



Jingle This!
Written by Neal Fox
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Jingle This!
A Musical in One Act
(Running time Approximately 1 1/2 Hours)
Book, Music and Lyrics by Neal Fox

Scenery is minimal. There is a video screen used for occasional video and slides suggesting the park and various interiors. There is a spinet piano (fake), a phone and minimal furniture (chairs, table).
The remainder would be handled by props and lighting.
Characters will change with a simple change of glasses, beard, hats, etc.
No attempt will be made to "fool" the audience.

FIVE CAST MEMBERS:

1. Male 1 (white) — Jake Blumstein
2. Male 2 (white) — Beaker, Male Passerby, Sam Blumstein, Rabbi, John Bilkum, Client #1, Bo, Bruce, Gospel Choir, Very Old Man
3. Female 1 (white) — Genna Wordsworth, Backup Singer, Jingle Singer, Gospel Choir
4. Female 2 (white) — Stealth, Shirley Blumstein, Backup Singer, Jingle Singer, Lynn, Gospel Choir. Old Woman #1
5. Female 3 (black) — Virginia, Female Passerby, Minister, Backup Singer, Jingle Singer, Client #2, Gospel Choir, Old Woman #2

Jingle This!

SCENE 1 - Interior. Jake's Apartment

Music 1: OPEN (I Give My Life to You)

The room is dark. A spotlight illuminates a table with a phone on it. JAKE BLUMSTEIN walks into the light.

JAKE

(to audience; his mind is far away)

I'm waiting for the most important phone call of my life.

The phone rings. JAKE answers hoping it's the call.

JAKE (cont'd)

Hello? No. Not yet. I gotta clear the line. I will. Bye.

(he picks up a framed picture, stares at it and gets lost in thought)

It's funny. One day life's just a series of routines. You don't think much about it. Then there's that curve ball.

(pause)

Never thought I'd be old enough to say, "It feels like it was only yesterday..." But it does.

Back in the '60s...I was playing my guitar in the park for tips. I met Genna that day. She was... *is* so full of life. We were gonna change the world...

SCENE 2 - late 1960's. EXTERIOR. Washington Square Park, NYC.

Several protesters (GENNA, STEALTH and VIRGINIA) holding signs: Stop The War!, Ban The Bomb!, Make Love, Not War! While JAKE sings, the girls try to get a MALE PASSERBY to sign a petition. He doesn't want to hear about it and exits.

MUSIC 2: "So You Want To Be A Star"

JAKE

Teacher. what have you been teaching
Preacher, Do you hear the word?
Greedy politicians. Nuclear Ambitions
People tell me - Have you heard?
I sing of a new way of living
of a world that's gone bad
We got to wake up
Before we lose everything we had
*(the GIRLS notice JAKE; they
don't think he's sincere)*
The message is Peace in our time
Spread love all around
We got to get up
Before it burns to the ground

GENNA, VIRGINIA & STEALTH
*(seeing through his "ideal-
ism")*

So you want to be a star
So you want to have a new girl
In every city
And you learned to play guitar
Just to sweep them off their feet
Singing oh, so pretty

JAKE

(reluctant to admit it)

Well - yeah.
Okay. Sure.
Listen to this!

(plays a lick)

JAKE (cont'd)

There's a World That needs fixing
Will you lend a hand?
Now the line has been drawn
where will you take a stand?

Mothers, listen to your children
Fathers, better heed the call
Tell your sister and your brother
Got to love one another

The old way is about to fall
I sing of a new way of living
where freedom can soar
We got to wake up
And make love and not war
The message is peace in our time
Spread love all around
We got to Get up...

He swings his hips toward STEALTH. She faints and is caught by GENNA as VIRGINIA fans her.
...before it burns
To the ground

GENNA, VIRGINIA & STEALTH

So you want to be a star
So you want to have a new girl
In every city
And you learned to play guitar
Just to sweep them off their feet
Singing oh so pretty
Yeah, you want to be a star
just to see the girlies drool
When you're walkin' by them
That's why you learned
to play guitar
And those ladies look so sweet
You can't wait to try them

JAKE

I really want to be a star
A new girl...
i love to play guitar
Ahh - Watch 'em drool
I really love to play guitar

JAKE (cont'd)

There's a World That needs fixing
Will you lend a hand?
Now the line has been drawn
where will you take a stand?

We can cut through the bullshit
And stop all the hate
There's a nuclear bomb
And it may be too late!

GENNA, VIRGINIA & STEALTH

So you want to be a star
So you want to have a new girl
In every city
And you learned to play guitar
Just to sweep them off their feet
Singing oh so pretty
Yeah, you want to be a star
just to see the girlies drool
When you're walkin' by them
That's why you learned
to play guitar
And those ladies look so sweet
You can't wait to try them

JAKE

(giving in to temptation)

I really want to be a star
A new girl - A new girl
I love to play guitar
I really want to be a star
watch 'em drool, watch 'em drool
Watch 'em drool, Watch 'em
I love to play guitar
Yeah, I love to play guitar

*VIRGINIA and STEALTH exit. JAKE is still singing
about all the girls he's going to get.*

JAKE (cont'd)

Oo, I want a new girl, a new girl
A new girl, Yeah
I love those ladies
watch 'em drool, watch 'em drool
Watch 'em drool
I...

*(notices GENNA watching him,
embarrassed; clears his
throat)*

Hi.

*GENNA approaches Jake. She rapid-fire rattles off
several petitions for JAKE to sign. He would sign
anything at this point and does so.*

GENNA

Stop the war.

JAKE

Sure.

GENNA

Save the whales.

JAKE

Right on.

GENNA

Ban the oil drilling in Alaska.

JAKE

Absolutely!

GENNA

I'm Genna. With a "G".

JAKE

Me too... Oh!

GENNA

Genna... With a "G".

JAKE

Gee. I mean, nice to meet you. I'm Jake...
With a "J". God that was dumb! Let's start
over.

GENNA

Let's. But first. Will you sign this last one.
It's to stop the big corporations from taking
advantage of the poor and minorities.

JAKE

Sure. I hate those guys!... The corporations,
I mean.

(he signs)

So what do you do?

GENNA

I'm a business major here at N.Y.U.

*(she realizes how funny that
sounds)*

I'm planning to change the system from within.
You know, make it more sensitive to the human
condition.

JAKE

Right. That's good. I'm doing that too. With
my music. I'm a song writer. Hey would you
like to go for coffee and discuss the poor and
downtrodden?

GENNA

Can't now. I've got a rally...

(JAKE looks dejected)

How about tomorrow night?

JAKE

Great! Meet you here at seven?

GENNA

It's a date.

JAKE

A date?

GENNA

Well, you know... See you tomorrow.

(exits)

Transition to Jake's
apartment.

JAKE

(to audience)

A date! Yeah, I know. It's not "a date", but
pretty good for a guy who never had a pick up
line.

SCENE 3 - INTERIOR. Jake's Apartment

BEAKER enters. He's JAKE's writing partner and friend.

BEAKER

Jake. Listen to this.

He beats out the rhythm to "We Will Rock You" with his feet and hands.

BEAKER (cont'd)

Uh, uh, cha - Uh, uh, cha.

Purple maggots runnin' 'Round my brain
Everybody's tellin' Me The world's insane
Everybody's lookin', but love is blind
Life is A lava Lamp That blows my mind

JAKE

(pause)

Not bad. What does it mean?

BEAKER

What does it mean! What does it mean! Well...
I don't know what it means. Why does it have
to mean anything? Half the songs on the radio
don't mean anything.

JAKE

Beaker. My old friend. That'd be okay if we
were big stars. But you know every time we
bring one of our demos to the record labels
they ask us what it means.

BEAKER

What do suits know about music? This is great
stuff.

JAKE

Okay. Okay. ... Hey, listen to this. It's
something I've been working on.

MUSIC 3: "If Ever I Could See You Again"

JAKE (cont'd)

I would slay a hundred dragons - More

I would show the World what love is for
I would walk through fire
If I could see you
I would be your prince or be your slave
Laying down my life - Your life to save
Surrender all my dreams
If I could see you

Since time began, since days of old
The greatest story's yet untold
Between the pages lives the tale
Of a girl who knew
How to make dreams come true

Never will there be a greater friend
I will be your story's happy end
I would be your king
And all the world would be free
till Then
If Ever I could see you again

That's all I got. What do you think?

BEAKER

I think Jakey's in love!
(JAKE kicks him)

JAKE

Yeah, yeah. So let's see what you've been up
to.

*He picks up a pile of papers with several of
BEAKER's lyrics.*

JAKE (cont'd)

"Lois In The Subway with Dog Tags".

BEAKER

It's a political statement.

JAKE

"Lenny, Lenny"

BEAKER

It's a covert tribute to Lenny Bruce.

JAKE

"Love Is Never Having To Say You're Sorry You Farted".

BEAKER

(pause)

That's a humorous one.

JAKE

Beak! We can't sell any of this. The record execs would have to be stoned to think this was good.

BEAKER

You're point?

(takes his lyrics and exits)

JAKE

(to audience)

That's the way it was with ol' Beaker. He was a walking drug store. Me? Not anymore. It's funny how some things just hit you one day.

We see a video as though we're looking through JAKE's eyes. He's walking into a men's room in a restaurant. The camera pans down to the bottom of a urinal. We see a urinal guard that says, "Say No To Drugs."

JAKE (cont'd)

(justifying himself to audience)

Hey. When you're on drugs, anything can seem like a message from God.

(becomes serious)

I'm gonna miss ol' Beaker. He left for Canada to avoid getting sent to Vietnam. He said he couldn't get himself to kill anyone.

On the way up he drove head-on into a truck. Beaker and his three passengers were all killed. At the funeral the Priest said it was "God's will." They found amphetamines and other drugs in his body. - Somehow I don't think God forced Beaker to take those drugs.

Phone rings. JAKE is suddenly serious. He answers.
Hello? No. Not yet. Thanks.
(he hangs up and exits)

SCENE 4 - EXTERIOR. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK - THE
NEXT DAY

*GENNA and her two girlfriends (VIRGINIA and STEALTH)
have put down their protest signs.*

STEALTH
(shouting)
Ban the bomb!

VIRGINIA
War is over if you want it!

GENNA
Save the ozone!

VIRGINIA
(frustrated)
Genna. Don't you think we could get a lot more
accomplished if we consolidated a little? I
mean, we're all over the place!

GENNA
God, Virginia! There's so much to be done. We
can't just pick and choose like a Chinese
menu.

VIRGINIA
I just think we're getting too watered down.
And I told you to call me Queen Tamimba!

STEALTH
Yeah, right! Like you're some kind of African
royalty or something.

VIRGINIA
It's the name *I* chose! And my roots go way
back. So who knows. Maybe I *am* royalty.

STEALTH
Your roots go way back to Saks Fifth Avenue.
Your parents have more money than Genna and
mine put together.

VIRGINIA

And I guess you were born on a reservation...
Snow Cloud!

STEALTH

It's a beautiful name.

VIRGINIA

Snow Cloud. What kind of a name is that for a
white girl from Long Island?

GENNA

Virginia, Stealth...

(giving in)

Queen Tamimba. Snow Cloud. We've got work to
do.

*MALE PASSERBY walks by. VIRGINIA and STEALTH ogle
him.*

VIRGINIA

Did you see the buns on that guy?!

GENNA

Honestly. Can't you keep your mind on your
work for two minutes?

VIRGINIA

Lighten up, girl! No reason we can't have some
fun on the way to saving everyone's ass.

STEALTH

She's right, Gen. You need to get away from
all this seriousness once in a while.

VIRGINIA

Yeah! Don't you ever get the hots?

GENNA

How can you two be so... Do you realize how
much we have to do? There's the arms race. The
rain forests...

(they're not buying it)

...the war...

(she finally gives in)

MUSIC 4: "Once In A While"

GENNA (cont'd)

Okay. But my guy's gotta be different. He's got to be real. He's got to be into real life. Real love.

Once In A While
If I let myself go
Once In A While
If you really must know
He'll be like John Kennedy
and He'll see
how the world should Get along - He's strong

Once In A While
And it happens only
Once In A While
When I'm feeling lonely
One man - With the courage to be
One man - And the vision to be free
He's for me

VIRGINIA & STEALTH

(taunting her)

Once In A While
We don't believe a word you say, now
Once In A While
I bet it happens every day, now
Once In A While
She's gonna dream about a man, yeah
Once In A While
She's gonna get all that she can, yeah

GENNA

He can be sweet
Even tho' he's strong and
Thinks on his feet
He knows right from wrong and
He'll be like John Kennedy and
He'll see how the world could get along
He's Strong

VIRGINIA & STEALTH

Once In A While
She's gonna let herself go crazy

Once In a while
She'll prob'ly get a guy who's lazy
Once in a while
She's gonna meet the perfect stranger
You can be sure
He's gonna want to rearrange her

GENNA

He'll have his mind on helping others
He'll keep his thoughts on world affairs
And while he plans to help his brothers
With their fight...

(to herself)

He'll be watching my ass
Not theirs

VIRGINIA & STEALTH

Once In A While
She's gonna let herself go crazy
Once In a while
She'll prob'ly get a guy who's lazy
Once in a while
She's gonna meet the perfect stranger
You can be sure
He's gonna want to rearrange her
Once in a while
Once in a while
Once in a while
Once in a while

GENNA

He'll be like John Kennedy and
He'll see how the world could get along

*(JAKE enters as her singing
tapers off)*

He's strong...

VIRGINIA

*(to STEALTH as they exit,
with "street" attitude)*

He sure don't look like no John Kennedy to me!

GENNA

(to JAKE)

You're early.

JAKE

Yeah. Well, I was in the neighborhood... looking for a rally.

GENNA

(not buying it)

I see. So you're a politically aware person?

JAKE

Me? Oh yeah! "Ban the bomb!", "Off the pigs!", "The whole world's watching!" I love all that stuff.

GENNA

Seriously. What's your bag? Do you care about the state of the world?

JAKE

Seriously? ...I want to do something big with my music. Something important. I don't just want to write "Boy meets girl... Boy loses girl... Girl meets girl". That stuff doesn't interest me.

GENNA

What does interest you?

JAKE

Life. Not story book life. Real life. Real love.

GENNA

(suddenly very interested)

Real life?

JAKE

Yeah.

GENNA

Real love?

JAKE

Yeah. What's really going on beneath the social veneer. I think once you break that barrier you can see what people are really like. Maybe then you can understand them a little

better. Maybe that's what the world needs. I don't know. Does that sound silly?

GENNA

(Long pause. She gets that goofy love look in her face.)

No... Not to me.

I think that's sweet.

(she gives him a gentle kiss)

MUSIC 5: "He's The One"

JAKE

(to audience, touching his face)

She thinks that's sweet!

(he walks off in a daze)

She thinks that's sweet.

GENNA

He knows how to touch me
With soul food for the mind
I know he hardly knows my name
But The right soul is hard to find
He can see the future
He knows what must be done
In a world with so much hate and fear
He's a rare thing - He's The One

And though we fight forever to be free
War is over when he looks at me

He won't move a mountain
Still he looks the type to try
Together we can change the world
Together till we die
We'll fight for equal justice
And rights for all mankind
He's the type to take a stand
And the right soul is hard to find

And though we fight forever to be free
War is over when he looks at me
He's The One

He's The One

TRANSITION TO JAKE'S
APARTMENT.

SCENE 5 - Early 1970's. INTERIOR. JAKE'S APARTMENT -
MORNING

JAKE

(to audience)

Well it wasn't long before Gen and I decided to move in together. She was about to graduate and I was doing fine writing my songs and playing odd gigs. I got some interest from some record labels but nothing came of it. One morning Genna gave me a little "reality adjustment."

GENNA enters in a rush.

GENNA

(kisses JAKE quickly while talking)

Gotta go. I'm late for class. So what's it like being a daddy?

(she heads for the door)

JAKE

(startled)

STOP! - Say what?

GENNA

(yanking his chain)

I'm late for class.

(JAKE gets up and grabs her arm)

Oh! I said what's it like being a daddy.

JAKE

(picks her up and swings her, then realizes he should be gentle)

That's great! I love kids. This is great news.

GENNA

(really rushed)

I thought you'd be pleased. Meet you in the park for lunch. Love you.

(she kisses him and exits)

MUSIC 6: "Where Did We Go Wrong?"

JAKE

(sudden mood change)

Shit!! I'm dead! My life is over. There goes my career. There goes my youth. There's goes my boyish charm. I can just hear what my father's going to say. You've got to be a man. You've got to marry her. GOD! I'm turning into my father!

JAKE talks to his parents in his mind. (SAM and SHIRLEY BLUMSTEIN)

SAM

You could do worse, Mr. Big SHot!
YOu could do worse, by far

SHIRLEY

Where did we go wrong?
All we tried was to do our best
Is this some kind of Cruel test?
Where did we go wrong?
It was all my fault
Now God has to punish me
Take me now and set me free
Where did we go wrong?

JAKE

It's not a question of who's
Wrong or who's right

SAM

What are you talking?

JAKE

Times are a changing

SAM

You got her pregnant in the
Heat of the night

JAKE

What are you talking?

SAM

Just ask your mother,
Am I right or am I right?

SHIRLEY

This time you're right!

SAM

One crazy night, you're plastered
My grandson is a bastard!
No! No. It's too much to bear.

JAKE

Dad. Why do I have to be like you?

SAM

You could do worse, Mr. Big SHot!
YOU could do worse, by far

SHIRLEY & SAM

Where did we go wrong?
All we tried was to do our best
Is this some kind of Cruel test?
Where did we go wrong?

SHIRLEY

It was all my fault

SAM

It was all her fault

SHIRLEY

Now God has to punish me

SAM & SHIRLEY

Take me now and set me free
Where did we go wrong?

JAKE

It's just a paper
No one does it today

SAM

What are you talking?

JAKE

Times are a changing

SAM

You got your girlfriend
In the family way

JAKE

What are you talking?

SAM

You think you're different
But it's your time to pay

SHIRLEY

He's right, he's right!

SAM

I learned it well - Oh Brother!
When I knocked up your mother!

Everything stops. SAM realizes he shouldn't have said that. JAKE looks shocked. SHIRLEY is embarrassed.

All

No! No. It's too much to bear.

SHIRLEY & SAM

Where did we go wrong?
All we tried was to do our best
Is this some kind of Cruel test?
Where did we go wrong?
It was all my fault
Now God has to punish me
Take me now and set me free
Where did we go wrong?
So Wrong. So Wrong.

JAKE

(To audience. Simultaneously)

I guess by now you think that
I must be nuts
He may be right, and maybe
I'm just a Putz
I don't see logic in the

way that he thinks
I don't want to be my father
And yet there's something Tells me
He might be right
Like ancient voices calling
Into the night
Set me free
Where did we go wrong?
So wrong. So wrong.

ALL

So wrong.

(ALL exit)

SCENE 6 - EXTERIOR. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK - DAY

GENNA is just finishing getting a FEMALE PASSERBY to sign a petition.

GENNA

Black History must be part of the curriculum.
It's been overlooked too long.

FEMALE PASSERBY

I agree. But how about the American Indians?

GENNA

(taking out another petition)

Sign here.

The FEMALE PASSERBY signs and exits. JAKE enters.

GENNA (cont'd)

Jake. Over here.

They embrace. He gets her ready for a serious talk.

JAKE

Gen. I've been thinking. I think we should get married. Don't ask me why. It just feels right.

GENNA

(surprised)

You're not serious! Nobody gets married anymore.

JAKE

I know.

GENNA

That's just an archaic institution serving no purpose.

JAKE

True.

GENNA

It's just one of those leftovers from Victorian times.

JAKE

Absolutely.

(the pace quickens)

GENNA

It's just a piece of paper...

JAKE

Yup.

GENNA

It's used to suppress women...

JAKE

Right again.

GENNA

It's just not done... It's... It's...

(transition to happy tears)

It's a proposal!?!

JAKE

Bingo!

GENNA

*(throwing her arms around
JAKE)*

Oh, Jake! I'm so confused.

JAKE
I'll take that as a yes.

GENNA
(smothering him with kisses)
Yes. Yes. Yes.
(coming to her senses)
I'm still keeping my last name!

JAKE
"Genna Wordsworth-Blumstein" Has a nice ring
to it.

Transition TO JAKE'S
APARTMENT.

JAKE (cont'd)
(to audience)
That looked pretty easy, huh? That's before my
mom and dad had something to say about it.

SCENE 7 - JAKE'S APARTMENT

JAKE, GENNA, SAM and SHIRLEY are sitting at a table.

SAM
(stands up, very agitated)
I have no son!

JAKE
Pop. Cut that out! Since when did you become
so Jewish!

SAM
Since you decided to marry a shiksa!

SHIRLEY
Sam...

SAM
Don't "Sam" me!

SHIRLEY
Don't tell me who I can "Sam." I'll "Sam" who-
ever I want! This is the 1970's. I'm not your
slave anymore.

JAKE

Look. Folks. This should be very easy. Genna and I are in love...

SAM

And pregnant!

JAKE

And pregnant. All we want to do is take your advice and make it all legal.

SAM

My advice was to have a real wedding. Not some hippy-dippy drug-fest. How would that look?

JAKE

Who cares how it looks. This is our wedding. We just want to make it simple and beautiful.

SAM

This is not your wedding!

SHIRLEY

It's our wedding.

JAKE

Your wedding?

SHIRLEY

Of course it's ours. When your father and I got married do you think we enjoyed it? Hell no! That day was for our parents. Now this wedding is for us. You're not supposed to be happy about this. We are!

SAM

Listen to your mother.

GENNA

Is anybody interested in what I think?

SAM & SHIRLEY

No!

GENNA

I think your parents are right.

JAKE

You do?

SAM & SHIRLEY

You do?

GENNA

Yes. I think we should have a traditional religious wedding... And also a modern-day wedding.

SAM

Impossible. Do you know what that would cost?

GENNA

Exactly the same. We'll have them simultaneously. It'll be fun.

SAM

That's crazy.

GENNA

(playfully but serious; she takes JAKE's hand)

We do it my way or you really have no son.

SHIRLEY

(pleadingly to SAM)

And no grandson.

SAM grudgingly mulls it over.

SAM

All right. All right. But I pick the Rabbi.

SHIRLEY

And I pick the caterer.

GENNA

And I pick the Minister.

JAKE

What do I get to pick?

GENNA

(snuggling up to JAKE)

You picked me. That's enough picking for one life.

Transition to Chapel.
Wedding Music up.

SCENE 8 - CHAPEL

MUSIC 7a: "Wedding Ceremony"

The RABBI and FEMALE MINISTER slowly walk to their places, followed by STEALTH (continually weeping) as the Maid of Honor. Then GENNA and JAKE enter and take their places.

The RABBI and the FEMALE MINISTER stand next to each other, facing the audience. JAKE and GENNA take their places in front of the ministers. They turn with their backs to the audience. We see a painting of Jimi Hendrix on the back of JAKE's tux.

RABBI

We are gathered together
In the eyes of the Lord
May he look down
And give us his blessings this day

FEMALE MINISTER

We are gathered together
In the eyes of the Lord
May she look down
*(the RABBI gives a slight
look at the MINISTER)*
And give us her blessings this day
(STEALTH starts whimpering)

RABBI

On this special day
A day of joy and fulfillment
We celebrate the tradition of
Holy matrimony that has been
Handed down from our fathers
And their fathers before them

FEMALE MINISTER

On this special day
A day of joy and fulfillment
We celebrate the dawning of
A new tradition that will be

Handed down from mother to daughter
From here on and forever
(the RABBI shakes his head)

RABBI

If there is anyone Here who objects
To the union of this man and this woman
Let him speak now
Or forever hold his piece

FEMALE MINISTER

If there is anyone here who objects
To the union of this woman and this man
Let him or her speak now
Or forever hold his or her piece
(STEALTH cries)

RABBI

Do you, Jake Blumstein, take this woman, Genna
Wordsworth, for better or for worse, in sick-
ness and in health, till death do you part?

JAKE

I do.

FEMALE MINISTER

Do you, Genna Wordsworth, take this man, Jake
Blumstein, for better or for worse - mostly
better - in sickness and in health, till
death, spousal abuse, being treated like a
second-class citizen do you part?

GENNA

I do.

RABBI

Then, by the power vested in me by God...

FEMALE MINISTER

Whatever you conceive her to be!

RABBI

*(looking at the FEMALE MIN-
ISTER in disapproval)*

The ONE God! The God of ALL men...

FEMALE MINISTER

(asserting)

The Allness of Allness. Vishnu, Shiva...

(looks at RABBI defiantly)

Mother Nature!

(RABBI looks up in disgust)

RABBI

With five thousand years of tradition behind me...

FEMALE MINISTER

With thousands of years of oppressed womanhood behind me...

RABBI

(he's had enough)

Womanhood! This is a joyous wedding ceremony. Not a bra burning rally. Why can't you...

FEMALE MINISTER

(angrily)

Bra burning... Excuse me!! There is someone up here above the breasts talking to you!

RABBI

Who's talking to breasts!?

FEMALE MINISTER

Don't tell me you haven't been staring at my breasts for the last ten minutes...

Their arguing and the lights fade into background. Spotlight remains on GENNA and JAKE as they take their own vows in their own way.

MUSIC 7b: "I Give My Life To You"

JAKE

Just Me - Just you

Just a promise made for just two

So Good - So right

Never did I think that i might

See your face in all I do

I give my life to you

GENNA

Just me - Just you
No one ever Touched like you do
One Thought - One mind
Never did I dream that i'd find
Just a smile and I was new
I give my life to you

BOTH

And from this day
We are to face the world as one
And in this way
The endless search for love is done

JAKE

And from the moment
That you said "I do"
I gave my life to you

GENNA

So good, so real
You have stopped the world from spinning
i know, I feel
From this time, a new beginning

JAKE

Just a smile and I was new

BOTH

I give my life to you

JAKE and GENNA embrace.

STEALTH/MINISTER/RABBI

And from this day
We are to face the world as one
And in this way
The endless search for love is done

JAKE

And When I held your hand
This thing I knew
I give my life to you

BOTH

Just Me - Just you
Just a promise made for just two

GENNA

So Good - So right

JAKE

Never did I think that i might
owe my life and all I do

BOTH

I give my life to you

Lights fade. ALL except JAKE exit.

JAKE

(to audience)

Well that was the end of innocence. I now
needed a *real* job. Changing the world would
have to take a back seat. I was a married man
now and soon to be a father... Just like my
father.

*(pause, then looks up to the
heavens and yells)*

God, No!!

SCENE 9 - Jake's home studio

The phone rings.

JAKE

(answers phone)

Hello.

*JOHN BILKUM appears in spotlight. Off to one side
and behind JAKE.*

JOHN BILKUM

Hello. Is this Jake Blumstein?

JAKE

You got him.

JOHN BILKUM

Jake. This is John Bilkum from BBS&M Advertis-
ing. I got your number from your wife Genna.
She said you're a great songwriter.

JAKE

Well, she's only saying that because it's
true.

JOHN BILKUM

(slightly snide)

And you're funny, too. That's great. That's great. But seriously, I've got a job for you if you want it. There's a tea company that's looking for a catchy tune to promote their product. Ever hear of Green Mountain Tea?

JAKE

Sure. But I never...

JOHN BILKUM

It pays a thousand for the demo.

JAKE

(gulps)

One thousand?

JOHN BILKUM

Four thousand if it sells. Do you want the job?

JAKE

Well...sure.

John Bilkum

Thing is... We need to hear something over the phone by five this afternoon. Can you do it?

JAKE

By five? No problem.

JOHN BILKUM

Great. Great. Let me give you the input. Green Mountain prides themselves on being a strong cup of tea. In this spot we're going to show that whether you squeeze lemon in to it, or add milk to it, the flavor still holds up. Their line is: "Green Mountain Tea. It's a potent cup of tea."

JAKE

(feverishly writing it all down)

Potent cup of tea. Got it.

JOHN BILKUM

Great. And remember. It's got to be catchy. We want people to be able to sing this jingle even if they only heard it once.

JAKE

Catchy. No problem.

JOHN BILKUM

Thanks, Jake. The team here at BBS&M are all counting on you. Later.

*(hangs up the phone and
yells to his offstage team
members)*

Hey Bill, any luck with those five other writers?

JAKE

(hangs up phone; worried)

No problem. No problem. Boy have I got a problem! I've never written anything that fast. Better get busy.

He sits down at the piano and starts to plunk out the jingle. After a little while, he's got it!

JAKE (cont'd)

That's it! They'll love this.

*(he dials BBS&M. Bilkum
picks up the phone.)*

JOHN BILKUM

John Bilkum.

JAKE

Mr. Bilkum. This is Jake Blumstein.

JOHN BILKUM

Blumstein? Blumstein? Oh yeah. Jake. Ya got something for me to hear?

JAKE

Sure do. I think you're gonna love it. Here goes.

MUSIC 8: Green Mountain Tea Demo

JAKE (cont'd)

Squeeze it

You show a lemon there. The announcer says,
"Squeeze it all you want! Green Mountain can
take it. It's a potent cup of tea."

Milk it

Announcer says, "Milk it all you want! Green
Mountain can take it. It's a potent cup of
tea."

Any way you want it.

Green mountain keeps it up.

It's such a potent cup Of...

Drink It Up

Green Mountain keeps it up

It's such a potent cup

A potent cup of tea

Then the bridge...

You can have it anytime, any Day

Green mountain tea and you Are

Going all the way. So

Drink it up

Green Mountain keeps it up

It's such a potent cup

A potent cup of Tea

What do you think?

JOHN BILKUM

It's fabulous!

*(covers phone and yells off-
stage)*

Bill, we got it. Tell those other writers the
client had his nephew write something.

(to JAKE)

Jake, my boy. Let's book the recording date
for tomorrow. Call me later with the details.

*(he hangs up singing the
jingle to himself)*

JAKE

Great.

(realizing he's been disconnected)

I'll do that.

(to audience)

I couldn't believe it was that easy. My first jingle. Write it, record it, cash the check. Cha Ching. What a business!

(blackout)

MUSIC 9: "Money Ain't So Bad"

Spotlight up on JAKE with guitar, doing his "rock star" act. Another spotlight on three female BACKUP SINGERS.

JAKE (cont'd)

They say it finds you where you're hiding
It gets you where you sleep
The devil's got your number
He knows the friends you keep
But money's gonna buy me
All the things I never had
I'm gonna keep it comin'
'Cause money ain't so bad!

BACKUP SINGERS

Money ain't so bad

JAKE

Money ain't so bad

BACKUP SINGERS

Money ain't so bad

JAKE

Rich folk can get crazy
When counting all their cash
They say it makes your mind go
They say you'll get a rash
But poverty's pathetic
Your life can be so sad
Just learn to keep it comin'
'Cause money ain't so bad!

BACKUP SINGERS

Money ain't so bad

JAKE

Money ain't so bad

BACKUP SINGERS

Money ain't so bad

JAKE

There's a hole in my pocket
Keeps tellin' me it
Ain't so bad

BACKUP SINGERS

See the man in the
Black limousine
He's the man
And he's makin' the scene
Love to watch him
When he's countin' his green

JAKE

Nothin' comes in between
This can be habit forming!

JAKE takes a guitar solo.

BACKUP SINGERS

Money ain't so bad
Money ain't so bad

See the man in the
Black limousine
He's the man
And he's makin' the scene
Love to watch him
When he's countin' his green

JAKE

Nothin' comes in between

JOHN BILKUM runs on and sings duet with JAKE.

JAKE & JOHN BILKUM

They say that money's evil
Makes lovers turn to hate
They tell you to be patient
Good things to those who wait
I've had my share of waiting

And Waiting makes me mad
I'm gonna keep my money

JOHN BILKUM
'Cause money ain't so bad!
(he runs off bowing)

JAKE
John Bilkum, everybody! John Bilkum.

BACKUP SINGERS
Money, money ain't so bad

JAKE
Money ain't so bad

BACKUP SINGERS
Money, money ain't so bad

JAKE
There's a hole in my pocket
Keeps tellin' me it
Ain't so bad

BACKUP SINGERS
Nothin' we won't do
To please our guy
Oh, oh, oh

JAKE
Ladies. Ladies. You know I'm spoken for.

BACKUP SINGERS
We will always be true
And you know damn why
Oh, oh, oh
Money Ain't so bad
Money Ain't so bad

The three BACKUP SINGERS take their places and become the three JINGLE SINGERS. JOHN BILKUM takes his place in the "control room." JAKE starts teaching the singers the jingle.

SCENE 10 - Next day. RECORDING STUDIO

JOHN BILKUM

Okay Jake. The client's patched in by phone so we're ready whenever you are.

JAKE

Sure. Let's go for it. Roll the tape.

MUSIC 10: "Green Mountain Tea"

JINGLE SINGERS

Squeeze it

JAKE

(as Voice Over talent)

Squeeze it all you want! Green Mountain can take it. It's a potent cup of tea.

JINGLE SINGERS

Milk it

JAKE

Milk it all you want! Green Mountain can take it. It's a potent cup of tea.

JAKE & JINGLE SINGERS

Any way you want it.
Green mountain keeps it up.
It's such a potent cup Of Tea
Drink It Up
Green Mountain keeps it up
It's such a potent cup
A potent cup of tea

JAKE

You can have it anytime, any Day
Green mountain tea and you Are
Going all the way. So

JAKE & JINGLE SINGERS

Drink it up
Green Mountain keeps it up
It's such a potent cup
A potent cup of Tea

JAKE

Yeah!

JOHN BILKUM

*(phone up to his ear; to
JAKE)*

That's great guys. Just one thing. The client just had a thought. He says we can't say, "Green Mountain keeps it up."

JAKE

Why's that?

JOHN BILKUM

(into phone)

Why's that?

(to JAKE)

He says that should be obvious. He's very sorry. He doesn't know why he didn't think of this before. Can you think of a line to replace it?

JAKE

John. Last Saturday morning I saw a commercial during a kid's show for a game called Ball Busters. If kids can be busting your balls... why can't we say Green Mountain Tea keeps it up?

JOHN BILKUM

*(Mumbling on phone. We can
distinguish the words,
"Ball busters", then to
JAKE)*

He says forget it Jake.

JAKE

Tell him it'll sell a lot more tea.

JOHN BILKUM

(on phone)

It'll sell a lot more tea.

*(very long pause. Then to
Jake.)*

No go. Let's change it to "Green Mountain won't give up." Hey. That's great! Why am I paying all these writers for such easy work!

All exit except JAKE.

JAKE

(to audience)

Well that was my introduction to the wonderful world of jingles. It was truly disappointing. That is, until the mail arrived with my check. And I've got to admit, it was fun finally hearing something I wrote on TV. Even if it was just a jingle.

(pause)

My next job almost ended my jingle career. I was hired to write some music for a tampon commercial. A big one... A big company. Not a big tampon. Anyway...

Spotlight up on JOHN BILKUM and FEMALE CLIENT arguing in mime behind JAKE.

I'm playing piano on the date and it's not going well. The client didn't like anything we were doing. She kept saying...

(FEMALE CLIENT mimes JAKE's words; JAKE puts on bitchy woman voice)

"We need a signature sound! A signature sound! A sound that when any one hears it they'll immediately think of our tampons!"

(JAKE starts to get giddy)

Well, I leaned over to the guitar player...

(can't hold back the laughter)

...and I said, "I got her signature sound!"

JAKE makes a "pop" sound with his mouth; the FEMALE CLIENT and JOHN BILKUM simultaneously turn their heads to JAKE and freeze. JAKE can't contain the laughter. He finally pulls himself together and says with a straight face:

I didn't know our mikes were on.

(Lights fade on FEMALE CLIENT and JOHN BILKUM. They exit.)

JAKE (cont'd)

(to audience)

Well, years went by. I got pretty successful writing those little masterpieces. Gen became

very successful, too, working for a big Wall Street company. We were making lots of money. Little Max, that's our boy, went off to college. But still Gen and I had hardly any time for each other. She forgot about trying to change the "system." And my dream became just a childhood memory.

SCENE 11 - Mid 1990's. Jake's Home Studio

Lights up. GENNA enters in a hurry. She gives JAKE a kiss and senses something.

GENNA

What's wrong?

JAKE

Nothing. You better go. You don't want to be late.

GENNA

Come on. Out with it.

JAKE

What good is it? I mean, life. What good is it if you just go *through* it. Don't you remember when we wanted to change the world? Maybe we were naive, but didn't you feel more alive?

GENNA

(sympathetically)

Honey, we were kids. We didn't have any idea what life was really like.

JAKE

Didn't we? What's wrong with wanting to change the world. What's wrong with having dreams? So what if they're just dreams. They were worth living for. Maybe our purpose was unrealistic, but even if it was, wasn't it better than no purpose? I used to want to write music to move people. Remember?

GENNA

I know you think it's "only jingles", but you've written many things that moved people.

JAKE

Yeah. Moved them to the bathroom.

GENNA

You've written some great stuff.

JAKE

Gen. I write music for people to piss to, for chrissake!

GENNA

(she takes his hands)

I think we need to spend more time together. Like the old days. Why don't we take a trip to New England this weekend? Just the two of us. No plan. No particular place. Just fill up the tank and see where we end up.

MUSIC 11: "I'm Falling In Love Again"

JAKE

(pause)

It happened.

GENNA

What did?

JAKE

I'm falling in love - all over again.
I'm falling in love again
I'm feeling the beat of my heart
I'm counting the hours
Till I touch your hand
I'm falling in love again
Never a novel was
So well planned

In a crazy world
No one believes such things could be
Through the darkest days
You would be here with me
I'm falling in love

GENNA

I'm falling in love again
I'm feeling the blush of a schoolgirl

Feeling the rush of that
First embrace
I'm falling in love again
I'm seeing my whole world before me
Living my life when I see your face

IN a crazy world
Who'd a believe such things were true?
It's a fantasy
Just to be here with you
I'm falling in love again
And who cares when
Reality comes back again
I'm gonna be yours till then
In love again, With you

JAKE

And, oh
They'd never believe this
If I put it in a love song

GENNA

And, oh
It's gonna make
All the trendy people
Think we're so wrong,

JAKE & GENNA

but I'm falling in love

I'm falling in love again
I should be used to this feeling
Get it at least once a day, and yet
I'm falling in love again
And as the years keep on passing
Deeper and deeper in love I get

JAKE

So the story goes
Turning the page, we start anew
Once upon a time
There were two lovers who...

JAKE & GENNA

Were falling in love again
And who cares when
Reality comes back again

I'm gonna be yours till then
In love again, With you

JAKE
I'm gonna be yours till then
In love again, With you

GENNA
This weekend..?

JAKE
It's ours!

The phone starts ringing as they kiss and GENNA runs out the door. These lines are delivered very rapidly with the actors changing wigs or wearing glasses. The change of characters should be fast and funny. Done with either spotlights going on and off or just by turning around with another disguise.

JAKE (cont'd)
(answers phone)
Yellow.

CLIENT #1
Jake?

JAKE
Yeah.

CLIENT #1
Loved the spot. Great jingle.

JAKE
Great.

CLIENT #1
Just one thing. Shouldn't the last note go up?
You know, up is positive.

JAKE
Ya know, Tom... I can make it go up at the end, but I don't think it'll sell one more beer. Do you?

CLIENT #1
Well, I guess not. You're the expert. But see if you can do something to it.

JAKE

You bet.

(Another line starts ringing. He answers it)

Yellow.

CLIENT #2

Jake. Sweetie. Loved the spot.

JAKE

But what?

CLIENT #2

Do you think there's too many notes?

JAKE

Sure there are. And it won't cost you anything extra.

CLIENT #2

Oh... Okay.

(They hang up. JAKE calls BO, one of his writers.)

BO

Yellow.

JAKE

Bo. We need a catchy tune. The line is, "The Mall With It All."

BO

That's original.

JAKE hangs up and calls BRUCE, another of his writers.

BRUCE

Yellow.

JAKE

Bruce. We need a catchy tune. The line is, "John Warnerbaker's Mitsubishi, Ford, Jeep, Toyota, Hyundai - We go the extra mile for you." It needs to fit in 3 seconds.

BRUCE

I'll need a crowbar.

*(they hang up and JAKE calls
LYNN)*

LYNN

Yellow.

JAKE

Lynn. We need a nostalgic jingle for "Summer's Night," a feminine hygiene spray. A mother and daughter are walking along the beach. The daughter says, "How do you stay so - you know... fresh?" The mother says, "It's Summer's Night."

LYNN

What can I say in the lyric?

JAKE

Say anything you want. Just don't say what it is.

LYNN

Why do I always get the feminine hygiene products?

JAKE

You've got the most experience.
*(he hangs up as the phone
rings again)*

Yellow.

(to audience)

It's the Vice President of... Well, let's just say it's one of the major networks... The one with three letters... One of them's a "C".

(on phone)

You want an authentic gospel piece to kick off the fall premier? Uh-huh. Money is no object. Uh-huh. Lot's of exposure.

(JAKE's interest keeps growing)

Needs to be authentic! Something really great? Well you called the right guy. When do you need it by?

(a little worried)

Oh. By Monday. Well. Yeah. Sure. No problem. Bye.

(hangs up. To himself.)

Damn! I'll have to cancel our weekend again.
She'll have to understand. This is a chance to
get in with a major network. I better get to
work.

JAKE starts writing at the piano.

MUSIC 12: "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet"

JAKE (cont'd)

You can lead a horse to water
But you'll never see him smile
And a lion wouldn't make a decent pet
But miracles can happen
Every once in a while
And you ain't seen nothin' yet

*GOSPEL CHOIR starts walking in. Three females and
one male.*

And we're gonna take you higher
And we're gonna set you free
It's a trip that you will never forget
This time you're gonna see some things
The way they're meant to be
And you ain't seen nothin' yet

Band kicks in.

CHOIR

Nothin' yet
Nothin' Yet
Nothin' yet
Nothin' Yet

FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER

SO look up to the heavens
And let your spirit soar
We're flyin' high without any net
When you reach the pearly gates
You wouldn't want for more
And you ain't seen nothin' yet

CHOIR

Nothin' yet

FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER

Where a million stars are shining
Where your spirit can be free
Where we know that you will never regret
And we'll take you to a place
That you just got to see
'Cause you ain't seen nothin' yet

CHOIR

Nothin' yet
Nothin' yet
(continues under dialogue)

JAKE

(writing madly)
Then the brass comes in. I love it!
*(We hear brass. He's getting
really worked up.)*
Yeah! Now the strings!
(sweeping strings enter)
Fantastic!!

JAKE calls the VP and holds up the phone so he can hear.

JAKE (cont'd)

Yeah. This is Jake. Yeah, I got something.
Wait'll you hear this!
(holds up phone)

FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER

If you believe in magic
Then there's magic in the air
This thing I know we shouldn't forget
There's a kid inside us all
Who needs someone to care
And You ain't seen nothin' yet

CHOIR

Nothin' Yet
Nothin' Yet
(continues under dialogue)

JAKE

(enthused)
What do you think?

- You love it?

(to CHOIR)

He loves it!!

(back to phone)

Just one thing? Can I dump the strings? You hate strings. - No problem.

JAKE hangs up and erases the strings from the page of music, still very enthused

We got style, you know, and
We got class
And our sitcoms knock you
On your...

(phone rings)

Yellow. - Another Vice President of that major network? Hold on.

(holds up the phone)

FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER

And we're gonna take you higher
And we're gonna set you free
It's a trip that you will never forget
This time you're gonna see some things
The way they're meant to be
And you ain't seen nothin' yet

CHOIR

Nothin' yet

FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER

So put your hands together
Raise your voices high
Forget about the national Debt
You'll see heaven if you want it
Without workin' up a sweat
And you ain't seen nothin' yet

CHOIR

Nothin' Yet

Nothin' Yet

(continues under dialogue)

JAKE

Great, huh!

(to CHOIR)

He loves it!!

(on phone)

Just one thing. Can I dump the brass? You hate brass. Otherwise, it's perfect. - No problem.

Just after he hangs up, the phone rings again. The FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER is riffing like mad.

Yellow.

- This is the important Vice President of that major network? - Yeah. Sure I can.

(JAKE holds up the phone expecting the worst)

FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER

You'll see heaven if you want it
Without workin' up a sweat
And you ain't seen nothin' yet!

(she continues riffing)

CHOIR

Nothin' Yet
Nothin' yet

(FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER continues riffing)

JAKE

(expecting the worst)

It's great, huh? What should I change?

- You love it. But it sounds too black. Can I do anything about that?

(JAKE is stunned)

Too black. Sure. No problem.

Hangs up and signals the FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER to stop singing.

(phone rings again)

Yeah?

- This is the really important Vice President...

FEMALE GOSPEL SINGER

(with an attitude)

...of that MAJOR network!

JAKE

Right. - You hate gospel. Is it too late to get me to change it to country? -

(totally bummed)

No problem. Country it is.

CHOIR exits. The song winds down to a mournful end.

This time you're
Gonna see some things
The way they're meant to be
And you ain't seen nothin' yet

Music out.

(to audience)

That's the way it went for a few years. Get
your hopes up. Get them smacked down. But that
wasn't the straw that broke the camel's back.

(phone rings)

Yellow.

*JOHN BILKUM appears in spotlight off to one side and
behind JAKE.*

JOHN BILKUM

Hi Jake. It's John Bilkum. BBS&M?

JAKE

Yeah, John. How's it going?

JOHN BILKUM

Great. Just great. Hey, I got a favor to ask.
This is sort of on the QT.

JAKE

Sure. Go ahead.

JOHN BILKUM

We've got a big client. A tobacco company.
You've heard of Buffalo Butts.

JAKE

(getting more interested)

Sure. Who hasn't? Aren't they being sued
for...

JOHN BILKUM

We don't like to talk about that. Anyway. They
can no longer advertise on American TV. But
the rest of the world is wide open. What they
want to do is make a hit record with their

cartoon character, Ben Buffalo, singing. You know, sort of a music video.

JAKE

That sounds kinda shady, don't you think?
Sounds like they're trying to hook kids on...

JOHN BILKUM

Listen, if you have a problem with it, I can understand. But Jake...

if it gets on the charts in Europe, you'd be an overnight star. Could be worth millions.

(JAKE agonizes for a few moments)

Jake?

JAKE

(he finally "sells his soul")

You got it.

He pounds his fist on the table. The music starts. The lights go out.

MUSIC 13: "Buffalo Butts"

Spotlight up on JAKE decked out as a Zoot Suited pimp with a bottle of booze in his hand. He takes a drink.

JAKE (cont'd)

Hello girls. I'm Ben Buffalo.

Did I hear you want to party tonight?

There's a guy I know that

Knows how to treat you right

Everybody wishes they were him

Come and take my hand

Together we'll see the

Lights on Broadway

Shining for me

The Nights on Broadway

Come along and you'll see...

Spotlight up on 3 FEMALE BACKUP SINGERS

FEMALE BACKUP SINGERS

Watch him glide 'cross the floor
Who could ask for more?
He's the envy of all mortal men
And as Buffaloes go
He's a real cool Joe
He's the man
He's the dude
Known as Ben

JAKE

Buffalo, that is!

All your fantasies go up in smoke
Up to now your life has
Been just a bad joke
Take a ride on the Buffalo Man
Walk with me and you'll
Grab everything you can
That's Broadway
Shining for me
The Nights on Broadway
Come along and you'll see...

FEMALE BACKUP SINGERS

Watch him glide 'cross the floor
Who could ask for more?
He's the envy of all mortal men
And as Buffaloes go
He's a real cool Joe
He's the man
He's the dude
Known as Ben

JAKE

(taking another drink)

Hello ladies. It's been a while since I've
been around.

But have no fear, life's gonna get more inter-
esting now that Ben Buffalo's back in town.

I'm irresistible, as you will find
Once you fall in love
I'll always be on your mind
No one walks away without a fight
Come and take my hand
Together we'll see the
Lights on Broadway
Shining on me

Nights on Broadway
Come along and you'll see...

FEMALE BACKUP SINGERS

Watch him glide 'cross the floor
Who could ask for more?
He's the envy of all mortal men
And as Buffaloes go
He's a real cool Joe
He's the man - He's the dude
Known as Ben

He's so cool and discreet
He got dancing feet
Got to have him again and again
If your life's in a rut
Shake your hips, move your butt
For the man - For the dude
Known as Ben

(Acappella)

Watch him glide 'cross the floor
Who could ask for more?
He's the envy of all mortal men
And as Buffaloes go
He's a real cool Joe
He's the man - He's the dude
Known as Ben

He's so cool and discreet
He got dancing feet
Got to have him again and again
If your life's in a rut
Shake your hips, move your butt
For the man - For the dude
Known as Ben

JAKE

*(pretty drunk; to one of the
ladies)*

So... what's a dump like you doin' in a nice
place like this?... Oh...yeah. Don't mind if I
do.

(takes another drink)

This is a fine party we're having here. Just a
fine party!...I think I'll have
another...maybe another.

FEMALE BACKUP SINGERS

Watch him glide 'cross the floor
Who could ask for more?
He's the envy of all mortal men
And as Buffaloes go
He's a real cool Joe
He's the man - He's the dude
Known as Ben

He's so cool and discreet
He got dancing feet
Got to have him again and again
If your life's in a rut
Shake your hips, move your butt
For the man - For the dude
Known as Ben

Watch him glide 'cross the floor
Who could ask for more?
He's the envy of all mortal men
And as Buffaloes go
He's a real cool Joe
He's the man - He's the dude
Known as Ben

JAKE slumps over on his desk, quite drunk.

SCENE 12 - Jake's Dream. Jingle Hell

Everyone in this scene is over 70. All have Jewish accents ala Jackie Mason. The atmosphere is that of a nursing home in southern Florida. OLD WOMAN #1 approaches JAKE, waving her fist.

OLD WOMAN #1

You! You said it vas "The Mall With It All." I looked, and I looked. And you know vut. Dey didn't have vut I wanted! Liar!

JAKE

((Lifting his head up, horrified))

No! It's not my fault. I was just doing what my client wanted. Really I...

OLD WOMAN #2 pushes through, waving her finger at JAKE.

OLD WOMAN #2

Bum! You're a bum! You said, "Quality vas Job Vun." Job vun? Sure, Mr. Big Shot Jingle Writer... Until my Pinto blew up! You're a BUM!

JAKE

Wait! That wasn't even my commercial!

OLD WOMAN #2

Bum!

OLD WOMAN #1

You said, "Lower overall prices." And you know vut day told me ven I got dere? Huh, Mr. Big Shot Jingle Writer? Day told me day dunt even *sell* overalls! Liar! Liar!

GENNA

(looking like an 80 year old)

Jake. Jake.

JAKE

Gen? Is that you?

GENNA

Jake. Marriage is a vunderful institution. But diamonds are forever. Jake. I vant diamonds! DIAMONDS, Jake!

JAKE

This can't be happening.

The TWO OLD WOMEN and GENNA shake their fists and yell, "Liar, liar." Then one VERY OLD MAN steps through as the crowd opens up to let him speak. They all go silent, waiting for his story.

VERY OLD MAN

You! You made me dis vay. I vus an innocent young boy growing up in a thoid voild country. Scraping for any morsel of food. Until vun day I hoid dis very ketchy tune. I couldn't help mineself. I started dencing and dencing. Then the cigarettes. Puff after puff. Peck after

peck. Now look at me. I'm thirty years old,
for God's sake! And it's all your fault!

*The crowd starts yelling and waving their fists.
Suddenly they are silenced by a huge "Smiley Face"
on the video screen.*

SMILEY FACE
(in a God-like tone)

Jake. Jake.

JAKE
(confused)

No. This is all wrong. Are you supposed to
be...

SMILEY FACE
The Lord, Jake.

JAKE
God!

SMILEY FACE
Bingo!

JAKE
But why are you a smiley face?

SMILEY FACE
I appear to people in a form they can under-
stand.

JAKE
(frustrated and insulted)
No...

SMILEY FACE
Ha, ha. Just kidding. But seriously, you're a
good man, Jake. You just got a little side-
tracked.

JAKE
A little? My whole life is a waste. I haven't
done anything worthwhile. Nothing that really
matters... To me or anyone else.

SMILEY FACE
There's an easy fix.

JAKE

That's easy for you to say. You can do anything.

SMILEY FACE

Not everything.

JAKE

You're God, for Christ...
(catches himself)

SMILEY FACE

I still can't program that damned VCR. I swear!

JAKE

Funny. So what's the easy fix? How do I get my dream?

SMILEY FACE

Just do it!

JAKE

Great! Even God sounds like a commercial.

SMILEY FACE

(Thunder SFX. Angrily)

Don't mock me! ... I'm serious. The only way to do it, is to DO IT!

JAKE

You're right. I need to stop complaining and start doing. I've been thinking about writing something big. Something longer than 30 seconds. A musical maybe. What do you think?

SMILEY FACE just smiles and fades out.

JAKE (cont'd)

Right. Just do it.
(all but JAKE exit)

SCENE 13 - THE PRESENT. JAKE'S HOME STUDIO

Lights down. Pinspot on phone and JAKE. Serious musical underscore starts ("I Give My Life To You"). JAKE picks up the picture of GENNA and takes it out of the frame. On the video screen we see slides of

people putting up photos of missing loved ones from 9/11.

JAKE

(to audience)

It's 11 AM, September 11th.

JAKE looks at the phone. There's a pause, then the phone rings. He picks it up.

Hello? ... No, that's okay. Bye.

(hangs up)

Genna works at the World Trade Center. I haven't heard a word...

(phone rings)

Gen? ...Oh. Hi Max. No. Not yet. I'll call you as soon as I know something. Do me a favor, Max? Call Grandma. Tell her I'll call her as soon as I know anything... Yeah, I love you, too.

(he hangs up then plays a chord on the piano)

MUSIC 14: "If Ever I Could See You Again (reprise)"

JAKE (cont'd)

I would slay a hundred dragons - More
I would show the World what love is for
I would walk through fire
If I could see you
I would be your prince or be your slave
Laying down my life -ÊYour life to save
Surrender all my dreams
If I could see you...

GENNA enters from behind. Slowly at first. Music under.

GENNA

Jake?

JAKE turns around. GENNA runs into his arms, crying.

GENNA (cont'd)

Jake! I tried to call you but the phones weren't working. I had to walk all the way...

JAKE

*(smothering her with hugs
and kisses)*

I was so worried. I thought you were...
*(holding her out to see if
she's all right)*

GENNA

I'm okay. My bus broke down. I never got to
work... Honey... All those people...

JAKE

I know. Who'd ever think... Something like
this makes you realize how important each min-
ute of your life is. I'm never going to waste
another second complaining about stupid
things... And I'm going to be spending a lot
more time with you.

(they embrace)

GENNA

Don't let go... I feel like the first time I
saw you. My heart was beating so fast.

JAKE

Mine too.

GENNA

It's beating fast now. I don't want to ever
forget that feeling.

JAKE

Somehow I don't think that'll happen. I'm
gonna hang on to you till we pass out from
hunger.

*(GENNA gives a little laugh.
They kiss long and lov-
ingly)*

*The phone rings. The music underscore stops. They
both stare at the phone then JAKE answers.*

JAKE (cont'd)

Hello?

*JOHN BILKUM appears in spotlight to one side and be-
hind them.*

JOHN BILKUM

Hello, Jake. John Bilkum, here. Listen, Jake. I'm sorry to call you at this time but... By the way, is everyone okay? Ya know, did they...

JAKE

We're fine... Thanks.

JOHN BILKUM

Good. Good. So anyway. As I was saying. Sorry to call now but my client, the tobacco company, thought this would be a great opportunity to build up some public sentiment for them. You know, publicize them contributing to the Fireman's Relief Fund, the cops, blah, blah. So I thought you'd like to write a real warm and fuzzy jingle.

(JAKE holds the phone away from himself and shakes his head in disbelief)

Lyrics could say how much we care, blah, blah. Ya, know, we're here for you, blah, blah. Pays well. I need it by tomorrow. What do you think?

(pause)

Jake? How 'bout it? It's a great opportunity...

(pause)

Jake?

JAKE and GENNA look at each other. He knows what he has to do.

JAKE

(in total defiance)

John... Jingle this!!

(slams the phone down)

MUSIC 15: "Jingle This!/If Ever I Could See You Again - Reprise"

JAKE (cont'd)

Not just the start of
Another day
No more crap getting

In my way
It's all so clear
It all starts here and now
I'm going back to a
Better time
A better fight
I got better hills to climb
For sure
I know what my life is for. And

VIRGINIA, STEALTH and MALE PASSERBY start to enter carrying signs that say: BAN THE BOMB!, HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL, HELP WANTED!

JAKE & GENNA

Someone saved my life today
Gave me strength and paved the way
Now I'm going back to
Where my heart is
It took a while but
Came to pass. So
Raise your voice and Lift your glass
To the life I'll never miss

ALL

Jingle this, jingle this
Jingle This!

JAKE straps on his guitar.

JAKE

Standing tall and I'm
Standing proud
Chuck it all
Go against the crowd
What's right is right
It's simple as day and night. It's
Not just the start of another day
it took a while but I
Found my way
The shoe does fit!
Now all we need to do
Is do it!

VIRGINIA, STEALTH and MALE PASSERBY lower their signs.

ALL

Someone saved my life today
Gave me strength and paved the way
Now I'm going back to Where my heart is
Someone fin'llly lit the light
Now I've got to do what's right
To the life I'll never miss
Jingle this, jingle this
Jingle This!

JAKE

Oh. When the smoke had fin'llly parted
Oh. And I saw you standing there

GENNA

Oh. Let's go back to where we started
Oh. To a time when people care

JAKE

No compromising with
Wrong or right
Sanity is gonna see the light of day
Once more
I know what my life is for, so
Keep your "Great Opportunities"
I can get everything I please
And you can rot
I cherish the things I got. 'Cause

ALL

Someone saved my life today
Gave me strength and paved the way
Now I'm going back to
Where my heart is
And if you don't understand
My friends and I will lend a hand
So excuse our emphasis
But in case we've been remiss
Here's an Ass that you can kiss
Jingle this, jingle this
Jingle This!

On the last "Jingle This!", JAKE raises his guitar in defiance. The CHORUS exits slowly. JAKE and GENNA turn to each other.

JAKE & GENNA

If ever I could see you again

They embrace. The lights slowly fade.

The End