

The logo for 'RAGBRAI THE MUSICAL' features the word 'RAGBRAI' in large, bold, black letters, each contained within a bicycle wheel. Below this, the word 'THE' is written vertically on the left side of a green banner, and the word 'MUSICAL' is written horizontally in yellow letters across the banner.

A One-Act Musical Comedy

by

Robert John Ford

Version 2022-03-11

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CHARACTERS

ACTOR 1: Bicyclist, male-identifying/presenting
 ACTOR 2: Bicyclist, female-identifying/presenting
 ACTOR 3: Multiple roles (narrator, bicyclist, vendor, townie)
 ACTOR 4 & KEYBOARDIST: Multiple roles (narrator, vendor, townie)

SCENES & SONGS

Prologue

Song 1: "The Event, Part 1" (4:56)

Day 1

Song 2: "The Delusions" (3:08)

Song 3: "The Hosts" (2:13)

Song 4: "The Facilities (Denial)" (1:22)

Day 2

Song 5: "The Complaints (Anger)" (3:12)

Day 3

Song 6: "The Weather" (1:24)

Song 7: "The Locals" (2:55)

Day 4

Song 8: "The Food" (2:51)

Day 5

Song 9: "The Desperation (Bargaining)"

Song 10: "The Debauchery" (6:00)

Day 6

Song 11: "The Insanity" (2:31)

Song 12: "The Quiet (Depression)" (0:30)

Day 7

Song 13: "The Surrender (Acceptance)" (2:50)

Epilogue

Song 14: "The Event, Part 2" (1:04)

SCENIC ELEMENTS

Along the upstage edge of the performance area are seven three-sided pillars, approximately six feet high with each side eighteen inches wide, on casters. Pillar 1 is furthest stage right; pillar 7 is furthest stage left. On the first side of each pillar is a letter – R, A, G, B, R, A, I. On the second side of each pillar is wording in this format: Day #. On the third side of each pillar are cornstalks. Initially, the sides featuring the letters are facing the audience. On one side of the stage is a keyboard housed in what appears to be a tent or roadside stand.

Prologue

Iowa, July.

ACTOR 4, seated at the keyboard, provides underscoring as ACTOR 3 enters and addresses the audience.

ACTOR 3

In 1973, John Karras – a feature writer for the Des Moines Register – issued a challenge to his fellow journalist Donald Kaul, suggesting that he ride his bike across the state of Iowa and write columns about what he saw from that perspective. Kaul was intrigued, but stated that he would only accept the challenge if Karras rode along too. And so, on August 26th, the two of them – along with about 300 other Iowans who tagged along – set out from Sioux City on a week-long adventure. Little did they know that, 49 years later, it would become the longest, largest, and oldest bicycle touring event in the world. That first year, it was informally called “The Great Six-Day Bike Ride,” but we now know it by a different name...

ACTORS 1 & 2 enter. They introduce themselves to either ACTOR 3 or audience members as they mime preparing their bike and gear.

ACTOR 1

Jack Conway from Brooklyn, New York. This is my wife Liz. Nice to meet you.

Song 1: “The Event, Part 1” (4:56)

As she sings, ACTOR 3 weaves among ACTORS 1 & 2.

ACTOR 3

EV’RY YEAR, CYCLISTS GATHER HERE
FOR A WEEK-LONG TREK ACROSS IOWA.

ACTOR 2

Yes, this is our first time! We’re excited!

ACTOR 3

SHORT AND TALL, OVERSIZED AND SMALL,
FIT AND TONED, AND WAY OUT OF SHAPE.

ACTOR 1

Nah, we didn’t do any special training. We’re very fit.

ACTOR 3

SOME NAÏVE, YES A FEW BELIEVE...

ACTOR 2

“IT’S NOT HARD TO BIKE ACROSS IOWA.”

Couldn’t be any worse than the Peloton rides, right?

ACTOR 1

“SMOOTH AND FLAT, MILES AND MILES OF THAT!”

ACTOR 3

...UNAWARE THERE’S NO WAY TO ESCAPE.

ACTOR 1
I've never been west of New Jersey.

ACTOR 3
Oh dear.

*ACTOR 3 crosses to ACTOR 4; they observe and dish together,
making occasional side bets with each other.*

ACTOR 4
AND OH, HERE'S THE BEST PART,
IT HAPPENS ON THE VERY HOTTEST WEEK IN JULY.

ACTOR 3
BUT THERE THEY STAND, GRINNING,

ACTOR 2
Is this heaven?

ACTOR 3
AT LEAST IN THE BEGINNING,

ACTOR 1
No, it's Idaho!

ACTOR 2
Iowa.

ACTOR 3
BUT IN A WEEK THEY WILL BE PRAYING
"PLEASE DON'T LET ME DIE!"

ACTOR 4
TEN BUCKS, THEY'RE GONNA DIE...

ACTORS 3 & 4
ON...

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
NOT A DAY IN THE PARK,

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
RIDE FROM DAWN 'TIL IT'S DARK,

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
YET TEN THOUSAND EMBARK
ON THIS ONE-WEEK, CROSS-STATE, UP-DOWN JOURNEY.

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
PARTLY SPORT, PARTLY PLAY,

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
MOST SURVIVE IT OKAY,

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
SOME GET CARRIED AWAY
ON A GURNEY.
THAT'S RAGBRAI.

ACTOR 4
RAGBRAI.

ACTOR 2
RAGBRAI.

ACTOR 1
RAGBRAI.

(Stomp claps)

ACTOR 3
IT'S FUN TO CONVERSE WITH THE VIRGINS
WHO THINK IT'S "AS EASY AS PIE."

ACTOR 1
(Inhaling) Mmmm...pie.

ACTOR 3
THEY DON'T TAKE THE TIME TO CONSIDER
THEIR PLANS MAY GO HORRIBLY AWRY.

(Now engaging directly with ACTORS 1 & 2)
So what are you expecting from your first RAGBRAI?

ACTOR 2
CRISP, COOL AIR BLOWING THROUGH OUR HAIR,

ACTOR 1
BREEZES AT OUR BACK ACROSS IOWA.

ACTOR 3
That's adorable!

ACTOR 2
DRY TERRAIN,

ACTOR 1
NOT A DROP OF RAIN,

ACTOR 2
CLEAR BLUE SKIES AND NOTHING BUT SUN.

ACTOR 4
So innocent.

ACTOR 1
NORTHERN LIGHTS,

ACTOR 2
FIVE-STAR CAMPING SITES,

ACTORS 1 & 2
PEACEFUL SLEEP-FILLED NIGHTS ACROSS IOWA.

ACTOR 3
You goofballs.

ACTOR 2
NEW PAVED ROADS...

ACTOR 1
BUILT FOR WIDE WIDE LOADS,

ACTORS 2
INFRASTRUCTURE SECOND TO NONE.

ACTOR 4
Oh, no, our senators didn't vote for that.

ACTOR 3
We're a red state!

ACTOR 1
We're well aware that most of these flyover western states are.

ACTOR 4
Western state?

ACTOR 1
You know, anything west of New Jersey.

ACTOR 3
Ah. Okay. And what type of sights do you hope to see along the way?

ACTOR 4
This could be amusing...

ACTOR 1
PRAIRIE DOGS, CABINS MADE OF LOGS,
GOTHIC FARMERS POSED ACROSS IOWA.

ACTOR 3
Yeah, no.

ACTOR 1
TALL GRASS PLAINS, BANDITS ROBBING TRAINS,
CATTLE THIEVES WHO DUEL AT MIDDAY.

ACTOR 4
He's joking, right?

ACTOR 1
GOLD RUSH TOWNS, RAISE-THE-ROOF HOE DOWNS,
MARSHALLS SLINGING GUNS ACROSS IOWA.

ACTOR 3
What?

ACTOR 1
RODEOS, HERDS OF BUFFALOS
WHERE THE DEER AND THE ANTELOPE PLAY.

ACTOR 3
He seems to be blending together many old movies he's seen.

ACTOR 4
MY GOD, THIS IS PRICELESS,
HE THINKS THIS IS A DIFF'RENT STATE, AND CENTURY.

ACTOR 3
Aye.

ACTOR 4
THE TYPE WHO I SAID WOULD
CONFUSE US WITH DEADWOOD,

ACTOR 3
OR MAYBE COLORADO, HE SEEMS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH.

ACTOR 4
TEN BUCKS, THEY'RE GONNA DIE...

ACTORS 3 & 4
ON...

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
IT IS TORTURE ON WHEELS,

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
EATING PIES FOR EACH MEAL,

ALL
RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
 YET IT SEEMS TO APPEAL
 TO THE YOUNG-OLD, NEAR-FAR, TAME-WILD MASSES.

ALL
 RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
 MANY ANSWER THE CALL,

ALL
 RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
 MOST WILL SAY "IT'S A BALL,"

ALL
 RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4
 SOME ARE DESTINED TO FALL
 ON THEIR ASSES.
 THAT'S

ALL
 RAGBRAI,
 THIS SHOULD REALLY BE FUN.
 RAGBRAI,
 THIS IS DAY NUMBER ONE.
 RAGBRAI,
 SEVEN DAYS 'TIL THEY'RE/WE'RE DONE
 AND WAVE BYE-BYE,

ACTOR 4
 OR DIE,

ALL
 ON RAGBRAI!
 RAGBRAI!

End of song.

End of Prologue.

Day 1

ACTOR 3 turns pillars 7-2 to the sides with the cornstalks and then turns pillar 1 to the side that displays "Day 1."

ACTOR 3

Day 1, seven a.m. ~~The route — Sergeant Bluff to Ida Grove, XX miles, XXXX feet of climb.~~

ACTOR 2 reaches into her fanny pack and pulls out a camera phone, points it at ACTOR 1, and pushes the "record" button. ACTOR 2 joins ACTOR 1 in front of the camera. Throughout the scene, they continue to play to the camera — handing it back and forth as necessary — while preparing their bike, equipment, and supplies. ACTOR 3 stands off to one side and observes.

ACTOR 2

Hey, everyone watching our live stream on social media and our YouTube channel, including our two little munchkins back home, Florence and Istanbul.

ACTOR 1

Hi, Flo. Hi, Izzie — love you!

ACTOR 2

I'm Liz...

ACTOR 1

And I'm Jack...

ACTOR 2

And we're...hashtag...

ACTOR 1

The Free Wheelers.

ACTOR 2

We've got something very special to share with you this week — we are going to livestream our daily experiences on RAGBRAI...

ACTOR 1

Which stands for the Really Awesome Ginormous Bike Ride Across Idaho.

ACTOR 2

Iowa.

ACTOR 1

Iowa. I'm gonna get that right one of these days!

ACTOR 2

So, I'll be honest — I wasn't sold on this idea, but Jack convinced me it would be a fun and unique way to spend our vacation...

ACTOR 1

Based on everything I've read about it...

ACTOR 2

So here we are at the starting point in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. It's seven a.m. and we're just about to commence our journey on our new Cannondale tandem bike. Fancy, huh?

ACTOR 1

They say that couples who pedal together medal together. First place - yeah!

ACTOR 2

It's not a competition, sweetie.

ACTOR 1

Unless we make it one!

ACTOR 2

Anyway... we've also attached a mini trailer to carry our camping equipment...

ACTOR 1

And, don't forget - my guitar!

ACTOR 2

Jack is gonna serenade everyone around the campfire each night.

ACTOR 1

Kumbaya, my lord (or: Home, home on the range) - no, I'm kidding!

ACTOR 2

So, honey, now that we're really here in this mysterious, far-away place called Iowa, tell everyone how you're feeling about all this.

ACTOR 1

Never felt better.

Song 2: "The Delusions" (3:08)

ACTOR 1 (cont.)

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A BIKE RIDE,
NO WIND, NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY.
THE TEMP'RATURE'S IN THE MID SIXTIES,
THE FORECAST - SUNNY AND DRY.

WE'RE FEELING SO GREAT, NOT A CARE OR WORRY
AS WE SADDLE UP TO DEPART.
WE'LL DIP OUR BACK TIRE IN THE GREAT MISSOURI,
OFFICIALLY MARKING OUR START.

ACTOR 2

(Referencing a notebook retrieved from her fanny pack)

WE'VE DEvised THE PERFECT PLAN
TO BE CERTAIN WE CAN
MAKE IT THROUGH THE FULL WEEK
WITHOUT A SNAFU.
THE DETAILS ARE IN IT,
RIGHT DOWN TO THE MINUTE,
FOR ONE HUNDRED "LIKES"
WE WILL SHARE IT WITH YOU.

ACTOR 2 (cont.)

(Looking at her own phone)

We're at 54 so far. C'mon, hit that "like" button. Up to 78 now. Keep it going, Wheelers fans. 98...99...100! Jack, they want to hear our fool-proof plan. Take it away!

ACTOR 1

(Referencing the pocket notebook)

EV'RY DAY WE'LL WAKE AT SIX,
EAT SOME YOGURT AND TRAIL MIX,
AND BE ON THE ROAD NO LATER THAN EIGHT.
WE'LL DISPLAY OUR CYCLING POWER
RIDING THIRTY MILES PER HOUR,
WITH NO NEED TO STOP FOR FOOD OR TO HYDRATE.

Tell them how, honey!

ACTOR 2

WE'LL PACK EVIAN AND NUTS,
PROBIOTICS FOR OUR GUTS,
AND CONSUME THEM AS WE'RE CYCLING ALONG.
THIS WILL SATISFY EACH CRAVING,
PRECIOUS MINUTES WE'LL BE SAVING...

ACTOR 1

IT'S A TRICK WE LEARNED WHILE WATCHING LANCE ARMSTRONG.

ACTOR 2

He's done this ride!

ACTOR 1

FEELING ENERGIZED, ALIVE,
ROUGHLY NOONTIME, WE'LL ARRIVE
AT THE TOWN WHERE WE'LL BE STAYING THE NIGHT.
GET A PRIMO SPOT FOR CAMPING,
A MASSAGE TO EASE THE CRAMPING,
DO HOT YOGA, TAKE A SHOWER, GRAB A BITE.

ACTOR 2

TAKE A NAP TIL THREE P.M.,
HAVE A CLEANSING ZEN B.M.,
AND THEN CARBO-LOAD BEGINNING AT FOUR.
SPEND AN HOUR JUST TO SAVOR
AND ENJOY THE LOCAL FLAVOR,
MAYBE DRINK ONE BEER BUT NEVER EVER MORE.

ACTOR 1

BE IN BED, ASLEEP, BY TEN,
AND THEN DO THIS ALL AGAIN
ON THE NEXT DAY AND THE DAY AFTER THAT.
BY THE FINISH ON DAY SEVEN
WE'LL BE TONED LIKE GODS FROM HEAVEN,
DOWN TO TEN PERCENT OR LESS OF BODY FAT.

ACTOR 2

(Again, proudly displaying the pocket notebook)

WE HAVE MADE THIS PLAN WITH CARE,
WITH CONTINGENCIES TO SPARE...

ACTOR 1

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG TO RUIN THAT?

ACTOR 2 puts the notebook in her fanny pack as they both straddle their imaginary bike seats.

ACTORS 1 & 2

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A BIKE RIDE,
WE'VE TALKED ENOUGH — ON WITH THE SHOW.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A BIKE RIDE,
ON YOUR MARK, GET READY, SET, GO!

End of song.

Smiling, almost euphoric, they begin to pedal and exit the stage. ACTOR 3 interacts with ACTOR 4.

ACTOR 3

Now, RAGBRAI isn't just about the riders — it's also about all the colorful Iowans you meet along the way.

ACTOR 4

Especially at the overnight stops. The proud event organizers for each host town try to outdo the others, but always in a very Iowa Nice way.

Song 3: "The Hosts" (2:13)

ACTOR 3

Ooh, here comes the first group of bikers, everyone! It's show time!

ACTORS 3 & 4

WELCOME, WELCOME, TO OUR HUMBLE TOWN,
THERE'S SO MUCH YOU'LL WANT TO DO.

ACTOR 4

GRAB SOME FRESH-SQUEEZED (AN ICE-COLD) LEMONADE,
AS YOU WATCH OUR BIG PARADE,

ACTOR 3

AND THEN STOP BY THE HIGH SCHOOL
FOR THE GLEE CLUB'S SERENADE:

ACTOR 4 stands, steps away from the keyboard, and does an awkward-teenager acapella song solo.

ACTOR 4

WE'RE FROM I-O-WAY, I-O-WAY,
THAT'S WHERE THE TALL CORN GROWS.

ACTOR 4 returns to his spot at the keyboard.

ACTOR 3

THERE'S A CARNIVAL, A TRAIN RIDE,
A CROPDUSTING PLANE RIDE,
A MIDNIGHT SCREENING OF "THE MUSIC MAN."

ACTOR 4
THERE ARE FIREWORKS AND BEER TENTS,
A SLIPKNOT APPEARANCE,
AN IMMIGRANT FROM AFGHANISTAN.

ACTOR 1 enters, portraying an Afghan immigrant.

ACTOR 1
Hello. I am not sure why I am a tourist attraction.

ACTOR 1 exits.

ACTORS 3 & 4
WELCOME, WELCOME, TO OUR HUMBLE TOWN
WE HOPE YOU'LL FIND/TRY SOMETHING NEW.

ACTOR 3
SAMPLE SOYBEAN-BASED VERMOUTH,

ACTOR 4
SMOKE SOME POT WITH LOCAL YOUTH,
AND THEN STOP BY THE HIGH SCHOOL
FOR THE CHEER SQUAD'S KISSING BOOTH.

ACTOR 3
No, no, no – you can't do any of that anymore. For so many reasons.

ACTOR 4
THERE'S A WATER SLIDE,

ACTOR 3
A DUNK TANK,

ACTOR 4
A LOCAL BAND NAMED "SKUNK SKANK,"

ACTOR 3
A SCARY CORN MAZE WITH A STEVE KING THEME.

ACTOR 2
You mean Steven King?

ACTOR 3
No.

ACTOR 4
THERE'S A BOUNCY HOUSE FOR SINGLES,

ACTOR 3
THE HOME OF LAURA INGALLS,

ACTOR 4
A CATCH WITH DAD AT THE FIELD OF DREAMS.

ACTOR 3
A GIANT POCAHONTAS,
AND A MURDER HOUSE THAT HAUNTS US,

ACTOR 4
 THE REAL-LIFE RIVER CITY,
 AND THE COUNTRY'S FATTEST KITTY.

ACTORS 3 & 4
 IT'S OUR JOB TO PLEASE YOU,
 WE'RE YOUR WELCOMING COMMITTEE!

WELCOME, WELCOME, TO OUR HUMBLE TOWN,
 AND THANK YOU FOR PASSING THROUGH.
 OUR TOWN'S BETTER THAN THE REST
 AND WE'RE SURE YOU'LL LIKE US BEST.
 WELCOME, WELCOME
 TO YOU!

End of song.

ACTOR 3
 Now, for riders to be able to partake in all of these festivities, they must arrive at each host town at a reasonable hour.

ACTOR 3 again moves to one side to observe, while ACTORS 1 & 2 enter. Their smiles have been replaced with pained looks, their pedaling is more labored, and they're keenly aware of their own odors. Finally, they come to a stop, exhausted and miserable. ACTOR 2 brings out the phone.

ACTOR 2
 Hey friends, it's ten p.m. on day one. and we're just settling in at camp. Tell them about our day, Jack.

Song 4: "The Facilities (Denial)" (1:22)

ACTOR 1
 THE SHOWERS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL JUST RAN OUT OF WATER,
 I CAN'T WASH AWAY ALL THE PIG EXCREMENT.
 OUR CAMP IS NEXT DOOR TO A BUILDING MARKED "SLAUGHTER,"

ACTOR 2
 HE CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO PUT UP OUR TENT.

ACTOR 1
 You try it then!

ACTOR 2
 I SMELL LIKE NEW JERSEY, AS BAD AS HOBOKEN,
 MY CLOTHES ARE ENTIRELY SOAKED WITH MY SWEAT.
 THE WASHERS WERE BACKED UP, THE DRYERS WERE BROKEN,
 THE BATHROOMS WERE FILTHY, THE T.P. WAS WET.

ACTOR 1
 AND WER'RE NOT SURE IF YOU CAN EVEN SEE THIS,

ACTOR 2
 THE WI-FI IS SPOTTY,

ACTOR 1
 MY PHONE HAS ONE BAR.

ACTOR 2

SIRI, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
SEARCH FOR HOTELS THAT ARE NEAR ME,

ACTOR 1

AND A PLACE TO PEE THAT'S NOT A MASON JAR.

ACTOR 2

Toughen up, man!

ACTOR 1

You're right – we can do this.

ACTORS 1 & 2

WE'LL SOLDIER ON JUST LIKE SCARLETT O'HARA,
AND OVERCOME EV'RY GLITCH ON THE WAY.
THE IOWA LANDSCAPE IS OUR PRECIOUS TARA,
AND DAMN IT, TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY.

End of song.

ACTOR 1

Grab your sleeping bag, we're bunking in that slaughterhouse.

ACTORS 1 & 2 exit. End of Day 1.

Day 2

ACTOR 3 turns pillar 1 to the side with the cornstalks and then turns pillar 2 to the side that displays "Day 2."

ACTOR 3

Day 2, ten a.m. ~~The route — Ida Grove to Pocahontas, XX miles, XXXX feet of climb.~~

ACTOR 3 exits. ACTORS 1 & 2 enter on their bike, struggling to pedal.

Song 5: "The Complaints (Anger)" (3:12)

ACTOR 2

I FEEL ILL, TRULY WANT TO KILL
ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT IOWA IS "FLAT."

ACTOR 3, portraying another cyclist and pedaling, comes up rapidly behind ACTORS 1 & 2, then slows to their pace to engage them in conversation.

ACTOR 3

Oh, it's not!

OUTSIDERS THINK BECAUSE THERE ARE NO MOUNTAINS,
THE ELEVATION DOESN'T FLUCTUATE.
THAT MISPERCEPTION ONLY GETS CORRECTED
WHEN YOU BIKE THE GENTLE HILLS ACROSS OUR STATE.

Just wait until the last two days in eastern Iowa — it's like a roller coaster! Well, you have a good day, folks — see you ~~in Poky!~~

ACTOR 3 speeds off and exits. ACTORS 1 & 2 continue to pedal while ACTOR 4 dons a highway patrol hat.

ACTOR 4

Day 2, one p.m.

ACTORS 1 & 2 come to a stop. ACTOR 1 dismounts the bike, then approaches ACTOR 4.

ACTOR 1

Excuse me, officer, but...

WHY THE FUCK IS A PICKUP/SEMI TRUCK
DRIVING NEXT TO US ALONG THIS CLOSED-OFF ROAD?

ACTOR 4

It's not closed!

ALTHOUGH TODAY IT'S FILLED WITH MANY BIKERS,
THE FARMERS STILL NEED ACCESS TO THEIR FIELDS.
AND ONE DAY OF NEGLECT AND INATTENTION
COULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THEIR SOYBEAN YIELDS.

ACTOR 4 (cont.)

And lower yields means less profit. Can't disrupt our agri-business, now can we?

Frustrated, ACTOR 1 gets back on the bike, and he and ACTOR 2 begin to pedal again.

ACTOR 4 (cont.)

Day 2, three p.m.

Still pedaling, the expressions on the faces of ACTORS 1 & 2 indicate they're starting to smell something repulsive.

ACTOR 2

Oh my god!

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT PUTRID SMELL?

ACTOR 1

I DON'T KNOW, BUT NOW IT'S DEEP INSIDE MY NOSE.

Again, ACTOR 3, pedaling and now wearing a nose plug and a different clothing item to indicate a different cyclist, comes up rapidly behind ACTORS 1 & 2, then slows to their pace to engage them in conversation.

ACTOR 3

It's pig shit!

THIS AREA IS KNOWN FOR HOG CONFINEMENTS,
SEE, PIGS OUTNUMBER PEOPLE FIVE TO ONE.
AND CONSEQUENTLY, THERE'S A LOT OF DOO DOO
THAT HEATS UP IN THE BLAZING SUMMER SUN.

That's the sweet aroma of Iowa. You get use to it over time.

ACTOR 2

We don't have the luxury of time!

ACTOR 3

Well, good luck to you, then.

ACTOR 3 speeds off and exits. ACTORS 1 & 2 continue to pedal while ACTOR 4 again dons a highway patrol hat.

ACTOR 4

Day 2, five p.m.

ACTORS 1 & 2 come to a stop. ACTOR 2 dismounts the bike, then approaches ACTOR 4.

ACTOR 2

Excuse me, officer, but...

GOTTA PEE, I MEAN DESP'RATELY,
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN A PORTA POT IN MILES.

ACTOR 4

There's no need!

THE ENDLESS FIELDS OF CORN ARE NATURE'S TOILET,
THEY'RE EVEN GENDER NEUTRAL AND LOW FLOW.
DON'T WORRY THAT SOMEBODY MAY BE WATCHING,
FOR PRIVACY, GO FURTHER DOWN THE ROW.

ACTOR 2

Oh my god – where am I?

*Frustrated, ACTOR 2 gets back on the bike, and she and
ACTOR 1 begin to pedal again. ACTOR 4 dons a hat with a
red/white cross.*

ACTOR 4

Day 2, eight p.m.

*ACTORS 1 & 2, still on the bike, slowly come to a stop.
Both dismount. ACTOR 2 mimes putting up the tent while
ACTOR 1 approaches ACTOR 4.*

ACTOR 1

You gotta help me!

ACTOR 4

(Possibly with a slight accent)

What seems to be the problem?

ACTOR 1

BURNING EYES, ITCHY FLAKY THIGHS,
AND MY BUTTHOLE FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN SET ABLAZE.

ACTOR 4

Wow – that sucks.

(Handing ACTOR 1 eye drops)

I'M GUESSING YOU HAVE ALLERGIES TO CORN DUST,

Use these drops.

(Handing ACTOR 1 a tube of cream)

YOUR LEGS ARE CHAFING WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE,

Use this cream.

IT'S LIKELY YOU HAVE HEM'RRHOIDS THAT NEED LANCING,

Sorry...

MY FRIEND THAT'S WHERE I GOTTA DRAW THE LINE.

End of song.

ACTOR 1

Do something! I'm begging you, doc!

ACTOR 4

Who said I was a doctor?

ACTOR 1

Isn't this the first aid tent?

ACTOR 4

No, it's just my tent. I'm a banker, here from Switzerland! Would you like some cocoa, or perhaps a watch?

Dejected, ACTOR 1 starts to walk away. But then he turns, approaches ACTOR 4, and sheepishly takes the watch from his hand. While walking back to ACTOR 2, he puts on the watch and appears to program it, then drops to the ground and falls asleep in the fetal position. ACTOR 2 joins him on the ground. They sleep for a few minutes, until something awakes them. They huddle together in fear, shielding themselves from unseen flying objects, finally laying flat with a blanket over them. End of Day 2.

Day 3

ACTOR 3 turns pillar 2 to the side with the cornstalks and then turns pillar 3 to the side that displays "Day 3."

ACTOR 3

Day 3, nine a.m. ~~The route Pocahontas to Emmetsburg, XX miles, XXXX feet of climb.~~

ACTORS 1 & 2, looking exhausted and near defeat, slowly stand. ACTOR 2 turns on the camera. ACTOR 3 takes a seat next to ACTOR 4's keyboard, as if she's sitting at a bar, and observes the action with a beer in her hand.

ACTOR 2

Hey, everybody. So, Jack, my love, you wanna recap the past 24 hours?

Song 6: "The Weather" (1:24)

ACTOR 1

YESTERDAY THE TEMP WAS NEAR ONE HUNDRED,
WITH NINETY-NINE PERCENT HUMIDITY.
THIS MORNING THERE WAS FROST ON MY SUNGLASSES,
THE TEMP HAD DROPPED TO ONLY THIRTY-THREE.

ACTOR 2

LAST NIGHT, THE HAIL DESTROYED MY ONLY HELMET,
THE FLASH FLOOD WASHED AWAY MY BIKING SHOES.
OUR TENT WAS SHREDDED BY A FREAK DURECHO,
AND NOW WE HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO LOSE.

ACTORS 1 & 2

WE USED TO THINK IT WAS A FOLKSY SAYING,
BUT NOW WE KNOW THE ADAGE IS TRUE.

ACTOR 1

IN IDAHO, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WEATHER,
JUST WAIT TEN MINUTES – IT WILL CHANGE ON YOU.

ACTOR 2

It's Iowa. You're an idiot.

End of song.

ACTORS 1 & 2 get on the bike and begin to laboriously pedal and briefly exit the stage.

ACTOR 3

Day 3, six p.m. Happy hour!

*ACTORS 1 & 2 re-enter and come to a stop on their bike.
ACTOR 1 dismounts, exhausted.*

ACTOR 1

Emmetsburg, I'm so glad to be in you.

ACTOR 2

This is Mallard. We still have thirteen miles to go.

ACTOR 1

(Whimpering)

Are you kidding me? Kill me now.

ACTOR 2

Don't think I haven't thought about it.

ACTOR 1

I need to rest, I need air conditioning, I need alcohol...

ACTOR 2

C'mon, there's a pub right there.

ACTOR 1

Is it a gastro pub?

ACTOR 2

In DuckTown, Iowa? No – it's a sad, dank, little bar! And it's the only oasis in this desert! So, move your ass!

ACTORS 1 & 2 walk over to ACTOR 4 and take a seat as if they are belying up to the bar. ACTOR 3 sits nearby, nursing a beer and smoking a cigarette.

ACTOR 4

Welcome. What can I get you folks?

ACTOR 1

I'll have a Heineken with two twists of lemon.

ACTOR 2

And I'll have a white wine spritzer. No domestic vineyards, please.

ACTORS 1 & 2

And we'd love to see a menu.

ACTOR 1

And I can't handle that garbage on your tv right now. So would you please turn it off or at least switch it to MSNBC.

ACTOR 2

(To ACTOR 3)

And I do believe smoking indoors in a public space is illegal in Iowa.

ACTOR 4

I'm guessing you're two of those east coast liberal elites, ain't ya?

ACTOR 1

Listen, friend, I don't mean to make any trouble. I just have a killer headache and need you to turn off that noise.

ACTOR 2

And put out that cigarette.

ACTOR 4

So let me get this straight. You – a one-time uninvited patron of my bar – are asking me – the owner and operator of this establishment since 1974 – to change everything just for you?

ACTOR 1

Simply asking for a little Iowa nice, please.

ACTOR 3

You're in northwest Iowa, mister – we do things a little differently in this neck of the woods.

ACTOR 4

That's right – this here's the real America, otherwise known as...

Song 7: "The Locals" (2:55)

ACTOR 4 (cont.)

THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
IS WHERE YOUR ASS NOW SITS.
WE AIN'T GOT WHITE WINE SPRITZERS,
NO HEINEKEN – WE GOT SCHLITZ.

ACTOR 3

OUR FOOD AIN'T FREE OF GLUTEN,
OUR LIQUOR AIN'T TOP SHELF.
THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
IS A WORLD UNTO ITSELF.

ACTOR 4

I'D LOVE TO SHARE OUR MENU,
BUT NO SUCH THING EXISTS.
WE MICROWAVE HOT POCKETS
AND OUR DRINKS DON'T COME WITH TWISTS.

ACTOR 3

WE DON'T TAKE KIND TO HIPSTERS...

ACTOR 4

OR COMMIE BERNIE BROS.

ACTOR 1

I actually voted for Yang.

ACTORS 3 & 4

THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
IS A LAND WHERE TIME HAS FROZE.

ACTOR 3

And we like it that way. Good old-fashioned American values.

ACTOR 4

WE DON'T ENFORCE "NO-SMOKING,"
AND WE SELL FAGS FOR A BUCK.

ACTOR 2

That word's been canceled.

ACTOR 3

BUT SHOULD YOU WANT A HOOKAH,
SADAM, YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.

ACTOR 4
 OUR GUNS ARE ALWAYS LOADED,
 WE'RE FOLKS WHO STAND OUR GROUND.

ACTOR 3
 AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TROUBLE,
 YOU'LL BUY US ALL A ROUND.

ACTOR 4
 WE'RE BIG ON FAMILY VALUES,
 ASK MAUDE HERE — SHE'S MY EX.

ACTOR 3
 WE'RE ALL GOD-FEARING CHRISTIANS,

ACTOR 4
 I DON'T HAVE HOMO SEX.

ACTOR 2
 That's very random.

ACTOR 4
 WE NEVER CHANGE THE CHANNEL,

ACTOR 3
 WE LOVE OUR TUCKER C.

ACTORS 3 & 4
 THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 IS WHERE PEOPLE ARE STILL FREE...
 WHERE PEOPLE ARE STILL

ACTOR 4
 FREE!

ACTOR 3
 O SAY, CAN YOU SEE!

End of song.

ACTOR 4
 Now I'll ask you one more time — what can I get you folks?

ACTOR 1
(Meekly)
 Two hot pockets. And a round of Schlitz on me.

*ACTORS 3 & 4 revel in their victory, while ACTORS 1 & 2
 cower. End of Day 3.*

Day 4

ACTOR 3 turns pillar 3 to the side with the cornstalks and then turns pillar 4 to the side that displays "Day 4."

ACTOR 3

Day 4, four p.m. ~~The route Emmetsburg to Mason City, XX miles, XXXX feet of climb.~~

ACTOR 3 steps to the side and observes. ACTORS 1 & 2, looking bloated and sluggish, turn on the camera.

ACTOR 2

Hey, everybody. We're just heading over to all the vendors, so we thought we'd give you a quick update.

Song 8: "The Food" (2:51)

ACTOR 1

OUR PLAN TO EAT HEALTHY HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL,
EACH TOWN HAS THESE FOOD STANDS THAT SMELL SO DAMN GOOD.

ACTOR 2

IN TIMES SUCH AS THESE WHEN OUR LIVES ARE SO STRESSFUL,
WE GAVE US PERMISSION TO EAT COMFORT FOOD.

ACTOR 1

TODAY, TO THIS POINT, WE'VE ALREADY QUADRUPLED
WHAT NOOM SAYS IS OUR TOTAL CALORIE MAX.

ACTOR 2

IT'S HARD TO REMAIN WELL-INTENDED AND SCRUPLED
WHEN WE ARE SURROUNDED BY DEVILISH SNACKS.

*ACTORS 3 & 4 now portray food vendors trying to lure in
ACTORS 1 & 2, who eventually succumb to eating and drinking
everything offered.*

ACTOR 3

CRISPY PICKLE CHIPS
WRAPPED IN BACON STRIPS...

ACTOR 1

I'D BE RUDE TO REFUSE.

ACTOR 4

BACON TURKEY LEGS,
BACON SCRAMBLED EGGS...
BACON PAIRED UP WITH BOOZE.

ACTOR 2 crosses to ACTOR 4's food stand, where she remains.

ACTOR 2

Oh. My. God.

ACTOR 3

CAR'MEL APPLE PIES,
CHEDDAR CHILI FRIES,

ACTORS 2 & 4
RED WINE FRUITY AND SWEET.

ACTOR 3
DEEP FRIED DONUT HOLES,
TUNA CASSEROLES,

ACTOR 4
VODKA JELLO YOU EAT.

ACTOR 2
Make it a double.

ACTOR 3
MAYTAG MAC AND CHEESE...

ACTOR 1
MORE, SIR, PRETTY PLEASE.

ACTOR 2
DRINKS FOR ME, MYSELF, I.

ACTOR 1
TWISTED GARLIC KNOTS,

ACTOR 2
FISTED WHISKEY SHOTS,

ACTORS 2 & 4
SNIFTERS OF TEMPLETON RYE.

ACTOR 2
Bottoms up!

ACTORS 1 & 3
GREASY ONION RINGS,
RANCH-DIPPED CHICKEN WINGS,

ACTORS 2 & 4
BRATWURST PRE-SOAKED IN BEER.

ACTORS 1 & 3
ICE CREAM WAFFLE CONES,
CHOC'LATE ALMOND SCONES,

ACTORS 1 & 2
KEEP IT COMIN' RIGHT HERE!

By this point ACTOR 2 is tipsy. She crosses to ACTOR 1.

ACTOR 2
I'M TIPSY AND SHAKING AND NAUSEOUS AND BLOATED,

ACTOR 1
INSTEAD OF REDUCING I'VE GAINED THIRTEEN POUNDS.

ACTORS 1 & 2
THE FOOD THAT WE'RE EATING IS ALL SUGAR-COATED,
HOW CAN WE RESIST WHEN TEMPTATION ABOUNDS?

End of song.

ACTOR 1
Could we get a Casey's large pepperoni pizza to go?

ACTOR 2
And a diet coke?

End of Day 4.

Day 5

ACTOR 3 turns pillar 4 to the side with the cornstalks and then turns pillar 5 to the side that displays "Day 5."

ACTOR 3

Day 5, two p.m. ~~The route — Mason City to Charles City, XX miles, XXXX~~

ACTORS 1 & 2 are standing near the bike. ACTOR 1 is holding his cell phone in the air in various positions.

ACTOR 1

Still no signal.

ACTOR 2

All you had to do was follow ten thousand other bikers, but no, you had to go looking for a shortcut and now we're lost.

ACTOR 1

We're not lost, Liz.

ACTOR 2

Jack, we're on a gravel road. I'm pretty sure we're not supposed to be on a gravel road. And have you seen any other human being in the past two hours? No! Because we're lost, Jack!

ACTOR 1

I see human beings right now — there's a pick-up truck coming our way. Flag them down.

ACTOR 2

You got us lost — you flag them down.

ACTOR 1

There's a better chance they'll help us if you flag them down. You know, like Claudette Colbert in "It Happened One Night." Lure them in with your female sexuality.

ACTOR 2

(Referring to her appearance) There is nothing sexy about this, Jack!

ACTOR 1

Just stand by the road and show a little leg!

ACTOR 2 awkwardly tries to mimic Claudette Colbert's famous scene.

See? They're stopping. Hello, good sirs!

ACTOR 3, standing near ACTOR 4, looks suspiciously at ACTORS 1 & 2.

ACTOR 4

Well this ain't somethin' you see everyday, is it, Daryl?

ACTOR 3

Sure ain't, Daryl.

ACTOR 2
 Wait - you're both named Daryl?

ACTOR 4
 That's right, young lady.

ACTOR 1
 Please tell me you're not brothers, like in "Newhart," are you?

ACTOR 4
 Now, how ridiculous would that be?

ACTOR 3
 Just what hillbilly state do you think you're in?

ACTOR 4
 No, Daryl's not my brother - he's my husband. Legally married for 13 years.

ACTOR 1
 Are you serious?

ACTOR 3
 Do you have a problem with two men being betrothed?

ACTOR 2
 No, no - we're fine with it. We're from New York.

ACTOR 1
 But this... this is rural Iowa.

ACTOR 4
 Where same-sex marriage has been legal a lot longer than in New York.

ACTOR 3
 Or are you suggestin' that equality only applies to people who live in the big city?

ACTOR 2
 No, no, no - not saying that at all. Shut up, Jack. *(Referring to Jack)*
 He's an idiot.

ACTOR 3
(To ACTOR 2) I like you. *(To ACTOR 1)* But I don't much care for you.

ACTOR 4
 So what brings you two Brooklynites to the Hawkeye State?

ACTOR 1
 Wait - we never told you we're from Brooklyn.

ACTOR 3
 You're clearly from Brooklyn.

ACTOR 2
 We're on RAGBRAI.

ACTOR 3
 Well, by the looks of things, I'd say you're not.

ACTOR 4

The RAGBRAI route is about 20 miles south and east of here.

ACTOR 2

Idiot got us lost.

ACTOR 1

Twenty miles? Might we ask a favor of you? Would you give us a ride to the next overnight town?

ACTOR 4

So you're askin' us to help you cheat?

ACTOR 3

That's not really in the spirit of RAGBRAI, now is it?

ACTOR 1

It's just that we're so tired. We'll pay you!

ACTOR 2

Jack, we burned through all our cash last night at Taco Johns.

ACTOR 4

Well, you seem to be in a bit of a predicament.

ACTOR 3

Askin' for something,' but offerin' nothin' in return.

ACTOR 4

I think they need to earn that ride, right Daryl?

ACTOR 3

Agreed, Daryl.

ACTOR 1

(Quietly, to ACTOR 2) Oh god, he's looking at me like I'm Ned Beatty in "Deliverance."

ACTOR 2

Would you stop with the tv and film references?!

ACTOR 3

Looks like you have some big, strong hands there. Well-suited for a job that requires some "tuggin'," if you know what I mean.

ACTOR 1

Listen, the last time I did that was with my fraternity brothers in college and...

ACTOR 2

Jack, I don't think that's what he meant... although we're going to revisit that revelation at a later time.

ACTOR 3

Get your mind out of the gutter boy.

ACTOR 4

Daryl and I are in a committed monogamous relationship.

ACTOR 3

And believe me, if we were to add a third, it wouldn't be you.

ACTOR 1

Woh. That's a relief. I mean, it's nothing personal – you're a very attractive couple and it's not like I haven't thought about...

ACTOR 2

SHUT. UP!! *(Calmly, to ACTOR 3)* Now what can we do to earn that ride?

ACTOR 3

Oh, *(to ACTOR 2)* you don't have to do anything but sit here with us and watch him while he earns that ride. Are you okay with that?

ACTOR 2

You are my new best friends.

ACTOR 1

But... what exactly will I be doing?

ACTOR 3

The type of work you're not accustomed to.

ACTOR 1

You don't know what I do.

ACTOR 3

Oh, I bet I can guess...

Song 9: "The Desperation (Bargaining)"

BEANWALKING SONG IS FORTHCOMING – PLACEHOLDER PAGES

ACTOR 3

Day 5, eleven p.m.

ACTOR 3 crosses to ACTOR 4 and observes ACTOR 2, who is lying down as if trying to sleep, and ACTOR 1, who is sitting up next to her.

ACTOR 2

(Covering her ears, screaming)

Will you people please shut up?

ACTOR 1

Honey, that's not helping.

ACTOR 2

Bite me.

ACTOR 1

You're getting yourself all worked up again.

ACTOR 1 starts massaging ACTOR 2's neck, maybe snuggling up a bit.

Maybe if we find a way to relieve some of the stress?

ACTOR 2

Are you seriously trying to get romantic right now? You haven't bathed in six days, god only knows what you've using for toilet paper, and the inside of your thighs looks like raw meat. Do you think that's sexy? Is that supposed to get me all hot and bothered? Oh, I'm hot and bothered, all right, but not in a way that's gonna be pleasurable for you. Now get out of this tent and let me sleep.

ACTOR 1 gets up and walks away, pouting a bit while wandering around. ACTOR 2 exits. ACTOR 3 calls out to ACTOR 1 like a shady carnival barker.

Song 10: "The Debauchery" (6:00)

ACTOR 3

WHY SO SAD, GLOOMY GUS?
CHEER UP IN MY MAGIC BUS...
ENTER. (ACTOR 2: Enter.)

ACTOR 4

LEAVE YOUR CARES FAR BEHIND,
WHAT'S INSIDE WILL BLOW YOUR MIND...
ENTER. (ACTOR 2: Enter.)

ACTOR 3

ONLY A FEW GAIN ADMISSION,
STEP RIGHT UP AND PAY THE TOLL.

ACTOR 4
PEEL AWAY EACH INHIBITION,
ALL FOR THE PRICE OF YOUR SOUL.

ACTOR 3
HURRY NOW, DON'T DELAY,
IT GOES "POOF" AT BREAK OF DAY.
BREAK AWAY WITH ONE ROLL OF THE DICE,
AND ENTER PARADISE.

ACTOR 1
I thought you Iowans were all about good clean living.

ACTOR 4
You're in eastern Iowa now.

ACTOR 3
And like a delightful Cole Porter musical, anything goes.

ACTOR 1
Well, thanks, but I'm all out of cash.

ACTOR 3
That's a mighty fancy watch you're wearing.

ACTOR 1
This? Oh yeah – family heirloom. Worth like a thousand dollars.

ACTOR 4
What a coincidence – the exact price of our deluxe package.

ACTOR 3
And time is running out on this special offer.

ACTOR 1
Oh, what the hell.

ACTOR 1 removes the watch and hands it to ACTOR 3. ACTOR 3 then brings out a clipboard with many forms and a pen attached by string.

ACTOR 3
Excellent choice. Now we just have a little business to take care of first.

(Pointing to specific spots on the form)
SIGN THESE FORMS, THIS CONSENT,
SHOULD THERE BE AN "ACCIDENT"....
ENTER. (ACTOR 2: Don't be scared.)

YOUR FULL NAME, BANKING PIN,
HOW TO REACH YOUR NEXT OF KIN...
ENTER. (ACTOR 2: I'm your Sherpa.)

ACTOR 4
SOME THINGS ARE SLIGHTLY ILLICIT,
SOME THINGS ARE SLIGHTLY TABOO. (ACTOR 2: Boo!)
IF YOU'RE NOT PLEASED WITH YOUR VISIT,
YOU WAIVE THE RIGHT TO BLAME US OR SUE.

ACTOR 3
 RAISE YOUR HAND, SAY YOU SWEAR
 ALL THAT HAPPENS STAYS IN THERE...
 AS DOES SPARE ILLEGAL CONTRABAND,
 WHEN YOU ENTER WONDERLAND.

ACTOR 2
 GOOBLE, GOBBLE, GOOBLE, GOBBLE!
 ONE OF US! ONE OF US!
 GOOBLE, GOBBLE, GOOBLE, GOBBLE!
 JOIN US ON THE MAGIC BUS!

ACTOR 3
 Just one more thing – here's your deluxe package gift basket.

*ACTOR 3 presents a gift basket to ACTOR 1 and points out
 specific contents as they are mentioned.*

ACTOR 4
 Full of everything you will need for your maximum enjoyment.

ACTOR 3
 WEAR THESE GLOVES, WEAR THIS MASK,
 WEAR THIS SPONGEBOB SHIRT – DON'T ASK...
 JUST ENTER. (ACTOR 2: I like SpongeBob.)

HERE'S YOUR BIB, HERE'S YOUR LEECH,
 HERE'S YOUR WIPES WITH CLOROX BLEACH...
 ENTER. (ACTOR 2: I like Clorox.)

ALL THE GREATEST HITS OF RICK ASTLEY,
 CHEEZ WHIZ IN A CAN, A POCKET KNIFE,
 ALL THE TWEETS BY CHUCK GRASSLEY,
 GUARD YOUR KIDNEYS WITH YOUR LIFE.

EPI PEN, CHIA PET,
 BEAR REPELLANT, BAYONET, (CLARINET, VINAIGRETTE)
 YOU'RE ALL SET FOR SOMETHING STRANGE AND NEW,
 ENTER XANADU.

ACTOR 4
 We'll see you on the other side.

End of song.

*ACTOR 1 exits while ACTORS 3 & 4 laugh maniacally. End of
 Day 5.*

Day 6

ACTOR 3 turns pillar 5 to the side with the cornstalks and then turns pillar 6 to the side that displays "Day 6."

ACTOR 3

Day 6, five a.m. ~~The route — Charles City to West Union, XX miles, XXXX feet of climb.~~

ACTOR 3 moves to the side and observes. ACTOR 2 is on her cell phone, pacing.

ACTOR 2

He's about five ten, brown hair, medium build, chafed legs...

ACTOR 4

(Pointing upward)

Hey — there's a guy on top of the water tower playing guitar, wearing nothing but a SpongeBob shirt.

ACTOR 1 appears with a guitar.

ACTOR 2

(Looking up in disbelief)

Oh. My. God.

ACTOR 1

NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP,
NEVER GONNA LET YOU DOWN,
NEVER GONNA RUN AROUND AND DESERT YOU.
NEVER GONNA MAKE YOU CRY,
NEVER GONNA SAY GOODBYE,
NEVER GONNA TELL A LIE AND HURT YOU.

Oh, shit — there's a massive alien invasion happening right now. Look at all those flashing red lights in the sky!

ACTOR 2 runs to him, looking upward.

ACTOR 2

Jack, that's a wind turbine farm. You need to come down.

ACTOR 1

We are doing just fine up here by ourselves.

ACTOR 2

"We?" Jack, you're all alone up there.

ACTOR 1

No — you're all alone down there! I'm being embraced by two swell guys.

ACTOR 2

What guys?

ACTOR 1 begins an impromptu, poorly-performed soft shoe routine.

Song 11: "The Insanity" (2:31)

ACTOR 1

ME AND MY HEMORRHOIDS,
TIGHT-KNIT ARE WE.
I USED TO HATE THEM,
BUT THEY'VE GROWN ON ME.

ME AND MY HEMORRHOIDS,
EACH ONE UNIQUE.
DIFF'RENT PERSONAS,
AND I HEAR THEM SPEAK.

THE RIGHT ONE IS NAMED SID VICIOUS,
HE'S HARDCORE UNLIKE HARRY STYLES.
THE LEFT ONE IS FAR LESS MALICIOUS
AND THAT'S WHY HE'S NAMED GOMER PILES.

TWO BLOOD BROTHERS,
AT MY SIDE.
BIG, BAD MOTHERS,
SWOLLEN UP WITH PRIDE.

ME AND MY HEMORRHOIDS,
KIDS OF MY OWN.
I'M A PROUD PARENT,
LOOK HOW BIG THEY'VE GROWN.

ACTOR 1 now struts about.

BOOM CHICKA BOOM CHICKA
OW OW OW.
BOOM CHICKA BOOM CHICKA
OW OW OW.

ACTOR 2

Jack, don't move – I'm coming up there to get you.

ACTOR 1

BOOM CHICKA BOOM CHICKA
OW OW OW.
BOOM CHICKA BOOM CHICKA
OW OW OW.

What's that, Gomer? You think we should do a big finish? Alright, let's bring it home!

ME AND MY HEMORRHOIDS,
GOMER AND SID.
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
LIVING OFF MY GRID.

ME AND MY HEMORRHOIDS,
MY ONLY FRIENDS.
BOTH WILL STAY WITH ME
TIL THE BITTER END.
ON MY BITTER END.

End of song.

ACTOR 2 reaches out to ACTOR 1 as if she's trying to guide him down.

ACTOR 2

Allright, let's get all three of you to the professionals who can help you.

ACTOR 1

(As he and ACTOR 2 start to exit)

Swell guys. Get it?

ACTOR 2

Yes, Jack, I got it.

ACTORS 1 & 2 exit.

ACTOR 3

Day 6, five p.m.

Song 12: "The Quiet (Depression)"

ACTORS 1 & 2 slowly enter, shaking, walking gingerly alongside their bike. They speak no words, only communicating their emotions through glares, head shakes, and the occasional hand gestures. Once or twice, the accompanist starts to play a somewhat jaunty tune, only to be cut off abruptly by the glare and finger-wagging of ACTOR 2.

They slowly exit. End of Day 6.

Day 7

ACTOR 3 turns pillar 6 to the side with the cornstalks and then turns pillar 7 to the side that displays "Day 7."

ACTOR 3

Day 7, eight p.m. ~~The route West Union to Lansing, XX miles, XXXX feet of climb.~~

ACTOR 3 steps to the side and observes. ACTORS 1 & 2 enter and collapse, defeated. ACTOR 2 turns on the camera.

ACTOR 2

To all our fans, and especially our two children.

ACTOR 1

(Stanley Kowalski-esque)

Florence! Istanbul!

Song 13: "The Surrender (Acceptance)" (2:50)

ACTOR 2

THIS IS OUR FINAL WEBCAST,
WORDS ARE HARD FOR US TO SAY,
WE'VE ALL BUT LOST OUR VALIANT BATTLE,
WON'T LIVE ANOTHER DAY.
WE CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU
OF THE HORRORS THAT WE'VE SEEN,
THE HILLS, THE BUGS, THE WEATHER,
AND THE BACON-BASED CUISINE.

ACTOR 1

IF YOU FORETOLD THAT ONE DAY
I WOULD TRAGIC'LY DIE
IN A PLACE WHOSE NAME HAD JUST FOUR LETTERS,
THE FIRST ONE BEING "I,"
IRAN, IRAQ, SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDEAST
IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE GUESSED,
BUT THIS FOUR-LETTER WORD IS IN
AMERICA'S MIDWEST.

ACTORS 1 & 2

WE NOW KNOW WHY THE DONNER PARTY
DINED ON HUMAN FLESH.
YES, DES'PRATE TIMES NEED DES'PRATE MEASURES,
FEAST WHILE IT'S STILL FRESH.
DON'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE
TWISTED THINGS WE MAY HAVE DONE,
THE WORLD WILL CALL IT MADNESS,
THE LOCALS CALL IT "FUN."

IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO NOW,
FOR WE HEAR THE ANGELS CALL.
ON CUE, THE THUNDER STARTS TO RUMBLE,
THE RAIN BEGINS TO FALL.
HOW APROPOS OUR DEATH IS MOCKED
BY MOTHER NATURE...

ACTOR 1
(Spying something in the distance)
 WAIT!
 IS THAT THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI?

ACTOR 2
 IT IS!

ACTOR 1
 WE'VE REACHED HOME PLATE!

Safe!

ACTOR 2
 Hallelujah! I have been saved!

ACTOR 1
 Honey, you're an atheist.

ACTOR 2
 I mean, I'm not gonna die, Jack!

ACTOR 1
 We're all gonna die someday, honey.
(Feeling the intense glare from ACTOR 2)
 But yes, on this day, you – we – are not gonna die in Iowa. Now let's go
 cleanse our minds and bodies in the clear, pure water of Old Man River.

*They pretend to bathe in Big Muddy. ACTOR 3 crosses to
 ACTOR 4.*

Epilogue

Song 14: "The Event, Part 2" (1:04)

ALL

RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4

ARE THEY ANGRY THEY CAME?

ALL

RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4

WILL THEIR LIVES BE THE SAME?

ALL

RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4

HAS THEIR MARITAL FLAME
BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY THIS HELL-WEEK TRAUMA?

ALL

RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4

ARE THEY FILLED WITH REGRET?

ALL

RAGBRAI,

ACTOR 3

(To ACTOR 4) HEY — PAY UP ON OUR BET!

ALL

RAGBRAI,

ACTORS 3 & 4

WILL THEY EVER FORGET ALL THIS DRAMA?

ACTOR 1

What's that, Sid? Will we be back to do it all again next year?

*ACTOR 1 looks at ACTOR 2, then a sly look comes over both
their faces.*

ACTORS 1 & 2

We wouldn't miss it for the world!

ALL

RAGBRAI!

End of Song.

End of Play.