

Broadway Preaches: **America**

our (falsely)
idyllic founding
in 1776

A shtetl iz Amerike, (*America is a shtetl*)
amekhaye khlebn! (*Where I swear life is great!*)¹
What other place can compare? The American Dream!²
I see Americans, all Americans, free forevermore.³

slavery, from
before our
country's
beginning,
starting
in 1619

So...you think justice has a voice?⁴
Life is alright in America - *if you're all-white in America.*⁵
What's white looks whiter; what's black looks blacker...
I ain't done nothin', but I'm going to die.⁶
Molasses, to rum, to slaves: 'Tisn't morals, 'tis money that saves.
Shall we dance to the sound of the profitable pound?⁷

unfair
immigration
policies and
treatment, from
as early as the
Chinese
Exclusion
Act of 1882

You're living in America; leave your conscience at the tone.⁸
Listen to the sound, take a look around:
We're the *other* national anthem, folks,
the ones that can't get in⁹...immigrants. We get the job done.¹⁰
Their dreams were yours; their dreams were mine,
but in those dreams were hidden dragons.¹¹

(white) women's
suffrage in 1920

organising for
labour rights
throughout
20th century

Let us at last make this the land of opportunity for *all* people,
not just the owners¹².
Do you hear the people sing, singing the song of angry men?
It is the music of a people who will not be slaves again.¹³
No more the meek and mild subservients we,
we're fighting for our rights militantly.¹⁴
Tell those with power, safe in their tower, we will not obey.¹⁵
"Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..."
We fought for these ideals, we shouldn't settle for less.¹⁶
There's a hunger in the land; there's a reckoning still to be reckoned.¹⁷

civil rights
movement from
1954-1968

Picket lines and picket signs, don't you punish me with brutality!¹⁸
And say to the others who did not follow through:
"You're still our brothers, and we will fight for you."¹⁹
We'll bleed and fight for you. We'll make it right for you.²⁰

AIDS epidemic,
1980s and '90s

Brother, brother, brother, there's far too many of you dying,²¹
dying in America.²²
All this pain and devastation, how it tortures me inside.²³

Every day I wake up knowing what you've lost and what is owing.²⁴
A day of justice we have been denied,
where a man can live, and a child can play.²⁵

RIGHT
FRIKKIN'
NOW

There's a cry asking **WHY**,²⁶ when did man lose his reason?
Save us, my God, if you're there...God, can you not feel the terror?
Like a fire in the air,²⁷ when's it gonna end? **When we gonna live?**

Something's gotta happen, or something's gonna give²⁸ -
Gotta rise up, tell your sister that she's gotta rise up.²⁹

Will justice be demanded by ten million righteous men?³⁰
Revolution, justice, screaming for solutions, *forcing* changes.³¹
If you don't like what we say, try living here a couple days.
Watch all *your* friends and family die.³²

I hate you.
God damn America.³³

I hope that you burn.³⁴

Broadway Preaches: **America - Outro**

No man, no madness, though their sad power may prevail,
can possess, conquer, my country's heart: They rise, to fail.³⁵

Bless my homeland forever.³⁶

Sources

- ¹ "A Shtetl Iz Amerike", Ragtime (Original Broadway Cast)
- ² "The American Dream", Miss Saigon (1995 US National Tour Cast)
- ³ "Is Anybody There?", 1776 (Film)
- ⁴ "Everything You Ever", Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog (Neil Patrick Harris)
- ⁵ "America", West Side Story (1961 Film)
- ⁶ "Nothin'", Scottsboro Boys (Original Cast)
- ⁷ "Molasses to Rum", 1776 (1972 Film)
- ^{8,22} "What You Own", Rent (2005 Film)
- ⁹ "Another National Anthem", Assassins (Original Cast)
- ¹⁰ "Yorktown", Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast)
- ¹¹ "Sunset Boulevard", Sunset Boulevard (Alan Campbell)
- ^{12,33} "The Night That Goldman Spoke", Ragtime (Original Broadway Cast)
- ¹³ "Do You Hear the People Sing?", Les Misérables (1985 Cast)
- ¹⁴ "Sister Suffragette", Mary Poppins (1964 Film)
- ^{15,19} "Seize the Day", Newsies (Original Broadway Cast)
- ¹⁶ "Cabinet Battle #1", Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast)
- ¹⁷ "At the End of the Day", Les Misérables (1985 Cast)
- ^{18,21} "War / What's Going On", Motown the Musical (Original Cast)
- ²⁰ "Dear Theodosia", Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast)
- ²³ "The Plagues", The Prince of Egypt (1998 Film)
- ²⁴ "He Wanted to Say", Ragtime (Original Broadway Cast)
- ²⁵ "Till We Reach that Day", Ragtime (Original Broadway Cast)
- ²⁶ "I Know Where I've Been", Hairspray (Queen Latifah)
- ²⁷ "Madame Guillotine", The Scarlet Pimpernel (Original Broadway Cast)
- ²⁸ "Look Down", Les Misérables (2012 Film)
- ²⁹ "Rise Up", Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast)
- ³⁰ "Make Them Hear You", Ragtime (Brian Stokes Mitchell)
- ³¹ "La Vie Boheme", Rent (2005 Film)
- ³² "Hasa Diga Eebowai", The Book of Mormon (Original Broadway Cast)
- ³⁴ "Burn", Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast)
- ³⁵ "Anthem", Chess (Rodrick Dixon)
- ³⁶ "Edelweiss", The Sound of Music (1965 Film)