo, wake up. Wake up.

Ray's sleeping on the couch and Walter is shaking him gently.

RAYMUNDO  
(Murmuring)  
I want to stay, I want to stay..

WALTER  
Come on, wake up.

Finally, Ray comes to with a startled look on his face.

RAYMUNDO  
Walter? What happened?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (63)

WALTER  
Sounded to me like you were having  
a pretty bad dream.

RAYMUNDO  
Oh, Walter, it was awful.

WALTER  
Do you remember what it was?

RAYMUNDO  
Not too clearly. Something about  
me and you and Sarah. And there  
was a storm. And the mysterious  
man in the plane, he was there as  
well!

WALTER  
Wow, sounds exciting.

RAYMUNDO  
And a funny, little guy in a  
tuxedo.

WALTER  
All that in one dream, huh?

RAYMUNDO  
It seemed so real.

WALTER  
Dreams often do.

RAYMUNDO  
What time did we get home last  
night?

Walter gets up and pours himself some coffee at the table.

WALTER  
Pretty late. Remember, we had  
those delays on the train coming  
back from the city, they slowed us  
up a bit.

RAYMUNDO  
That's right. I think I feel  
asleep somewhere along the line.

WALTER  
Don't blame you, it's a long ride.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (64)

RAYMUNDO

I still don't understand what you and Sarah were fighting about and why did we have to leave in such a hurry?

WALTER

Sorry, Ray. I know we pulled up stakes pretty quick yesterday but I just didn't feel comfortable staying at Sarah's after that big blow up.

RAYMUNDO

But what did she do that was so wrong?

WALTER

Look, it wasn't so much what Sarah did, it was the way she did it that got my goat.

There's a knock at the door, Walter goes and answers it.

A man dressed in a Fed Ex uniform stands in the doorway.

WALTER

Hello? Can I help you?

FED EX MAN

Walter Roberts?

WALTER

That's me.

Fed Ex Man holds out an envelope and a ballpoint pen.

FED EX MAN

Need you to sign here.

WALTER

What's this all about?

FED EX MAN

You'll see.

Walter reaches out and takes the envelope from the man.

WALTER

What is this? It's not even sealed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (65)

FED EX MAN  
You've been served! What a sucker!

Fed Ex Man makes a hasty departure.

WALTER  
Hey, you're not a real Fed Ex guy?!

FED EX MAN  
Nope, just got a uniform!

Walter pursues the man out the door but he's gone in a flash.

WALTER  
Wait a minute, you can't just walk up to my door and give me a summons under false pretenses! That's down right underhanded! You come back here!

Storming back in, Walter starts reading the paperwork.

RAYMUNDO  
Walter, what's wrong? Who was that?

WALTER  
Some crumb, serving me papers!

RAYMUNDO  
You're getting sued?

WALTER  
Sure looks like it.

RAYMUNDO  
But who would do that?

WALTER  
The attorneys for Goldstein International Talent.

RAYMUNDO  
You mean Sarah? She wouldn't do that, she's our friend!

WALTER  
Apparently not anymore. This is a motion for a custody hearing to be filed in superior court this afternoon. They're going to try and take you away from me, Ray.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (66)

RAYMUNDO

What are you going to do?

WALTER

I'm going to need to hire a lawyer  
and those guys don't work cheap.  
Not sure that I can really afford  
this but I'm not sure I've got any  
choice.

Walter snaps his fingers as a light bulb goes off.

WALTER

Wait a minute, that's it! I'll  
give that whiz kid nephew of  
Charmbury Cheepers a call, maybe I  
can work out some kind of deal with  
him.

RAYMUNDO

Right, the one who just graduated  
from law school!

WALTER

He might be young but I'll bet they  
taught him a few tricks up at  
Harvard.

Picking up the phone, Walter starts dialing dutifully.

WALTER

'Course that means I'll have to be  
nice to Charmbury for a change but  
then there's no such thing as a  
free lunch, is there?

The line starts ringing as Walter walks OFF to the porch.

WALTER

'Morning, Charmbury, this is  
Walter!

Protector Penguin pops up from behind the couch, all ears.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Boy, you guys can't stay out of  
trouble for very long, can you?

RAYMUNDO

Protector Penguin, it's you!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Of course, who else would it be?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (67)

RAYMUNDO

I don't know, I wasn't sure if you were real or not.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

That's me, the genuine protector article. Can I have some of that coffee?

RAYMUNDO

Sure. But I met you in a dream.

Protector helps himself to coffee and a piece of toast.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

What's that supposed to prove? Lots of real people show up in dreams and real things too.

RAYMUNDO

Does that mean Horatio Galapagus is real as well?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Better believe he's real and every bit as dangerous as he was in your dream! We want to stay away from him at all costs!

RAYMUNDO

You don't have to tell me twice.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

What's this about you being sued?

RAYMUNDO

Not me, it's Walter.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

He's your adoptive father right?

RAYMUNDO

Yes, he is.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

And he's being taken to court to resolve the custody issue by Ms. Goldstein?

RAYMUNDO

That's right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (68)

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

What are you guys going to do?

RAYMUNDO

Walter's going to get this guy from Harvard Law School to help us out.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

That's good, is he a professor there?

RAYMUNDO

No, he just graduated last week.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

OK, not so good but not terrible.

RAYMUNDO

The main problem is Walter doesn't know if he can afford him, he says that lawyers cost a lot of money and good ones are really expensive.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

He's right about that.

RAYMUNDO

Do your protection services include any kind of financial aid?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Unfortunately they don't.

RAYMUNDO

So how do we get the money to pay the legal fees?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

That's easy, we'll just put on a show!

RAYMUNDO

A show? But what good will that do?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Put on a good show, charge a good admission fee and your money problem's solved! All you have to do is sing a few songs, do a little dancing and tell a few jokes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (69)

RAYMUNDO

But we need a place to do it in.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

The town's got a community center  
right down on Main Street and I'll  
bet we can get it for Saturday  
night!

RAYMUNDO

We'll never pull it off by  
ourselves!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

We don't have to! We've got the  
whole penguin apparatus behind us!  
See?

The front row of the audience dons their penguin masks.

RAYMUNDO

Wow, there's a whole bunch of you!

Cued, the PENGUIN EXTRAS wave as Protector introduces them.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

These are my guardian assistants,  
at your service. There's Piano  
Penguin, just give him a list of  
your songs. Painter Penguin will  
do your sets, Printer Penguin can  
handle the programs and Postal  
Penguin will deliver! Publicity  
Penguin's going to get the word  
out, Professor Penguin's going to  
handle the box office!

RAYMUNDO

Thanks guys! Will all of you  
helping, I'll bet we can really do  
this!

Piano starts playing a lively tune in the background.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

That's the spirit! You're just  
what this sleepy town needs,  
Raymundo - a fresh breath of song  
and dance!

Protector starts singing "SONG AND DANCE MAN" as Ray dances.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (70)

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Everybody wants to be A song and  
dance man You better believe it  
Everybody wants to be A part of the  
band If you sung in the showers  
Kicked up your heels for hours  
You can be a song and dance man

Raymundo picks up the song now as Protector dances.

RAYMUNDO

If you got a song to sing  
Just keep on singing If you got a  
dance to dance Give it a chance  
Since this whole world began Well  
everybody wants to be A song and  
dance man  
Including me

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

I've been a dancer  
Everyday of my life  
Danced to the good times Danced  
through trouble and strife I kept  
on singing Even when I was sad And  
boy am I glad I did I'll be a  
dancer Till at least ninety-three  
And I'll be singing  
Till I'm gone

The other penguins dance along with Ray and Protector.

RAYMUNDO

Ever since tap shoes  
Since the can-can  
Everybody wants to be A song and  
dance man Including me Everybody  
wants to be A song and dance man Ya  
better believe it Everybody wants  
to be  
A part of the band

RAY AND PROTECTOR

Bass soprano alto tenor Tap modern  
jazz ballet Oh brother you can Be a  
song and dance man If you got a  
song to sing Just keep on singing  
If you got a dance to dance Give it  
a chance Since this whole world  
began Well everybody wants to be A  
song and dance man  
Including me!

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (71)

Protector and Ray finish the song as the penguins cheer!

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE ONE.

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS FADE UP on the lobby of the Underbury Community Center.

Walter and Dorothy stand in line with programs and tickets.

Onstage is a poster that reads "Underbury Community Center presents Raymundo, Direct From NYC!" HUBBUB underneath.

DOROTHY

You didn't know this was happening?

WALTER

First I heard of it was today.

DOROTHY

Ray probably wanted to surprise you.

WALTER

He certainly succeeded at that.

DOROTHY

He looks very handsome in this poster.

WALTER

Ray's sure growing up fast, that's for certain. What I don't get is why WE have to pay to see this thing? Shouldn't we be on some comp list?

DOROTHY

Well, it is a benefit performance. Funny, the program doesn't list who the beneficiary is, do you know?

WALTER

No, that's another little detail ole' Ray forgot to mention.

DOROTHY

No doubt it's a worthy cause.

WALTER

Forty bucks apiece, it better be.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (72)

Sarah walks in, talking on her cell phone, she spots Walter.

DOROTHY

I can't get over the turnout he's getting, there must be five hundred people here. Do you know who did the publicity for this thing?

WALTER

Charmbury Cheepers.

DOROTHY

Is she a press agent?

WALTER

No, just somebody with a big mouth.

Hanging up her phone, Sarah waves and calls to Walter.

SARAH

Walter! Over here!

Walter looks around, sees Sarah, tries to hide his face.

WALTER

Great. Just what I need right now.

DOROTHY

Walter, that woman's calling you.

WALTER

I know and I'd rather she didn't.

Sarah walks up to Walter, a little vexed at being ignored.

SARAH

You can't ignore me in here, Walter, it's not that big a place.

WALTER

I was doing my best.

SARAH

Don't be like that, we're still friends.

WALTER

You're taking me to court!

SARAH

It's nothing personal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (73)

WALTER  
Funny idea of friendship.

SARAH  
True friends understand when you  
sue them. It's just business.

WALTER  
Not where I'm from.

DOROTHY  
Who's your lady friend, Walter?

WALTER  
This is Sarah Goldstein.

DOROTHY  
Oh, the one making all the trouble.

SARAH  
I didn't get your name.

DOROTHY  
Dorothy Brown.

SARAH  
She's a little young for you,  
Walter. Don't you think?

WALTER  
She's with Ray!

SARAH  
That's where I know you from - you  
were at NBC the other day.

DOROTHY  
That's right.

SARAH  
Get the part?

DOROTHY  
I did.

SARAH  
Nice. Who represents you?

DOROTHY  
William Morris Endeavor.

SARAH  
Very nice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (74)

DOROTHY  
So you don't scare me.

Leaning in to Dorothy, Sarah gives her a hard look.

SARAH  
If you had any brains I would.

DOROTHY  
Walter, I'm going to let you chat  
with Ms. Goldstein. I'm going in  
grab our seats.

Glaring at the other woman, Dorothy storms away and OFF.

SARAH  
Look, just for the record, I'm  
sorry about the lawsuit. The legal  
people totally jumped the gun on  
that one, I only asked them to  
explore our options with regards to  
custody, I never instructed them to  
file a motion. Or serve you.

WALTER  
You expect me to believe that?

SARAH  
Whether you believe it or not, it's  
the truth. You saw those papers  
even before I did.

WALTER  
You must think I'm really gullible.

The piano starts to softly croon "The Romance In Me".

SARAH  
No, I think you're an honest man  
and that's not so easy to find  
these days. I also think you're a  
little old fashioned and a stickler  
for things that don't really matter  
anymore.

WALTER  
Like being good to your word?

SARAH  
I never lied to you about anything.  
Not about Ray, not about our  
friendship and not about my  
feelings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (75)

WALTER

No, but you've got a way of maneuvering and getting around things.

SARAH

You just don't like smart women.

WALTER

That's not my problem.

SARAH

What is?

WALTER

You.

SARAH

That's where you're wrong, Walter.

WALTER

Really?

SARAH

I'm not the problem here at all. What I am is the solution, you're just too stubborn to admit it.

Sarah sings a reprise of "THE ROMANCE IN ME" to Walter.

SARAH

The romance in me...

Extending her hand to Walter, Sarah finishes the song.

WALTER

I'd really like to believe you, Sarah.

SARAH

Why don't you then?

WALTER

Call off your dogs and I will.

Her hand turns into a pointed finger, though still playful.

SARAH

You know what? I'm starting to think that you're the one in this family that likes to haggle, not me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (76)

WALTER

Who said we were a family?

SARAH

Who said we weren't?

Lights in the lobby begin to flicker, the show's starting.

WALTER

I think the show's about to start.

Walter and Sarah head for the theater door, LIGHTS FADING.

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE TWO.

SCENE THREE

THE STAGE IS DARK. Now the SOUND of the piano vamping and periodically changing keys for variance.

From the darkness comes Raymundo's amplified VOICE.

RAYMUNDO

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,  
and welcome to the show. I'd like  
to apologize in advance if we seem  
to be experiencing some technical  
difficulties, because in all  
honesty we are. For example,  
there's supposed to be a spotlight  
shining on me right now but I'm not  
quite sure where it is.

Suddenly, a spotlight appears onstage but there's no one in  
the light. Obviously the operator has no idea what they're  
doing at this point.

RAYMUNDO

Oh, well, there it is! Nice. Too  
bad it's in the wrong place. Hey,  
Mister Spotlight Operator, would  
you mind moving that light around  
until you find me?

The spot roves around the stage tentatively, here and there.

RAYMUNDO

Keep going, keep going, that's it.

Protector Penguin shows up in the spot looking startled.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (77)

RAYMUNDO

Protector, the show's already started. Aren't you supposed to be in the booth calling the cues?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Sorry!

Protector runs out of the spot, presumably for the booth.

RAYMUNDO

OK, Mister Spotlight, keep going now, you're almost there.

The spot finally finds Raymundo onstage, microphone in hand.

RAYMUNDO

There we are, perfect!

Ray shields his eyes from the spot, looking into the house.

RAYMUNDO

Wow, now that's what I call a full house! How are you all doing tonight? Everyone feeling good? Feeling happy?

Murmurs and AD LIBS from the audience - they're all good.

RAYMUNDO

In the theater we've got an old saying - that "the show must go on", meaning no matter what happens or what kind of a day we're having, we still have to get out here and make magic happen. And as much I love show business, it isn't all just lights and glamour, there's a lot of elbow grease involved. At the end of the day, it's the people you work with and the people in your life that give it meaning. So I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge two, very special people in my life, - Walter Roberts and Sarah Goldstein! Walter? Sarah? Are you out there?

From the darkness we HEAR Walter and Sarah calling out.

WALTER

We're here Ray! You're doing great!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (78)

SARAH

We love you, Raymundo!

He waves at his adoptive parents, blows them kisses.

RAYMUNDO

I love you! Both of you!

(To general audience)

So that's the important thing in life - who we love and who loves us. And that's the best part of my night, the part that comes after the show.

Raymundo sings "AFTER THE SHOW", full of feeling.

RAYMUNDO

After the show...

Another familiar voice calls out to Ray from the audience.

DOROTHY

Raymundo, you sing beautifully!

RAYMUNDO

Why thank you, that's very kind of you to say.

DOROTHY

You're welcome!

RAYMUNDO

Hey, I know that voice. Who is that?

DOROTHY

It's me, Dorothy!

Looking in the direction of her voice, Ray finally sees her.

RAYMUNDO

There you are! You look beautiful!

DOROTHY

Thanks!

Spot bounces around, eventually finding Dorothy.

RAYMUNDO

Dorothy, why don't you come up here and do a little number with me?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (79)

DOROTHY

No, I couldn't, this is your night.

RAYMUNDO

We won't take no for an answer,  
will we ladies and gentlemen?

Audience applauds and AD LIBS encouragement to Dorothy.

DOROTHY

All right, fine, just a quick one.

She takes the stage with Ray, giving him a big hug.

RAYMUNDO

Let's have dinner when this is  
over.

DOROTHY

I'd love to.

Dorothy sings the next stanza of "AFTER THE SHOW" to Ray.

This version's a little looser, a little sassier than his.

DOROTHY

After the show...

Then from the audience, another VOICE, rather official.

VOICE

Sorry, young lady, I'm going to  
have to ask you to stop right  
there!

DOROTHY

Excuse me? What's going on around  
here?

RAYMUNDO

Yeah, who is that?

Spot reels around to reveal a portly man wearing a badge.

SHERIFF

It's the legal law in this town -  
Sheriff Buford T. Trouble.

DOROTHY

How can we help you, officer?

Sheriff Trouble struts up to the stage, arms akimbo.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (80)

SHERIFF

You can start by turning off those fancy lights and the music!

RAYMUNDO

But we've got a show to do!

SHERIFF

Not tonight, I'm shutting you down!

DOROTHY

But why?

SHERIFF

Little matter of a town ordinance that requires all fund raising activities to have a permit.

RAYMUNDO

A permit? Just to sing songs?

DOROTHY

You got to be kidding, right?

SHERIFF

Do I look like I've got a sense of humor?

DOROTHY

He's right Ray, he doesn't.

From the audience, sounds of Walter booing the Sheriff.

WALTER

BOO! BOO! Police brutality! BOO!

SHERIFF

You'd best cut that out right now, Walter Roberts! Civil disobedience is still a crime in this county!

WALTER

BOOO!

RAYMUNDO

But these people all paid to see a show! What are I supposed to tell them?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (81)

SHERIFF

That's not my problem! All I know is the show's over and you're under arrest, for doing a show without a permit!

RAYMUNDO

Singing songs can't be illegal!

SHERIFF

That's what the warrant says! Now let's go, I got to handcuff you and read you your rights.

DOROTHY

Don't do it, Ray. Make a run for it!

Piano begins to bang out "AFTER THE SHOW" in a bawdy way!

SHERIFF

I'm warning you, don't make it worse than it already is!

The portly Sheriff chases Ray around the stage in vain.

Dorothy and Ray reprise the song in a vaudevillian way.

Spotlight bounces around wildly along with the music.

Sheriff eventually catches Ray and carts him OFF.

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE THREE.

SCENE FOUR

LIGHTS UP on the law office of Davies Humphreys Esquire.

Sarah and her lawyer are having a heated conversation.

SARAH

Look we need to get something straight, Davies, you work for me - not the other way around!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

You employ me as counsel, Sarah.

SARAH

Which means you "advise!"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (82)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Yes, we advise here but we also act when prudence and good legal thinking indicate appropriate action.

SARAH

I never told you to serve papers on Walter Roberts!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

You told me you wanted custody of the kid -

SARAH

- the bird -

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

- the bird, right. You told me you wanted custody of the bird and you also told me that I should use whatever means necessary to ensure that happened.

SARAH

I never said "whatever means necessary", you make this sound like we're in the White House or something!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Words to that effect.

SARAH

And what was that stunt with having the sheriff arrest Raymundo and close down his show?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

I categorically deny having anything to do with that incident.

SARAH

Davies Humphreys, that move had your fingerprints ALL OVER IT!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

OK, fine, I paid off the Sheriff but it had to be done!

SARAH

Why? Just to humiliate Ray?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (83)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

They were raising funds to hire a defense team! Look, you already told me this country bumpkin doesn't have any money -

SARAH

- he's not a bumpkin -

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

- and if we deny him access to funds, he won't be able mount a defense!

SARAH

He's just a kid. You should have seen his face when the cops took him away, it broke my heart.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

I'm sorry, the officer got carried away with that one, he wasn't supposed to arrest anyone - just shut down the show.

SARAH

This is getting ugly and I didn't want it to be.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Look, I don't want to worry you but we're going to need every advantage we can muster in court.

SARAH

You said it was an open and shut case of bird custody.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

That was before I got a good look at Raymundo's status!

SARAH

His status?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Sarah, we have no way to classify what Ray is!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (84)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS (CONT'D)

He talks like a human being but his DNA says he's a bird, though not one from North America, so that brings up the issue of citizenship and whether the court can even hear the case! And that's not the worst of it!

SARAH

What's the worst of it?

Davies slaps a tabloid newspaper in Sarah's hand.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

THIS hit the news stand this morning.

SARAH

"Talking Alien Bird to Star in Television Show". "Infectious Disease Center on Full Alert." President Is Intensely Concerned."

Sarah throws the paper across the room in disgust.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

So there's nothing open and shut about this case anymore.

SARAH

Are you telling me we might not win?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Sarah, no promises on this one but you know that I'll give it my very best shot.

Piano chimes in and Davies sings "THE BEST SHOT".

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

They'll all be knocking on my door  
They'll all be coming back for more  
I'm gonna give it all I got  
I'm gonna give it my best shot  
I'll give it the best shot  
I've ever had  
I'm totally honest  
I'm not just a cad  
I know all the lingo  
I know all the jive  
I'm gonna give it my best shot  
I'll give it the best shot

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (85)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS (CONT'D)

That you've ever seen  
 Just like the movies Just like a  
 dream I know the procedures I know  
 all the rules I'm gonna give it my  
 best shot  
 When you're aiming high  
 Squinting through the scope  
 Reaching for the sky  
 When there isn't hope  
 You invent a dream  
 Shuffle all the cards  
 You invent a scheme  
 Think of Scotland Yard  
 I'll give it the best shot  
 I'm here to impress  
 I've got all the answers  
 Some, more, or less  
 I've got the demeanor I've got the  
 right tact I'm gonna give it my  
 best shot They'll be knocking on my  
 door They'll be coming back for  
 more  
 I'm gonna give it all I got  
 I'm gonna give it my best shot.

Davies walks to Sarah, the piano still playing underneath.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

There's one other thing we have to  
 talk about.

SARAH

What's that?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

We're going to need to put Raymundo  
 on the stand.

SARAH

No way, absolutely not!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Sarah -

SARAH

- I don't care -

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

- if you really want to win -

SARAH

- winning isn't everything!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (86)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Since when?

SARAH  
Since...I don't know.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Look, I realize there's a lot at stake here.

SARAH  
Do you?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
This television contract could be worth a king's ransom if things go right -

SARAH  
- it's not about the money! And it's not about winning! It's about him.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
The bird?

SARAH  
The bird, the boy, the man - all of it! OK, I know this is going to sound wishy-washy but Walter Roberts is a good man, an honorable man but he's just not equipped to deal with Ray and everything he's set in motion when he came into our lives!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Exactly what has he set in motion?

She turns away, Davies moves closer, a little disturbed.

SARAH  
Things I never thought were possible.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
All the more reason for us to win. To protect those possibilities.

Sarah struggles with her feelings, struggles to decide.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (87)

SARAH

Fine. Do what you have to do.

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE FOUR.

SCENE FIVE

Darkness, piano plays a moody riff on "WHAT ABOUT ME?"

LIGHTS GROW to reveal Ray sitting glumly in a holding cell.

Protector sits nearby, outside the cell. MUSIC FADES.

RAYMUNDO

Of all the crummy luck, whoever  
heard of needing a permit just to  
sing and dance?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

That's because we live in a society  
that doesn't value artistic  
expression.

RAYMUNDO

Enough philosophy Protector, we  
need a practical solution to our  
problem.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Give me time, I'm working on it.

RAYMUNDO

You know, we wouldn't be in this  
mess if you had done some research  
about city ordinances.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Hey, I did the best I could with a  
limited staff of birds! We covered  
piano, printing, postal, props,  
production, poetics, promotion,  
pretzels, punch, profiteering and  
we even prayed! Sorry if I didn't  
have any PERMIT PENGUINS available!

RAYMUNDO

Sorry, you're right, there was no  
way predict this happening, it was  
just bad luck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (88)

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Don't worry, Raymundo, I left the other guys birdstorming on the situation. They'll come up with something, they always do.

Suddenly, Ray grabs the cell bars and starts hollering.

RAYMUNDO

It's just that I can't stand being locked up in a cage!! I'm a bird! Do you know what it's like to be a bird in a cage?!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

'Course I do, thanks to Horatio Galapagus.

RAYMUNDO

That's right, you mentioned that before. What happened?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

There's not that much to tell. One minute we were all free, happy little penguins and the next, we were prisoners! After that, it was one zoo after another, people staring at us through the bars, throwing things, just hideous. Then later, when Galapagus realized how intelligent we were, he organized us into a musical review and booked us on a series of cruise ships.

RAYMUNDO

That must have been a little better.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

It was until we hit an ice berg and the ship sank. Because we were penguins, they didn't save us any space in the life boats, so we got stranded on an ice flow. That was actually the best part of the tour.

RAYMUNDO

You're kidding me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (89)

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Not at all. I mean, we are penguins.

RAYMUNDO

That's true.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

And it did give us some time to think about our lives and what we wanted to do with them. A little isolation can be good for that sometimes, if you want to think.

RAYMUNDO

I guess.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Besides, it won't be that long until your trial and you can always leave if you really want to.

RAYMUNDO

I can leave?! How do we do that?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

We just have to post your bail.

RAYMUNDO

With what money?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

From the tickets to your show.

RAYMUNDO

But didn't you have to give that money back?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

I guess we would have if we'd stuck around, but as soon as we saw that sheriff walk in, I took off with the box office.

RAYMUNDO

No, wait, we can't do that.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Why not?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (90)

RAYMUNDO

If we spend the money on my bail,  
then Walter won't have enough for  
his legal fees.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

You're the one in jail.

RAYMUNDO

No, Walter being protected is more  
important, I'll have to stick it  
out here for now.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

You're probably right but I'm sorry  
you have to stay behind bars.

RAYMUNDO

Yeah, but I do have some thinking  
to do before the trial and this  
isn't a bad place to do it.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

What do you mean?

RAYMUNDO

Just that this trial is a custody  
hearing between Walter and Sarah.  
I mean, I love them both but the  
judge is going to have to decide  
who I live with. And what if the  
judge asks me what I want? And who  
do I want?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

That's a tough call.

RAYMUNDO

Tell me about it.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Think I'll leave you to your  
thoughts on that one, Raymundo.  
I've got to check in on the gang  
and see if they've come up with  
anything helpful.

RAYMUNDO

Thanks, Protector.

Protector EXITS, leaving Ray alone with his troubled mind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (91)

RAYMUNDO

Why does life have to be so  
difficult? I mean, I really like  
the idea of being in show business  
but life with Walter is so much  
easier in a way. I don't know what  
to do. I wish I had a magic carpet  
to fly me away. Or something like  
that...

Raymundo sings "THE MAGIC CHAIR".

RAYMUNDO

Come sit with me in the magic chair  
The magic chair, the magic chair  
We can go places if we pretend  
Even though we're still here  
Visit somebody who lives  
Cross the sea be a red robin  
Who lives in a tree  
Talk to a flower fly through the  
air  
Back home to the magic chair  
Come sit with me in the magic chair  
The magic chair, the magic chair  
We can go places if we pretend  
Even though we're still here  
Ride a blue camel or be a giraffe  
Build a stone castle or  
Wrap up a laugh Play a piano, fly  
through the air Back home to the  
magic chair Clean up your bedroom  
by Winking one eye  
Pick a strawberry and eat apple pie  
Chase a white rabbit then  
Fly through the air  
Back home to the magic chair  
Back home, let's go home!  
It's so nice to be home  
Back home to the magic chair

As the song ends, the Sheriff comes through the door.

SHERIFF

You got another visitor. Boy, you  
sure are popular for a convict.

RAYMUNDO

I'm a prisoner, not a CONVICT!  
They're not the same thing!

Sheriff makes a dismissive gesture as Dorothy walks in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (92)

SHERIFF

Twenty minutes, same as before.

Dorothy brings Ray a cake as Sheriff leaves the room.

DOROTHY

Hey Raymundo, how are you feeling?

RAYMUNDO

A lot better since you got here.

DOROTHY

I brought you something.

RAYMUNDO

Did you bake me a cake?

DOROTHY

I did, it's my first one ever!

RAYMUNDO

Wow, that makes me feel special.

Moving closer to the bars, Dorothy speaks more quietly.

DOROTHY

Of course you're special, and so is the cake!

RAYMUNDO

What do you mean?

Conspiratorial as Mata Hari, Dorothy whispers to Ray.

DOROTHY

Inside the cake, there's a file!

RAYMUNDO

A file? Like to do my nails?

DOROTHY

No, so you can saw your way through the bars and escape!

Ray's got to think about this for a moment or two.

RAYMUNDO

Oh, well, you know I think that kind of thing only works in old Westerns. You know what I mean?

DOROTHY

Really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (93)

RAYMUNDO

Yeah. You'd need a couple of sticks of dynamite to get me out of here.

DOROTHY

Oh. They didn't have any of that at the hardware store.

RAYMUNDO

I wouldn't think so.

DOROTHY

Guess it's the thought that counts, right?

RAYMUNDO

Oh, absolutely!

BLACK OUT, END  
SCENE FIVE.

SCENE SIX

Darkness, piano plays "SONG AND DANCE MAN".

BARTHOLEMEW appears DOWNSTAGE in a light, dancing.

He holds up a card that reads "Bartholemew Cheepers, Esq."

LIGHTS UP on the Bartholemew's law office, the next morning.

Walter and Bartholemew struggle to hold his office door closed against a powerful intruder on the other side.

WALTER

Now woman, you have got to cut this out!

CHARMBURY

You let me in!

BARTHOLEMEW

I'm sorry, Aunt Charmbury, but a meeting with a client is privileged information!

CHARMBURY

Never mind with all that fancy lawyer talk, I want to know what's going on!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (94)

WALTER

You're going to find out soon enough, Charmbury, but right now I need to speak privately with your nephew!

BARTHOLEMEW

He's right, Aunt Charmbury, now stop it, you're embarrassing me!

CHARMBURY

Embarrassing you? After I scrimped and saved to put you through law school? Now I embarrass you?

BARTHOLEMEW

Actually, Aunt Charmbury, I went to Harvard on a full scholarship.

CHARMBURY

Oh. Well I still scrimped and saved!

WALTER

Bartholemew, lock the door!

BARTHOLEMEW

Right!

Bartholemew manages to lock the door, crisis now averted.

BARTHOLEMEW

Please have a seat, Walter.

BARTHOLEMEW

So you told me on the phone that you were the one who found the egg initially, correct?

WALTER

Yes, that's true.

BARTHOLEMEW

And you said the egg was resting on the property line between your farm and Ms. Goldstein's place?

WALTER

"EGGS-actly".

BARTHOLEMEW

You aren't going to say things like that in court, are you?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (95)

WALTER

A little humor never hurt.

BARTHOLEMEW

Maybe not in musical theater but  
not in legal proceedings.

WALTER

Sorry.

BARTHOLEMEW

It doesn't really matter because I  
don't believe the case will be  
decided on the basis of property  
lines.

WALTER

What are you talking about?

BARTHOLEMEW

That this isn't really an issue of  
property, it's an issue of custody.

WALTER

I agree. Ray's not a thing, he's a  
person.

BARTHOLEMEW

Well, that's where this is going to  
be a little tricky. As I'm sure  
Ms. Goldstein's attorneys have  
already explained to her that  
Raymundo's status is bound to be  
uncertain here -both in regards to  
his "humanity" as well as his  
residency.

WALTER

I understand what you're getting  
at, but Ray was born here and that  
makes him a citizen.

BARTHOLEMEW

In theory, yes, but there's no  
documentation to prove that - no  
hospital records, no doctor's  
statements, no witnesses.

WALTER

I'm a witness!

BARTHOLEMEW

True, but not an objective one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (96)

WALTER

So if this case isn't about the property line and who found Ray first, what's it going to be about?

BARTHOLEMEW

If I were them, my case would be about two things: The first would be about money - who's in a better position financially to care for Ray. Ms. Goldstein is obviously very successful and by most definitions considered wealthy. You, on the other hand, are significantly in debt and are struggling to keep your farm afloat.

WALTER

Came up with twenty thousand to pay you, didn't I?

BARTHOLEMEW

Which I fully appreciate. How did you manage to put your hands on that amount of cash by the way?

WALTER

A "little bird" gave it to me.

BARTHOLEMEW

If you say so. The second part of their argument will be that since Raymundo is already an exclusive client of Goldstein International, Sarah Goldstein is his legal guardian by default.

WALTER

But she only did that to protect herself financially if Ray got that television show! She told me so!

Bartholemew scribbles away madly on his legal pad.

BARTHOLEMEW

Which is a very important issue that we will take great pains to present in the proper light. Our light, I mean.

WALTER

This doesn't sound very promising.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (97)

BARTHOLEMEW

I'm going to be frank with you  
Walter, it's not going to be easy,  
and not matter what arguments we  
employ - at the end of the day  
Ray's still a bird. He has a lot  
of human qualities, so many in  
fact, that we might forget that  
he's also got feathers and the law  
may not afford him the same  
protections that humans have a  
right to.

WALTER

I think that laws should protect  
everyone or they're not good laws.

BARTHOLEMEW

Can't disagree there but that's how  
it stacks up right now.

WALTER

Do you think we have a chance?

BARTHOLEMEW

Of course we do! And a little dose  
of the miraculous wouldn't hurt  
either.

Bartholemew sings "YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IN MIRACLES".

BARTHOLEMEW

You've got to believe You've got to  
believe You've got to believe  
You've got to believe

(Repeat)

When your boat is sinking  
And the water's coming in When you  
think you'd better Notify your next  
of kin When your world is upside  
down Because of circumstance You've  
got to believe in miracles  
When you haven't got a chance  
When the eagle's circling  
Diving downward for the kill  
When the dentist snickers as he  
Reaches for the drill When your  
world is upside down Because of  
circumstance You've got to believe  
in miracles  
When you haven't got a chance  
When you hear the thunder as the  
Wedding march begins

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (98)

BARTHOLEMEW (CONT'D)

When the wedding party sits On  
 needles and on pins When your world  
 is upside down Because of  
 circumstance You've got to believe  
 in miracles  
 When you haven't got a chance.  
 You've got to believe in miracles  
 When you're looking for romance  
 You've got to believe in miracles  
 When you're covered in ignorance  
 You've got to believe in miracles  
 When you've lost your song and  
 dance  
 You've got to believe in miracles  
 When you haven't got a chance!

BLACK OUT, END  
 SCENE SIX

SCENE SEVEN

LIGHTS UP on Superior Courthouse of Underbury, Connecticut.

Walter and Ray sit at a table with Bartholemew on STAGE  
 RIGHT.

Davies sits at a second table on STAGE RIGHT, scribbling.

Sarah is on the stand, with JUDGE LITTLE nearby.

HUBBUB. Judge pounds her gavel for silence.

JUDGE LITTLE

Order in the court! We are now  
 back in session, Judge Little  
 presiding.

BARTHOLEMEW

Please state your name.

SARAH

Sarah Goldstein.

BARTHOLEMEW

You're the president and lead agent  
 for Goldstein International Talent?

SARAH

That's correct.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (99)

BARTHOLEMEW

And Raymundo Roberts is currently under contract to your agency? An exclusive contract, yes?

SARAH

Yes.

BARTHOLEMEW

Is that unusual? To sign an untried talent to an exclusive contract?

SARAH

All our clients are represented exclusively by Goldstein International, it's in everyone's best interest.

BARTHOLEMEW

What is?

SARAH

Not to share with other agents.

BARTHOLEMEW

I see. Is that why you decided to sue Walter Roberts for custody of Raymundo? Because you didn't want to share?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Objection!

JUDGE LITTLE

Sustained.

BARTHOLEMEW

And did you discuss this exclusive contract with Mister Roberts?

SARAH

We'd touched on it.

BARTHOLEMEW

What does that mean "exactly?"

SARAH

I'd mentioned to Walter that at some point it might be necessary to put Raymundo under contract.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (100)

BARTHOLEMEW

How did he respond to this idea?

SARAH

With the usual concerns that someone has, with regards to contracts.

BARTHOLEMEW

It didn't prompt an argument?

SARAH

It prompted a spirited conversation.

BARTHOLEMEW

So in light of that "spirited conversation", you decided to ditch Walter Roberts at a book store, on the pretense of going to the audition but in fact you immediately took Raymundo to your offices where you had an innocent Kookaramonga sign his life away!

Wild hubbub and general chaos in the courtroom!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

OBJECTION! Your honor, the defense is spinning FAIRY TALES! Next he'll be telling us the DISH RAN AWAY WITH THE SPOON!

JUDGE LITTLE

Objection sustained! Mister Cheepers, I'm warning you to watch your theatrics.

BARTHOLEMEW

No further questions, your honor.

Bartholemew sits by Walter, Davies approaches Sarah.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Ms. Goldstein, when Mr. Roberts first learned of your arrangement with Raymundo, how did he respond?

SARAH

He was a little put out.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Only a little?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (101)

SARAH

Very put out. He was angry.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

And when you explained to Mr. Roberts that you intended to compensate him financially if the deal went through? How did he respond then?

SARAH

He seemed satisfied with that.

Walter leaps to his feet, Ray tries to calm him.

WALTER

That's not true!

JUDGE LITTLE

ORDER! Mister Roberts, I'll remind you that you are in a court of law, not a barn!

WALTER

Is that a FARMER crack?!

Bartholemew shushes Walter, makes him sit back down.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

No further questions, your honor.

Piano plays "SONG AND DANCE MAN" as LIGHTS become EXAGGERATED.

Courtroom turns into a "Legal Sideshow", with lawyers and witnesses pantomiming the farcical proceedings in time with the music.

Walter takes the stand. The Sideshow ends. Piano OFF.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Mister Roberts, how is your farm doing financially?

WALTER

About as well as anyone else's.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Meaning the farm is in debt?

WALTER

Yes, I have debt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (102)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
What do you grow on your farm?

WALTER  
Apples, mostly.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
So you sell apples for a living?

WALTER  
"An apple a day, keeps the doctor  
away".

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Yes, I'm sure we've all heard that.

WALTER  
Too bad I can't grow something for  
lawyers.

Jury laughs, Judge clears her throat, pounds gavel.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Very funny, Mister Roberts. And  
since you're so clever, you no  
doubt realized what Raymundo's  
future television earnings could  
mean to you and your failing farm?!

BARTHOLEMEW  
Objection!

WALTER  
What are you trying to imply? That  
I'm here for Ray's money! Look,  
I'm the one being sued here and I  
haven't asked anybody for anything!

At the table, Sarah covers her face with her hands.

WALTER  
And what is all this talk about  
money for? And who "said this,"  
and who "said that?" Shouldn't we  
be talking about Ray and what's  
best for him?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Objection! Your honor, the witness  
is grandstanding!

JUDGE LITTLE  
Noted.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (103)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Aren't you going to stop him?!

JUDGE LITTLE  
He's your witness, YOU stop him!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
The witness is excused, your honor.

Walter steps down and goes to his table, looks at Sarah.

JUDGE LITTLE  
Mister Humphreys, do have any more witnesses?

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
No, your honor.

JUDGE LITTLE  
Mister Cheepers?

BARTHOLEMEW  
No more witnesses, your honor.

JUDGE LITTLE  
Then it's time for the jury to retire.

Suddenly, there's a commotion at the rear of the courtroom

A man ENTERS, it's Horatio Galapagus, HUGE HUBBUB!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Your honor, wait, there IS another witness I'd like to call! He's a surprise witness that I didn't think would show up!

BARTHOLEMEW  
Objection!

JUDGE LITTLE  
Overruled. Call your witness.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
I'd like to call to the stand, Doctor Horatio Galapagus!

JUDGE LITTLE  
Order! Order!

Doctor Galapagus moves through the chaos and takes the stand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (104)

Protector Penguin calls out shrilly from the spectators.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN  
Jailor! JAILOR!!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
State your name for the record.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
Doctor Horatio Galapagus.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
And in zoological circles, you are generally considered the foremost expert in rare bird species, including the Kookaramonga? Is that correct?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
In most circles, yes.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
Please tell us of the events of May third, of this year, as they relate to this case.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
On the third of May, I was transporting a cargo of birds from Calcutta to a zoo in Canada. The cargo included a dozen penguins and an adult Kookaramonga, very pregnant with egg. While flying over New England I became aware of a fuel issue that required an emergency landing somewhere in Connecticut.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS  
What happened then?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS  
I managed to land safely, refuel and continue on my flight plan, but in Toronto that I realized part of my cargo had gone missing. All of the penguins had escaped while I was in Connecticut but even worse, the Kookaramonga had somehow managed to leave the plane long enough to lay her egg and leave it behind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (105)

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

The egg that Walter Roberts found and incubated in his television set?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Most certainly, there aren't many eggs like that left lying around.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

And the penguins? Did they ever resurface?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Not yet, but I'm hoping to reacquire them at some point. You see they're trained as a musical act and I've got them booked in quite a few venues this year.

Protector Penguin calls out from the back of the courtroom.

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

Jailer! Big nose!

JUDGE LITTLE

Order! One more outburst and I'll have this courtroom cleared!

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

So I take it you're in favor of birds going into the entertainment field?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

As a general concept, yes.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

So there's nothing unusual about Raymundo being offered a job hosting a television show?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Well, I wouldn't call it "unusual", though I'd have to question the wisdom of the studio for doing so.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

I'm sorry, I don't follow you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (106)

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

The Kookaramonga is capable of storing up an enormous vocabulary of words and they also have a wonderful talent for imitation, but he's still a member of the animal kingdom and NOT human society.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

What exactly are you saying, Doctor?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

That he's fooled you all, that he's not what you suppose him to be. Raymundo's really nothing more than a "super parrot" who throws around conversation and concepts without really understanding their deeper meanings. The truth is that Raymundo doesn't belong loose in the world, he's a danger to himself and others.

Hubbub in the courtroom, the judge pounds her gavel.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

Dangerous? Really?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

The best thing for Raymundo is to be in a controlled environment, like a zoo or a laboratory.

DAVIES HUMPHREYS

No further questions.

Galapagus starts to go, but Bartholemew intercepts him.

BARTHOLEMEW

So we're to believe that Raymundo has no true understanding of human behavior, he only imitates it?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

He has a superficial understanding. I act, he reacts, that sort of thing.

BARTHOLEMEW

Have you talked to Raymundo at all?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (107)

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

I have not.

BARTHOLEMEW

Spent any time with him? Engaged  
him on any subjects?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

No, sir.

BARTHOLEMEW

Challenged him to a game of chess?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

I really don't see the point.

BARTHOLEMEW

So this opinion of Raymundo,  
exactly what is it based on?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Hard data, science and fact!

BARTHOLEMEW

And science is always correct?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Inevitably, yes.

BARTHOLEMEW

That's an interesting position,  
Doctor, because I have to remind  
you that there was a time when  
learned men of science considered  
it a fact that the world was flat!  
That all the hard data available  
indicated that man would never fly!  
So when you tell me that just  
because you've met Kookaramonga's  
in the past, you know everything  
you need to know about  
Kookaramonga's in the future, I'm  
going to have to hold that premise  
in contempt!

Galapagus becomes increasingly agitated, nervous now.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

You're twisting my words now,  
these, these are typical lawyer's  
tricks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (108)

BARTHOLEMEW

You said that Raymundo belongs in a controlled environment? Correct?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

That's what I believe, yes.

BARTHOLEMEW

And under whose supervision would that likely be?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Well, that's hard to say.

BARTHOLEMEW

As the "foremost expert" on rare birds and Kookaramonga's in particular, it would be YOU! Correct?

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

Possibly. Probably. Yes.

BARTHOLEMEW

And all the publicity that this case has been receiving, would almost certainly benefit your own work -your research, your funding, job opportunities and the like?

Knowing he's been had, Galapagus glares at Bartholemew coldly.

DOCTOR GALAPAGUS

I suppose it wouldn't hurt.

BARTHOLEMEW

No further questions.

Galapagus gets up and storms out of the courtroom, humiliated.

DOROTHY

We want to hear Raymundo!

Courtroom AD LIBS, "Raymundo!", "Let the bird speak!", etc.

JUDGE LITTLE

Order! Order in the court!

BARTHOLEMEW

I'd like to call one last witness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (109)

JUDGE LITTLE

Let me guess.

BARTHOLEMEW

Raymundo Roberts, to the stand!

Ray rises, and moves self-consciously to the stand, sits.

BARTHOLEMEW

So Raymundo, for the record, what do you think about these proceedings?

RAYMUNDO

I think if half the shows on Broadway had this much drama and hocus pocus, we'd have a much better theater season.

BARTHOLEMEW

And what about the testimony by Doctor Galapagus? That you're something of a birdbrain?

RAYMUNDO

He's entitled to his opinion. As to what I know or don't know, that's hard to say. I know about computers and history and a little Hollywood gossip, but I don't know how important any of that really is. I do know that we're all learning everyday, and learning from each other.

Underneath Ray, the piano begins to play softly, emoting.

RAYMUNDO

I think if we could just accept that even we all look different, we're really all the same, life would be so much easier and the biggest problem we'd have is picking out which horse to ride on the merry-go-round!

Piano swelling, Raymundo sings "THE MERRY-GO-ROUND".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (110)

RAYMUNDO

Let's go through life on a merry-go-  
 round Sitting on horses and flowing  
 up and down Riding through places  
 we've never seen before Asking for  
 more and for more You take the  
 white horse I will take the blue  
 Side by side waltzing  
 forever we'll be true  
 Listening to music that's in  
 three quarter time  
 Chime after chime after chime Just  
 keep on riding because when you're  
 done There's no milk and cookies  
 the clouds hide the sun Dream on  
 forever and stay close to me I'll  
 be your harbor when we hit rough  
 seas We'll ride through a magic  
 land down beside the sea Where  
 marshmallow houses are built up in  
 trees People are friendlier in  
 everyday play Day after day after  
 day We'll never look back We'll  
 just travel straight ahead Thinking  
 of doughnuts and cake and  
 gingerbread Sharing our wisdom and  
 thinking right out loud Through  
 cloud after cloud after cloud Just  
 keep on riding because when you're  
 done There's no milk and cookies  
 the clouds hide the sun

RAYMUNDO (CONT'D)

Dream on forever and stay close to  
 me I'll be your harbor when we hit  
 rough seas We'll eat cotton candy  
 and roam around the sun We'll keep  
 on riding until our day is done  
 We'll see the beauty the world has  
 got to share  
 Fair after fare after fair  
 Fair after fare after fair  
 Fair after fare after fair

Protector Penguin CUES the front row to don penguin masks.

JUDGE LITTLE

Mister Jury Foreman, how do you  
 find the defendant?

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

To the charges of being an illegal  
 alien, we find Raymundo not guilty!

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (111)

DOROTHY

All right!

PROTECTOR PENGUIN

As to the issue of custody, we believe that custody should be jointly awarded to both Walter Roberts and Sarah Goldstein.

Ray and Walter embrace, Sarah blows them both a kiss.

JUDGE LITTLE

Raymundo, I would like to suggest that you spend your weekends with Mr. Roberts and your work days with Ms. Goldstein. CASE DISMISSED!!

Sarah pulls Walter in for a kiss, Ray and Dorothy embrace.

Piano reprises "EGG ON MY FACE" AS THE LIGHTS FADE.

BLACK OUT, THE  
END.