

Broadway Preaches: Action for Justice

Here me now, oh thou bleak and unbearable world:

Thou art base and debauched as can be,¹ [but]

Just because you find that life's not fair,

it doesn't mean that you just have to grin and bear it.²

The play isn't over by a long shot yet: There are heroes in the world!³

Will you join in our crusade? Who will be strong and stand with me?⁴

'Cause just to sit still would be a sin.⁵

And though you'll never know all the steps, you must learn to join the dance.⁶

Maybe you're going to fall, but it's better than not starting at all.⁷

Realise that everyone is fighting just like you.⁸ Fight just a little.⁹

I'll always be there, as frightened as you, to help us survive being alive.¹⁰

Wrongs will be righted, if we're united; let us seize the day.¹¹

Make them hear you.

And tell them in our struggle, we were not the only ones:¹²

Tomorrow, there'll be more of us¹³ willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause.¹⁴

Let the new day dawn¹⁵ ...the sun will rise.¹⁶

Sources

¹ "I, Don Quixote", Man of La Mancha (Colm Wilkinson)

² "Naughty", Matilda (Royal Shakespeare Company)

³ "There Won't Be Trumpets", Anyone Can Whistle (Bernadette Peters)

⁴ "Do You Hear the People Sing?", Les Miserables (1985 Cast Recording)

⁵ "I Know Where I've Been", Hairspray (Queen Latifah)

⁶ "Through Heaven's Eyes", The Prince of Egypt (Brian Stokes Mitchell)

⁷ "Everybody Says Don't", Anyone Can Whistle (Mandy Patinkin)

⁸ "Anyone But Me", Real Women (written by Jackie Ozorio and Matt Samer)

⁹ "She Used to Be Mine", Waitress (Sara Bareilles)

¹⁰ "Being Alive", Company (Bernadette Peters)

¹¹ "Seize the Day", Newsies (Original Broadway Cast)

¹² "Make Them Hear You", Ragtime (Brian Stokes Mitchell)

¹³ "The Story of Tonight", Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast)

¹⁴ "The Impossible Dream", Man of La Mancha (Colm Wilkinson)

¹⁵ "Till We Reach that Day", Ragtime (Original Broadway Cast)

¹⁶ "Endless Night", The Lion King (Jason Raize)