



Parody Book & Lyrics by Robert John Ford

"A Chorus Line"

Original Music by Marvin Hamlisch

Original Book by James Kirkwood & Nicholas Dante

Original Lyrics by Edward Kleban

Stage rights represented by Tams-Witmark: A Concord Theatricals Company

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Draft #3 – 2020-01-24 (Performance Script)

***"Adore Us! Line" contains subject matter and language
that may not be suitable for audience members under the age of 13.***

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CHARACTERS

Unless gender, age, race, ethnicity, or other personal differentiations are specifically noted and/or required for authenticity, the play should be cast without regard to these attributes.

JOE BIDEN
 CORY BOOKER
 PETE BUTTIGIEG
 KAMALA HARRIS
 AMY KLOBUCHAR
 BETO O'ROURKE
 BERNIE SANDERS
 ELIZABETH WARREN
 UTILITY ACTOR 1 (COMPOSITE, YANG, CRUZ, GILLIBRAND, GABBARD, CASTRO, NURSE)
 UTILITY ACTOR 2 (RINGMASTER, TRUMP, WILLIAMSON, CASTRO, STEYER)
 IOWA VOTER

SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

The entire show takes place in an indeterminate place – possibly a community hall, school, or civic organization's meeting space – somewhere in Iowa, late October, 2019

"I Hope I Win It" ("I Hope I Get It") – All
 "I Can Beat That" ("I Can Do That") – O'Rourke
 "Wow" ("And") – Biden, Sanders, Booker, O'Rourke, Utility Actors 2
 "In The White House" ("At The Ballet") – Klobuchar, Harris, Utility Actor 1
 "Montage, Part 1 – Hello, Ames!" ("Hello, Twelve") – All
 "Montage, Part 2 – People" ("Mother") – Utility Actor 1, Warren, All
 "Montage, Part 3 – Canvassing" ("Gimme The Ball") – Booker, All
 "Pissed!" ("Sing!") – Sanders
 "My Name Is" ("Nothing") – Harris, Castro, Buttigieg
 "Pocahontas" ("Dance: Ten; Looks: Three") – Warren
 "Wisconsin And Ohio" ("The Music And The Mirror") – Biden
 "For The Time Is Now" ("What I Did For Love") – Buttigieg, All
 "Finale" ("One") – All

SCRIPT AND SCORE NOTES

"Adore Us! Line" should be presented without intermission.

"Adore Us! Line"
The 2020 Political Parody of "A Chorus Line"

The time: Late October, 2019
The place: Iowa

The house lights go to half, then to black. A rehearsal piano plays a two-measure intro, over which the voice of UTILITY ACTOR 1, playing the Ringmaster, is heard.

Song: "I Hope I Win It"
(as sung to No. 1 - "I Hope I Get It")

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Again!

No. 1, measures 1-28

Lights up full. We see UTILITY ACTOR 1, upstage and facing the audience, possibly wearing a circus ringmaster costume, teaching a campaign rally routine to a group of nine 2020 Democratic presidential CANDIDATES – JOE BIDEN, CORY BOOKER, PETE BUTTIGIEG, KAMALA HARRIS, AMY KLOBUCHAR, BETO O'ROURKE, BERNIE SANDERS, ELIZABETH WARREN, and one composite of all others played by UTILITY ACTOR 2. The CANDIDATES, in various states of business attire, are in a straight line facing UTILITY ACTOR 1 (and possibly dance mirrors) upstage. They attempt to do as instructed, some having more success than others.

SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – AGAIN!
SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – AGAIN!
SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – AGAIN!
SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – RIGHT!

That connects with...

TALK, TALK, PEP, PEP,
WALK, WALK, SIDESTEP,
HEAD NOD, YEP, YEP.

Got it? Going on. And...

MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.

Some of the candidates – possibly BIDEN, BUTTIGIEG, and KLOBUCHAR – are hesitant to move too far left, while others – possibly SANDERS and WARREN – venture so far left that they are almost off the stage.

FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT,
MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.
FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT,
MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.
PIVOT STEP, NOW MOVE RIGHT.

After being pushed further to the left that they wish to be, some of the candidates – possibly BIDEN, BUTTIGIEG, and KLOBUCHAR – take the opportunity to return to a more comfortable position to the center right of the others.

UTILITY ACTOR 1 (cont.)

The last part is...

PIVOT STEP, NOW MOVE RIGHT.

Reviewing from the last turn...

FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT,
MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.
PIVOT STEP, NOW MOVE RIGHT.

Right! Let's do the whole combination facing out to the Iowa voters.
From the top...a-five, six, seven, eight!

No. 1, measures 29-38

Lights change. The music builds as the CANDIDATES face downstage and do the campaign rally routine with UTILITY ACTOR 1 in front. At the end of this section, UTILITY ACTOR 1 directly addresses the audience

No. 1, measures 39-43 (vamp)

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls of all voting ages, welcome to this three-ring circus we call The Iowa Caucuses!

No. 1, measures 44-59

NOTE: lyrics added to this section

Now UTILITY ACTOR 1 weaves among audience members and the CANDIDATES, who are standing in various states of showmanship.

STEP RIGHT UP, COME ONE, COME ALL!
SEE THEM AUDITION AT THIS CASTING CALL.
EACH ONE BATTLING TO PROVE THEIR WORTH
FOR THE GREATEST ROLE ON EARTH.

No. 1, measures 60-80 (vamp)

Yes, as you can see, we have dozens of the beasts known as "Democratic Wannabes," once an endangered species, now thriving on the plains of the Midwest. And it's up to all of you to thin the herd. So, who will live to see another day? Will it be the Wannabe from Minnesota, or the Wannabe from New Jersey, or the Wannabe from Texas, or the Wannabe from...

The lights change to "internal thought" lighting as UTILITY ACTOR 1 goes into pantomime. (S)he continues to move among the CANDIDATES, who begin to sing their internal thoughts.

No. 1, measures 81-100

ALL CANDIDATES

GOD, I HOPE THEY PICK (or CHOOSE) ME,
 I HOPE THEY PICK (or CHOOSE) ME,
 I WANNA BE THE NOMINEE.
 (I WANNA BE THE NOMINEE.)

GOD, I HOPE THEY PICK (or CHOOSE) ME,
 I HOPE THEY PICK (or CHOOSE) ME,
 YES, WINNING IOWA IS KEY.
 ('CUZ IF I DON'T I MAY NOT...)

LIVE TO SEE NEW HAMPSHIRE.

O'ROURKE

FUCKIN' NEW HAMPSHIRE!

ALL CANDIDATES

WHAT MATTERS MOST IS IOWA.
 I BET THE FARM ON IOWA.
 MY FATE DEPENDS ON IO...

KLOBUCHAR

GOD, LET ME WIN THIS STATE.
 THIS MIDWEST NEIGHBOR STATE.
 I'VE GOT TO WIN THIS STATE!

No. 1, measures 101-106 (vamp)

*The lights change back to reality. UTILITY ACTOR 1
 comes out of pantomime.*

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Now, as mandated by the gods, all seven-hundred-thousand registered Iowa Democratic voters are guaranteed a total of ninety minutes of personal time with any of the major candidate Wannabes. So, on this late October night, exactly one hundred days before the caucuses, the next Iowa voter in line is number five-hundred twenty-five-thousand six hundred. Where are you?

*IOWA VOTER sheepishly rises from a seat in the
 audience and acknowledges UTILITY ACTOR 1 and
 CANDIDATES with a brief wave.*

Welcome. Please state your name and tell us a little bit about yourself.

IOWA VOTER

Uh, hi, my name is Eldon, and I'm a farmer.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

How wonderfully cliché! Okay, Wannabes, who will be the charmer of this farmer, the born seducer of this corn producer, the lean-and-mean vote sower of this bean-and-green oat grower? Time to show him what you've got!

--- optional section ---

SANDERS steps forward, waving his hand to get the attention of UTILITY ACTOR 1. He takes a note from his pocket.

SANDERS

Excuse me...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Yes, Mr. Sanders?

SANDERS

(Handing the note to UTILITY ACTOR 1) I have a doctor's note that excuses me from all of this side-stepping.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Okay, Mr. Sanders. Take it easy and try to do what you can. The rest of you...

--- end of optional section ---

Let's do the climate change combination. Ready? One, two, three, four, five, six...

No. 1 – measures 107-122

While IOWA VOTER watches and UTILITY ACTOR 1 directs and comments from the side, the CANDIDATES each do their own well-rehearsed interpretive song-and-dance on this particular issue.

(Ad libbing as needed, subject to change) O'Rourke, you're gesticulating too much.

O'ROURKE

Shit.

UTILITY ACTOR 1 retrieves a previously unseen jar full of dollar bills that is crudely labeled "Beto's Swear Jar."

UTILITY ACTOR 1

That's another dollar, Beto.

O'ROURKE reluctantly takes a dollar out of his wallet and puts it in the swear jar.

Okay, now let's do the health care reform combination.

**No. 1, CUT measures 123-138
No. 1, measures 139-154**

Again, the CANDIDATES each do their own well-rehearsed interpretive song-and-dance on this particular issue. But IOWA VOTER starts to fidget and look around, not giving them his full attention. UTILITY ACTOR 1 takes note of this.

UTILITY ACTOR 1 (cont.)

Wannabes, this voter is losing interest. C'mon – sell it!

The CANDIDATES become more frantic and desperate to convey their message. It gets very messy, as conveyed by the look of frustration on the CANDIDATES' faces. The lights change to "internal thought" lighting. While UTILITY ACTOR 1 goes into pantomime and beckons IOWA VOTER to join him for a conversation at the side of the stage, the CANDIDATES again sing their internal thoughts, which this time are full of self doubt and more defeatist in nature.

No. 1, CUT measures 155-202

No. 1, measures 203-211

ALL CANDIDATES

GOD, I BLEW THAT ANSWER!

I BLEW THAT ANSWER!

BIDEN, KLOBUCHAR, O'ROURKE, UTILITY ACTOR 2
HE HATES MY SINGLE-PAYER PLAN.

BOOKER, BUTTIGIEG, HARRIS, SANDERS, WARREN
HE HATES MY MEDICARE-FOR-ALL.

ALL CANDIDATES

NOW THE DREAM IS OVER.

O'ROURKE

IT'S FUCKIN' OVER.

ALL CANDIDATES

HE'S MADE HIS CHOICE AND I'M NOT IT,

HE'LL NEVER NOTICE IF I QUIT,

I'M JUST A WORTHLESS PIECE OF...

No. 1, CUT measures 212-307

No. 1, measures 312e-315

The lights change back to reality.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Wannabes, I've just learned something that may be of great interest to you. This is not just any Eldon – this is Eldon Wise, who, in past election years and past election year musicals, has been deemed "the typical Iowa caucus-goer" by the national press, thereby making him one of the most influential voters you will ever meet.

ALL CANDIDATES

(Perking up, suddenly more interested) Influential?

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Yes, and better yet, he is completely undecided and open to considering all possibilities. So a lot rides on your performance tonight...

No. 1, measures 316-322

The lights change to "internal thought" lighting. While UTILITY ACTOR 1 and IOWA VOTER go into pantomime, the CANDIDATES again sing their internal thoughts, which this time are directed almost adoringly toward IOWA VOTER.

BIDEN, BOOKER, HARRIS, SANDERS, O'ROURKE
HIS NAME IS ELDON WISE.

KLOBUCHAR, WARREN, BUTTIGIEG, UTILITY ACTOR 2
IT'S UP TO ELDON WISE.

ALL CANDIDATES
PLEASE LOVE ME, ELDON WISE!

The lights change back to reality.

No. 1, measures 323-343

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Okay, at this time, I hand it over to Mr. Wise. Wannabes, your ninety minutes begin...now!

UTILITY ACTOR 1 starts some type of timer, possibly on IOWA VOTER's phone. UTILITY ACTOR 1 then exits and does a quick change into a composite candidate and inconspicuously re-enters as soon as possible. From the front of the stage, IOWA VOTER addresses the CANDIDATES who are now clumped in small groups along the back wall (or mirrors).

IOWA VOTER

(Almost shyly) Um, hello again. So, because there are so many of you, I thought I'd start by talking with eight of you at a time and then invite more in as we go along. Okay? So, when I call out your name, would you please form a line up front?

As each name is called out, the named CANDIDATE steps forward and joins the line, one on the stage right end, one on the stage left end, and filling in toward the center.

(Slowly and deliberately) Beto O'Rourke...Joe Biden...Amy Klobuchar...Elizabeth Warren...Kamala Harris...Pete Buttigieg...Bernie Sanders...and Cory Booker.

Now, from stage right to stage left, the line is O'ROURKE, KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, SANDERS, BOOKER, BUTTIGIEG, WARREN, and BIDEN.

At this point, the IOWA VOTER acknowledges the only other person on stage - UTILITY ACTOR 2.

IOWA VOTER (cont.)

The rest of you, please wait in the green room (coat room) for now. I thank you for your patience and understanding, and I look forward...

As IOWA VOTER continues to talk to UTILITY ACTOR 2 and UTILITY ACTOR 1 in pantomime, the lights change to "internal thought" lighting on the row of the other eight CANDIDATES.

No. 1, measures 344-367

ALL CANDIDATES (8)

YES, I THINK HE LIKES ME,
HE REALLY LIKES ME,
I'M CLEARLY IN HIS UPPER TIER.

STILL, THERE'S COMPETITION,
THERE'S COMPETITION.
WHICH ONE OF US PULLS UP THE REAR?
(WHICH ONE OF US WILL DISAPPEAR?)

NOW, THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE,
THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE.

THIS YEAR-LONG DEMOCRATIC FIGHT,
THIS DONKEY RACE THAT'S VERY TIGHT
COMES DOWN TO THIS GUY ON THIS NIGHT...

GOD, LET ME WIN THIS STATE.
(WARREN: I KNOW EACH PERSON BY NAME!)
THIS RAUCOUS CAUCUS STATE.
(BOOKER: AND ALL THESE WHITE FOLKS LOOK THE SAME.)
I'VE GOT TO WIN THIS STATE!

No. 1, measures 368-370 (vamp 370)

While holding the last chord on "state," the eight CANDIDATES walk downstage as the lights dim to black. Mirror panels then rotate to black. The lights bump up on the first chord (vamp 370) revealing the CANDIDATES - on each of the four chords, two of them hold up their headshots or campaign signs in front of their faces. After a few seconds, there is a full blackout, and the CANDIDATES step upstage.

**No. 1, measures 371-372
(after a brief delay/applause break)**

A single spotlight comes up downstage center, into which UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 step and begin to sing.

No. 1, measures 373-394

UTILITY ACTOR 1, UTILITY ACTOR 2
 AND WHO ARE WE, YOU ASK?
 WE HAVE THE THANKLESS TASK
 TO PLAY THE OTHERS,
 ALL THE NAMES YOU MAY NOT KNOW.

At this point, UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 alternate holding up headshots of the additional candidates that they are naming. Note for this segment – UTILITY ACTOR 1 may be holding up photos of candidates that UTILITY ACTOR 2 will actually later in the show, and vice versa. Optional: members of the band may yell out some of the names as the list goes on.

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 YANG,

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 RYAN,

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 DE-LA-NEY.

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 It's pronounced Delaney.

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 SESTAK,

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 MESSAM,

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 INSLEE.

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 AND HICKENLOOPER,

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 WILLIAMSON,

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 AND JULIÁN,

No. 1, repeating measure 389 as needed

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 AND BULLOCK,

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 AND BENNET,

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 AND SWALWELL,

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 AND STEYER,
 UTILITY ACTOR 1
 AND GILLIBRAND,
 UTILITY ACTOR 2
 AND GRAVEL,
 UTILITY ACTOR 1
 AND GABBARD,
 UTILITY ACTOR 2
 AND MOULTON,
 UTILITY ACTOR 1
 AND BILL DEBLASIO.

No. 1 – END.
No. 2 – CUT.

The spotlight fades to black. UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 exit in the blackout. Gradually the lights come back up, revealing IOWA VOTER addressing the eight CANDIDATES.

IOWA VOTER

First, I want to thank you for spending the last year of your lives in our state – as you probably have figured out by now, we Iowans take our first-in-the-nation status very seriously, and we are very tough but fair adjudicators. So I thought we'd start by going down the line, each one of you telling me your full name without titles, any nicknames you may go by, where you were born, and how old you are.

WARREN

Excuse me, but it's illegal to ask someone's age in a job interview...

BOOKER

As well as their place of birth.

IOWA VOTER

Folks, I'm not asking about anything that isn't already on your Wikipedia pages. It's just an ice-breaker. So let's start on the stage right end.

O'ROURKE

Me?

IOWA VOTER

Yes, you.

O'ROURKE steps forward out of the line.

O'ROURKE

Me llamo Roberto Francisco O'Rourke, "Beto," Aparicio nació en El Paso, Texas y tengo cuarenta y siete años.

IOWA VOTER

Translation, please.

BUTTIGIEG

His name is Beto, he's forty-seven, and he was born in El Paso.

IOWA VOTER

(To BUTTIGIEG) Ah, you speak Spanish too?

BUTTIGIEG

Yes, sir, I speak six languages fluently.

BIDEN

No one likes a show-off, kid.

O'ROURKE (optional)

(Grumbling under his breath) Recent polling suggests otherwise.

IOWA VOTER

Next.

O'ROURKE steps back into line while KLOBUCHAR steps forward out of the line. A heavy snow begins to fall on her and only her.

KLOBUCHAR

Amy Jean Klobuchar, born fifty-nine years ago in Plymouth, Minnesota.

IOWA VOTER

Did it just start snowing?

KLOBUCHAR

A micro-blizzard follows me wherever I go.

BUTTIGIEG

Cool – maybe we'll get a snow day!

BIDEN

What grade is this kid in?

IOWA VOTER

Next.

KLOBUCHAR steps back into line while HARRIS steps forward out of the line.

HARRIS

Kamala Devi Harris, fifty-five years old, born in Oakland, California and raised in Berkeley.

BIDEN

And she rode the bus to school. I learned that the hard way.

IOWA VOTER

Next.

HARRIS steps back into line while SANDERS grudgingly steps forward out of the line.

SANDERS

(Gruffly) You wanna know who I am? You know who I am! My real name is Bernard Sanders. My middle name is "Fucking," and my political name is "Bernie Fucking Sanders."

BIDEN

Hey, watch the language in front of the kid.

"Beto's Tip Jar" gets passed to SANDERS but he immediately swipes it away without contributing.

IOWA VOTER

And where were you born?

SANDERS

You wanna know where I was born? You wanna know where I was born? I was born in...

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)

(As if they've heard it a million times) Brooklyn...

SANDERS

Brooklyn, baby!

IOWA VOTER

And how old?

BIDEN

(Cough-speaking) Older than me.

SANDERS

You wanna know how old I am? You wanna know how old I am? *(Optional: opportunity for a little more rambling and ranting here...)*

IOWA VOTER

Let's just move on.

SANDERS steps back into line while BUTTIGIEG steps forward out of the line.

BUTTIGIEG

My name is Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg, I was born in South Bend, Indiana, and I just turned this many years old...

BUTTIGIEG flashes thirty-eight fingers.

(Then with a little laugh) I did that for Joe's amusement. I'm thirty-eight.

BIDEN

I have underwear that's older than you.

SANDERS begins waving his hand and finger as if he has something to interject.

IOWA VOTER

You have something to say, Mr. Sanders?

SANDERS

Yes, and let me make this perfectly clear – underwear is currently on sale at Kohl's, and you get ten dollars of Kohl's Cash with every fifty dollars you spend. My entire economic policy is based on the Kohl's Cash principle.

IOWA VOTER

Okay, good to know. Next.

BUTTIGIEG steps back into line while BOOKER steps forward out of the line.

BOOKER

Cory Anthony Booker, born in our nation's capital in nineteen-sixty-nine, the year of Woodstock, Stonewall, and man's first walk on the moon.

SANDERS

And the year of the Jets and the Mets, baby!

BUTTIGIEG

I thought it was the Jets and the Sharks.

BIDEN

Not everything's a musical, kid.

IOWA VOTER

Next.

BOOKER steps back into line while WARREN steps forward out of the line.

WARREN

Elizabeth Warren, born Elizabeth Ann Herring in 1949 in Oklahoma.

BUTTIGIEG

(Singing to himself) "Where the wind goes sweeping down the plain."
(Realizing he's audible) Oh – sorry. Chasten's been playing the revival cast album a lot lately.

IOWA VOTER

And last but not least...

WARREN steps back into line while BIDEN steps forward out of the line.

BIDEN

Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., but you can call me Uncle Joe. Born November twentieth, nineteen-forty-two, in Scranton, Pennsylvania – *(doing a Michael Scott impersonation)* that's what she said.

IOWA VOTER

What?

BIDEN

Michael Scott. Dunder-Mifflin Paper Company. Scranton P.A. "That's what she said."

BOOKER

That only works after a sexual double entendre.

BIDEN

That's what she said.

BOOKER

No. Just...no.

BIDEN steps back into line.

IOWA VOTER

Okay, now that you've all introduced yourselves, I'd...

From offstage, the voice of UTILITY ACTOR 2, playing Andrew Yang, is heard.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

(Imitating a door knock) Knock knock knock.

IOWA VOTER stops for a moment, unsure of what he just heard. He then proceeds.

IOWA VOTER

I'd like to do things a bit...

Again, from offstage, the voice of UTILITY ACTOR 1 is heard, but this time much louder and more insistent.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Knock knock knock.

IOWA VOTER

Is someone back there pretending to knock on a door?

UTILITY ACTOR 1

(Shouting from offstage) Yes. And you're supposed to say "come in."

IOWA VOTER

Okay...come in?

UTILITY ACTOR 1, playing Andrew Yang, enters, carrying a balloon bouquet and a large novelty check made out to Eldon Wise for one thousand dollars, ala a Publisher's Clearing House prize giveaway.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Congratulations, Mr. Wise — your door just got Yang banged. You have been randomly selected to receive a Freedom Dividend — one thousand Democracy Dollars each month for the next twelve months.

IOWA VOTER

Well, um, thank you Mister...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

(Interrupting) Andrew no-middle-name Yang, forty-five years old, born in the year of the Wood Tiger, not to be confused with Tiger Woods, in Schenectady, New York. Here with my Yang Gang, trying out a few new possible campaign slogans tonight – what do you think about “The Big Yang Theory?”

IOWA VOTER

Um, Mr. Yang...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

“Only the good die Yang?”

IOWA VOTER

Mr. Yang, would you please...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

“Yang, Yang, Yang went the trolley?” That one’s a little more obscure, but...

BUTTIGIEG

I got it.

IOWA VOTER

Mr. Yang, why don’t you continue to work on those slogans in the green (coat) room, and I’ll call you back out here in a little while.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Radokely. That’s a Yang Slang mash-up of “rad” and “okely-dokely.” Yang out.

BIDEN (optional)

That’s what she said.

BOOKER glares and shakes his head disapprovingly at BBIDEN. UTILITY ACTOR 1 exits with the check and balloons. IOWA VOTER continues.

***Song Underscoring
(correlates to No. 3 – “After Opening – The Line”)***

IOWA VOTER

Anyway, as I was saying...I want to do things a little differently tonight, since I’ve already seen your regular song and dance routines many times. So, I don’t want you to recite your resume, I don’t care how much money you’ve raised or how many Twitter followers you have, I don’t want to hear what I already know. Instead, tell me something I don’t know – tell me about your dreams, your fears, your weaknesses, your regrets. Tell me how you’ve faced and overcome the challenges in your life. Introduce me to the person, not the candidate.

ALL CANDIDATES look a bit uncomfortable, some maybe even a bit annoyed.

Just take a deep breath and relax.

SANDERS

The exact words my proctologist says as he snaps on the rubber glove.

IOWA VOTER

Oh – one final rule. You cannot say the name of the current president, nor use your time to point out why he is unfit for office. We only have ninety minutes, folks, and I don't want to waste one second on him. If your story can't be told without referencing him in some way, then please say "POTUS" or some other term that identifies him.

WARREN

Even "POTUS" seems too generous – he didn't win the popular vote, so in my opinion, he doesn't deserve that "P."

BIDEN

That's what she said.

BOOKER

What?

BIDEN

You know, the Russian prostitute in the hotel room? "You don't deserve that pee." That's what she said.

BOOKER

No. Just...stop.

HARRIS

Actually, I probably shouldn't say this out loud, but my girlfriends and I have our own acronym for him. We call him the "Current Occupant Of The Colorless House." Or...COOTCH for short.

BOOKER

That is both so wrong...and oh so right.

BUTTIGIEG

Wait – what's a cootch?

BIDEN

Nothing you'd be interested in, my son.

No. 3 – END.

IOWA VOTER

Okay, we need to get started. Who would like to go first?

O'ROURKE enthusiastically steps forward; a spotlight picks him up.

O'ROURKE

I will – I'd love to tell you my origin story.

SANDERS

(Grumbling to the others) Origin story...ever since he got that Vanity Fair cover, the man thinks he's a superhero.

IOWA VOTER

Okay, Mr. O'Rourke, since you were brave enough to volunteer, let's keep it simple. Just tell me when and why you decided to run for president.

O'ROURKE

That I can do! Except I can't do it without speaking of the...COOTCH.

IOWA VOTER

Well, every good superhero story needs a villain too.

O'ROURKE

Okay. My story starts in a little place called...Iowa.

BIDEN

(Cough-speaking) Pandering.

As he continues to speak, O'ROURKE arranges some of the other CANDIDATES into the outline of a square professional wrestling ring, encouraging them to hold hands to create the rope barrier.

Song Underscoring

(correlates to No. 4 – "Introduction: I Can Do That")

O'ROURKE

No, it's true. It was February twenty-sixteen, and a fellow Texan had just shocked the world by winning the Iowa Republican Caucuses, soundly defeating the supposed clear frontrunner, a well-known New York businessman slash reality TV show host. What was supposed to be a quick one-horse race to the finish line instead became an epic four-month battle between two asses.

UTILITY ACTOR 1, costumed to portray a World Wrestling Federation version of Ted Cruz, enters from offstage and steps into the ring.

(In the voice of a WWF ringmaster) First in the ring, weighing in...on subjects he knows nothing about, it's the Perplexin' Texan, the Self-Lubin' Cuban, the Lead Head Named Ted...Rafael Edward Cruz!

UTILITY ACTOR 1 poses and goads the crowd as if he is a WWF superstar. Then, UTILITY ACTOR 2, a WWF version of Donald Trump wearing an outlandish orange costume and cape, enters from offstage, strikes a pose, and then slowly walks to the ring.

(Continuing in the voice of a WWF ringmaster) And making his way to the ring, weighing in at two hundred forty three pounds with a perfect Body Mass Index score according to an assessment by his "doctor," it's The Orange Julius, the Over-Comber, the Twit On Twitter..."The Bankrupter."

UTILITY ACTOR 2 tries unsuccessfully to climb over the human ropes but finally breaks through it, all the while riling up the crowd with chants and ridiculous poses.

(In his regular voice) And up until this point, the two villains had played nice with one another. But when Cruz beat him in Iowa, "The Apprentice" unleashed a series of low blows.

With each of the following statements, UTILITY ACTOR 2 employs some tried-and true pro wrestling stunts – a chair over the head, a clothesline, a knee drop, an elbow smash, a foot stomp, etc. – on UTILITY ACTOR 1, who becomes more dazed with each attack.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

"Ted Cruz didn't win Iowa – he stole it."
 "He's a very unstable person. Seriously – he's got a mental problem."
 "He's the single biggest liar I have ever dealt with in my life."
 "Have you seen what his wife looks like?"
 "His father was involved with the assassination of JFK."
 "He's a nasty, nasty guy."

By this point, UTILITY ACTOR 1 is down on his knees, unable to get back up.

O'ROURKE

And this tactic works – "The Adulterer" gets the nomination. So what does Ted do after being ruthlessly battered by the man for months? He endorses him.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

(In a weak, pained voice) Make America Great Again.

UTILITY ACTOR 1 falls forward, face down on the ground. UTILITY ACTOR 2, for good measure, gives one more foot stomp to the head of UTILITY ACTOR 1, then triumphantly exits. As O'ROURKE continues to speak, UTILITY ACTOR 1 tries to push himself up, but only manages to elevate his butt in a very submissive position.

O'ROURKE

Un-fucking-believable.

One of the other CANDIDATES extends the "Beto Swear Jar" to O'ROURKE, who matter-of-factly retrieves a dollar bill from his pocket and drops it in the jar.

And to make matters worse, it's while Ted's in this position – the most vulnerable of his political life – that he launches his Senate re-election bid.

Still struggling with butt elevated, UTILITY ACTOR 1 turns his head to the audience and weakly makes an announcement.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Cruz, Twenty-Eighteen. Yay.

UTILITY ACTOR 1 rolls over and sprawls out flat on his back, utterly defeated.

No. 4 – END. Transition into...

**Song: "I Can Beat That"
 (as sung to No. 5 – "I Can Do That")**

No. 5, measures 13-15 (vamp 15)

O'ROURKE

Well, that's the exact moment I knew what I was destined to do.

No. 5, measures 15-51

I SEE THE "CHAMP" FLAT ON THE MAT,
SAID I CAN BEAT THAT...
I CAN BEAT THAT.

O'ROURKE climbs through the human rope and enters the ring with a choreographed flare. Simultaneously, UTILITY ACTOR 2 manages to stand up, still a bit dazed and confused.

STEPPED IN THE RING, THREW IN MY HAT,
SAID I CAN BEAT THAT...
I CAN BEAT THAT.

O'ROURKE prances around and attempts a few pro wrestling moves on UTILITY ACTOR 1.

IT'S TRUE THAT TEXAS IS A RED STATE,
BUT WITH A LOTTA WORK I KNEW
I COULD TURN IT BLUE. SO...

UTILITY ACTOR 1 approaches O'ROURKE from behind and sucker punches him, knocking O'ROURKE to his knees. Seeing that O'ROURKE isn't completely knocked out and is poised to rise again, UTILITY ACTOR 1 runs out of the ring frightened and then exits the stage as O'ROURKE continues to sing.

ALTHOUGH I LOST BY TWO PERCENT,
I MADE A DENT.
THIS DEMOCRAT
SAID I CAN BEAT THAT...
I CAN BEAT THAT.

No. 5, measures 52-59 (dance break)

Now O'ROURKE jumps back to his feet and continues to dance and jump around and gesticulate wildly while speaking.

But knowing that it would be another six years before Ted would be up for re-election, I set my sites for the reigning heavyweight champion of the land, "The Pussy Grabber!"

UTILITY ACTOR 2 as Trump re-enters, now in just a boxing robe or cape.

No. 5, measures 60-83

O'ROURKE (cont.)
 AS POTUS SANK TO LOWER LOWS,
 THAT'S WHEN I CHOSE
 TO GO BACK TO BAT.
 I CAN DEPOSE
 THE EMPEROR BRAT.
 HE HAS NO CLOTHES...

O'ROURKE rips off UTILITY ACTOR 2's robe or cape, revealing an obese naked man, possibly with a prosthetic Hedwig-length penis. The other CANDIDATES are repulsed. Embarrassed and bare-assed, UTILITY ACTOR 2 runs off the stage.

EV'RYONE KNOWS...
 I CAN BEAT THAT.

No. 5 - END.

HARRIS
 Really didn't need that image in my head right now.

BUTTIGIEG
 I'm not sure I'm gay anymore.

WARREN
 I'm not sure I'm straight anymore.

BOOKER
 Hey Pence - this might be the one conversion therapy that actually works.

IOWA VOTER
 Okay, that's all for now, Mr. O'Rourke. Back in line.

O'ROURKE steps back into line.

Ms. Klobuchar, you're on. And could someone send in Ms. Gillibrand as well?

KLOBUCHAR steps forward while UTILITY ACTOR 1, playing Kirsten Gillibrand, enters.

Ms. Klobuchar, before this moment in history, there has never been a time when more than two women have competed for the role of president in the same political party. At one point in the current process, there were six women running for the Democratic nomination, including four Senators - yourself, Ms. Harris, Ms. Warren, and Ms. Gillibrand before she withdrew. Yet a study by Northeastern University found that these female candidates are receiving far less press coverage than these male candidates, and the percentage of positive words being used to describe the women candidates is significantly lower than the positive words being used about the male candidates. Why do you think this is?

KLOBUCHAR starts to answer, but then UTILITY ACTOR 2, portraying Marianne Williamson, enters carrying a large full carpetbag. She approaches IOWA VOTER and extends a hand for a handshake, steamrolling over everything he's saying.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Excuse me – hi, Marianne Williamson. I know you asked me to wait my turn, but I have a snake massage, snail facial, and goldfish pedicure appointment in an hour, so I'm wondering if I could cut the line.

IOWA VOTER

Umm...

UTILITY ACTOR 2 briefly looks around, and before any of the other CANDIDATES can respond, she continues. Gradually and unhappily, the others step aside a bit.

Song Underscoreing
(correlates to No. 6 – "Introduction: And")

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Great. Now...income inequality in America isn't just unethical or immoral – it is unsustainable. Anyone who has read Yertle The Turtle already knows this.

IOWA VOTER

(A bit confounded) I'm sorry – what?

UTILITY ACTOR 2

If you want a simple explanation for what's happening in America, watch "Avatar" again.

IOWA VOTER

"Avatar."

UTILITY ACTOR 2

We should start sending angels all around the country! A massive force field is needed to counter voter intimidation efforts.

IOWA VOTER

And your solution is...angels?

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Humanity needs a mental shower – we need to wash off all prejudices of the twentieth century *(as she starts to take off her jacket)* and stand naked beneath the waters of eternal truth.

IOWA VOTER

Please keep your clothes on.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Because when it's time for a chicken to hatch, the eggshell fills with a noxious gas causing the chicken to start pecking. The baby is literally dying to be born. We too are dying to be born into a greater expression of ourselves...

No. 6 – END. Transition into...

Song: "Wow"
(as sung to No. 7 – "And")

No. 7, measures 1-2 (vamp)

Lights dim, leaving UTILITY ACTOR 2 in a dimmed spot, continuing her story in pantomime. Specials come up on SANDERS, O'ROURKE, BIDEN, BOOKER, and BUTTIGIEG, who sing their internal thoughts.

No. 7, measures 5-17

SANDERS

WOW...
WHY IS SHE HERE?

O'ROURKE

WHY IS SHE HERE?

BIDEN

WHY IS SHE STILL AROUND?

BOOKER

CLEARLY SHE'S COME UNWOUND.

BUTTIGIEG

SHE DOESN'T HELP OUR CAUSES.

SANDERS

WHY WON'T SHE LEAVE?

O'ROURKE

WHY WON'T SHE LEAVE?

BIDEN

CLEARLY SHE'S OFF THE WALL.

At this point, UTILITY ACTOR 2 pulls out a crystal ball and head scarf from her bag. She gazes into it and pantomimes the actions of a fortune teller.

BOOKER

(WOW) HERE COMES THE CRYSTAL BALL.

SANDERS, O'ROURKE, BIDEN, BOOKER

WHY WON'T SHE GO?
WHY WON'T SHE GIVE UP?

No. 7, measures 18-31

Lights come back up, as UTILITY ACTOR 2 sets aside the crystal ball and transitions from pantomime to an audible speech. The other CANDIDATES are politely listening, their faces/eyes occasionally revealing hints of shock and disbelief at her unconventional words and ideas.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Yes, I believe that if fascist dictators had gotten a little more love and physical attention from their parents, they would have become diversity-loving, global-thinking pacifists. Now, let's talk about my health care plan, which doesn't center around western medicine and draconian vaccines – no, my health plan is all about... *(as she retrieves a geode from her bag)* healing crystals, including the state rock of Iowa! Now, regarding climate change, I believe that with the collective power of positive thinking, we can mentally push away the floods and hurricanes. And...

Lights dim again, leaving UTILITY ACTOR 2 in a dimmed light continuing her speech in pantomime. Specials come up on SANDERS, BOOKER, O'ROURKE, BIDEN, and BUTTIGIEG, who sing their internal thoughts.

No. 7, measures 32-44

SANDERS

WOW...WHAT DID SHE SAY?

O'ROURKE

WHAT DID SHE SAY?

BIDEN

"HITLER JUST NEEDED HUGS?"

BOOKER

"GEODES INSTEAD OF DRUGS?"

BUTTIGIEG

"WE CAN CONTROL THE WEATHER?"

SANDERS

IS SHE INSANE?

O'ROURKE

IS SHE INSANE?

BIDEN

DID SHE ESCAPE THE GUARDS?

At this point, UTILITY ACTOR 2 pulls out a set of tarot cards and begins reading them in pantomime.

BOOKER

(WOW) HERE COME THE TAROT CARDS.

SANDERS, O'ROURKE, BIDEN, BOOKER

WHY WON'T SHE STOP?

WHY WON'T SHE SHUT UP?

No. 7, measures 45-63

Lights come back up, as UTILITY ACTOR 2 sets aside the tarot cards and transitions from pantomime to an audible speech. Again, the other CANDIDATES are politely listening, their faces/eyes revealing more pronounced and regular hints of shock and disbelief at her unconventional words and ideas.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

...Because Big Foot is real! I dated him in college, and you know what they say? Big feet, big...! My twenties were all about bad boys and good dope. But now I live my life by three basic rules, and they happen to be the same three rules about gremlins – one, no bright light, two, don't get us wet, and three, never feed us after midnight, no matter how much we beg. Bright light hurts us, and sunlight can kill us. If we get wet, we pop out more mogwals...

Lights dim again, leaving UTILITY ACTOR 2 in a dimmed light continuing her speech in pantomime. Specials come up on SANDERS, BOOKER, O'ROURKE, BIDEN, and BUTTIGIEG, who sing their internal thoughts.

No. 7, measures 64-79

SANDERS

WOW...WHERE IS SHE FROM?

O'ROURKE

WHERE IS SHE FROM?

BIDEN

CLEARLY SHE'S NOT FROM EARTH.

BOOKER

E.T. HAS GIVEN BIRTH!

BUTTIGIEG

CALL IN (WHERE IS) SIGOURNEY WEAVER!

SANDERS

WHAT DID SHE SMOKE?

O'ROURKE

WHAT DID SHE SMOKE?

BIDEN

CLEARLY SHE'S OFF HER GOURD.

At this point, UTILITY ACTOR 2 pulls out a Ouija board and moves the planchette over it in pantomime.

BOOKER

(WOW) HERE COMES THE OUIJA BOARD.

SANDERS, O'ROURKE, BIDEN, BOOKER

WHY WON'T SHE QUIT?

WHY WON'T SHE DROP OUT?

SANDERS
WOW.

O'ROURKE
WOW.

BIDEN
WOW.

BOOKER
WOW.

A bright light beams down from the sky, as if from an alien spaceship. UTILITY ACTOR 2 returns to audible speech.

UTILITY ACTOR 2
Oh, my ride is here. Gotta run, but...(in a Terminator voice) I'll be back.

No. 7 - END.

UTILITY ACTOR 2 grabs her carpet bag and exits. The lights come up on the other CANDIDATES, who are dumbfounded by what they've just witnessed.

IOWA VOTER
Okay. That was...interesting. Let's get back to you, Ms. Klobuchar.

KLOBUCHAR steps forward; a spotlight picks her up.

**Song Underscoring
(correlates to No. 8 - "Introduction: At The Ballet")**

IOWA VOTER (cont.)
If you recall, the topic was...

KLOBUCHAR
Sexism and misogyny.

IOWA VOTER
So, do you believe it's as simple as that?

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, WARREN, UTILITY ACTOR 1
Yes.

KLOBUCHAR
For example, when Mr. Yang was here, you and all the men in this room probably thought his behavior was...

HARRIS
Quirky...

WARREN
Unconventional...

UTILITY ACTOR 1
Endearing and charming in his own way.

KLOBUCHAR

And you know what? All of that's probably true. But when Ms. Williamson was here, I can almost guarantee that every man in this room thought she was...

BIDEN

Bat-shit crazy?

KLOBUCHAR

When in reality, she too is probably just...

HARRIS

Quirky...

WARREN

Unconventional...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Endearing and charming in her own way.

KLOBUCHAR

But she's a woman. And compared to men, women are still seen as being...

HARRIS

More erratic...

WARREN

More emotional...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

More distracted...

HARRIS

Less competent...

WARREN

Less trustworthy...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Less credible.

KLOBUCHAR

But rather than owning up to their own misogyny, men often couch it in different terms...

HARRIS

"Why is she always shouting?"

WARREN

"Why is her voice so shrill?"

UTILITY ACTOR 1

"Why doesn't she just smile more?"

KLOBUCHAR

Or, when all else fails, men attack women's character and intentions. Just ask...

HARRIS

Andrea Constand...

WARREN

Marie Yovanovitch...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Christine Blasey Ford.

KLOBUCHAR

Good isn't enough - women have to be exceptional. We have to clear hurdles that are higher and greater in number.

No. 8 - END. Transition into...

**Song: "In The White House"
(as sung to No. 9 - "At The Ballet")**

No. 9, measure 1 (vamp)

IOWA VOTER

So when did you first become aware of the...

KLOBUCHAR

Patriarchy? Every little girl learns about it very early in life. But for me, the message was really driven home when I was in high school. By that point, I was already looking ahead to college and a career, but I needed some guidance. So, because my parents were newly divorced and my dad was an alcoholic, I turned to my pastor. And as I was telling him all about my lofty goals, he suddenly stopped me and said "Amy..."

Note: phrases in quotes in this section should be spoken/sung as if in the voice of a male pastor.

No. 9, measures 1-11

"LESSON NUMBER ONE THAT WE LEARN FROM THE BIBLE,
MEN ARE IN CHARGE, MEN ARE IN CHARGE.
NEVER FORGET THAT A WOMAN'S THE REASON
THE WORLD HAS ORIGINAL SIN.
YES, EVE SHOWED US WHAT YOU ARE,
EVE SHOWED US WHAT YOU ARE,
EVE SHOWED US WHAT YOU ARE,
THE WEAKER SEX."

And he didn't stop there...

No. 9, measures 12-21

"I RECOMMEND THAT YOU FIND A GOOD HUSBAND,
SOMEONE TO LOVE AND OBEY.
RAISE SEVEN KIDS, BE A COOK IN THE KITCHEN,
SERVE GOD AND MASTER EACH DAY.
ONE SIMPLE PHRASE IS THE SECRET TO LIVING
A HUMBLE YET PURPOSEFUL LIFE:
A WOMAN'S PLACE
IS IN THE HOME
AND AS A WIFE."

KLOBUCHAR (cont.)

Well, that didn't sit well with this precocious teenager, so I said...

No. 9, measures 22-37

A WOMAN'S PLACE COULD ALSO BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
A WOMAN COULD BE PRESIDENT, YOU'LL SEE.
A WOMAN'S PLACE COULD ALSO BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
YES, AND THAT WOMAN COULD LOOK LIKE ME.

That's when I started...

No. 9, measures 38-48

BREAKING THROUGH MY PRISON WALLS AND CEILINGS,

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS
BREAKING THROUGH ALL THAT MAN-MADE GLASS.
BREAKING THROUGH MY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE FEELINGS.

KLOBUCHAR
AND LOOK WHAT I BECAME...

HARRIS
AND LOOK WHAT I BECAME...

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS
AND LOOK WHAT I BECAME...

KLOBUCHAR
FIRST IN MY CLASS.

No. 9, measures 48-49 (vamp)

That's right – valedictorian of Wayzata High School, nineteen seventy eight. After that, I went to Yale, where I graduated Magna Cum Laude in political science in nineteen eighty two.

*HARRIS steps forward to join KLOBUCHAR in solidarity
and tell her own story.*

HARRIS
That same year I was beginning my second year at Howard University.

KLOBUCHAR
By the late eighties, I had my law degree...

HARRIS
As did I...

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS
And I was ready to conquer the world.

KLOBUCHAR
Afterall, Melanie Griffith had shown us the way in "Working Girl."

HARRIS

Alas, like so many other movies with happy endings, it was just a fantasy.

KLOBUCHAR

For the world was still spewing the same basic sexist messages I'd heard from my pastor...

HARRIS

Only those messages had been repurposed to address and assert power over the growing number of women in the workplace and government. Yes, with every rung I climbed on the ladder of success, there'd be a hundred people – both men and women – trying to pull me down, making sure that I knew that...

Note: phrases in quotes in this section should be spoken/sung it in the voice of a man.

No. 9, measures 50-60

"QUALITIES LIKE STRENGTH AND UNBRIDLED AMBITION
ARE FINE FOR A MAN, FINE FOR A MAN.
PATIENCE AND THE SKILL TO STAY CALM UNDER PRESSURE
ARE EXCLUSIVELY MORE MASCULINE TRAITS.
AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE C-E-OS,
THAT'S WHY WE'RE C-E-OS,
THAT'S WHY WE'RE C-E-OS,
IT'S NATURE'S WAY." (or: WE'RE BUILT FOR IT.)

No. 9, measures 61-70

"BUT...WOMEN WHO SPEAK OUT ARE JUST UNGRATEFUL BITCHES,
MUST BE THEIR TIME OF THE MONTH.
NOT IN CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES AND EMOTIONS,
SLAVES TO THEIR HORMONES AND...
AND THAT IS WHY
YOU WOMEN CANNOT LEAD."
(*Knowingly, to the audience*) WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
WELL, REST ASSURED
I DISAGREED.

*Also relating to what is being shared, UTILITY ACTOR
1 now steps forward to join the other women.*

And I told each and every one of them...

No. 9, measures 71-84

HARRIS, UTILITY ACTOR 1

A WOMAN'S PLACE WILL ONE DAY BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
A WOMAN WILL BE PRESIDENT, YOU'LL SEE.
A WOMAN'S PLACE WILL ONE DAY BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE,

HARRIS

But not as a spouse...

YES, OUR LEADER WILL BE A SHE.

HARRIS (cont.)

And she'll be...

No. 9, measures 85-94a

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, UTILITY ACTOR 1
 BREAKING THROUGH WITH FEATHERED WINGS TO FLY HIGH,
 BREAKING THROUGH ALL THE CONSTANT NOISE.
 BREAKING THROUGH WITH MIGHTY WORDS TO LIVE BY...

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 "I DO NOT HAVE TO BE...

HARRIS
 I DO NOT HAVE TO BE...

KLOBUCHAR
 I DO NOT HAVE TO BE...

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, UTILITY ACTOR 1
 ONE OF THE BOYS."

*KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, and UTILITY ACTOR 1 now tell their
 common stories together.*

No. 9, measures 95-110

KLOBUCHAR
 Now, I didn't think it would be another three decades until a woman
 became the first major party nominee for president.

HARRIS
 But the wait was worth it, because the candidate who was the most
 experienced...

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 The most qualified...

KLOBUCHAR
 And the frontrunner...

HARRIS
 Just happened to be...

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, UTILITY ACTOR 1
 A woman.

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 And on November eighth, twenty-sixteen, like millions of other
 Americans, I was glued to the television, ready to celebrate and
 witness history. But as night stretched into early morning, the
 country sent me – and all women – a harsh but very familiar message.

No. 9, measures 111-126

*For a moment KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, and UTILITY ACTOR 1
 seem stunned – a mix of disbelief, anger and sadness.*

HARRIS
WHEN IT WAS CLEAR

KLOBUCHAR
SHE HADN'T WON,

UTILITY ACTOR 1
ALL MY BELIEFS
WERE SHATTERED INTO PIECES.

HARRIS
HE WASN'T SMART,

KLOBUCHAR
HE WASN'T KIND,

UTILITY ACTOR 1
(BUT) HE WAS A MAN
AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERED MOST.

But now, hope and resolve returns to their voices.

HARRIS
BUT AS I FELL,

KLOBUCHAR
A NATION ROSE.

UTILITY ACTOR 1
FIVE MILLION WOMEN MARCHED AND THAT'S WHEN
ALL MY DOUBTS JUST DISAPPEARED
AND MY CONVICTIONS GREW MUCH STRONGER.

No. 9, measures 127-140

A WOMAN'S PLACE WILL ONE DAY BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
A WOMAN WILL BE PRESIDENT, YOU'LL SEE.
A WOMAN'S PLACE WILL ONE DAY BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
IN THE WHITE HOUSE!

No. 9, measures 141-150

*Now, WARREN joins in. In the brief music interlude,
KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, WARREN, and UTILITY ACTOR 1
possibly form a tableau - a swearing in ceremony, a
victory celebration, etc.*

No. 9, measures 151-163

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, WARREN, UTILITY ACTOR 1
A WOMAN'S PLACE WILL ONE DAY BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

UTILITY ACTOR 1
YES...

One by one, they join hands.

HARRIS

AND THAT WOMAN...

KLOBUCHAR

AND THAT WOMAN...

UTILITY ACTOR 1, WARREN

AND THAT WOMAN...

KLOBUCHAR, HARRIS, WARREN, UTILITY ACTOR 1
MIGHT JUST BE ME.

No. 9 – END.

UTILITY ACTOR 1 hugs the other women, then starts to exit before being stopped by IOWA VOTER.

IOWA VOTER

Ms. Gillibrand... *(As she faces him)* Thank you. I'm glad you added your voice to this conversation.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Me too.

UTILITY ACTOR 1 exits.

IOWA VOTER

Okay. Thank you, Ms. Klobuchar – you may return to the line. Ms. Harris, would you still stay forward please? Mr. Booker, would you join her? And could you send in Mr. Castro, Ms. Gabbard, and Mr. Yang please?

KLOBUCHAR steps back into line, BOOKER steps forward, and UTILITY ACTOR 2, playing Julián Castro, enters. But Tulsi Gabbard and Andrew Yang are nowhere to be seen.

(To UTILITY ACTOR 2) Welcome to the discussion, Mr. Castro. Where's Ms. Gabbard?

UTILITY ACTOR 2

She's talking to Kirsten – they're laughing about the fact that they are both wearing the exact same outfit.

IOWA VOTER

(Yelling to backstage) Ms. Gabbard, can you join us on stage, please?

UTILITY ACTOR 1

(From offstage) Can you give me a minute? I'm doing my hair.

IOWA VOTER

(Yelling to backstage) Okay. *(To UTILITY ACTOR 2)* And is Mr. Yang on his way out?

UTILITY ACTOR 2

He left a few minutes ago. Heard that the nation's biggest skate park was just a few blocks away and said that he had a "Yang pang to do some sick Mongo pushing."

IOWA VOTER

Okay. Well, let's hope that's a good thing. Now, speaking of good things, we just talked about the fact that there are more women in the presidential race than ever before. But equally impressive is the fact that there are more people of color in the presidential race than ever before. (*Referring to HARRIS*) We have a candidate whose mother was born in India and a father who was born in Jamaica... (*Referring to BOOKER*) an African-American candidate... (*Referring to UTILITY ACTOR 2*) a Latinx candidate... (*pointing to one of the exits*) a totally tubular Asian-American candidate, wherever he may be...

UTILITY ACTOR 1, as Tulsi Gabbard, enters, looking a bit rushed, as she adjusts the wig on her head.

And... (*referring to UTILITY ACTOR 1*) a Samoan-American candidate. (*Referring to all of them*) This...this is a beautiful thing to see. But now I'd like you to look around this room of Iowa voters and tell me what you see.

HARRIS, BOOKER, UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 are all reluctant to be the first to speak.

Anyone?

BIDEN

(*Stepping forward and gazing around*) Nothing but crackers and honkies.

ALL glare at him and his inappropriate comment. But he doubles-down on the gaffe.

What? It's okay if we call ourselves that, right?

IOWA VOTER

Mr. Biden, this is not your time.

SANDERS

Says an increasing number of voters.

IOWA VOTER

Gentlemen, please – I'll get to both of you shortly. But back to the question, and as inelegant as Mr. Biden's response was, there is truth to it. Let me read you something. (*Reading from a piece of paper*) "With a total population of just over three million, or less than one percent of the country's total population, Iowa is a state that sits in the center of the country, is twentieth-sixth in geographic size, and is thirtieth in population. Truly "in the middle." Its demographics, however, are not. The Black or African American population? Only three point four two percent. Asian – only two point two eight percent. Two or more races – only two point zero one percent. Native American – only zero point three five percent. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – only zero point zero nine percent. The White population – ninety point five seven percent." So, with this in mind, how do you truly feel about Iowa being the first-in-the-nation state in the presidential selection process?

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Honestly...I'm conflicted.

HARRIS, BOOKER, UTILITY ACTOR 1

Agreed.

BOOKER

On the one hand, the state's population size and geography make it ideal for retail politics.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

And Iowans have gotten very good at vetting the candidates.

HARRIS

But on the other hand, it's frustrating that people who look like me – like us – the true base of the Democratic party – don't get to vote in large numbers until South Carolina...

UTILITY ACTOR 2

More than three weeks after Iowa votes...

BOOKER

And more than two weeks after New Hampshire votes...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

And a week after Nevada votes...

HARRIS

By which time usually all but two or three candidates have been forced out the race.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

And with mostly white Americans doing these initial screenings, I can't help but think that candidates of color are at a disadvantage...

BOOKER

And voters of color get the leftovers after white voters have enjoyed the main course.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

So yes, it doesn't seem fair.

HARRIS

Until...you consider that there likely would've been no Obama without Iowa. All the assumptions we just stated were proven wrong when the caucus voters of this lily-white Midwestern state overwhelmingly supported a black man for the most important job in the world.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

The bottom line is...some state has to go first. But still, I'm conflicted.

UTILITY ACTOR 1, HARRIS, UTILITY ACTOR 1

Conflicted.

IOWA VOTER

You know what? So am I. Thank you for your honesty. But while we're on the subject of Iowa, why don't you all tell me what it's been like to spend a year of your life here? And be as unfiltered as you wish – I won't be offended.

**Song: "Montage, Part 1: Hello, Ames!"
(as sung to No. 12 - "Montage, Part 1: Hello Twelve")
No. 12, measures A-T**

Note: Throughout the entire three-part montage sequence, all CANDIDATES except BUTTIGIEG show a certain weariness-disguised-as-sincere-enthusiasm for what they have experienced; BUTTIGIEG, on the other hand, is genuinely happy and excited about everything that he's experienced – unbridled childlike joy.

WARREN

Well, of course, the goal is to make it look like the operation is a well-oiled machine, that everything is great and always on schedule, that we have an endless supply of energy and absolutely love what we're doing. And on most days that's true.

BUTTIGIEG

I think it's fun!

HARRIS

And, of utmost importance, we have to seem relatable...

SANDERS

Because if they can't see themselves – their life choices and values – reflected in us...

UTILITY ACTOR 2

They look elsewhere.

BOOKER

Not an easy task for someone who doesn't look like most Iowans.

KLOBUCHAR

It's definitely not the rock star life you might imagine it to be.

O'ROURKE

Nonetheless, we always have to perform like we're rock stars, no matter where we are or who we are meeting with.

No. 12, measures 1-33

BIDEN

Yes, it's...

HELLO, AMES!

O'ROURKE

HELLO, FORT DODGE!

HARRIS

HELLO, CLIVE!

WARREN

NOT ON TRAINS,

BOOKER

NOT ON PLANES,

KLOBUCHAR

NO — I DRIVE.

BIDEN, O'ROURKE, HARRIS, WARREN, BOOKER, KLOBUCHAR
ON THE ROAD
MY ABODE
IS A BUS.

BUTTIGIEG

(Joyfully) IT'S A BUS!

BIDEN, O'ROURKE, HARRIS, WARREN, BOOKER, KLOBUCHAR
IT IS HOT,
IT IS NOT
GLAMOROUS,
GLAMOROUS.

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)

NO TIME TO FEEL SHITTY.
NO PLACE TO JUST PUKE.

BOOKER

IT'S HELLO, SIOUX CITY!

O'ROURKE

HEY, DUBUQUE!

ALL CANDIDATES

WE MUST SPIN IT
FROM THE MINUTE
WE ARRIVE.

HELLO, AMES!
HELLO, FORT DODGE!
HELLO, CLIVE!

No. 12, measures 34-77 - CUT

Spotlight on WARREN, who steps forward.

No. 12, measures 78-129

WARREN

That was January through July. And then it was...

STATE FAIR TIME!
STATE FAIR TIME!
GOTTA MAKE A SOAP BOX SPEECH,
CAST A KERNEL AND KISS A VERY MASSIVE PIG.

Anything to seem folksy and fun. And the best week of the year to do that was...

STATE FAIR TIME!
STATE FAIR TIME!

Oh, yes. August in Iowa.

WARREN (cont.)

I HAD TO STAND IN THE HOT BLAZING SUN FOR SIX HOURS,
SHAKING MORE HANDS, TAKING MORE PICS.

*WARREN steps back. Spotlight on UTILITY ACTOR 2, who
steps forward.*

UTILITY ACTOR 2

And then, just a few weeks later, Iowans expect all candidates to attend the Polk County Steak Fry. And just showing up isn't enough — no, you have to stage some grand theatrical entrance. Marching bands! Dancers! Fireworks! And then you gotta put on an apron and fire up the grill, because a lot of the people are just there for the free...

*UTILITY ACTOR 2 steps back. Spotlight on BOOKER, who
steps forward and sadly pantomimes flipping a burger.*

BOOKER

MEAT! IOWANS EAT SO MUCH MEAT!
VEGAN, THIS IS HELL FOR A VEGAN.

BOOKER steps back. Lights full on entire line.

O'ROURKE

And then, as Willie Nelson once sang, it's "on the road again."

ALL CANDIDATES (x UTILITY ACTOR 1)

HELLO, GRIMES!
HELLO, CLEAR LAKE!
HELLO, DOWS!

UTILITY ACTOR 1

THREE PEOPLE HERE,
THREE PEOPLE HERE,
ONLY THREE PEOPLE HERE!

ALL CANDIDATES (x BIDEN)

BALING HAY,
MILKING COWS.

BIDEN

ANYTHING FOR A PHOTO OP.

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)

WHERE'S THE MAP?

BUTTIGIEG

DRIVING IN RAIN!

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)

OH CRAP!

BUTTIGIEG

DRIVING IN SNOW!

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)
TURN RIGHT!

BUTTIGIEG
DRIVING IN TORNADOS!

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)
HERE AND THERE,
EV'RY WHERE,

SANDERS
WE'RE LOST.

ALL CANDIDATES (x WARREN)
DAY AND NIGHT.

WARREN
WE MAY BE IN ILLINOIS.

No. 12, CUT measures 130-150
No. 12 - END.

*Song: "Montage, Part 2: People"
(as sung to No. 14 - "Montage, Part 3: Mother")*

No. 14, CUT measures 1-28
No. 14, measures 29-66

*Note: phrases in quotes in this section should be
spoken/sung it in the voice of an Iowa voter.*

BOOKER
And in Iowa, every meeting, every conversation revolves around...

BUTTIGIEG
Food!

ALL CANDIDATES (x BOOKER)
HELLO, AMES!
HELLO, FORT DODGE!
HELLO, CLIVE!

BOOKER
"A VEGAN CANNOT WIN THE WHITE HOUSE -
HAVE A PORK CHOP!
HAVE A PORK CHOP!"

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)
BA, BA-DA-DAH, BA-DA-DAH...

BUTTIGIEG
OH BOY, GUESS WHAT I HAD FOR DINNER?
FOOD ON A STICK, FOOD ON A STICK!

ALL CANDIDATES (x UTILITY ACTOR 1)
BA, BA-DA-DAH, BA-DA-DAH,
BA-DA-DAH...

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 "I WILL NOT PLEDGE TO SUPPORT YOU
 UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR JELLO."

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)
 BA-DA-DA-DAH,
 BA-DA...

SANDERS
 "HAVE SOME CORN.
 WHAT — YOU DON'T LIKE CORN?"

ALL CANDIDATES (x BIDEN)
 BA-DA-DAH, BA-DA-DAH,
 BA-DA-DAH...

BIDEN
 "YOU GOTTA TRY MY
 CREAM OF MUSHROOM CASSEROLE.
 TOM DELANEY SAID HE LOVED IT."

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)
 BA-DA-DAH, BA-DA-DAH,
 BA-DA...

BUTTIGIEG
 FUDGE ALMOND ICE CREAM WITH BACON BITS!

BOOKER
 MEAT! IOWANS EAT SO MUCH MEAT!

BIDEN
 "IF PETE BUTTIGIEG CAN EAT MY CASSEROLE,
 THEN YOU CAN EAT MY CASSEROLE."

No. 14, measures 67-91

SANDERS
 "If you say my apple pie is better than Sheila McMahon's, then I'll
 vote for you." It's food extortion, I tell ya!

KLOBUCHAR
 And that's how it is, all day long.

FIVE A.M. —
 GUEST SPOT ON LOCAL NEWS
 TIL SIX A.M.
 AND THEN IT'S OFF TO JOE'S CAFÉ,
 SHAKE HANDS AT JOE'S CAFÉ.
 AND THEN IT'S OFF TO UNION HALL
 WHERE I TALK TO FACT'RY WORKERS
 AND THE NEED FOR FAM'LY LEAVE AND PROTECTIONS.
 PHEW! AND THEN IT'S OFF TO LUNCH IN A CHURCH
 WITH SIXTEEN QUILTERS WHO INSIST I EAT THE GOULASH,
 THEN IT'S OFF TO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR A
 STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE SEVEN KIDS WHO
 WILL BE OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE THIS YEAR. AND THAT IS...

KLOBUCHAR (cont.)

Just the first half of the day. It's exhausting!

BUT I ALWAYS MUST REMEMBER IT IS NOTHING
IN COMPARISON TO OTHER PEOPLE'S SUFFERING.

*There is general agreement among the CANDIDATES at
this statement, and briefly the tone becomes very
serious as they reflect on some of the people they've
met over the past year.*

No. 14, measures 92-XX

UTILITY ACTOR 1

SO MANY MOMENTS
WITH PEOPLE I'D MEET,
TELLING ME STORIES
MORE BITTER THAN SWEET.

BIDEN

"WE LOST THE FARM LAST AUGUST,
CAN'T COMPETE WITH BIG AG ANYMORE."

UTILITY ACTOR 1

PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE
AND FEEL THEY'RE LEFT OUT...

KLOBUCHAR

"UNEMPLOYED, EV'RY DAY IS
FILLED WITH HOPELESSNESS AND DOUBT."

UTILITY ACTOR 1

THESE PEOPLE
ARE WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

HARRIS

"WATCHING, AS MY MOTHER DIED.
NO LONGER COULD SHE PAY FOR HER INSULIN."

UTILITY ACTOR 1, WARREN, BIDEN
PEOPLE WHOSE VOICES

KLOBUCHAR

"JOBS? WHERE ARE THE JOBS?"

UTILITY ACTOR 1, WARREN, BIDEN
ARE TOO WEAK TO SHOUT...

O'ROURKE

(spoken) "LOST MY ONLY DAUGHTER —
A GUNMAN KILLED HER IN A CLASSROOM
IN HER OWN SCHOOL."

UTILITY ACTOR 1, WARREN, BIDEN
THESE PEOPLE

BUTTIGIEG
 "MY SON ATTEMPTED SUICIDE WHEN HE WAS BULLIED
 BECAUSE HE'S GAY."

UTILITY ACTOR 1, WARREN, BIDEN
 ARE WHAT IT'S

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 "GO BACK TO THE PLACE YOU CAME FROM."

UTILITY ACTOR 1, WARREN, BIDEN
 ABOUT.

SANDERS
 "I DON'T FEEL SAFE IN MY HOME."

No. 14 - END.

Song: "Montage, Part 3: Canvassing"
(as sung to No. 15 - "Montage, Part 4: Gimme The Ball")

No. 15, CUT measures 119-136
No. 15, measures 137-162

Spotlight on BOOKER, who steps forward.

BOOKER
 For me, the worst parts of the past year were those moments when
 something happened that made me think...

I CAN'T WIN, I CAN'T WIN.

Like the time I stood on a corner in downtown Des Moines and more than
 half the passersby said...

"WHO ARE YOU?"
 I'M CORY BOOKER, AND I'M RUNNING FOR...
 "WHO ARE YOU?"

Or the time my speech about climate change was followed up with the
 question...

"YOU'RE FIFTY AND YOU'RE STILL A BACHELOR?"

Which I learned a long time ago is insinuation code for...

YOU'RE GAY.

That was their "polite" way of telling me they could never vote for a
 gay man, or a closeted gay man, which is irrelevant to me since...

I'M STRAIGHT.

Even though some refused to believe that. And those that did bombarded
 me with questions like "are you going to propose to Rosario Dawson?"
 And I'd want to scream...

BOOKER (cont.)
 DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ELSE?
 AND IT SUDDENLY DAWNS ON ME THAT NO, THEY DON'T.

No. 15, measures 163 (vamp)

(With a hint of craziness in his eyes and facial expressions)
 Honestly, Eldon, it's driving me a little bit crazy! Now don't get me wrong — most of the time Iowans ask important and insightful questions. But I've started to believe that they can only see me as a minor-league Barack, and they're not-so-subtly saying "it's already been done — time for something new." Well, that stinks, because I'm a good candidate, I'm running a good campaign, I'm a nice guy who never swears, and dagnabbit, I've done everything you're supposed to do in Iowa, like visit all ninety-nine counties, and knock on doors, and make personal calls, and...

BOOKER goes into pantomime, continuing to list and demonstrate all of the things he did to court voters. The other CANDIDATES start sharing their own similar horror stories — some taking the vocal lead line, while others ad lib their own stories, as it all builds and eventually overlaps.

No. 15, measures 165-188

SMALL GROUP (OTHERS AD LIB)

HELLO, AMES!
 HELLO, FORT DODGE!
 HELLO, CLIVE!

NOT ON TRAINS,
 NOT ON PLANES,
 NO — I...

BOOKER

(Briefly breaking out of pantomime)

MEAT! IF YOU VOTE FOR ME I'LL EAT SOME RED MEAT!

BIDEN, O'ROURKE, HARRIS, WARREN, BOOKER, KLOBUCHAR
 ON THE ROAD
 MY ABODE
 IS A BUS.

IT IS HOT,
 IT IS NOT
 GLAMOROUS,

BOOKER

WHAT AM I GONNA DO IF I LOSE THIS STATE?

No. 15, measures 189-204

BIDEN, WARREN, SANDERS
 I'VE SPENT A BILLION DOLLARS...

HARRIS, KLOBUCHAR, UTILITY 1
TEN THOUSAND MILES, ALL THOSE MILES...

BUTTIGIEG, O'ROURKE, UTILITY 2
PHONE CALLS, DOOR KNOCKS, POSTCARDS, WEB ADS...

BOOKER
NO SLEEP, NO SLEEP, NO SLEEP, NO SLEEP...

ALL CANDIDATES
COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS AND HOURS...
COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS AND HOURS...
COUNTING DOWN

TO THE DAY
WHEN I SAY
ONE LAST TIME...

HELLO, AMES!
HELLO, FORT DODGE!
HELLO...

No. 15, measures 205-212

GROUP 1
DIT DIT DOO... (*repeating*)

GROUP 2
DEE DU DEE DU DEE DU, DEE DEE DU DIT... (*repeating*)

GROUP 3
WAH, WAH WAH WAH... (*repeating*)

GROUP 4
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO,
DOO DOO DOO-AH... (*repeating*)

Throughout this, BOOKER is moving through the audience, desperately shaking hands, trying anything to win votes but not succeeding, until he finally has a Jack-Nicholson-in-The-Shining complete breakdown.

BOOKER
AAAAHHHH!!!!

No. 15, CUT measures 213-228
No. 15, measures 229-254

MASONIC HALL, (Alternate: UNION HALL)
MASONIC HALL,
MASONIC HALL,
YEAH!

MASONIC HALL,
MASONIC HALL,
MASONIC HALL,
YEAH!

BOOKER (cont.)

I HAVE MET EV'RYONE IN THIS STATE IN A
MASONIC HALL,
MASONIC HALL,
MASONIC HALL,
YEAH!

I HAVE BEEN INSIDE EACH ELKS LODGE.
I HAVE SEEN EACH ROTARY CLUB.
I'VE SPOKEN AT EV'RY KIWANIS,
AND I CAN NEVER JUST BLEND IN, CUZ I'M
A BLACK GUY FROM NEW JERSEY.
A BLACK GUY FROM NEW JERSEY.

STILL, I STAY!
STILL, HE STAYS!
YES, I STAY!
YES, HE STAYS!
THOUGH I'M POLLING LESS THAN MARIANNE WILLIAMSON!

What the fuck? Yes, the harsh fact of the matter is...

No. 15, measures 255-269

I'M IN DEEP SHIT. (SHIT, CORY.)
SHIT! (SHIT, CORY.)
YES, WHAT AM I DOING WRONG? (SHIT, CORY. SHIT, CORY.)

YOU WON'T SAY YOU'LL GIVE ME YOUR VOTE, (SHIT, CORY.)
ELDON, AND I CAN'T HELP BUT TO PONDER AND (SHIT, CORY.)
WONDER IF YOU KNOW (SHIT, CORY.)
HOW THAT MAKES ME FEEL.

(WELL) I FEEL LIKE SHIT. (SHIT, CORY.)
SHIT. (SHIT, CORY.)
SHIT! (SHIT, CORY.)
SHIT!! (SHIT, CORY.)

No. 15, measures 270-303

ALL CANDIDATES

COME CAUCUS DAY
HERE'S WHAT I'LL SAY
IF SOMEHOW I SURVIVE...

GOODBYE AMES,
GOODBYE FORT DODGE,
GOODBYE CLEAR LAKE,
GOODBYE POSTVILLE,
GOODBYE WEST BRANCH,
GOODBYE WATERLOO,
GOODBYE CLIVE!

*ALL CANDIDATES eventually run out of steam and
collapse in exhaustion.*

SO TIRED.
SO TIRED.

ALL CANDIDATES (cont.)

AND I JUST WANNA GO HOME. SO TIRED.
 AND I JUST WANNA GO HOME. SO TIRED.
 AND I JUST WANNA GO HOME. SO TIRED.
 AND I JUST WANNA GO HOME. SO TIRED.
 SO TIRED.

No. 15 - END.

Upon completion of the song, the swear jar gets passed around and all CANDIDATES except SANDERS contribute.

IOWA VOTER

Thank you, everyone, for giving me a glimpse of what your life has been like the past year, especially you, Mr. Booker.

BOOKER

It actually felt good to let that all out.

IOWA VOTER

I'm glad you feel better. And speaking of feeling better...Mr. Sanders, you're up next.

SANDERS steps forward; a spotlight picks him up. UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 inconspicuously exit.

(To SANDERS) First of all, how's your health?

SANDERS

You're asking me how my health is? Why aren't you asking that of everyone in this room?

IOWA VOTER

Because you're the only one who had a heart attack in the past four months. I'm genuinely concerned about you. But it also leads to a valid question - is your health a liability? How much should I factor in a candidate's health?

SANDERS

Does that include mental health too, because that clearly doesn't matter to supporters of the current...of the COOTCH.

IOWA VOTER

True.

SANDERS

And if you're weighing a person's physical health versus the value they continue to bring in spite of it, I have just three words for you - Ruth. Bader. Ginsburg.

Upon hearing this name, the other CANDIDATES do a brief sign of devotion to her - a head bow in prayer, the sign of the cross, an "amen," etc. A chorus of angels may be heard.

And you know where she was born?

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)

(As if they've heard it a million times) Brooklyn...

SANDERS

Brooklyn, baby!

IOWA VOTER

Okay. Point taken. So, Mr. Sanders, this is your second time on this carousel...

BUTTIGIEG

(Singing to himself) Carousel! "June is busting out all over."
(Realizing he's audible) Oh – sorry. Chasten's on a real Rodgers and Hammerstein kick right now.

IOWA VOTER

Mr. Sanders, help me understand something – you were originally elected to the Senate as an Independent, you ran for president in 2016 as a Democrat, you ran for Senate re-election in 2018 as an Independent, and now in 2020 you're running for president as a Democrat again.

SANDERS

(Slowly and gruffly, as if trying to suppress his rising blood pressure) And the point you're trying to make is...

IOWA VOTER

Not trying to make any point. Just trying to figure out what you really are.

SANDERS

You're asking me what I really am? *(More intensely)* You are asking me what I really am? Well let me tell you...

Song: "Pissed!"
(as sung to No. 11 - "Sing")

As the song begins, SANDERS words are firm but still relatively controlled. But as the song continues, he becomes more enraged, disheveled, and crazy-eyed.

No. 11, measures 12-44

WHAT I REALLY AM IS PISSED,
I AM PRINCIPALD BUT PISSED,
I AM PASSIONATE BUT PISSED.

WHEN I'M NEEDING TO BE HEARD,
I FULL-VOLUME EV'RY WORD
AND I RAISE AND SHAKE MY FIST.

AND I NEVER WASH MY FACE
OR COMB MY HAIR, BUT I'M NOT LAZY.
SEE, THE IMAGE I EMBRACE
IS "OLD MAD SCIENTIST WHO'S CRAZY."

AND THIS PLAYS WELL WITH MY BROS,
FOR AS EV'RYBODY KNOWS
THEY'RE A BIT MISOGYNIST.

SANDERS (cont.)
 THEY SHARE ALL OF MY DISGUST,
 FOR IT'S BERNIE OR IT'S BUST,
 THESE CONDITIONS PRE-EXIST.

OH, I KNOW YOU'RE THINKING
 "WHAT A LOONY NARCISIST."

BUT I'M JUST A JEW WHO'S PISSED,
 I'M FROM BROOKLYN AND I'M PISSED,
 BROOKLYN JEWS ARE ALWAYS PISSED!

No. 11, measures 53x-60

WARREN
 Watch this...

HIL-LA-RY.

SANDERS
(Shaking his fist)
 HIL-LA-RY!

KLOBUCHAR
 See? Even four years later...

HARRIS
 That sets him off.

WARREN
 NOT ENOUGH DELEGATES...

SANDERS
 NOT ENOUGH DELEGATES!

KLOBUCHAR
 That makes him feel the burn.

HARRIS
 That gets him off.

No. 11, measures 60-82

SANDERS
 YES, MEDICARE FOR ALL,
 A COUNTRY THAT IS GREENER.
 JUST GIVE ME THAT AND I'LL
 GIVE UP THIS GRUFF DEMEANOR.

BUT I'VE REACHED A CERTAIN AGE
 WHEN I'M ALWAYS FILLED WITH RAGE
 WITH MY PANTIES IN A TWIST.

BUT I TRULY GIVE A DAMN,
 SO I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I AM
 IF YOU REALLY MUST INSIST.

SANDERS (cont.)
 (Measured) I'M AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)
 SOCIALIST.

SANDERS
 WHO SHOULD NOT BE BOOED AND HISSED,
 WHO SHOULD LOVINGLY BE KISSED,
 WHO SHOULD BE ATOP YOUR LIST,

UTILITY ACTOR 2, playing Williamson, possibly wearing a spa robe with a snail attached to her face and a snake around her neck, enters and directly confronts SANDERS.

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 WHO SHOULD SEE A THERAPIST.

No. 11, measures 82 (break)

Brief break in the song.

Do you know I how I knew you were in trouble? When I was a little girl, my grandmother and I could hold entire conversations without ever opening our mouths. She called it "shining." You've got "the shine" too.

UTILITY ACTOR 2 burns some sage around SANDERS until he swipes her away. She then puts the snake's head to her ear and listens with concern.

What's that? Harry Potter is in trouble? I must depart for Hogwarts at once!

UTILITY ACTOR 2 dramatically exits. The lights come up on the other CANDIDATES, who again are dumbfounded by what they've just witnessed.

HARRIS
 Okay, she is bat-shit crazy.

HARRIS passes a dollar down to the person closest to the swear jar. Eventually SANDERS starts up the song again.

No. 11, measures 82-91

SANDERS
 IN CONCLUSION, I AM PISSED!
 WRATH OF YAHWEH-LEVEL PISSED,
 MOTHERFUCKERS, I AM...

No. 11, measures 92-108

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)
 ANGRY, FED UP, RAGING, LIVID
 FURIOSITY SO VIVID.
 PISSED!

SANDERS
 PISSED!

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)
 PISSED!

SANDERS
 PISSED!

WOMEN CANDIDATES
 PISSED, PISSED, PISSED, HE'S PISSED,
 HE'S PISSED, PISSED, PISSED
 PISSED
 PISSED
 PISSED

MEN CANDIDATES (overlapping)
 ANGRY, FED UP, RAGING, LIVID,
 FURIOSITY SO VIVID

SANDERS
 PISSED!

ALL CANDIDATES (x SANDERS)
 PISSED!

No. 11 - END.

*UTILITY ACTOR 1, dressed as a nurse in a lab coat,
 enters and quickly takes the blood pressure of
 SANDERS, who looks like he's about ready to explode.*

UTILITY ACTOR 1
 Blood pressure is one ninety over one thirty.

KLOBUCHAR
 Oh my god - I'll call an ambulance.

SANDERS
 No, that's actually my lowest reading in months. Bernie is back, baby!

*UTILITY ACTOR 1 exits and SANDERS steps back into
 line.*

O'ROURKE
(Holding the swear jar) Excuse me, but if the rest of us have to
 contribute to the swear jar, I think Bernie also needs to.

SANDERS
(To O'ROURKE) Oh - I thought that was just your plan to pay off the
 national debt.

WARREN

C'mon, Bernie – cough it up.

Reluctantly, SANDERS starts digging through and turning out his empty pockets. Finally he presents something he finds in his suit jacket.

SANDERS

Do you accept Kohl's Cash?

SANDERS stuffs several certificates into the jar.

There – fifty dollars worth. That'll get you a nice suit.

BUTTIGIEG

(Doing the math in his head) Wait – if you have fifty dollars worth of Kohl's Cash, does that mean you bought two hundred and fifty dollars worth of underwear? That was on sale?

SANDERS

Isn't it past your bedtime, kid?

IOWA VOTER

Okay, thank you, Mr. Sanders, for your candidness about your health.

SANDERS steps back into line.

And I want to continue the conversation about liabilities, whether real or imagined. Anyone want to talk about a liability they may have?

After a few seconds, HARRIS steps forward out of the line.

***Song: "My Name Is"
(as sung to No. 13 – "Montage, Part 2: Nothing")
No. 13, measures 1-20***

HARRIS

Well, to some, this might sound nit-picky, an annoyance at best, but a very real and multi-leveled challenge I face every day is...my name. Now, I don't think it's a liability, but apparently other people do.

IOWA VOTER

How so?

HARRIS

Well, for example...just after declaring my candidacy, I sat down for a local television interview in New Hampshire. And right before we went on the air, the host of the show – a very pleasant, older white man – leans into me and says...

No. 13, measures 21-45

HARRIS (cont.)

(Imitating the host)

"ONCE AGAIN, TELL ME HOW TO PRONOUNCE YOUR NAME CORRECTLY, PLEASE DIRECT ME, CAMEL-LA."

(In her own patient voice)

I REPLIED "HERE'S A TIP - SIMPLY START BY SAYING 'COMMA,' (LIKE) 'OXFORD COMMA.' THEN ADD 'LA.'"

THOUGH HE NODDED YES, I COULD TELL THIS ANCHORMAN WAS MORE LIKE WILL FERRELL INSTEAD. AS THE SHOW WENT LIVE AND THE INTERVIEW BEGAN HERE IS WHAT HE SAID...

No. 13, measures 46-49 (vamp)

(Imitating the host) "Joining me today is the junior Senator from the state of California and the latest Democratic presidential candidate, yes..."

No. 13, measures 50-65

"THIS IS KA-MA-LA,
(YES) PRONOUNCED KA-MA-LA,"
AND THEN HE ASKED ME, "DOES YOUR NAME HOLD YOU BACK?"

(In her own voice) Excuse me?*(Imitating the host)*

"IT SOUNDS EXOTIC,
IT SOUNDS QUITE...URBAN."
(Out, in her own exasperated voice)
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S SAYING "GIRL, YOUR NAME'S TOO BLACK."

No. 13, measures 65-70

Even though, by the way, it's Indian. Since then, I've been constantly aware that, not only is my name a challenge for many people to pronounce, it's a red flag to the millions of people in this country who still think Obama is a Muslim born in Kenya.

IOWA VOTER

That's not nit-picky at all. I'm sorry you have to deal with that. *(Beat)* Anyone else who feels their name is seen as a liability by voters?

UTILITY ACTOR 1, as Julián Castro, enters inconspicuously.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

I do.

IOWA VOTER

Wait - who are you?

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Julián Castro.

IOWA VOTER

But weren't you a lot taller and bigger when you were out here before?

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Are you saying I'm not a man of great stature?

IOWA VOTER

No, I'm saying you look completely different than you did before. But never mind. You want to talk about your name?

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Si, señor.

No. 13, measures 71-111

UTILITY ACTOR 2 (cont.)

WHEN YOUR NAME IS THE SAME AS A WELL-KNOWN
ADVERSARY,
IT IS VARY
HARD TO SELL.

ONCE A DAY, SOMEONE ASKS ME IF I'M
ASSOCIATED
OR RELATED
TO FIDEL.

(Mischievously)

AND I ANSWER "NO," BUT I WANT TO ANSWER "YES!"
AND WATCH ALL THE HATERS GO MAD!
YES, I WANT TO SAY "GEE, IT'S TIME THAT I CONFESS
THAT FIDEL'S MY DAD!"

(Now over the top)

"YES VOTE FOR CASTRO!
VIVA LA CASTRO!
AND LET ME TELL YOU WHO'S RUNNING AS MY VEEP.

HER NAME IS NIXON,
CYNTHIA NIXON.
AND HERE'S A CASTRO/NIXON STICKER FOR YOUR JEEP!"

No. 13, measures 111-117 (vamp)

*CASTRO pulls out and waves a "Castro Nixon" bumper
sticker.*

IOWA VOTER

You know I need to have one of those now.

CASTRO

(Playfully) Contribute three dollars to my campaign and you'll get one
in four to six weeks.

IOWA VOTER

Done. *(Beat)* Anyone else with a challenging moniker?

*A few seconds pass, before BUTTIGIEG sheepishly steps
forward.*

BUTTIGIEG

(Laughing a bit) Well, I guess I gotta talk about this sooner or
later.

No. 13, measures 118-159

SEVENTH GRADE WAS THE FIRST TIME I FELT THAT
I WAS DIFF'RENT,
I WAS DIFF'RENT,
NOT JUST SHY.

BUTTIGIEG (cont.)

DEEP INSIDE, I WAS SCARED FOR I KNEW THAT
I HAD FEELINGS,
I HAD FEELINGS
FOR A GUY.

AND I PRAYED AND PRAYED "PLEASE DON'T LET MY FRIENDS DETECT
THIS FLAW I DON'T WANT THEM TO SEE.
GOD, PLEASE HELP ME PASS, GIVE ME TALENTS TO DEFLECT,"
(*Laughing at himself*) TIL IT DAWNED ON ME...

MY NAME IS PETER,
LIKE A MAN'S...PETER,
AND WORSE, MY LAST NAME SAYS "I'M A BOOTY JUDGE!"

(SO) IF I'M "STRAIGHT-ACTING,"
IT WILL NOT MATTER,
I HAVE THE GAYEST NAME IN HISTORY — OH, FUDGE!

O'ROURKE

You've never sworn in your life, have you?

No. 13, measures 160-175

BUTTIGIEG

(*Softly and sincerely*)
TWENTY YEARS LATER, I WED, AND TRULY VOWED
AS HE TOOK MY NAME, I COMMITTED TO BE LOUD...
AND PROUD.
MY NAME IS BUTTIGIEG.

CASTRO

CASTRO

HARRIS

KAMALA.

No. 13 — END.

IOWA VOTER

Thank you for sharing. Mr. Castro and Ms. Harris, you may return to
the line. Mr. Buttigieg, would you still stay forward, please? (*Beat*)
I wanted to make sure I gave you the recognition you deserve too.

BUTTIGIEG

How so?

IOWA VOTER

For being the first openly gay candidate of a major party. Now let me
be clear — a candidate's gender, or race, or age, or sexuality should
not factor into any voter's decision, and in an ideal world these
attributes would go unmentioned. But we don't live in an ideal world
yet, and we're still early enough in our country's evolution that
something groundbreaking like this deserves to be recognized.

BUTTIGIEG

Thank you.

IOWA VOTER

You're welcome. And thank you for your service. *(Beat)* Okay, let's talk about regrets.

SANDERS

Regrets? I've had a few.

WARREN

But then again, too few to mention.

BUTTIGIEG

That's from a song, right?

SANDERS

Only the greatest song ever written.

WARREN

Sung by Old Blue Eyes himself.

BUTTIGIEG

Uncle Joe sang that?

SANDERS

No – Sinatra!

BOOKER

And you know where he was born? Jersey, baby!

IOWA VOTER

Okay, so who here has any regrets or mis-steps they'd like to share?

The other CANDIDATES, trying not to be too conspicuous, slowly glance at WARREN, who feels the weight of the eyes upon her.

**Song: "Pocahontas"
(as sung to No. 16 – "Dance: Ten; Looks: Three")**

No. 16, measures 1-31

WARREN

Clearly your question is directed at me. And rightfully so. Flashback to October, twenty-eighteen. A dubious claim about my heritage that I had made throughout my life was starting to cause an uproar. So I decided to hold a press conference. But rather than setting the record straight once and for all, I doubled-down on my claim and took an ill-advised step to prove it, simply because I was offended that the name-caller-in-chief had called me..."Pocahontas."

After doing the "flashback wavy wingers," WARREN positions herself in a way that suggests she is making a public announcement or possibly holding a press conference, designating the other CANDIDATES to play the roles of reporters.

Yes...

No. 16, measures 32-71

WARREN (cont.)

"POCAHONTAS,"
 THAT'S THE NAME THAT REALLY GALLS ME,
 THAT'S THE NAME THE ORANGE MAN CALLS ME —
 IT'S OFFENSIVE,
 IT'S OFFENSIVE!

"POCAHONTAS,"
 HE TWEETS AND SPEAKS.
 SO, TO SHUT HIM UP,
 I PEED IN A CUP
 AND I SWABBED BOTH MY CHEEKS.
 FOR...

DNA,
 TOOK A FANCY GENOME TEST,
 IT CONFIRMED WHAT I PROFESSED,
 MOSTLY DUTCH, OF COURSE...
 ONE PART CRAZY HORSE!

DNA,
 PUT THE WHOLE DEBATE TO REST,
 PLUGGED THE DIKE AND MINIMIZED THE FLOOD!
 DNA HAS MADE MY CASE
 AS CLEAR AS MUD.

No. 16, measures 72-123

*WARREN briefly breaks out of the flashback to address
 IOWA VOTER and the audience.*

Now, in retrospect, that's when I...

SHOULDA STOPPED AND SAID "I'M SORRY,"
 BUT INSTEAD, I SPREAD THE STORY.

Return to flashback.

NATIVE LINEAGE
 BURIED DEEP IN MY AMINOS,
 THIS IS WHY I LOVE CASINOS!
 IT'S GENETIC,
 IT'S GENETIC!

*WARREN pulls out hard-copy test results, which she
 waves it in front of the other CANDIDATES. Now she
 points to specific phrases that are listed on the
 document and/or random Native American-related photos
 she has collected.*

PART APACHE,
 PART SEMINOLE.
 PROOF IN BLACK AND WHITE,
 PROOF THAT I WAS RIGHT,
 PROOF THERE'S SIOUX IN MY SOUL.

WARREN (cont.)

How?

DNA,
TOOK A TWENTY-THREE AND ME,
LEARNED ABOUT MY FAMILY.
WE'RE INDIGINOUS —
THERE'S A SMIDGE IN US.

DNA,
CHARTED OUT MY TRIBAL TREE,
WITH EACH STEP, I YELLED "GERONIMO!"
DNA HAS TOLD ME ALL
I NEED TO KNOW.

*WARREN briefly breaks out of the flashback to address
IOWA VOTER and the audience.*

But if that wasn't offensive enough, I decided to go all in...

No. 16, measures 124-218

*Return to flashback. During a brief percussion solo,
WARREN increasingly becomes more desperate, more
unhinged, more outrageous, and more offensive in her
attempts to convince the others.*

BANG THE TOM TOMS,
DANCE UNTIL IT RAINS.
RAISE THE TEEPEE ROOF,
HERE'S THE WRITTEN PROOF
TONTTO LIVES IN MY VEINS.

Yes!

DNA,
TRUE, MY CLAIMS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED.
NONETHELESS I WILL PERSIST.
I AM ON A ROLL
AND A TOTEM POLL!

DNA,
DOUBLE HELIX WITH A TWIST.
CHROMOSOMES FOR YOU TO SCRUTINIZE.

DNA,
YES DNA,
IT NEVER LIES!

No. 16 — END.

*After becoming self-aware of how ridiculous she looks
and sounds, WARREN comes out of the flashback and
gathers her composure and begins her mea culpa.*

WARREN (cont.)

(Humbly and honestly) I didn't have a plan for that. No, it was not my finest moment. That was a shameful display, and I immediately offered a sincere apology to the Native American community and to everyone who bore witness to it. Claiming and trying to prove Native American heritage was ill-conceived and unjustifiable, and I recognized that my words and actions were offensive and caused many people pain. I pledged right then and there that I would do everything in my power to make this right and never engage in this behavior again.

IOWA VOTER

Wow – how refreshing. A leader who can admit she is fallible. A leader who doesn't blame others for her transgressions. A leader who can say she's sorry.

HARRIS, KLOBUCHAR

(With an edge, a bit annoyed that the obvious still needs to be state)
A leader...who's a "she."

IOWA VOTER

Excellent point. *(To WARREN)* Still, you were able to fully recover from your gaffes, while a few of you have been less resilient. This might be a good time for a break – everyone, please take ten in the green (coat) room.

The CANDIDATES collect their items and begin to exit slowly.

Mr. Biden...stay here, please.

BIDEN puts down his items. Music in. BIDEN crosses slowly to center stage and speaks nostalgically.

Song: "Wisconsin And Ohio"
(as sung to No. 18 - "The Music And The Mirror")
No. 18, measures 1-32

BIDEN

Can you believe it's been nearly thirty-three years since we first met?

IOWA VOTER

I'll never forget that day in the summer of nineteen-eighty-seven when you came knockin' at my door.

BIDEN

And you told me you'd support me if I polished all your shoes.

IOWA VOTER

I was joking. But you did.

IOWA VOTER, BIDEN

(Singing) Anything for a vote.

They both have a laugh at the memory. But then IOWA VOTER gets serious.

IOWA VOTER

Joe, what are you doing here?

BIDEN

What do you think? Trying to get the job I've always wanted. You know I'm the most electable of the bunch.

IOWA VOTER

And you know how much I hate that word. Any one of these fine people is electable if collectively we have the courage to vote for whomever we believe is the best candidate rather than the most electable candidate.

BIDEN

Then let me prove to you why I'm the best candidate too.

Without consent, BIDEN begins to massage the neck of IOWA VOTER, who briefly gets swept away before breaking from his grip.

IOWA VOTER

Joe, you know that's not appropriate.

BIDEN

But it's who I am.

IOWA VOTER

Are you sure you want to go through this again?

BIDEN

I think, maybe, what you're really asking is...do you want to go through this again?

IOWA VOTER

You've broken my heart twice before.

BIDEN

They say third times a charm.

IOWA VOTER

You're not as young as you used to be.

BIDEN

That's malarkey. C'mon, bro – let's see who can do the most push-ups...

BIDEN gets down on the ground and starts doing push-ups until IOWA VOTER stops him.

IOWA VOTER

Joe, I'm just saying...maybe your time has passed.

BIDEN

You're starting to sound like all the other naysayers, Eldon. But I ask you this – when did having decades of experience and institutional knowledge and strong relationships throughout the world become a bad thing? Yes, all that comes with the advancement of age, my friend. But I assure you I still have the mind and the energy of someone half my age – in fact, I bet right now you're seeing me as a man in his thirties.

IOWA VOTER

It's kinda hard not to.

BIDEN

Exactly. And yet, what I keep hearing is "Joe, you're too old," from the party that supposedly is fighting to eradicate all "isms." So...

No. 18, measures 35-102 (with cuts)

(Modestly, sincerely, heartfelt)

WHY AM I AT THIS AUDITION?
WHY AM I WANTING THIS ROLE?
I COULD RETIRE ON A DELAWARE BEACH
BUT I STILL HAVE A LOFTIER GOAL.

The White House, Eldon. I'm doing this for both of us.

YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY BEEN THERE,
SOMEONE FIGHTING TO WIN.
ALL IN,
(Throwing a few air punches at IOWA VOTER) BRAWLIN'.

YOU NEED JOE BIDEN,
JOE BIDEN NEEDS YOU.

No. 18, measures 103-123

MAYBE IT'S TRUE I'M A RELIC,
MAYBE I'M OVER THE HILL.
MAYBE I'M OLD, BUT I'M HERE TO CONVINCING YOU
THERE'S FIRE THAT BURNS IN ME STILL.

GIVE ME A SPOTLIGHT,

And suddenly he is bathed in a single spotlight.

GIVE ME A CHANCE IN ACT THREE.
I CAN WIN WISCONSIN, AND OHIO, AND NEVADA,
IF YOU JUST WILL TRUST IN ME.

No. 18, measures 124-141

I AM THE STAR THAT HAS SHINED ON THE NATIONAL STAGE.
LIKE THE FINEST OF WINES, I BELIEVE I GET BETTER WITH AGE.
GUESS WHAT I'LL DO IF I FALL OR FILL UP WITH SELF DOUBT?
I'LL DANCE IT OUT!

BIDEN does a brief interpretive dance.

No. 18, measures 142-161

LOVE ME LIKE YOU LOVED OBAMA,
LOVE ME LIKE YOUR UNCLE JOE.
LOVE ME LIKE I AM A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN,
THAT'S HOW FAR I'M WILLING TO GO!

BIDEN nibbles a bit on IOWA VOTER's fingers.

BIDEN (cont.)
GIVE ME A SPOTLIGHT,

And now a second spotlight.

GIVE ME A CHANCE IN ACT THREE.
I CAN WIN WISCONSIN, AND OHIO, AND NEVADA,
IF YOU JUST WILL TRUST...

No. 18, measures 162-185

Me!

Dance break.

No. 18, measures 186-215

GIVE ME A SPOTLIGHT,
GIVE ME A SPOTLIGHT,
GIVE ME A SPOTLIGHT,
GIVE ME A CHANCE IN ACT THREE.
I CAN WIN WISCONSIN, AND OHIO, AND NEVADA,
IF YOU JUST WILL TRUST...
IN ME!

No. 18, measures 238-335

(Optional) Second dance break which continues through the end of the song. At first the music and the dance are a bit slower and sensual, and BIDEN takes the opportunity to bring IOWA VOTER into the dance, seducing him with neck massages, cheek caresses, and other inappropriate touching. As the tempo increases, the political passion-dance between the two of them intensifies until it reaches a beautiful climax.

IOWA VOTER
I wish I knew how to quit you.

No. 18 – END.

The dreamlike trance between BIDEN and IOWA VOTER is shattered when UTILITY ACTOR 2, as Tom Steyer, enters.

UTILITY ACTOR 2
Excuse me – I was just wondering if you're ready for me yet?

IOWA VOTER
(Composing himself) Um, yes, yes – c'mon in.

UTILITY ACTOR 2 approaches IOWA VOTER while BIDEN lingers in the background, occasionally attempting to seduce a distracted IOWA VOTER with little sexy moves.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Thank you. I'll start by saying that corporations and special interest groups have corrupted our democracy. To create real, necessary change in our country, the first step is to fix our broken political system. I'm an outsider who has taken on big corporations by going directly to the people. That's the way I'll make real change happen as president, whether it's addressing climate change, creating a just and fair economy, or making health care affordable and accessible.

IOWA VOTER

(Still distracted) That's a great message. Remind me again – you are...

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Wait – are you kidding me? Since January, two-thousand-seventeen, I've mailed more than one thousand personalized postcards to your house, I've been running tv ads in this state every twenty-two seconds on average – my media buys alone have made me the biggest contributor to Iowa's economic growth in the past three years! All using my own money! And you still don't know who I am?? Aaargh!!

UTILITY ACTOR 2 exits in a huff.

IOWA VOTER

(To BIDEN) Do you know who that was?

BIDEN

Maybe John Delaney?

IOWA VOTER

No, I don't think so. Was it Steve Bullock? Or Michael Bennet?

BIDEN

No, they're both a lot taller.

IOWA VOTER

I got it – Tom Steyer!

BIDEN

Yes – Tom Steyer. Good guy. Too bad he didn't get his name out there a little bit better.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

(Screaming in exasperation from offstage) Are you fucking kidding me?

IOWA VOTER

Joe, would you take the swear jar to Mr. Steyer and ask him to come back in along with the others, please?

BIDEN

You know I'll do anything for you, Eldon.

BIDEN exits. A few seconds later, all CANDIDATES, including UTILITY ACTOR 1 as Andrew Yang and UTILITY ACTOR 2 as Tom Steyer return to the stage. Maybe Yang enters with a skateboard so audience knows which character UT1 is portraying at this moment.

IOWA VOTER

I'm feeling a cold draft – did someone leave the door open back there?

WARREN

It's Deval Patrick and Michael Bloomberg – they can't decide whether or not they're coming in.

IOWA VOTER

Well, for now, let's move on without them. Grab a chair and gather 'round. Folks, we're nearing the end of my ninety minutes, and what I have to say now is something you may not want to hear. In these final three months before the caucuses, reality's going to set in. Arbitrary and biased debate thresholds will keep some of you off the stage while others will be able to buy their way on. Some of you will be faced with low and declining polling numbers and decreasing contributions, forcing you to make the difficult decision to drop out before the first vote is even cast.

Maybe a subtle lighting change on O'ROURKE, HARRIS, and any of the other major characters who have dropped out before the caucuses?

Some of you will make it to the caucuses, but that will be the end of your road. And for those few that survive a little longer, the fact of the matter is that only one of you will get the nomination...and that's assuming Oprah or Michelle doesn't enter the race before then. So, tell me – if you don't get the nomination, what will you do to ensure that the party's nominee becomes president?

BIDEN

Well...of course we'll all unify behind that person. Vote blue no matter who, right?

BOOKER

With all due respect, Joe, calls to "unify" often only come after justice has failed...

HARRIS

After minority experiences and opinions have been marginalized...

UTILITY ACTOR 1

After ideas in opposition to the status quo have been dismissed...

WARREN

After dissenting voices have been silenced or forced out of the discussion...

UTILITY ACTOR 2

And, in politics...after the surviving candidate realizes he or she can't win without the endorsement of the other candidates and the support base they bring to the table.

SANDERS

So it depends on what you mean by "unify."

KLOBUCHAR

If it means a sincere effort to bring people together for the common good...

O'ROURKE

To explore all ideas and solutions, not just those of one person...

BOOKER

To build a broad and diverse coalition, not a wall...

HARRIS

To capitalize on our differences and not let them destroy us...

BUTTIGIEG

Then I can make that commitment.

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)

As can I / me too.

WARREN

But, if by your call to "unify" you simply mean...

SANDERS

"Don't rock the boat..."

KLOBUCHAR

"Go along with crowd..."

UTILITY ACTOR 2

"Fall in line..."

O'ROURKE

Then that's something I can't just agree to.

BIDEN

Okay. I hear you. But my point is, we Democrats have to find a way to unify in the best sense of the word.

SANDERS

Joe's right. Because if we don't, we're doing exactly what the opposition wants us to do.

UTILITY ACTOR 2

Yes - if we throw the punches at each other, if we divide ourselves, they don't have to do the dirty work.

BOOKER

They just get to sit back with smirks on their faces as they watch our nominee limp into the general election, mortally wounded by friendly fire.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Still, no matter how you define it, it will be a very difficult task to unify this country.

Acknowledging some truth in these statements, the CANDIDATES grow more frustrated, recognizing they may have reached an impasse of sorts.

IOWA VOTER

So then let me ask you all something. The next president is going to inherit a mess that will take years - if not decades - to clean up. Whoever takes on that responsibility will face challenges far greater than maybe any person at any time in our nation's history. Potentially a thankless, no-win situation. So...why you? Why now?

***Song Underscoring
(correlates to No. 23 - "Alternatives")***

O'ROURKE

If not one of us, but more importantly, if not all of us working together, then who? We all need to do our part.

WARREN

And if not now, there may not be another chance if our democracy doesn't survive.

UTILITY ACTOR 1

Greater opportunities and greater rewards are born out of greater challenges, and knowing that is what motivates me.

BUTTIGIEG

And change for the better can happen quickly. Why do I believe that? Because until just four years ago, here in the greatest country on earth, it was illegal for me to marry the person I loved. Look how far we've come in such a short time.

IOWA VOTER

Sounds like you're already more unified than you may think you are.

Song No. 23 - END.

KLOBUCHAR

But we still have a long way to go.

BUTTIGIEG

Well, according to a famous Chinese proverb, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." So...

**Song: "For The Time Is Now"
(as sung to No. 24 - "What I Did For Love")**

No. 24, measures 18-45

I WILL PLEDGE TO TRY
TO RID THE WORLD OF SORROW.
THINK OF ALL THAT COULD COME TRUE.
BUT WE CANNOT WAIT
FOR THE TIME IS NOW,
FOR THE TIME IS NOW.

(Quietly imploring the others)
WE MUST DO OR DIE,
WE'VE NO MORE YEARS TO BORROW.
THINK OF ALL THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.
BUT THE HOUR'S LATE,
FOR THE TIME IS NOW,
FOR THE TIME IS NOW.

No. 24, measures 46-63

NOW, NOW WE FACE A CHOICE -
DO WE RAISE ONE VOICE
OR REMAIN DIVIDED?

Gradually the other CANDIDATES begin to be won over.

BUTTIGIEG (cont.)

WE MUST UNIFY
TO BUILD A NEW TOMORROW.
THINK OF ALL THAT WE CAN DO.
CAN'T DELAY
ONE MORE DAY
FOR THE TIME IS NOW.

No. 24, measures 64-73

ALL CANDIDATES
FOR THE TIME IS NOW.

BUTTIGIEG
FOR THE TIME IS...

ALL CANDIDATES
NOW, NOW WE FACE A CHOICE -
DO WE RAISE ONE VOICE
OR REMAIN DIVIDED?

No. 24, measures 74-107

WE MUST UNIFY...

BUTTIGIEG
TO BUILD A NEW TOMORROW.

ALL CANDIDATES (x BUTTIGIEG)
BUILD A NEW TOMORROW.

ALL CANDIDATES
THINK OF ALL THAT WE CAN DO.
CAN'T DELAY
ONE MORE DAY
FOR THE TIME IS NOW.
FOR THE TIME IS NOW.

BUTTIGIEG
FOR THE TIME IS...

ALL CANDIDATES
NOW.

No. 24 - END.

Song Underscoring
(correlates to No. 25 - "After: What I Did For Love")

Immediately following the song and applause, the timer goes off. With that, the lights on the candidates slowly fade to black while a single spotlight comes up on IOWA VOTER who is now standing in the audience. In the blackout, the CANDIDATES exit for a costume change, although IOWA VOTER continues talking to them as is they are still in the same room. Note: UTILITY ACTOR 1 will return as Yang, and UTILITY ACTOR 2 will return as Williamson.)

IOWA VOTER

Well, it seems we've run out of time. And now, at this critical moment in our nation's history, I – and all Iowans here – have been entrusted with the immense power of a vote. Very soon, we'll leave our houses on a wintry February night to declare our preferences in front of friends and strangers, and honestly, what I've learned in these past ninety minutes has not made my decision any easier. Not because the pickings are slim, but because I like everything on this buffet table. For what I've seen in front of me tonight is not a group in which there is only one winner, I've seen what could possibly be the most beautiful team ever assembled.

You've been wonderful about going through all of this tonight, and I sincerely wish I could vote for all you. But I can't. But what I can do is promise that, if my first choice doesn't happen to be the nominee, I will enthusiastically support whichever one of you is, as each of you is more competent, intelligent, experienced, ethical, trustworthy, compassionate, quick-witted, level-headed, progressive, empathetic, fair-minded, tactful, even-tempered, self-aware, rational, far-sighted, *(continuing to ad lib positive adjectives to cover the costume change as needed, maybe even asking audience members to contribute their own adjectives)* and most importantly, more presidential than...the COOTCH.

No. 25 – END.

Song: "One"
(as sung to No. 26 – "Bows (Finale, One Reprise)"

No. 26, measures 1-12 (vamp)

And for that reason, you each deserve to take one more bow. So, wannabes, as I call your name, please enjoy your moment in the spotlight.

As IOWA VOTER calls out each name, each CANDIDATE – in a flashy costume – enters and takes a bow, and then gets into formation, possibly hugging and interacting and high-fiving with the other CANDIDATES near them.

**Note: the order can be rearranged in any order to accommodate the speed of each individual's costume change.*

IOWA VOTER (cont.)

Beto O'Rourke... Amy Klobuchar... Cory Booker... Bernie Sanders... Kamala Harris... Joe Biden... Elizabeth Warren... Pete Buttigieg... Andrew Yang... and... oh what the hell... Marianne Williamson. *(or possibly: Julian Castro.)*

The music builds and all CANDIDATES perform a big song-and-dance finale.

No. 26, measures 13-46

ALL CANDIDATES
 ONE SINGLE NOMINATION,
 AND WE ALL ARE QUALIFIED. (AND WE ALL ARE WANNABES.)
 ONE WHITE HOUSE DESTINATION,
 AND WE ALL WANT INSIDE. (AND WE ALL WANT THE KEYS.)

ONE SHOT AT BEING MUCH MORE THAN A MOTLEY CREW.
 ONE SHOT AT COMING TOGETHER FOR ALL OF YOU.

ONE NIGHT IN FEBRUARY
 MAY JUST HOLD THE NATION'S FATE
 WHEN THE VOTING IN THIS STATE IS DONE.
 FUN!

ALL CANDIDATES (cont.)
 WE'VE GOT TWENTY-TWENTY VISION,
 YOU'VE GOT QUITE A BIG DECISION...
 WHO'S THE ONE?

No. 26, measures 47-116

SHE WALKS INTO A ROOM AND YOU KNOW SHE'LL SAY...

HARRIS
 I HAVE A DREAM!

WARREN
 I HAVE A PLAN!

KLOBUCHAR
 MAYBE THIS TIME DON'T JUST VOTE FOR "THE MAN."

ALL CANDIDATES
 HE WALKS INTO A ROOM AND YOU KNOW HE IS...

O'ROURKE
 TRYING SO HARD NOT TO SAY SHIT.

Shit!

ALL CANDIDATES
 HE'S A LITTLE BIT...

BIDEN
 OLDER,
 I GIVE
 UNWANTED RUBS ON YOUR SHOULDER.

ALL CANDIDATES
 HE IS...

SANDERS
 FILLED WITH PASSION THOUGH MY
 WARDROBE FROM KOHL'S IS A BIT OUT OF FASHION.

ALL CANDIDATES
 HE WALKS INTO A ROOM AND YOU KNOW HE IS...

BUTTIGIEG
 KIND OF A NERD, KIND OF A GEEK,
 DESTINED FOR PUBERTY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

ALL CANDIDATES
 SHE IS WHATCHA CALL...

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 OUT THERE,
 YOU LOVE THIS STUFF,
 CAN'T GET ENOUGH
 OF ME,
 (*In true Norma Desmond style*)
 LOVE ME!

UTILITY ACTOR 2
 I'M THE YANG,

BOOKER
 I'M THE YIN,

ALL CANDIDATES
 AND WE ALL WANNA WIN.

**OPTIONAL: REPEAT Song section 1 and 2
 together in counterpoint OR continue with Section 3**

BOOKER, KLOBUCHAR, BUTTIGIEG
 And yet, despite our flaws...

BIDEN, WARREN, O'ROURKE
 And our missteps...

SANDERS, UTILITY ACTOR 1, UTILITY ACTOR 2
 And our brutal honesty...

HARRIS
 We will all make a better president than the COOTCH!

ALL CANDIDATES
 (*ALL Ad libbing*) Yeah! That's right. (*BUTTIGIEG*) Damn straight.
 (*O'ROURKE*) Fuck, yeah!

No. 26, measures 275-312

ALL CANDIDATES
 ONE SINGLE NOMINATION,
 AND WE ALL ARE QUALIFIED.
 ONE WHITE HOUSE DESTINATION,
 AND WE ALL WANT INSIDE.

ONE SHOT AT BEING MUCH MORE THAN A MOTLEY CREW.
 ONE SHOT AT COMING TOGETHER FOR ALL OF YOU.

ONE NIGHT IN FEBRUARY
 MAY JUST HOLD THE NATION'S FATE
 WHEN THE VOTING IN THIS STATE IS DONE.
 FUN!

ALL CANDIDATES (cont.)
WE'VE GOT TWENTY-TWENTY VISION,
YOU'VE GOT QUITE A BIG DECISION...
WHO'S THE...
WHO'S THE...
WHO'S THE ONE?

No. 26, measures 313-316 (vamp)

Lights slowly fade as the music plays out.

End of play.