

The Wortham Center for the Performing Arts

November 13, 2021 7 pm

FRED NORTHUP PRESENTS

**DAVID:
THE FACES OF LOVE**

**BOOK, LYRICS AND MUSIC BY
FRED NORTHUP**

**MUSIC, ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATION BY
DREW BANZHOFF**

WITH

MATTHEW EDWARDSEN ELEANOR MARTIN MADISON GARRIS
CASEY EDWARDS JOSE MELINA LEIF BRODERSEN ANDY
THOMPSON KAREN COVINGTON-YOW BRENDAN NICKERSON
HOGAN McLAMB MIKE YOW

AND

REBEKKAH HILGRAVES SYDNEY BRYANT LIZ MASON
HEATHER BRONSON TIFFANIE BOONE HANNAH WILLIAMS
LARA HOLLOWAY GARRETT SCHOLBERT JONAH CREECH

DIRECTED BY

MIKE YOW

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David: The Faces of Love

An epic musical drama in four acts

Background

This play is based on the life of David as told in the books First and Second Samuel in the Bible. All of the significant events and story lines are taken directly from those books, as well as some of the important dialogue and song lyrics, many of which you may recognize.

Act I: Young David

The play opens in King Saul's home, introducing us to his son Jonathan, daughter Michal, and David. David, having killed Goliath, has come to live with Saul and his family because he is a musician, and his instrument and voice are soothing to the often depressed Saul.

There will be a brief stand and stretch interlude.

Act II: David and Jonathan

This act finds the same characters about 15 years later. As the close relationship between David and Jonathan develops, each sees the relationship differently, and David's loyalty to Saul is severely tested. David marries Michal, and when Saul and Jonathan are both killed in battle, David becomes king.

Intermission

Act III: David and Bathsheba

Now married, David and Michal find their lives complicated by the presence of Bathsheba. When Bathsheba becomes pregnant, choices are made.

There will be a brief stand and stretch interlude.

Act IV: David's sons: Solomon, Absalom

25 years later

Absalom is the gifted, charming, and popular son of David and Michal, whereas Solomon is David and Bathsheba's son. Absalom's ambition leads to serious choices and consequences for him and others. Rivalries among the mothers, their sons, and David lead to the conclusion.

The Cast

(In order of appearance)

Solomon..... ANDY THOMPSON
Young David.....BRENDAN NICKERSON
Saul.....JOSE MELINA
Young Jonathan.....HOGAN MCLAMB
Young Michal.....LIZ MASON
David.....MATT EDWARDS
Jonathan.....CASEY EDWARDS
Michal.....ELEANOR MARTIN
Nathan.....LEIGH SOUFAS
Joab.....MICHAEL YOW
The Witch of Endor.....KAREN COVINGTON-YOW
Bathsheba.....MADISON GARRIS
Absalom.....LEIF BRODERSEN
Ensemble..... GARETT SCHOLBERG, TIFFANIE BOONE, LIZ MASON,
DAVID HOPES, LEIGH SOUFAS, JONAH CREECH, HEATHER BRONSON,
REBEKKAH HILGRAVES, JONAH CREECH

SONGS IN ORDER

ACT I

1. Opening Chorus
 Psalm 121
2. Face the Giants
3. Forever Remember
 What Will You Do?
 Psalm 23

ACT II

4. Chorus Transition
5. Love Comes to Us
6. The Army of Israel
7. Forever Remember
8. I've Never Known
9. The Witch of Endor
 Hidden Thoughts
 Psalm 121 Reprise
10. The Witch's Reprise
11. David's Lament
12. Chorus of Tears
 David's Coronation

Intermission

ACT III

13. Chorus of Lust
14. If You're Willing
15. Feelings Out of Control
 Hidden Thoughts Reprise
16. Don't We Believe
17. Loving Couples
18. Hello God
 Now and Then
19. From Now On
20. Bring a Ray of Sunshine
21. Who am I? (I Thought)

ACT IV

22. Chorus of Aging
23. I Had To Do It
 Chorus of Absalom
24. I've Just Begun to Live
25. Will I Know?
26. The World of Politics
27. A Child Can Never Know
28. O Jerusalem!
29. Psalm 23 of Doom
30. Absalom, My Son!
31. Finale

THE CREATIVE TEAM



Fred Northup, Creator and Producer

Fred, the author of *David*, including almost all the lyrics and melodies, is a multi-gifted person. His career has included stints as a tennis pro, a French teacher, an Episcopal priest (retiring in 1998 as Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle), and the Founder of Athletes for a Better World, a national nonprofit organization from which he retired in 2019. As an opinion writer, he has been published in a variety of national publications and he has written two books. During his church career he composed music, played guitar, led a liturgical band, hosted a television show and served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations. In his spare time, he enjoys all the arts, tennis, golf, and anything involving water. His wife, Julie, is a retired employment lawyer. They have two grown sons.



Drew Banzhoff, Music Director

Drew composed all the arrangements and orchestrations of this work. A multi-instrumentalist/singer from Black Mountain, North Carolina, he is a very active composer, and writes regularly for orchestra, choir, wind ensemble, chamber ensembles, solo instrument/voice, electronic music, jazz ensembles, and musical theatre. Drew is a student at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, studying Music Composition with Lawrence Dillon. His compositions have been performed by the Borromeo String Quartet, UNCSCA Brass Ensemble, UNCSCA Horn Studio, Charles D. Owen High School Wind Ensemble, and Charles D. Owen High School Chamber Chorale. He is also an avid performer and has performed with the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra, Blue Ridge Orchestra, Winston-Salem Youth Symphony Orchestra, and UNCSCA Wind Ensemble playing tuba and trombone, as well as French horn, percussion, piano, organ, and voice.



Mike Yow, Director

Mike is honored to be directing this wonderful show, a position he is determined to explore more in the future. Apart from this, Mike has performed as an actor on myriad stages and venues throughout Western NC after moving to the area from Atlanta over seven years ago. In Atlanta he appeared in over 75 stage productions and indie films. Some of his most memorable roles to date have been Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*. He dabbles in film and television as well and is a published author, tour guide, acting coach, fight choreographer, game designer, and 4.0+ rated pickleball player. Later this year, Mike will also be directing (and performing in) *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* at Black Mountain Center For the Arts.



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Brendan Nickerson (Young David)

Brendan is a nineteen-year-old actor who is thrilled to be making his debut at the Wortham Center for the Performing Arts. Although he has been acting for the past ten years, this will be his first musical. Brendan hopes you will stick around to say hi afterwards.



Hogan McLamb (Young Jonathan)

Hogan is from Asheville. He played Jack Kelly in *Newsies*, Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, and additional roles with the APAA, at HART (*Brighton beach Memoirs*), and ACT (*Annie Get Your Gun*, *Addams family*) Hogan would love to thank everyone along the way who is helping make a dream a career!



Liz Mason (Young Michal, Chorus)

This is Liz's first show in the Diana Wortham theatre, and she is incredibly excited to be here. A short-time stint in the Asheville Choral Society, several shows in the most recent season at Montford, and a love of performing have brought Liz to this show.



Eleanor Martin (Michal)

Eleanor has been singing professionally since age eight as both a choir member and soloist and has performed in venues from empty parking lots to the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. She sings with the Asheville Choral Society and chamber group Tempus. When she's not performing, Eleanor can be found spending time with her children or as a pediatrician at Asheville Pediatric Associates.



Matt Edwardsen (David)

Matt started as a theatre and musical dinner performer. Much of his professional career was spent in opera across the US and Europe. Among his favorite local performances are Uncle Billy in *Miracle at Bedford Falls* with SART, Nicky in *Avenue Q* at ACT, Monty Navarro in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder!* Richard in *The Humans* at Parkway Playhouse, and Gabe in *Dinner with Friends* at Attic Salt. He is represented for Film/TV by Screen Artists Talent.




Madison Garris (Bathsheba)

Madison is an actress, singer, and voiceover artist from Waynesville. Her professional career began at age eight. Numerous production leads including 'S Wonderful, *The Crucible*, and *The Fantasticks* at Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, and West Side Story with the Asheville Lyric Opera. Her many film credits include *Best Supporting Actress* for the 2020 Asia Web Awards. Follow her at madisongarris.com. Psalm 104:33



Karen Covington-Yow (Witch of Endor)



Karen is thrilled to be a part of this amazing cast and crew! Her other regional musical credits include: *The Sparrow and The Whippoorwill*, *Menopause the Rock Musical*, *Nuncrackers*, *Mame*, *Zombie Prom*, *Sister Act*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Nunsense*, *Company*, *Seussical*, *The Addams Family*, *Godspell*, *Into the Woods*, and *Love, Linda*. Karen thanks her husband Mike for his love and support, and Russ for showing her how it's done.



Andy Thompson (Solomon, Chorus)

Andy has been acting in Asheville, Brevard and Hendersonville for many years. Some favorite roles have been Malcolm in *The Full Monty*, Jesus in *Godspell* and Rod in *Avenue Q*. He works at the Brevard Animal Clinic as a Veterinary Assistant.



Casey Edwards (Jonathan)

Casey is a music and information management professional with 20 years of experience making music. He completed an AA in music, a BA from The University of Southern Mississippi in 2014, and an MM from TexasTech University, where he specialized in the tenorino vocal repertoire). He has participated in productions of numerous genres.



Leif Brodersen (Absalom)

Leif studied musical theater performance at Columbia College Chicago. Recent credits include Dwayne in *9 to 5* and Brian in *Ova* at ACT. Regional roles include Harry in *Mamma Mia!* and Bud in *The Bridges of Madison County* at HART.




Jose Maria Melano (Saul, Chorus)

Jose came from Argentina four years ago where he was a founder of “Tuna de la UNJu,” to keep alive traditional music dating back over 500 years. As a younger man he acted in theatre and in film. He sings with the Asheville Symphony Chorus.




Leigh D. Soufas (Nathan, Chorus)



From Columbia, South Carolina, Leigh is a trained classical/operatic bass-baritone, with over a half century of musical theatre experience, from his high school debut in *BRIGADOON* to tonight's performance. He is a proud member of both the Asheville Symphony Chorus and the Asheville Gay Men's Chorus, and enjoys networking in the myriad performing arts offerings in Western North Carolina.



Jonah Creech (Chorus)

 Jonah, originally from eastern N.C. has performed in many youth productions with Activate Drama and the Imperial Center for the Performing Arts. He has been active at Parkway Playhouse and Mountain Heritage High School. His most recent performance was with Montford Park Players in A Midsummer's Night Dream.




Garrett Scholberg (Chorus)

Garrett is a music and art teacher in Cherokee, NC, where he enjoys working in the Cherokee language with his students and colleagues. He also enjoys singing with the choir at First Presbyterian Church in Asheville. **ᑲᑲᑦ ᐱᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᕐᑲ ᑳᑲᑲᑲᑲ!**



Tiffanie Boone (Chorus)



Tiffanie is thrilled to be a part of the ensemble cast for the world premiere of *David: The Faces of Love*. She has been working professionally in WNC and Virginia over the past several years. You may have seen her in *The Carolina Christmas Show*, Rocky Horror as Janet, Cindy Barnes in *Hands on a Hardbody*, Missy Hart in *9 to 5*, singing the National Anthem for the Asheville Tourists baseball team, and more. She is honored to sing this music for the first time to a live audience.

**Heather Bronson (Chorus)**

Heather Nicole Bronson received her BFA in musical theatre from Mars Hill University in 2014 and has been performing in the WNC area ever since. When not on stage, she enjoys reading, knitting, and riding her bike.

**Hannah Williams (Chorus)**

Hannah has a BFA in Musical Theatre performance and has performed and directed around the country, including local favorites Parkway Playhouse and Calliope Stage Company. She also works with Asheville Symphony Orchestra, Theatrical Intimacy Education, and The National Women's Theatre Festival.

**Rebekkah Hilgraves (Chorus)**

Rebekkah was born in Washington, D.C. She began training seriously for an opera career as a teenager, and has sung numerous principal roles in New York City, Seattle, Chicago, Buffalo, and more. Following retirement from the opera stage, she has returned to her roots as a rock singer and writer, and now runs *RadHaus.Studio* in Black Mountain.

**David Brendan Hopes (Chorus)**

David is a novelist, playwright, actor and poet (in addition to being a bass). Look at Malaprop's or Amazon for his Asheville novel, *Night, Sleep, and the Dreams of Lovers*.

Our special thanks to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Grace Covenant Church and Charles D. Owen High School for their gracious cooperation in providing musical instruments, to All Souls Cathedral for providing rehearsal space, and to Michelle McClendon for hours of copying numerous editions of music and publicity materials.



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Thursday @ 9am EST

"The World Needs Dreamers Who Are Doers"

Meet our LOCAL entrepreneurs, artists and community leaders. Discover how they are "Doing their Dream" making our AVL, AVL. Please join us live or archive! Carol Anders and Dr. Patricia Furnish, hosts.

Overcoming Homelessness...

We all need to do our part!

20% of all proceeds tonight will support these organizations:



BeLoved tackles tough community challenges through innovative solutions. For example, they established the first-in-nation homeless/formerly homeless street medic team. Their current effort is developing a village to support people experiencing homelessness where essential workers, elders, and others living through the housing crisis can begin the process of living and working together in a “tiny home” community.

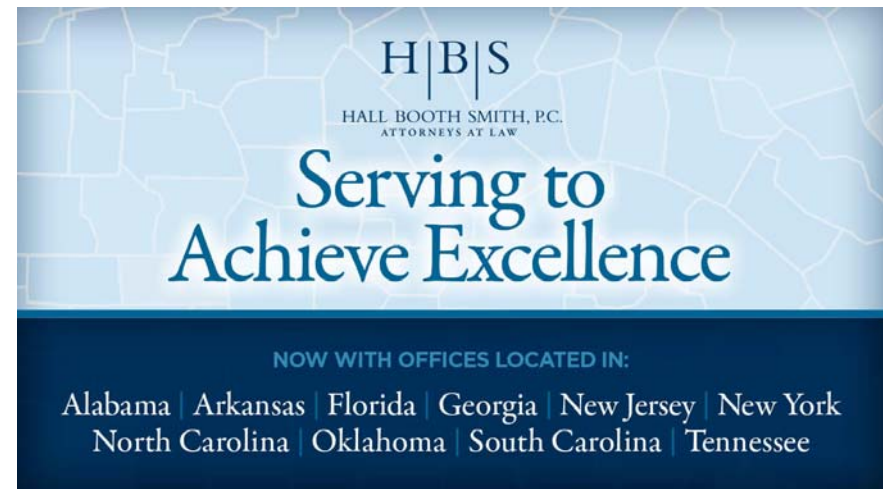
BeLoved Village will provide deeply affordable homes of approximately 600 square feet where social connections and equity lead to better health, more opportunities, and long-term stability, lifting people out of poverty.



Homeward Bound's mission is to prevent and end homelessness in our community through permanent housing and support. We have moved 2,275 individuals, families, and veterans into homes, and 92% of them have not returned to homelessness. Through the national best practice of housing first, we are committed to moving people into housing as a first step, then wrapping

them in supportive services to help stabilize their lives so they can stay in housing and improve their quality of life. Homeward Bound's AHOPE Day Center is the front door to housing.

“My case manager helped me get stable. Knowing someone cared made a big difference and gave me confidence. Home means stability, security, and peace. Having a home helped me develop boundaries, gave me an identity, self-worth and the ability to protect myself.” Dwight, Homeward Bound Client



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DAVID!

The Faces of Love

By
Fred Northup
Music by Drew Banzhoff and Fred Northup

Fred Northup
Fnorthup@aol.com
404 307-9739

CHARACTERS

David - from youth to old age

Jonathan - Saul's son, David's friend

Michal - Saul's daughter, becomes wife of David

Bathsheba - husband of Uriah, becomes wife of David

Saul - first king of Israel

The Witch of Endor - a soothsayer

Joab - loyal soldier to David

Nathan - a prophet

Solomon - a son of David and Bathsheba

Absalom - a son of David and Michal

Hushai - an Israelite loyal to David

ACT I - YOUNG DAVID AND JONATHAN

The Chorus is a group that sings from time to time in the play to provide information, transition, and commentary on the action

CHORUS

WHERE WERE YOU LONG AGO

BEFORE YOUR BIRTH WHO CAN KNOW

WHEN DOES IT ALL BEGIN

IS IT NOW OR WAS IT THEN

LIFE BRINGS JOY, LIFE BRINGS PAIN

LIFE BRINGS LOSS, LIFE BRINGS GAIN

IT'S YOUR LIFE, IT'S A STRIFE

WHAT YOU FEEL, WHAT YOU STEAL

JUST A THRILL, JUST A CHILL

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

WHO KNOWS WHY, WHO KNOWS WHEN

WHO KNOWS WHO, NOW OR THEN

LOVE WILL STRIKE, LOVE WILL KILL

LOVE BEGINS WITH A THRILL

JEALOUSY YOU CAN SEE, JEALOUSY IS
NEVER FREE

ENVY TOO, JUST FOR YOU, ENVY WILL
CORRUPT YOU TOO

REMEMBER LUST, IT'S A MUST

NEVER TRUST, EVIL LUST

LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE

SCENE IN SAUL'S HOUSE

14 YEAR OLD DAVID

(singing)

I WILL LIFT MY EYES TO THE HILLS

TO FIND STRENGTH FROM THE LORD

OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD

WHO HAS MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH

THE LORD PROTECTS US FROM HARM

THE LORD WHO GUARDS HIS PEOPLE

THE LORD WHO WATCHES OVER ISRAEL

WILL NEVER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP

THE LORD HIMSELF IS OUR KEEPER

THE LORD IS OUR DEFENSE

SO THAT THE SUN WILL NOT BURN US
BY DAY

NOR THE MOON AT NIGHT

THE LORD SHALL PRESERVE US FROM
EVIL

YES IT IS HE THAT WILL FEED OUR
SOULS

THE LORD WILL PRESERVE OUR GOING
OUT

AND OUR COMING HOME FOR EVERMORE

SAUL

(sighs - Ahhh) so very nice... David.....how
do you write these songs...?

DAVID

I don't know, they just come to me...when I was
taking care of the sheep...singing songs would
pass the time.

SAUL

But where do the words come from...the thoughts
and feelings...

DAVID

I don't know... from "God" I guess, you should
know...

SAUL

(sighs again) I should..... know...God...

(enter Jonathan)

JONATHAN

Father, can we go hunting?

SAUL

Yes, Jonathan, but be back before dark!

AS THEY CROSS DOWN STAGE...

JONATHAN

Back before dark! To the kid who killed
Goliath! I still can't believe that...

DAVID

YOU'VE GOT TO FACE THE GIANTS WHO
COME

YOU'VE GOT TO MEET THEM ONE BY ONE

TO STAND FOR RIGHT TAKES ALL YOUR
MIGHT

YOUR SOUL'S AT STAKE WITH THE
CHOICES YOU MAKE

(drop one of the following verses?)

HE WAS SO BIG ONE THING I THOUGHT
WITH HIM NO ONE HAD EVER FOUGHT
BUT I HAVE FOUGHT FOR THE SHEEP
THAT ARE MINE
AND THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO EVERY TIME

MY STONE IS FASTER THAN YOU CAN
SEE

MY SLING IS QUICKER THAN YOU WILL
BE

WHEN HE MOCKED US, I HAD TO TRY
WITH GOD ON MY SIDE, I KNEW I'D
NOT DIE.

CHORUS

LIFE HAS CHALLENGES WE CAN'T
FORESEE

WE NEVER KNOW WHAT OUR CHOICES
WILL BE

TO STAND FOR RIGHT TO WALK IN THE
LIGHT

YOUR SOUL'S AT STAKE BY THE
CHOICES YOU MAKE

CHORUS

YOU'VE GOT TO FACE THE GIANTS WHO
COME

YOU'VE GOT TO MEET THEM ONE BY ONE

TO STAND FOR RIGHT CAN TAKE ALL
YOUR MIGHT

YOUR SOUL'S AT STAKE BY THE
CHOICES YOU MAKE

JONATHAN

But if you hadn't sung that day, my father
never would have brought you to our house...
And I would never have known you.

DAVID

My father always says that our lives are in
God's hands, not ours. I don't know, maybe,
but I think there's a lot we control... We
have lots of choices...

JONATHAN

I don't know anything except I'm glad it
happened!

(as they begin to pick up the gear they
brought, Jonathan sings)

FOREVER REMEMBER, I'M YOUR FRIEND
FOREVER

FOREVER REMEMBER THE PLEDGE THAT
WE MADE

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

MY FATHER SAUL, HE NEEDS TO HEAR
YOU SING

TO HIM YOU ARE MY FRIEND, BUT TO
ME YOU'RE EVERYTHING

FOREVER REMEMBER, I'M YOUR FRIEND
FOREVER

FOREVER REMEMBER THE PLEDGE THAT
WE MADE

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

DAVID
I'll remember!

(OTHER SIDE OF STAGE)

SAUL
It's getting dark. I told them to be back
before dark.

MICHAL
You don't have to worry about David!

SAUL
Oh, here they are...(boys enter) my warriors
return! ...what am I going to do with you two?

DAVID
What are you going to do with us?

JONATHAN
Do with us?!

*(Whimsy - David and Jonathan both
sing REFRAIN, alternate lines in
verses)*

REFRAIN

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH US?

WHAT'S THE WORRY? WHAT'S THE FUSS?

WHAT I DO, YOU DO TOO,
 AND IT'S TRUE, WE TWO DO,
 PLAY TOGETHER, HUNT TOGETHER,
 SING TOGETHER, 'CAUSE IT'S BETTER
 (OR: LAUGH TOGETHER)
 HAVING A FRIEND IS EVERYTHING
 HAVING A FRIEND IS EVERYTHING

VERSE

ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS TWO
 AND WE TWO NEVER ARGUE
 MORE THAN TWO BECOMES A STEW
 MORE THAN TWO IS AN EXTRA SHOE
 REFRAIN

VERSE

WHAT I LIKE HE LIKES TOO
 NO MATTER WHAT THERE IS TO DO
 WHETHER OLD OR WHETHER NEW
 WE'VE THE SAME POINT OF VIEW

FULL CHORUS REFRAIN

SAUL

Michal, you and Jonathan go get ready for
 dinner. David, you stay and sing ...please
 sing that shepherd song.

(they exit)

(MORE)

SAUL (CONT'D)
(David begins to sing)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, AND ALL I
NEED

HE GIVES ME A WORLD WITH GREEN
PASTURES

HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS THAT I
SHOULD WALK

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

YES WHEN I WALK

THROUGH THE VALLEY WITH DARKNESS
AND DEATH ALL AROUND

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

FOR YOU ARE WITH ME

YOUR PRESENCE ALWAYS COMFORTS ME

YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL

MY CUP RUNS OVER

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL
FOLLOW ME

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

AND I WILL LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF
THE LORD FOREVER.

SAUL

Music is soothing...(musing) The LORD, is my shepherd... The Lord IS, my shepherd... The Lord is my SHEPHERD...

DAVID

That's what my father used to say... That the Lord is our shepherd.

SAUL

(still thinking) The Lord is my shepherd...

END ACT I:CURTAIN DOWN, TEN SECONDS, THEN MUSIC BELOW

ACT II - DAVID AND JONATHAN, 10 YEARS LATER

FULL CHORUS

DAVID GREW INTO A MAN

STRONGEST MAN IN THE LAND

WARRIOR, LEADER, SINGER OF SONG,

POET, LOVER, RIGHTER OF WRONG

BUT FOR SAUL THE YEARS GREW SAD

AS HE BECAME SLOWLY MAD

YEARS HAVE PASSED AS WE RESUME

TO TELL THIS TALE OF LOVE AND DOOM

MICHAL

(very excited!) I hear David is coming back
with the army!

SAUL

Victorious again, Michal. And it was your idea.

MICHAL

Mine? What idea?

SAUL

To send him off. Well - at least somewhat...
(slyly) I told him I thought he should get
married!

MICHAL

Married?

SAUL

Yes, to you! You've been crazy about him all
your life. Why not?

MICHAL

He's never looked at me that way. He's never shown any interest in me, except as like a sister.

(eagerly)

What did he say?

SAUL

All he said was, (sarcastic) "who am I, or my family, that I should marry the King's daughter?" So, I said, all right go win some battles, if it'll make you feel worthy!

MICHAL

So he liked the idea?

(enter Jonathan during last words of Michal and interrupting.)

JONATHAN

It's been a long time, but David's finally coming back! He's been completely victorious.

MICHAL

He's amazing;

(worshipful)

there's never been anyone like him!

SAUL

(seriously) Glory always seems to follow him, or to find him, doesn't it?

JONATHAN

(laughs with enthusiasm) Yes, that's true... and the people all love him.

SAUL

(somerly) sometimes I think they love him too much.

JONATHAN

Love him too much?

(in this song, the "V" means verse, Chorus means the full Chorus, and "B" is the bridge)

(Jonathan and Michal on opposite sides of stage singing soliloquys)

JONATHAN V

IT ALL DID BEGIN, A LONG TIME AGO

WE WERE JUST BOYS, WHAT COULD WE
KNOW

OLDER WE GREW, CLOSER I KNEW

I COULD NOT STOP, WHAT SHOULD I
DO?

JONATHAN

LOVE COMES TO US, AS FREE AS THE
AIR

A GIFT TO RECEIVE, SOMETHING TO
SHARE

BUT FREE IT IS NOT, COSTLY IT IS

FOR HIM TO BE MINE, FOR ME TO BE
HIS

JONATHAN V

WE BECAME CLOSE, THEN WE BECAME
MEN

YOU CAN'T GO BACK (OR) START OVER
AGAIN

I'M ONLY ALIVE WHEN I AM WITH HIM
CAN THAT NOW BE, WHEN WILL BE THEN

JONATHAN B

I DO NOT KNOW, CAN I OPEN THE DOOR
GO FURTHER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE
FEELINGS LIKE THIS, I CAN'T IGNORE
IS HE LIKE ME, DOES HE WANT MORE?

MICHAL

DOES HE LOVE ME, DARE I BELIEVE
CAN IT BE TRUE, AM I DECEIVED?
I DO LOVE HIM THAT I'LL ADMIT
I THINK ALL ALONG, MY FATHER KNEW
IT

MICHAL AND JONATHAN

LOVE COMES TO US, AS ALWAYS A DARE
A GIFT TO RECEIVE, A LIFE WE COULD
SHARE
HOW WILL I KNOW, WHAT WILL I DO?
MY FUTURE'S AHEAD, IF ONLY I KNEW

CHORUS

LOVE COMES TO US, AS ONE UNKNOWN
 AWAKENS OUR SOUL, FINDS A NEW HOME
 WE CAN'T GO AHEAD, WE CAN'T BE THE
 SAME
 WE CAN'T GO BACK, LIFE'S NOT A
 GAME

JONATHAN V

LOVE COMES TO US, WHAT SHALL I
 SAY?
 DO I SAY YES, ADMIT I'M THIS WAY?
 LOVE'S NOT FREE, COSTLY IT IS
 FOR HIM TO BE MINE, FOR ME TO BE
 HIS

CHORUS REFRAIN

MICHAL

So, what happens when he comes back?

SAUL

Well, we'll see.

JONATHAN

(music heard as song intro) I hear them coming;

MICHAL

I'm going to get ready... (exits)

(Saul's army enters singing marching song)

ARMY

WE ARE THE ARMY OF ISRAEL,

WE LIVE AND DIE BY THE SWORD,
WE ARE THE ARMY OF SAUL OUR KING,
WE ARE THE ARMY OF THE LORD.

SOLDIER JOAB SOLO:

THE PHILISTINES ARE OUR FOE,
UP FROM THE PLAINS BELOW
THEY COME UP IN THE DARK OF NIGHT,
BUT WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO FIGHT
REFRAIN

ALL SOLDIERS
Hooray! Hooray!

SOLDIER
Long Live David!

ALL SOLDIERS
Long Live David!

DAVID (SOLO)

WE ARE THE ARMY OF OUR KING
IT'S YOUR PRAISES I SING
YOU TRUST ME WITH STRATEGY
BUT YOURS IS THE VICTORY
REFRAIN

SOLDIER JOAB (SOLO)

THE LORD'S GIVEN US THIS LAND,
WE'LL DEFEND IT TO THE LAST MAN,

COME WHAT MAY, FIGHT WE WILL

FOR EVERY VALLEY, ROCK AND HILL
REFRAIN

(at end of song, crowds mills and talks
silently while David and Jonathan are
downstage)

JONATHAN

Welcome back. I've missed you.

DAVID

I've missed you too.

JONATHAN

I was worried when you were away, and I'm
worried now that you're back - my father has
become more and more moody.

DAVID

Really?

JONATHAN

You know how he is; more and more often he's
off in that dark world of his own. ... I never
know when I see him who he is going to
be...what mood...

DAVID

I'm sorry to hear that...

JONATHAN

(interrupting) Forget that! David, when you
were away, I couldn't bear it! Either I worried
you'd be killed, or I just missed you... What
are we going to do?

DAVID

Do?

JONATHAN

There could be more.

DAVID

More? What do you mean....

JONATHAN

I can't ignore my feelings, and thoughts...

FOREVER REMEMBER

WHAT CAN NEVER BE SEEN

FOREVER REMEMBER

WHAT ONLY WE KNOW

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

LOVE IS A MYSTERY

IT WEAVES THROUGH OUR DESTINY

A WHISPER THAT'S ALWAYS HEARD

LOUDER THAN ANY SONG OR WORD
REFRAIN

HAND IN HAND, WE MADE A SOLEMN
VOW,

WE GAVE OUR PROMISES AND NOW

YOU ALONE CAN FILL MY SOUL

YOU ALONE CAN MAKE ME WHOLE
REFRAIN

DAVID

Jonathan, I do love you, but not like that, not
in the same way.

They walk off stage one way as Nathan and
Saul enter from other side....

SAUL

Nathan. You speak for God: tell me what is going on. What am I to do?

NATHAN

...do about what?

SAUL

The people all love David.

NATHAN

Well, yes...

SAUL

(remembering, as if in a trance) The way I was loved when I was young. I was the hero then...

NATHAN

Well, yes..

SAUL

(still remembering, trance-like) We were doing fine as tribes, but then there were those who wanted to have a king.

NATHAN

(just agreeing) You're right; everyone wanted to "be like other nations." Why are you bringing this up?

SAUL

(back to reality) Because I'm trying to understand my duty! Samuel anointed me and gave me God's blessing. But now - who will follow me? Jonathan? Or David? Or someone else?

NATHAN

Your duty...is to follow God's will.

SAUL

God's will? (with anger) How do I - how does anyone - know God's will? That "will" is not so clear. Isn't it your job to know, and tell me?

(MORE)

SAUL (CONT'D)

(mocking tone) "Saul has his thousands, but David has his ten thousands!" I'm tired of hearing that! I want Jonathan to follow me. ...But what's going on there?

NATHAN

There? Where?

SAUL

Between Jonathan and David... I think they're too close.

NATHAN

Friendship is...

SAUL

(Interrupting) Michal! ... she adores him, she's been that way since they were children. I told her she can marry him.

NATHAN

You are the King.

SCENE CHANGE =====

MICHAL

(cheerful, as David enters) Well, well...how is the battle hero today?

DAVID

The battle hero feels great! And how are you?

MICHAL

My life doesn't change much - I don't have the drama or the excitement of your life!

DAVID

But that's not true! You've always been the one who is secretly running everything! (imitating a child) "Daddy, Jonathan's taking all my things... Daddy, Jonathan's not playing fair..."

MICHAL

Getting your way in the small things isn't necessarily getting your way in the things that matter most...

DAVID

But you're more clever than the others, you know that! What is it that you want now... that you don't have?

MICHAL

What does anyone want? Doesn't everyone want the same things? To love and be loved...have a home, a family...children...to live to old age.

DAVID

(changing tone) Michal, there's something important... that I want to talk about.

MICHAL

(hopefully) Yes? Something important?

DAVID

Yes, it's...your father... Jonathan said he is becoming more and more irrational.

MICHAL

(let down) Oh...My father, oh... Nothing...You know how his moods change... at times he's jealous of you.

DAVID

Jealous?

MICHAL

Because you're so popular!

DAVID

But no one is more loyal!

MICHAL

He's proud; the feeling that he has lost popularity with age is hard. While you were away, he told me that he told you...is it true? ---that we should marry?

DAVID

Yes... but I didn't know if he was serious.
(hesitating) Umm...Has he told anyone else?

MICHAL

I don't know... You don't like the idea?

DAVID

I didn't say that.

MICHAL

No, but you didn't say...

DAVID

(speaking carefully, reflectively) I didn't
think the time had come... for me... to...do
anything...Sometimes we have to make decisions
on choices we didn't choose.

MICHAL

What does that mean?

DAVID

I don't know. What is love? Something we
choose or does it choose us? Is love between
any two people ever the same? Can people love
people in different ways? I just want to
figure out who I am... And, if your father asks
me to do something, I want to be faithful to
him, and faithful to my heart, and faithful to
God.

MICHAL

And what happens when there is a conflict in
all this, what do you do?

DAVID

I don't know...

(pause)

I try to pray, to be open to the spirit
...(with chuckle) it was easier tending sheep.
Here comes Jonathan. (enter Jonathan, changes
tone) We're talking about your father...

MICHAL

Yes...

(recovering)

You think he's really losing his mind, don't you?

JONATHAN

Sometimes, but not all the time.

DAVID

So, what are we supposed to do? What does love require? He is God's anointed one... we must serve him, take care of him.

JONATHAN

(questioning)

What does love require?

Duet

(Michal and jonathan - singing
their thoughts as soliloquy)

(the verses are the same with very
small difference - could have one
sing a verse, then the other sing
a verse, etc...)

MICHAL

I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYONE LIKE HIM

ARE MY CHANCES GOOD OR SLIM

IT'S HARD TO KNOW HOW IT WOULD BE

IS THERE A CHANCE THAT HE LOVES ME

MY FEELINGS ARE ALL OUT OF CONTROL

SHOULD I BE SHY OR SHOULD I BE
BOLD

WOULD BEING TOGETHER EVER GET OLD?

SHOULD I BELIEVE THE THINGS THAT
I'M TOLD

JONATHAN

I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYONE LIKE HIM

MY WILL JUST MELTS FROM WITHIN

IT'S HARD TO KNOW IF THIS CAN BE

DARE I BELIEVE THAT HE LOVES ME

MY FEELINGS ARE ALL OUT OF CONTROL

SHOULD I BE SHY OR SHOULD I BE
BOLD

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS

I CAN'T TAKE THE PAIN, I WANT THE
BLISS

DUET

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND HERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES

AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

CHORUS

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES

AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

SCENE CHANGE WHILE THE CHORUS IS
SINGING THAT FINAL VERSE MICHAEL
AND DAVID EXIT, SAUL BEGINS
SHOOTING ARROWS AT TARGET OFF
STAGE, JONATHAN COMES IN

JONATHAN

Hello...how are you doing?

SAUL

I can shoot as well as ever. In some ways I'm
getting older, but not in others! (takes some
shots with bow and arrow)

JONATHAN

David can hit a rabbit at 30 yards...using a
sling or a bow.

SAUL

(suddenly raising voice) Why do you always have
to talk about David!

JONATHAN

I was just saying that David...

SAUL

(interrupts at "saying") Why is David all you
can ever talk about?

JONATHAN

I didn't mean to upset you by ...

SAUL

(interrupting at "you") How are you ever going to follow me when the people all love him?

JONATHAN

Is that it? You're jealous of him? Is that why you threw the spear at him?

SAUL

Who told you that?

JONATHAN

He did. He said he was singing to you and suddenly you grabbed a spear and threw it at him. And just missed.

SAUL

(rubbing head, apologetic)

It was... accidental, a fit of temper. I don't know where it came from; (with energy) and I told him immediately I was sorry...(sudden change) I think David should marry Michal.

JONATHAN

Marry Michal?

SAUL

Don't you think that's a good idea? For him to marry your sister?

JONATHAN

Does it matter what I think?

SAUL

Wouldn't you want your best friend, (sarcastic) "the great one" ...to marry your sister?

(MORE)

SAUL (CONT'D)

(music begins lightly for next number as Saul goes across stage and then weaves back looking over his shoulder as he goes to be sure no one is watching or following him, asks the following question over music lightly played)

Are you the Witch of Endor?

WITCH OF ENDOR

THE WITCH OF ENDOR IS WHO I AM

I CONJURE THE SPIRITS TO LEARN
GOD'S PLAN

I TAKE THE MONEY BEFORE I TELL

I HAVE MY EXPENSES, - AND OVERHEAD
AS WELL.

IT COSTS YOU SOME MONEY, TO LEARN
JUST A LITTLE

IT COSTS A LOT MORE, TO ANSWER
YOUR RIDDLE

I MAY NOT KNOW THE ANSWER, TO YOUR
PLIGHT

BUT I WILL GET PAID, SO THAT'S ALL
RIGHT

SAUL

I need to know something...

WITCH OF ENDOR

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE
WILL BE

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN SEE

YOU WANT TO CHEAT THE MYSTERY

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO KNOW WHAT TO
DO

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO HAVE A CLUE

IF YOU DID, IT WOULD RUIN THE GAME

IF YOU DID, IT WOULD NOT BE THE
SAME

SAUL: (INTERRUPTING)

Tell me! What can you tell me about my son,
what do I need to know...

WITCH OF ENDOR

IT COSTS YOU SOME MONEY TO LEARN
JUST A LITTLE

IT COSTS A LOT MORE TO ANSWER YOUR
RIDDLE

I MAY NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO YOUR
PLIGHT

BUT I WILL GET PAID SO THAT'S ALL
RIGHT

(SAUL PAYS HER)

YOU LOVE YOUR SON; AND HE LOVES
TOO

BUT WHO HE LOVES WILL NEVER DO

FOR LOVE MUST FOLLOW CUSTOM,
THAT'S OUR DESTINY

BEHAVNG LIKE ALL OTHERS IS HOW IT
HAS TO BE

SO YOU MUST PAY ATTENTION, AND
LISTEN TO ME!

SAUL

Stop! That's enough... I can't bear to hear more...

BLACK THEN LIGHTS UP

SCENE CHANGE - DAVID ALONE

DAVID

(composing a song)

SING A NEW SONG IN YOUR HEART

SING A NEW SONG WITH YOUR VOICE

SING A NEW SONG WITH

(STOPS AND SINGS AGAIN)

SING A NEW SONG IN YOUR HEART

SING A NEW SONG WITH YOUR VOICE

SING...

JONATHAN

(entering)

There you are... I've been looking for you..

DAVID

What's going on?

JONATHAN

I can't take it. I love you. I want to be with you, to hold you in my arms. I'm sorry. I talked to my father. He wants you to marry Michal.

DAVID

Michal... He's said that before... I wasn't sure how serious he was...Marry her...What choices do we have? Do we do what is expected of us? Do we follow our heart?

JONATHAN

Don't ask me!

DAVID

I want to follow my heart wherever that leads... and to know it's somehow a part of God's will...

JONATHAN

My Father's not the same person he once was. Anointed or not, he does not necessarily speak for God.

DAVID

But he was anointed by Samuel, he's more than just your father to me and our people. I love him as you do, but my love requires something - my duty to him, and to God. ... love is never about just what I want. (pause) Maybe this is just one of his "moments"... Maybe he'll forget it...

JONATHAN

(ignoring David's comment, continuing his thinking) Was that spear God's will? Or God's will that it missed? Or neither? Maybe God has nothing to do with any of this! My father's jealous of you, and that is not of God.

DAVID

(reflecting) All I've ever done is... whatever he's asked...and I always will.

JONATHAN

So, you'll marry Michal - you'll marry her!

DAVID

I didn't say that.

JONATHAN

You said you'll do whatever he asks, whatever he wants... I have no say in this, do I?

HIDDEN THOUGHTS, FORBIDDEN
THOUGHTS,

HIDDEN FEELINGS, FORBIDDEN
FEELINGS

HIDDEN LOVE, FORBIDDEN LOVE,
FORBIDDEN, MY LOVE IS FORBIDDEN

I WISH THE WORLD COULD KNOW
THE FEELINGS I CAN'T SHOW
THE PAIN I FEEL INSIDE
FROM THE TRUTH I HAVE TO HIDE
REFRAIN

THEY'D SAY FORGET YOUR HEART
THEY'D SAY THATY WE SHOULD PART
I DON'T CARE WHAT'S RIGHT OR
WRONG,
IT'S IN HIS ARMS THAT I BELONG.
REFRAIN

(Jonathan throws something? Expresses
anger?)

Enter Michal

MICHAL
Is it true that Dad threw a spear at you?

DAVID
(upset) Yes... more than once... Last night
when I sang for him, suddenly he was in a rage.

MICHAL
He's just not himself; he's getting worse,
and...

DAVID

If I stay here he will kill me, or force me to hurt him defending myself; I have no choice. I've got to leave and get away.

MICHAL

What are you talking about? ...Leave? ...Go where?

DAVID

Away. I'll go back home up in the hills. I do not want to have to defend myself against him.

JONATHAN

You can't run away.

DAVID

You call it running away? Your father is God's anointed King, and I have lost his favor. Can't you see that?

JONATHAN

Why not talk to Nathan? Maybe he would have some advice, or could help.

DAVID

What can he say? "Let him kill you," or, "defend yourself and kill the King!" No, there is no good choice; what sort of life is this? ... God is surely testing me.

JONATHAN

Let me talk to him again.

DAVID

All right. Go ahead, but I don't see the point. He's coming now. You talk to him. (he exits, Michal goes with him)

JONATHAN

(Saul enters) Dad, how are you? ...I'm worried about you. It seems to me that you have good days... and bad days...

SAUL

(with a little anger) I don't know what you're talking about! (then, sudden change) Yes, I do... Some days I feel like myself, like now. But then other times, I feel weighted down, and I get sad and discouraged, and angry.

JONATHAN

Well, we know that's been true a long time...

SAUL

(becoming intense) I don't like it; I don't like it when the darkness comes in, when the darkness takes over. It's as if I am watching someone else, but I am seeing myself, and I try to regain control of myself, but I can't.

JONATHAN

I know, and I'm sorry...

SAUL

(ignoring that question) And what am I to do? I don't know. (losing it, sort of delirious) What is my duty? Can you help? (suddenly serious) I've decided David's going to marry Michal. ...It's not right.

JONATHAN

Not right? Then why are they going to marry?

SAUL

No. What's not right is for you to care more about him than ...than a woman. And you do! Don't you!

JONATHAN

Well...we've always...

SAUL

(interrupting)
You can't deny it... God help me...(exits)

AS SAUL EXITS DAVID COMES BACK IN
AND THEY TALK SILENTLY AND

GESTICULATE ETC ETC FINALLY WITH
DIALOGUE BEGINNING...

DAVID

I'm sorry; it's too much. I'm going away. Duty
and responsibility are too much. I have to go.

JONATHAN

So "duty" means leaving?

DAVID

I told you. He has tried to kill me, more than
once.

JONATHAN

But if you married Michal, then he'd leave you
alone...

DAVID

...is that what I'm supposed to do? Is that my
duty?

JONATHAN

If you marry her at least you'll be here. Think
about it! (storms off) (David alone, sings)

DAVID

I WILL LIFT MY EYES TO THE HILLS
TO FIND STRENGTH FROM THE LORD
MY STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD
WHO HAS MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH
THE LORD PROTECTS ME FROM HARM
THE LORD WHO GUARDS HIS PEOPLE
THE LORD WHO WATCHES OVER ISRAEL
WILL NEVER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP
THE LORD HIMSELF IS MY KEEPER

THE LORD IS MY DEFENSE

SO THAT THE SUN WILL NOT BURN ME
BY DAY

NOR THE MOON AT NIGHT

THE LORD SHALL PRESERVE ME FROM
EVIL

YES IT IS HE THAT WILL FEED MY
SOUL

THE LORD WILL PRESERVE MY GOING
OUT

AND MY COMING HOME FOR EVERMORE

LIGHTS UP ON DIFFERENT SCENE - SAUL AND MICHAL

SAUL

So you two will marry. And I am going to send
Jonathan off with the army; he'll win the
hearts of the people, just as David did.

(Enter David)

DAVID

You sent for me? Hi, Michal.

SAUL

I wanted you both because I've decided that you
two will marry.

DAVID

(accepting)

Yes, I thought that might be...

SAUL

We've talked about it before. You two have
been friends since... since I first brought you
in... But now it's time...

DAVID

Michal, is this what you want?

MICHAL

Of course, ...if you do.

DAVID

(hesitates)...well, yes! I don't understand myself at times, but I do care for you as much as anyone...

SAUL

I'll tell Nathan, and we'll make plans...

SAUL EXITS...

MICHAL

Are you marrying me because I am his daughter?
Is this a political thing for you?

DAVID

No! Michal! we've grown up in the same house, and we've always been close, and I love you more than a sister, but I hadn't thought of marriage to anyone. He is not "just" your father, he is God's chosen King, and our first responsibility is to him. (pause) I remember when I first came into your family...

"DAVID" THEME IS PLAYED QUIETLY AT FIRST, BUILDING AS MARRIAGE SCENE SLOWLY EVOLVES...NATHAN APPEARS AND "MARRIES" THEM AS MUSIC CONTINUES....AS MUSIC CONTINUES COULD HAVE "FOREVER REMEMBER" THEME AS DAVID AND JONATHAN LOOK AT EACH OTHER.... WHEN SCENE IS OVER EVERYONE EXITS, LEAVING MICHAL AND DAVID AS BEFORE...

DAVID

This is an important day for Israel.

MICHAL

Israel? ...It's an important day for us!
Together we can build... a life, a family.

DAVID

You are my wife, Michal. And I love you and we
will build a home. (they embrace)

Saul enters the room.

...Well, well that was quite a day!

SAUL

Yes, it was!

DAVID

I have something I need to do... but I'll be
back later.

David exits...

MICHAL

How are you feeling?

SAUL

I don't know what makes me happier, that you're
married or that David is in our family.

MICHAL

It doesn't matter...

SAUL

I've been thinking about Jonathan. I am going
to send him out with the army, and when he's
victorious, the people will elevate him, love
him...and then...

SCENE CHANGE...

DAVID

I've been looking for you.

JONATHAN

Really? Looking for me?

DAVID

We need to talk.

JONATHAN

(angry) Really? We need to talk? What is there to talk about?

DAVID

Jonathan, please. (firmly) You have got to understand that your love is different...

JONATHAN

So what am I supposed to do...never admit...
The truth of who I am?

DAVID

You're not the first person who has loved someone who is forbidden, or who does not return the same love. The truth of who you love, now or in the future, can not be known by others if their minds will not accept it. One thing is for sure - closed minds, and attitudes are the real giants out there...

JONATHAN

That makes no sense... "the truth cannot be known"

DAVID

There are always those who cannot accept the truth - and so they turn it into a lie.

JONATHAN

How can you turn the truth into a lie?

DAVID

Many cannot accept this truth, reality - that you could love another man with a love that is real, genuine, and pure - their minds will simply not allow -- so to them that kind of relationship is not love, they can't admit that... so it has to be something perverse, evil, sick -- anything but the truth.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

The truth is hard to accept, so people say it's not the truth, and create an alternative reality, a giant, a lie.

JONATHAN

So I am supposed to hide the truth, and live a lie instead.

DAVID

It's not a lie; your love is a reality that some accept and understand. And others don't know, and don't want to know, and so they take your reality and turn it into their lie, that it's sick.

JONATHAN

So what is love? Is it a hoax, or a cruel friend who excites us -- so it can break us later? (with indifference and sarcasm) I don't know what matters anymore... I'm off with the army; my father wants me to "become a man." Isn't that great?

DAVID

...there is no better soldier than you.

JONATHAN

But he wants me to be like you, "the great one!" I'm nothing.

DAVID

Please forgive me for disappointing you... I know my love is...

JONATHAN

There's nothing more to say.

DAVID

Stop! Please remember, my love is just as real even if it is different. In this world there are giants neither you nor I can kill. Maybe someday... They will die or be slain. Meanwhile...Forever... remember! (they embrace as lights go down)

SCENE CHANGE...

(this is not a funny scene, it's
just spooky/bizarre and a break
similar to a funny song.)

WITCH OF ENDOR

THE WITCH OF ENDOR IS WHO I AM

I CONJURE THE SPIRITS TO LEARN
GOD'S PLAN

I TAKE THE MONEY BEFORE I TELL

I HAVE MY EXPENSES, - AND OVERHEAD
AS WELL.

IT COSTS YOU SOME MONEY, TO LEARN
JUST A LITTLE

IT COSTS A LOT MORE, TO ANSWER
YOUR RIDDLE

I MAY NOT KNOW THE ANSWER, TO YOUR
PLIGHT

BUT I WILL GET PAID, SO THAT'S ALL
RIGHT

SAUL

(agitated) I've come to find out what's
coming... I need to know, I want to know, I've
got to know.

WITCH OF ENDOR

What is it that you want to know?

SAUL

The future ... My son is off with the army, and
is having difficulty... I am going to join
him...what do I need to know? Help me...

WITCH OF ENDOR

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE
WILL BE

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN SEE

YOU WANT TO CHEAT THE MYSTERY

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO KNOW WHAT TO
DO

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE, TO HAVE A CLUE

IF YOU DID, IT WOULD RUIN THE GAME

IF YOU DID, IT WOULD NOT BE THE
SAME

LIFE ONLY MATTERS WHEN WE HAVE A
VOICE

WHEN WHAT WE GET IS OUR OWN CHOICE

WE MAKE DECISIONS, WITH RESULTS
UNFORESEEN

IT'S IN OUR HANDS, SO KEEP THEM
CLEAN

MAKE YOUR CHOICES ONE BY ONE

YOU MAKE YOUR LIFE TILL THE DAY
IT'S DONE

SAUL: (INTERRUPTING)

Tell me! What is going to happen?

WITCH OF ENDOR

(Perhaps drop this first verse?)

IT COSTS YOU SOME MONEY TO LEARN
JUST A LITTLE

IT COSTS A LOT MORE TO ANSWER YOUR
RIDDLE

I MAY NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO YOUR
PLIGHT

BUT I WILL GET PAID SO THAT'S ALL
RIGHT

(Saul pays her)

MY ADVICER IS SIMPLE, MY ADVICE IS
PLAIN

HEAR THE THINGS I SAY, THOUGH ALL
THEY BRING IS PAIN

YOU AND JONATHAN WILL BATTLE THE
FOE

YOU AND JONATHAN WILL FIGHT WITH
SWORD AND BOW

TOGETHER YOU WILL BE IN LIFE AND
IN DEATH

TOGETHER YOU WILL BE AS YOU SHARE
YOUR LAST BREATH

(Saul exits)

SLOW SCENE CHANGE BACK TO DAVID

MICHAL

I hear that Saul and Jonathan are winning
battles daily and pushing back the Philistines.

DAVID

That's what I heard a few days ago, but I've
had no word since.

(enter Joab)

JOAB

David! There's a soldier from Saul's army. He
says that he must see you.

DAVID

Send him in!

(Enter soldier.)

DAVID

Why are you here?

SOLDIER

Saul's army was defeated in a battle, and many were killed. Saul and Jonathan, his son, were both killed.

DAVID

What? How do you know this?

SOLDIER

Jonathan was killed early in the battle. Near the end, I saw the King badly wounded. He called me over and asked me to finish him so he would not be captured. I did and brought his crown and spear to you, his final wish.

DAVID

(David moves downstage)

O God! ...Jonathan! ...O God: Whoever you are...take care of my Jonathan tonight! ...O Jonathan!

FOREVER REMEMBER

OUR LOVE IS FOREVER

FOREVER REMEMBER

THE LIFE THAT WE LIVED

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

FOREVER REMEMBER

WHAT CAN NEVER BE SEEN

FOREVER REMEMBER

ALL LOVE IS FOREVER

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

LOVE IS A MYSTERY

IT WEAVES THROUGH OUR DESTINY

A WHISPER THAT'S ALWAYS HEARD

LOUDER THAN SONG OR WORD

REFRAIN (duet with jonathan as
"ghost" or offstage?)

FOREVER REMEMBER ALL LOVE IS
FOREVER

FOREVER REMEMBER WHAT NO DEATH CAN
SEVER

MAY GOD KEEP US FOREVER TOGETHER

Saul and Jonathan... Dead...Can this be God's
plan? Yes, even though I walk through this
valley of darkness and death I will not be
afraid, for you are with me...are you?? Are
you with me O God? Whoever you are! Where ever
you are! take care of my Jonathan tonight!
....(weeps) My friend! My Jonathan!

DAVID OR FULL CHORUS

O GLORY OF ISRAEL, FOR YOU DEATH
HAS BEGUN,

O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN,
FALLEN

DAVID (SOLO)

I'VE HEARD THE WORD THAT DEATH HAS
WON

DON'T LET IT GET TO THE STREETS OF
ASHKELON,

LEST THE PHILISTINE WOMEN
CELEBRATE,

LEST THEY REJOICE IN THIS TERRIBLE
FATE.

HILLS OF GILBOA KEEP THE RAIN FROM
YOUR FIELDS

FOR THERE LIE TARNISHED OUR
WARRIORS SHIELDS.

FULL CHORUS

O GLORY OF ISRAEL, FOR YOU DEATH
HAS BEGUN

O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN,
FALLEN

DAVID (SOLO)

JONATHAN MIGHTY WITH A BOW

DID HIS DUTY, TO DEFEAT THE FOE.

AND HIS HAND HELD THE SWORD

BLOODY IN BATTLE, TO SERVE THE
LORD

O MY JONATHAN WAS LOVED, DEARLY
LOVED,

SWIFT AS AN EAGLE AND STRONG AS A
LION,

IN LIFE AND IN DEATH FOREVER
BELOVED

O MY JONATHAN WAS LOVED, DEARLY
LOVED

FULL CHORUS

O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN,
FALLEN ON THE FIELD,

O HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN,
FALLEN ON THE FIELD.

DAVID (SOLO)

O DAUGHTERS OF ISRAEL, WEEP FOR
ME,

FOR JONATHAN MY FRIEND, I WILL
NEVER SEE

WEEP O DAUGHTERS, HEAR MY PLEA

I GRIEVE FOR YOU JONATHAN MY
BROTHER,

I WILL NOT SEE YOUR LOVE AGAIN.

YOUR LOVE FOR ME WAS LIKE NO
OTHER,

GREATER EVEN THAN THE LOVE OF
WOMEN.

DAVID

FALLEN, FALLEN ARE THE MEN OF WAR;

THEIR ARMOR LEFT, TO BE USED NO
MORE.

FULL CHORUS

FALLEN, FALLEN ARE THE MEN OF WAR,

THEIR ARMOR LEFT, TO BE USED NO
MORE.

FALLEN, FALLEN, O HOW THE MIGHTY
HAVE FALLEN.

DAVID

(after long pause, kneeling) O God, take care
of my Jonathan...Jonathan, forgive me; I failed
you!

FULL CHORUS: (REPRISE)

LIFE BRINGS JOY, LIFE BRINGS PAIN

LIFE BRINGS LOSS, LIFE BRINGS GAIN

IT'S YOUR LIFE, IT'S A STRIFE

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

(Trumpet tune introduces massive scene, slave girls, merchants, soldiers, townspeople. David enters with adorned purple robe, removes it and dances (?) Seated, single spot on him as music goes into:)

ALL

DAVID, O DAVID KING OVER ALL THE
LAND

DAVID, O DAVID GOD'S FAVORED AND
CHOSEN MAN

FROM THE TIME YOU WERE BARELY A
MAN

YOUR FAME HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT
THE LAND

LIONS AND GIANTS ARE A PART OF
YOUR LORE

YOU TIME HAS COME FOR EVERMORE
REFRAIN ALL

NOW IS THE TIME TO ORDAIN YOU KING

NOW IS THE TIME TO REJOICE AND
SING

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLANT AND TO
BUILD

NOW GOD'S WILL IS FULFILLED
REFRAIN ALL

DAVID

Yours, O lord is the greatness, and the power
and the glory, and the victory and the majesty.
For everything that is in heaven and on earth
is yours. ... (aside) Who am I, that I have
been chosen... I will serve only you O God, all
my days...

(transition as crowd disperses and
audience notices an angry Michal standing
alone waiting to speak to David)

MICHAL

What a great day for the King of Israel,
dancing naked in front of the slave girls like
a fool. When I married you I didn't know what I
was getting.

DAVID

Michal, Michal, Michal! What I did was before
God. An act of celebration, praise and
worship.

MICHAL

Worship? Dancing half-naked?

DAVID

It was my offering, Michal.

MICHAL

I'm sure the slave girls will want to have more
"worship," more "offerings."

DAVID

Please, Michal, please.

MICHAL

(sarcastically) Don't let me ruin your special
day, David.

DAVID

I wanted to share it with you.

MICHAL

Really? You've never wanted to share anything
important with me.

DAVID

(breaking down a little)...please, Michal,
please....

END OF ACT II, INTERMISSION

ACT III - MICHAL AND BATHSHEBA

CHORUS

LIFE BRINGS JOY, LIFE BRINGS PAIN
LIFE BRINGS LOSS, LIFE BRINGS GAIN
IT'S YOUR LIFE, IT'S A STRIFE
WHAT YOU FEEL, WHAT YOU STEAL
JUST A THRILL, JUST A CHILL
LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE
WHO KNOWS WHY, WHO KNOWS WHEN
WHO KNOWS WHO, NOW AND THEN
LOVE WILL STRIKE, LOVE WILL KILL
LOVE BEGINS WITH A THRILL
JEALOUSY YOU CAN SEE, JEALOUSY IS
NEVER FREE
ENVY TOO, JUST FOR YOU, ENVY WILL
CORRUPT YOU TOO
REMEMBER LUST, IT'S A MUST
NEVER TRUST, EVIL LUST
LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE
LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

SOLOMON

MY NAME IS SOLOMON, SON OF DAVID

THERE WAS DRAMA BEFORE I WAS BORN

THERE WAS MADNESS, HURT AND SCORN

JEALOUSY YOU WILL SEE, JEALOUSY IS
NEVER FREE

ENVY TOO, JUST FOR YOU, ENVY WILL
CORRUPT YOU TOO

REMEMBER LUST, IT'S A MUST

NEVER TRUST, EVIL LUST

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

SCENE CHANGE TO A ROOM IN DAVID'S HOUSE

JOAB

It's a beautiful day; spring is definitely in
the air.

DAVID

(David walks him over to the window) (pause
while he looks out, then -)

Look! Do you see that woman over there?

JOAB

Where? Oh, yes...she's naked!...Turn around..
Praise the Lord!

DAVID

She's bathing. I've seen her before. Joab, go
get her!

(sudden and dramatic tympani strike and roll
into CHORUS reprise)

CHORUS

WHO KNOWS WHY, WHO KNOWS WHEN

WHO KNOWS WHO, NOW AND THEN

LOVE WILL STRIKE, LOVE WILL KILL

LOVE BEGINS WITH A THRILL

DAVID

(Bathsheba comes in as Chorus
ends)

Welcome, come in, please. Thank you for coming.
Come, look, I want to show you something (leads
her to window)...you can see that from here I
have a view onto your roof! I wanted to meet
my neighbor!

BATHSHEBA

Oh, yes, I see.

DAVID

I've seen you several times out there...

BATHSHEBA

Really? You're watching me?

DAVID

Yes... Well, no, not "watching" you, but I've
noticed you... a ...few times...But I'm David,
tell me your name!

BATHSHEBA

Bathsheba

DAVID

Bathsheba! A beautiful name...and tell me,
where are you from?

BATHSHEBA

I am the daughter of Eliam; he is a shepherd
like your father.

DAVID

So did you grow up tending sheep?

BATHSHEBA

Yes, I did...

DAVID

I think back on those days sometimes... They seem so wonderful...

BATHSHEBA

Yes, that's true...

DAVID

What did you like the best?

BATHSHEBA

The sheep were all different; I used to give them names.

DAVID

(interrupting) So did I... And naming them was always a challenge...to be sure the name was the right fit!

BATHSHEBA

Yes, yes, yes! ... and some I really liked ...And they knew my voice... I could call to them and they would come...

DAVID

People think the sheep are stupid, but they're very smart...

BATHSHEBA

Yes, sometimes they seem know what you're thinking...there were times I'd get up to lead them, but before I'd do anything they'd start moving in that direction!

DAVID

It always made my brothers mad, because when they had to relieve me the sheep would completely ignore them...

BATHSHEBA

Who's this guy think he is!

DAVID

Right! They were stubborn!

BATHSHEBA

The sad part was... When...it came time to kill them.

DAVID

Yes. (pause) It's hard; ... when I was young I always cried. As I got older I guess I hardened...

BATHSHEBA

I never did; my feelings were too strong or too deep... Too something.... (long pause)

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

(As an aside by both on opposite sides of stage)

DAVID

WHAT'S HAPPENING I KNOW, HASN'T
HAPPENED BEFORE

THE FEELINGS I HAVE, I HAVE TO
EXPLORE

IT'S HARD TO KNOW, SO HARD TO SEE

CAN WHAT I FEEL BE JUST FANTASY

THERE'S NO DENYING, THE PASSION I
FEEL

BUT IS IT LOVE, CAN IT BE REAL?

IT'S DANGEROUS TO RISK, BY JUST
LETTING GO

BUT I'M TOO TAKEN, TO WANT TO SAY
NO

BATHSHEBA

ARE MY DESIRES AS PURE AS THEY
SEEM

OR IS THIS ALL A ROMANTIC DREAM

HOW CAN I LOVE MORE THAN ONE

IS IT FOR REAL OR SIMPLY FOR FUN?

WHEN I SEE YOU NO WORDS CAN
DESCRIBE

ALL THE EMOTIONS I FEEL EXPLODING
INSIDE

YOUR EYES, YOUR LIPS, YOUR CHEEKS,
YOUR SMILE

MAKE MY HEART ACHE TO HOLD YOU
AWHILE

BOTH:

SO IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TRY
SOMETHING NEW

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME AND MY LOVE
FOR YOU

(pause...) So, uh, why did you come to
Jerusalem?

BATHSHEBA

My husband came because ...

DAVID

You're married?

BATHSHEBA

Yes, to Uriah, he's in your army.

DAVID

Married? Is he here?

BATHSHEBA

No, he's up in Hebron with the troops.

DAVID

Why didn't you tell me you're married?

BATHSHEBA

I...

DAVID

I shouldn't have invited you here. I just was curious...about...

BATHSHEBA

There's nothing wrong with meeting...

DAVID

I know, but...

BATHSHEBA

... we do have much in common...

DAVID

But I do think you probably should go...

(Bathsheba exits. David, paces a bit.)

DAVID

(like a prayer) Lord, you search me out and know me; you know when I sit down and when I get up, you know my thoughts before I have them. ...

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

There is nothing that I can say that you don't already know. Take me by the hand and lead me. Please, please help me; lead me.

Enter Joab

Joab: Bathsheba, the woman I was just talking to, she's married to a man named Uriah - do you know him?

JOAB

Uriah? No, - should I?

DAVID

He's in the army. See what you can find out about him. He's up in Hebron.

JOAB

I will do it. Anything else?

DAVID

No... Not now... Thank you.

DAVID MOVES DOWNSTAGE AS JOAB
EXITS

DAVID (REPRISE OF TWO SONGS)

WHAT'S HAPPENING I KNOW, HASN'T
HAPPENED BEFORE

THE FEELINGS I HAVE, I HAVE TO
EXPLORE

IT'S HARD TO KNOW, SO HARD TO SEE

IF THIS IS FOR REAL, OR JUST
FANTASY

MY FEELINGS ARE ALL OUT OF CONTROL

SHOULD I BE SHY OR SHOULD I BE
BOLD

WOULD BEING WITH HER EVER GET OLD?

IF ONLY MY FUTURE COULD BE
FORETOLD

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES

AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

(LIGHTS GO DOWN WHILE CHORUS
SINGS)

FULL CHORUS

IT TAKES MORE THAN PASSION TO MAKE
A LIFE

AND THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT SOME
STRIFE

IT TAKES A LOVE THAT ALWAYS GIVES

AND NO MATTER THE PAIN ALWAYS
FORGIVES

(LIGHTS BACK UP ON DAVID IN ROOM;
JOAB ENTERS)

DAVID
Good morning, Joab!

JOAB

Well, I have found out about that soldier Uriah. He's a good man, apparently, serving us well.

DAVID

He is; well that's good.

(Enter Michal)

Uh... Joab...Listen, one more thing. I want you to investigate the money changers in the Temple. I've had complaints that they are overcharging.

JOAB

Yes, I've heard that too. I'll look into it.
(exits)

MICHAL

I hear you're trying to teach our son how to use a sling.

DAVID

You're never too young to learn. Absalom is so talented and physically gifted too. He reminds me of myself as a kid; he likes to do anything, everything!

MICHAL

He gets it all from you...

DAVID

I love playing with him, and teaching him.

MICHAL

I just hope he doesn't get all of your traits.

DAVID

What?

MICHAL

I hear you've been seeing another woman ... whose husband is... ..away with the army...(silent long pause, as she awaits a response) Well,...it's true, isn't it?

(MORE)

MICHAL (CONT'D)

Do you have any principles? I've tried to live with you, and you know it, and yet...

DAVID

Stop; please...

MICHAL

(increasing energy) When I married you, I wondered what love meant to you. I can take all your concubines... but I hoped you would change... that we could grow together more and more... I hoped that having Absalom would change you -- and now, this Bathsheba - is it true? Is it?

DAVID

I remember...

MICHAL

(interrupting) You remember! I remember... everything...!

DAVID

Yes, you do. ...and there are things I don't understand...

(David moves downstage and to the side and sings.)

HIDDEN THOUGHTS, FORBIDDEN
THOUGHTS,

HIDDEN FEELINGS, FORBIDDEN
FEELINGS

HIDDEN LOVE, FORBIDDEN LOVE,

FORBIDDEN, MY LOVE IS FORBIDDEN

I WISH THE WORLD COULD KNOW

THE FEELINGS I CAN'T SHOW

THE PAIN I FEEL INSIDE

FROM THE TRUTH I HAVE TO HIDE
REFRAIN

THEY'D SAY FORGET YOUR HEART

THEY'D SAY FROM HER TO PART

I DON'T CARE WHAT'S RIGHT OR
WRONG,

IT'S IN HER ARMS THAT I BELONG.
REFRAIN

(David continues)

Michal, we've known each other so long, and I
do love you, and care for you... but you know
all my faults, all my weaknesses...

MICHAL

But you won't admit them...and I'm the only one
who sees them.

DAVID

I'm not sure that's true...

MICHAL

...so you admit that it's true... A married
woman.

DAVID

(says nothing... So Michal storms off. David
paces, then offers the following:)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Where
are you? I pray morning and night, and get
nothing. Please: send me your light and your
truth, that they may lead me... That they may
lead me.

(pause, then he shouts:) Have you forsaken me?
Why?

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

exits opposite way.)

SCENE CHANGE...

BATHSHEBA SITTING IN A ROOM,
DAVID ENTERS AND SAYS:

DAVID

May I come in?

BATHSHEBA

O David! (they embrace) God I've missed you!

DAVID

And I've missed you, my love, and thought of
you every minute!

BATHSHEBA

But you've stayed away for over a week. And
I've ached to see you again. How can love
cause such pain?

DAVID

I'm sorry, I was trying to think.

BATHSHEBA

Whether you love me?

DAVID

No, you know how I love you...things never
happen the way we'd want. We try to control
our lives, but they conspire against us.

BATHSHEBA

Love doesn't know control; love doesn't know
that there are rules.

(music up)

BATHSHEBA:

STANDING HERE I LOOK INTO YOUR
EYES

BURNING WITH YOUR GAZE, ALL ELSE
IS IN A HAZE

I HAVE TO HOLD THIS MOMENT IN MY
HEART

DAVID:

YOU ARE THERE AND YOU'VE SEEN INTO
MY SOUL

AND I CAN SWEETEN THROUGH YOU

I WANT TO MELT RIGHT INTO YOU

AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT NOW IS JUST
THE START

DUET:

DON'T WE BELIEVE THAT IT'S RIGHT
TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

IT SEEMS SO RIGHT IT SIMPLY HAS TO
BE

LOVE IS THE HUMAN TRUTH THAT LASTS
FOREVER

BUT RIGHT OR WRONG YOUR LOVE IS
WHAT I NEED

BATHSHEBA:

I CAN'T LOOK BEYOND THE HERE AND
NOW

I'M UNCOVERED BY YOUR EYES, MY
HEART WITHIN ME FLIES

I'LL LET IT GO AND FLY RIGHT TO
YOUR SIDE

DAVID:

THOUGH WE KNOW IT'S ALL FORBIDDEN
FRUIT

I CAN FEEL YOUR LOVELY TOUCH,

I WANT TO HOLD YOU CLOSE SO MUCH

THIS LOVE INSIDE US SHOULDN'T HAVE
TO HIDE

RIGHT OR WRONG YOU LOVE ME, I LOVE
YOU

DAVID

Life always comes as an unexpected surprise,
doesn't it?

BATHSHEBA

And with circumstances and choices and
consequences...

DAVID

I'm not the person I like to think I am.

BATHSHEBA

Love confuses reason...

DAVID

I suppose...and passion overpowers it...Reason,
passion... some things we can control, and some
we can't...

BATHSHEBA

I'm sorry. It's my fault as much as yours.

DAVID

(back to his own thoughts) The things we can
control, the things we can't control, the
things we should control... God never offers
easy choices.

BATHSHEBA

These aren't God's choices! - God didn't send
for me that first day, you did.

DAVID

I know, but now that we've opened the door, I
can't close it... what do I do, what do we do?
Sometimes I am not too smart.

BATHSHEBA

We could both be smarter.

(Bathsheba takes her hand and pats her
stomach.)

There's a child inside.

(David looks at her, then kneels and
embraces her legs. Slowly she pulls away
from him.)

DAVID

A child... a child? Ours? You're sure?

BATHSHEBA

Of course I am, Uriah's been off with the army
for three months.

DAVID

There's no way out...

(upset and thinking, pacing, yells at full
voice offstage)

Joab! Come, Joab!

(Joab enters) (David, now in control,
says:)

Joab, go find Uriah, and bring him home. Tell
him he can spend the night with his wife.

MUSIC INTRO TO NEXT SONG AS
TRAVELING MUSIC

SCENE CHANGE... (JOAB GOES ACROSS DOWNSTAGE TO FIND URIAH)

JOAB

Uriah, my man, your luck has turned. The King
has given you permission to come home to your
wife for a day... and a night!

URIAH

Really? A home visit!

JOAB

Yes. (intimating sex) You know the King knows
what it's like to be apart from a woman for too
long...

(this is a comical song, intended to
provide comic relief)

REFRAIN (SUNG FIRST TIME BY JOAB)

LOVING COUPLES DO NOT EVER MISS

ANY CHANCE FOR CONJUGAL BLISS!

INDOORS OUTDOORS DAY OR NIGHTTIME

IT'S GOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

YES THAT'S THE PRIVILEGE THAT'S
THE PLEASURE

OF THE MARITAL ROLE

WHEN ADAM MET EVE FOR THE VERY
FIRST TIME

WHEN ABRAHAM AND SARAH WERE PAST
THEIR PRIME

WHEN JACOB SAID TO RACHEL "YOU ARE
MINE"

WHAT DID THEY DO? YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY DID!

WHEN SODOM AND GOMORRAH WERE GOING
STRONG

WHEN NO ONE SEEMED TO KNOW RIGHT
FROM WRONG

WHEN MEN WERE WHERE THEY DID NOT
BELONG

WHAT DID THEY DO? YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY DID!

FULL CHORUS REFRAIN

LOVING COUPLES DO NOT EVER MISS
ANY CHANCE FOR INTIMATE BLISS
INDOORS OUTDOORS DAY OR NIGHTTIME
IT'S GOOD WITH CANDLES AND WINE
YES THAT'S THE PLEASURE, THAT'S
THE TREASURE
THAT THEY HOPE TO FIND

Witch of Endor enters (comical
spooky) (smoke machines,
etc.)....(song slows tempo..)

WHEN THE MEN ARE PROWLING, LADIES
BEWARE!

NEVER LET THEM SEE YOUR UNDERWEAR!

WHEY THEY START TO FLATTER AND
YOUR SPACE TO HAUNT

WHAT DO THEY WANT? YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY WANT! FULL CHORUS

(Joab continues) So Uriah, you go on home and see Bathsheba, and enjoy yourself! (Uriah exits)

(SO LIGHTS BACK UP UPSTAGE WHERE
DAVID IS STILL SITTING. JOAB
CROSSES BACK UP TO WHERE DAVID
IS.)

DAVID
(Joab enters)

Well, what happened with Uriah.

JOAB
I brought him home and told him you were proud of him and wanted him to have a visit with his wife...

DAVID
When was this?

JOAB
Yesterday. But, you won't believe this...this morning, he came and thanked me for his visit, but he didn't sleep with her! He said, "All of the troops are out in the field, and so how could I go enjoy the pleasures of my wife? I just couldn't do it! So, I spent the night with the troops at the barracks."

DAVID
He went down to the barracks?! (PAUSE) All right, listen Joab, (PAUSE) (then sternly) send him back to the front. You take him yourself, put him on the front lines, where the fighting is fiercest. (pause) He had his chance...

(Joab exits)
O GOD...I need your strength...forgive Me...

SCENE CHANGE, TIME PASSES

DAVID

I can tell you're thinking about something...
What is it...

BATHSHEBA

I'm not thinking about anything, really... Just
this life that is happening inside of me...but
what are you thinking about...

DAVID

Something I think about often...Was it I,
David, that you loved? ...or was it the idea of
the King of Israel?

BATHSHEBA

It's hard to separate... It's all like a dream.

DAVID

But now we're waking up to who we are, ... what
we've done...

BATHSHEBA

I woke up a long time ago...but it's still an
unreal world.

DAVID

No matter how it began, the test is not what we
want, but what God wants us to do.

BATHSHEBA

It's little late for that, don't you think? You
expect God to rescue us?

DAVID

No, I mean we have to somehow be open to
something more than our own desires...

BATHSHEBA

We should have thought of that sooner...

(messenger enters)

MESSENGER

Excuse me, my Lord. I bring greetings from the front lines, in a recent attack at Joppa there was great loss of life. On orders from Joab, Officer Uriah and his men were sent in. Uriah and seven others were killed.

BATHSHEBA

David! ... (she slumps down in a chair, head in her hands)

DAVID

(to messenger)

You are certain?

MESSENGER

Yes, my Lord.

DAVID

That will be all.

(messenger exits)

(David walks to Bathsheba who is overcome)

BATHSHEBA

O, David. (crying) What have I done? Please, forgive me, I must go.

(she hugs him and leaves)

DAVID

(as prayer) O God, nothing in my life is hidden from you. Save me, for the waters are up to my neck and I am drowning... please do not leave me alone because I am lost.

(Lights down and up)

LIGHTS UP ON BATHSHEBA DOWNSTAGE

BATHSHEBA

HELLO GOD, I SAY HELLO GOD

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WILL KNOW MY
VOICE

I KNOW THERE ARE OTHERS WHO CALL
ON YOU

TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO -

EVERYONE TRYING, HEARTS CRYING,
LIVES DYING,

TO GET SOMEWHERE, JUST ANYWHERE,
BY CALLING YOU

BUT I JUST WANT TO KNOW

DO I GET TO BE ME

OR DID YOU DECIDE

FROM ALL ETERNITY

HELLO GOD, IT'S JUST I AND

I ONLY WANT TO KNOW

DO I GET TO HAVE MY HOPES AND
DREAMS

FASHION A LIFE THE WAY IT SEEMS

OR IS IT ALL A COSMIC CHARADE

WHERE YOU DECIDE WHAT CARDS ARE
PLAYED

BECAUSE HELLO, I JUST WANT TO KNOW

DO I GET TO CHOOSE, TO PLAN

OR HAVE YOU ALREADY DONE IT FOR ME

I'VE SEEN SO MANY WHO TRIED SO
HARD

AND SOME HAVE LIVED A GOOD LONG
LIFE

SOME HAVE KNOWN ONLY PAIN AND
STRIFE

SOME HAVE BEEN BLESSED, WITH GREAT
HAPPINESS

OTHERS JUST PAIN, STRUGGLING IN
VAIN

I WONDER IF, YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST

SO, HELLO GOD, I JUST WANT TO KNOW

WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE DOWN HERE
BELOW

DOES ANYONE KNOW OR IS THIS JUST A
SHOW, I JUST WANT TO KNOW

IS IT UP TO ME, OR HAVE YOU
PLANNED ALL ETERNITY

HELLO GOD, I JUST WANT TO KNOW

(Michal enters upstage with David)

MICHAL

(sarcastic) Well, what a great day for the King
of Israel...so now you can marry her... You get
everything you want, don't you... How many
wives does that make for you? Love has many
faces for you.

DAVID

No, I don't get everything I want... I don't
even know what I want...

MICHAL

Well, you can now have her too...(sarcastic)
 you can make the immoral moral, the illegal
 legal...and I hope you feel good about it.
 ...Who am I to you, anyway, what role do I
 play? Am I the pitied one? Is that who I am?
 (she exits)

DAVID

(prayer-like) O God, my God, since I have
 abandoned you...can I even pray to you now...

CHORUS

WHO KNOWS WHY, WHO KNOWS WHEN

WHO KNOWS WHO, NOW AND THEN

REMEMBER LUST, IT'S A MUST

NEVER TRUST, EVIL LUST

Bathsheba enters at the end of the
 Chorus song...

BATHSHEBA

I can't stop feeling bad, empty, guilty. We
 have to find a way to...

DAVID

There are... There must be some things... For
 which there is no forgiveness... the guilt must
 be carried forever... I've broken hearts
 before, not like this, but I've done this
 before...

(Bathsheba comes down stage and sings.)

FROM NOW ON THERE'S A DIFFERENT
 LIFE,

A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

I USED TO FEEL THERE WAS NO
TOMORROW, NOW WE ARE ONE

FROM NOW ON THERE IS MORE TO A
DREAM THAN ENTERTAINS IDLE THOUGHT

DREAMS ARE THE SEEDS OF A LIFE
TOGETHER, NOW WE ARE ONE.

AND ONE IS SHARING SOLITUDE, LOVE
TRANSCENDS THE CHANGING MOOD,

CEMENTS THE BOND, PROVIDES THE
FOOD.

FROM NOW ON THERE'S ANOTHER REWARD
FOR LIVING A LIFE OF LOVE

ONCE WE WERE TWO LOOKING FOR EACH
OTHER NOW WE ARE ONE.

AND ONE IS JOINING EACH A DREAM,
LOVE DIRECTS THE CHANGING SCENE
AND NEEDLESS PAIN WILL NEVER BE.

FROM NOW ON THERE'S A DIFFERENT
LIFE, A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

BATHSHEBA EXITS, LIGHTS DOWN

(scene shifts back upstage to
david. Joab enters followed by
nathan)

JOAB

Pardon me, my Lord. The prophet Nathan is here
and wants to see you.

NATHAN

(Joab exits). David, this is difficult for me,
so first let me tell you a story.

DAVID

Please do.

NATHAN

Once there was a rich man and he had a large flock of sheep. The rich man had a servant. The servant was poor, and so he had only one small lamb. But that lamb was like a child to him. It stood by the table, and ate from his plate, and drank from his cup. One day the rich man had some guests come for a meal. But rather than feed them from his large flock of sheep, he took that one lamb from his servant and served it to his guests.

(interrupting)

DAVID

That man deserves to die!

NATHAN

David!.. You are this man! You can have all the women you want, and yet... you have taken Bathsheba, and killed her husband with the sword of your enemies. God will not allow that child to live.

DAVID

Oh no... Yes, yes. I sinned in the sweet and innocent name of love, and I had hoped to hide it all. My lips are not clean, yet with them I beg forgiveness.

(song intro makes transition to Bathsheba
up in lights downstage singing to baby)

BATHSHEBA

BRING A RAY OF SUNSHINE TO YOUR
NEIGHBOR

WHETHER SKIES ABOVE ARE GRAY OR
BLUE

TAKE A LITTLE TIME AND YOU WILL
FIND MY FRIEND

IN THE END THAT SUNSHINE COMES
RIGHT BACK TO YOU.

FOR LIFE IS IN THE MOMENTS THAT
COME TO YOU AND ME

BUT WE MUST LOOK TO SEE, ALL THAT
LIFE CAN BE,

A GENTLE TOUCH, THE LAUGH OF A
CHILD,

A WORD OF LOVE, A GENTLE SMILE

THE JOY OF EACH MOMENT CAN BE
FOUND

THE HEARTBEAT OF LIFE IS ALL
AROUND REFRAIN

(when song is over action returns to
David)

NATHAN

The child...will die. (exits)

DAVID

(takes a moment to take it in...breaking down
says:)

Have mercy on me, O God, for I know what I have
done. Wash me through and through. Create in
me a clean heart, and renew your spirit in me.
A broken and guilty heart is all I have.....

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

O God, please do not punish this child, or his
mother, for the wrongs of his father.

Music introduction shifts action
down to Michal, Bathsheba and then
David - trio solo -

MICHAL:

I THOUGHT I WAS HIS

HOPED HE WAS MINE

IT BEGAN LONG AGO

WITH THE JOY WE KNOW

I NEVER KNEW WHAT COULD I DO

WITH THE HEART, WHERE DOES IT
START

THERE'RE MANY THINGS I'VE HEARD

AT FIRST IT WAS CLEAR NOW ITS
BLURRED

HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW,

LOVE IS GONE BUT NOT THE SORROW

IS LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN A
MORNING FOG

THAT GOES QUICKLY AWAY, LIKE A
BURNING LOG

WHOSE ASHES LEAVE A WOUND INSIDE,

THAT WILL NOT HEAL, THAT WE HAVE
TO HIDE

DOESN'T IT LEAVE A SCAR ON THE
HEART,

A LIFE-LONG REMINDER THAT WE'RE
APART

(FOREVER
REMEMBER
OFFSTAGE?)

DAVID:

WHO AM I NOW? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHY'D I BETRAY TO HAVE MY SAY

I NEVER MEANT HER HEART TO REND

I THOUGHT I WOULD, BECAUSE I
COULD,

I USED LOVE'S PASSION TO GET MY
WAY

I DIDN'T BELIEVE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
SOME DAY

IT'S A GAME THAT'S PLAYED,

WHERE FEELINGS AREN'T WEIGHED

IT'S A GAME THAT'S PLAYED

AND SIN IS REPAID

I NEED TO LOVE, I WANT TO LOVE

TO FEEL THE BEAT, TO KNOW THE
HEAT,

TO KNOW MY HEART IS ALIVE

TO WANT, TO NEED, TO HOLD THE
OTHER

BUT I'VE BROKEN THE RULES,

AND I'VE BROKEN A HEART

CAN I ASK FORGIVENESS, WHERE DO I
START?

YOU THINK YOU CAN CHEAT, YOU THINK
YOU CAN LIE,

BUT THEN COMES THE PAIN, WITH THE
HURT THAT WON'T DIE

AND THEN YOU PAY AND YOU PAY EVERY
DAY

SOME THINGS NEVER HEAL, SOME
THINGS ARE TOO REAL

THEY ALL HURT YOU AT THE END OF
THE DAY

HURT AND REGRET YOU CAN'T REPLAY

BATHSHEBA

MY CHILD IS DEAD; MY CHILD HAS
DIED;

I FEEL LIKE A GHOST EMPTY INSIDE

A SHADOW AT BEST OF WHAT I'VE BEEN

WHAT DO I DO? HOW DO I LIVE?

NO HOPE INSIDE, NOTHING TO GIVE.

WOULD I HAD DIED; SWALLOWED MY
PRIDE

STOOD TALL ALONE WITH NOTHING TO
HIDE

HELP ME HOLD ON, GOD HELP ME MOVE
ON

BLESS ME SOMEHOW, WITH SOME HOPE
NOW

IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS, WHAT BEGAN
WITH A KISS

I WILL NOT DESPAIR, THAT IS MY
PRAYER

I HAVE NO PLAN, BUT PLEASE TAKE MY
HAND,

I WANT TO GROW, SO I HAVE TO GO

BEYOND MY FEARS, BEYOND MY TEARS,

I HAVE TO BREAK OUT FROM ALL MY
DOUBT

NO LONGER NAIVE, I STILL WANT TO
BELIEVE

I WILL BELIEVE, I WILL LIVE ON.

CURTAIN, END OF ACT III
INTERMISSION

ACT IV: ABSALOM AND SOLOMON 26 YEARS LATER

CURTAIN UP ON CHORUS AND SOLOMON -

CHORUS

WHEN DOES IT ALL BEGIN

IS IT NOW WAS IT THEN

LIFE BRINGS JOY, LIFE BRINGS PAIN

LIFE BRINGS LOSS, LIFE BRINGS GAIN

((IT'S YOUR LIFE, LIFE'S A STRIFE

WHAT YOU FEEL, WHAT YOU STEAL

JUST A THRILL, JUST A CHILL

LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE))

SOLOMON

SOLOMON IS MY NAME

MY FATHER HAS ADVANCED IN AGE

((NOW HIS SONS WILL TAKE THE STAGE

TO TELL THE TALE UNTIL THE END

WITH SO MUCH TO COMPREHEND))

MY BROTHER AND I GROWN AT LAST

WITH DIFFERENT MOTHERS FORM THE
CAST

EVERY MOTHER WANTS HER SON

TO BE THE FAVORED CHOSEN ONE

JEALOUSY YOU WILL SEE, JEALOUSY IS
NEVER FREE

ENVY TOO, JUST FOR YOU, ENVY WILL
CORRUPT YOU TOO

LOVE LOVE LOVE, LOVE LOVE LOVE

(Light warms on David again where he was
before the trio on his knees head down in
prayer. When he lifts his head we see
the gray hair of an aging David. He
sings Psalm 23)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, AND ALL I
NEED

HE GIVES ME A WORLD WITH GREEN
PASTURES

HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS THAT I
SHOULD WALK

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

YES WHEN I WALK

THROUGH THE VALLEY WITH DARKNESS
AND DEATH ALL AROUND

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

FOR YOU ARE WITH ME

YOUR PRESENCE ALWAYS COMFORTS ME

YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

YOU ANOINT MY HEARD WITH OIL

MY CUP RUNS OVER

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL
FOLLOW ME

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

AND I WILL LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF
THE LORD FOREVER.

CHORUS

ABSALOM, ABSALOM,

DAVID'S SON, DAVID'S SON

WHO WOULD THINK WHO WOULD KNOW

WHAT HE'D TRY WHERE HE'D GO

ABSALOM, ABSALOM

WHO SAYS WHAT, WHO SAYS WHY

WHO'S WITH YOU, SHOULD YOU TRY

IS POWER REAL, OR ILLUSION

YOU DON'T KNOW THE CONCLUSION

DAVID'S KING, DON'T FORGET

OTHERS HAVE WITH REGRET

DAVID, O DAVID, KING OVER ALL THE
LAND

DAVID, O DAVID, GOD'S FAVORED AND
CHOSEN MAN

Scene change (David and Absalom in a sword
duel, David gets advantage)

DAVID

Absalom, Absalom! No, no, no! I've told you -
never overextend... You leave yourself
vulnerable when you do that!

(they resume dueling and Absalom knocks sword
out of David's hand)

But, well done, Absalom, you've become a real
swordsmen! I'm proud of you!

(Absalom picks up David's sword)

(Solomon enters)

SOLOMON

It could be luck!

ABSALOM

If that's what you think, try your luck
Solomon!

(Throws him David's sword)

SOLOMON

I was teasing, Absalom.

ABSALOM

So am I. Come on, try your luck, brother!

SOLOMON

I don't want to fight anyone, (with sarcasm)
especially my big brother! (looks at sword)
Where did this blood come from?

ABSALOM

Blood? (lowers his sword to look)

SOLOMON

(quickly making a touche) The winner! (then he
jumps behind David)

ABSALOM

Why you...why don't you go think great thoughts
- you won't get hurt doing that..

SOLOMON

Sometimes thoughts are stronger than swords.

DAVID

Stop, boys! That's enough of that!

SOLOMON

(hands up) Hey, my fault... I was just on my way to the Temple. (exits)

ABSALOM

Enough.. for today...But not good enough...

DAVID

Not good enough?

ABSALOM

You won't give me any responsibility...Joab says no one is more prepared than me...

DAVID

Joab would know, and you know how I love you...but power can be intoxicating, and I'm afraid it might be for you.

ABSALOM

What?

DAVID

Your time will come. When I was young I made mistakes.

ABSALOM

Everyone makes mistakes...

DAVID

...And some I carry inside as sadness and regret that never goes away. (pause) I killed Goliath. But the real giants are inside us...

ABSALOM

(Not really listening) You don't think I could handle that Northern area...

DAVID

(still in his thoughts)...They never die - they keep coming back - again and again.

ABSALOM

You were younger than I am when you became King.

DAVID

It should have been Jonathan...

ABSALOM

Who?

DAVID

My best friend....

LIGHTS DOWN AND THEN BACK UP

SCENE CHANGE... DAVID'S ROOM: SOLOMON AND DAVID ARE SHOOTING DICE

JOAB ENTERS

JOAB

My lord, there are two women outside who were fighting. Each claims to be the mother of the same infant.

DAVID

Ask their husbands if the child is theirs.

JOAB

I did. They agree with their wives.

DAVID

What do you think, Joab?

SOLOMON

Wait... let's tell them that we will cut the child in half, and give each of them half. If either mother agrees with that solution, we will know she's not the mother.

DAVID

Great idea! (with enthusiasm) Go ahead and try that.

JOAB AND SOLOMON (EXIT)

ABSALOM DOWNSTAGE

I HAD TO DO IT, AND SO I DID IT
AMNON RAPED MY SISTER, MY SISTER TAMAR
SO I KILLED MY BROTHER, (YES) HE WAS MY HALF BROTHER
BUT HE RAPED MY SISTER, YES HE RAPED MY SISTER

HER HONOR GONE, HER LIFE DEFILED
NO DEATH FOR HIM COULD BE AS VILE
I HAD TO AVENGE IT AND SO I DID IT
I DON'T REGRET IT, (NO) NOT ONE BIT

NOW I HAVE TO FLEE, BEFORE MY FATHER FINDS ME
I CAN NOT WAIT OR IT'LL SEAL MY FATE
DAVID WOULD NOT ACT AND SO I DID
NOW HE'LL COME FOR ME WITH NO SYMPATHY
WHERE I GO, HE'LL NOT KNOW
SO I WILL FLEE WHERE HE WON'T FIND ME

I HAD TO DO IT, AND SO I DID IT
HE RAPED TAMAR, SO I'LL HAVE TO GO FAR
BUT HE RAPED MY SISTER, YES HE RAPED MY SISTER
SO I KILLED MY BROTHER, HE WAS MY HALF BROTHER

SCENE CHANGE: DAVID AND BATHSHEBA THREE YEARS LATER

BATHSHEBA

I have been thinking about our son Solomon.

DAVID

What about him?

BATHSHEBA

I think he should succeed you when the time comes. You know how even tempered he is, how thoughtful, wise.

DAVID

Adonijah's the logical heir, but he's not the one.

BATHSHEBA

Absalom disqualified himself by what he's done, and now he's hiding out in the hills. He wasn't willing to face you or the consequences of his own action.

DAVID

The boys are all different, but he's so gifted.

BATHSHEBA

He reminds you of yourself, doesn't he?

DAVID

We all make mistakes.

(LIGHTS DOWN AND UP SLOWLY)

DAVID

Joab, how long has Absalom been gone.

JOAB

I don't know, about two years, don't you think?

DAVID

Yes, I think it's time for us to bring him home. Go find him, and tell him that we have forgiven him, and that I want him back.

JOAB

Many of us have been waiting for this day, and I know how you love him.

DAVID

No matter what happens, I want him to come home.

CHORUS

ABSALOM, ABSALOM,

DAVID'S SON, DAVID'S SON

WHO WOULD THINK WHO WOULD KNOW

WHAT HE WOULD TRY WHERE HE'D GO
ABSALOM, ABSALOM
WHO SAYS WHAT, WHO SAYS WHY
WHO'S WITH YOU, SHOULD YOU TRY
IS POWER REAL, OR JUST ILLUSION
YOU DON'T KNOW THE CONCLUSION
DAVID'S KING, DON'T FORGET
OTHERS HAVE WITH REGRET

SCENE CHANGE, DAVID AND MICHAL

MICHAL

I heard you were looking for me.

DAVID

Yes. I sent Joab out to find Absalom and to tell him we want him back here, with us.

MICHAL

Really!

(rushes up and hugs him)

I can't believe it. I'm so happy. But what will you do to him?

DAVID

Nothing. I told Joab to tell him he is forgiven, and to come home. What he did was wrong; but if we cannot love and forgive as a family, how can we live as a country?

MICHAL

But what if he doesn't want to come back?

DAVID

I'm sure he loves and misses us as we miss him. He'll trust Joab and he'll trust me.

SOLOMON

SCENE II BATHSHEBA IN HER ROOM, MICHAL ENTERS

MICHAL

You've heard Absalom is coming back.

BATHSHEBA

Yes, I've heard it; David told me himself.

MICHAL

So...I understand you're trying to manipulate things.

BATHSHEBA

Manipulate?

MICHAL

Yes.. and I know what you're doing.

BATHSHEBA

What are you talking about?

MICHAL

You know what I'm talking about. You're jealous of Absalom. Everyone knows the people all love him - he's like his father. He's a natural leader.

BATHSHEBA

So, what's the point?

MICHAL

I've heard it from others. You want Solomon to succeed David.

BATHSHEBA

David has other sons. I can't tell him what to do...

MICHAL

But you want your Solomon to succeed him.

BATHSHEBA

What are you talking about? He's not the oldest.

MICHAL

I know what they say.

BATHSHEBA

"They" say?

MICHAL

That you're always talking about how "Solomon is smarter," "Solomon is kinder..." And you know that Absalom is the obvious choice. That's why David sent for him.

BATHSHEBA

He is a murderer; does that make him the obvious choice?

MICHAL

He's the only one who had the courage to avenge his sister's honor.

BATHSHEBA

So killing is an honorable thing?

MICHAL

Courage, leadership, honor and duty - that's what Absalom represents.

BATHSHEBA

But not kindness, and compassion, and...

MICHAL

God demands justice. Absalom is strong; Solomon is weak. You know it, I know it, and David knows it.

BATHSHEBA

Is this about our boys, or is this about us?

MICHAL

David and I grew up together; I know him better than you'll ever know him.

BATHSHEBA

Really?

MICHAL

I am Saul's daughter but you're just a
shepherd's daughter.

BATHSHEBA

Yes, and David is just a shepherd's son.
(Michal leaves.)

(lights up on Absalom)

ABSALOM

I'VE JUST BEGUN TO LIVE

SO MUCH TO TAKE, SO MUCH TO GIVE

IT'S ALL BEFORE ME, LIFE'S JUST
BEGUN I CAN REACH THE STARS, I CAN
TOUCH THE SUN.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH WAY THE
WIND WILL BLOW

I CAN CHOOSE WHERE THE ROAD WILL
GO

I CAN STAND ALONE, I'LL MAKE IT ON
MY OWN

AND I'LL LET NOTHING STAND IN MY
WAY

I'LL MAKE MY OWN FUTURE, STARTING
TODAY.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF STANDING ALONE

I'LL MAKE IT OWN MY OWN

REPEAT REFRAIN

SCENE CONTINUES WITH ABSALOM COMING UP TO SOLOMON

SOLOMON

Absalom! I heard you were back! How are you?

ABSALOM

I'm glad to be home. Our father said that he'd forgiven what I did. But I think I did the right thing.

SOLOMON

We don't get to decide what justice is - except in our own eyes. But, what are your plans?

ABSALOM

I'm rejoining my old army group. I hope that I'll be given some responsibility now.

SOLOMON

Good luck!

Solomon exits one way, while
Absalom goes across and downstage
to a group of men who recognize
him.

GROUP OF MEN

(all speaking at the same time) Hey Absalom,
Hi, look who's here, welcome!

ABSALOM

What are you talking about!

MAN 1

Our sheep all pasture together and at the end of the day, we take our own. But his neighbor has been taking some of his.

ABSALOM

Really?

MAN 2

Yes. At first I tried to be a good neighbor. Finally, I had to bring him to court, but the judge didn't believe me.

ABSALOM

That's terrible! If I were in charge, I would see to it that you got justice.

MAN 2

Absalom, many of us wish you were in charge.

SOLOMON AND DAVID DOWNSTAGE
TALKING

DAVID

Do you remember years ago, when Joab had the baby with two women each claiming to be its mother?

SOLOMON

Oh yes; I suggested that they cut the baby in half and give each mother half.

DAVID

So, what happened?

SOLOMON

As soon as I proposed it, one mother said "yes," but the other burst into tears. So, of course we gave the child to her.

DAVID

I was thinking about that.. Our first child did die. It broke your mother's heart. But now I think the time has come. I want you to succeed me as King.

SOLOMON

(unbelieving) Are you sure?

DAVID

Yes.

SOLOMON

But am I the right choice? What about Adonijah? he's the oldest!

DAVID

This needs to be done before there are any questions like that.

SOLOMON

But Absalom is older too, and he's so popular.

DAVID

I've thought about it many nights. And Michal keeps reminding me that he's Saul's grandson.

SOLOMON

WILL I KNOW WHAT I AM TO DO
WITH EV'RY DAY A DIFFERENT CLUE
MOTHERS AND BROTHERS ALL TOGETHER
RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD NOT SEVER
AND HIS MOTHER WANTS MY BROTHER

THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE IN MY FAM'LY
NOTHING I KNOW BUT RIVALRY
CAN WE NOT LOVE, CAN WE NOT CARE
CAN WE NOT TRY, CAN WE NOT DARE?

I MUST ALWAYS CHOOSE TO LOVE
FORGIVING'S NOT JUST FROM ABOVE
IF WE CAN'T LOVE OUR VERY OWN
IT'LL BE OUR FUTURE THAT WE BEMOAN

SCENE CHANGE, ABSALOM AND OTHERS
(a group of men are talking and Absalom
walks by)

MAN 1

Absalom, come here please.

ABSALOM

What are you talking about?

MAN 1

The king has raised the taxes again on us, but
not on the merchants.

ABSALOM

If I were in charge I'd be sure that the taxes
were fair. The merchants should pay more.

MAN 2

I hope your day will come!

SCENE CHANGE, LIGHTS UP ON
SOLOMON DOWNSTAGE

DAVID

So, I'm going to announce it soon.

SOLOMON

I will do whatever you say, and pray that God
is with me.

DAVID

We have choices every day... and they determine
who we become, and what our memories will be.
I've often learned the hard way.

SOLOMON

Doesn't everyone?

DAVID

Yes, but the temptation always begins with what
"I" want... Do you know how sheep get lost?
They don't do it on purpose, they nibble their
way, little by little by little they nibble,
until they're lost.

SOLOMON

But we have choices...

DAVID

The wrong choice is usually easy and tempting,
and so we nibble... and nibble...

SOLOMON

And lose our way?

DAVID

Yes ...it's like Urim and Thummim: (pretends to
roll dice) we never get the rolls we want - so
we nibble, and nibble

SOLOMON

But look what you've done!

DAVID

Yes, but real winning is not about power or
battles, it is about unifying a people...

SOLOMON

Is that what you meant... about Absalom?

DAVID

Yes, it's always true - seek for yourself and
you may achieve many things, but you will end
up destroying yourself...

SOLOMON

You sound like Moses.

DAVID

Moses gave us our laws, but they are really
about making choices, to love God and love our
neighbors... Old, young, rich, poor. We all
have the same number - the same number! - of
hours in the day --and how we use them will
determine what life we end up with.

SOLOMON

You've said that before.

DAVID

Words are just words until we live them.
Knowing and choosing are two different
things...

(Across stage, new scene)

ABSALOM

(CHORUS, ABSALOM FIRST TIME ALONE)

THE WORLD OF POLITICS THE WORLD OF
POWER,

THE TIME IS COMING IT WILL BE MY
HOUR

TO LEAD THE PEOPLE YOU TAKE
CONTROL

IF SOME MUST DIE, WELL THEN THAT'S
THE TOLL

ABSALOM:

DAVID HAS APPEAL, THE PEOPLE ALL
LOVE HIM

I WILL WAIT UNTIL HIS SUPPORT IS
SLIM

I KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO

AND I PLAN TO SUCCEED BEFORE I'M
THROUGH FULL CHORUS REFRAIN

ABSALOM:

DAVID PRAYS TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE
EACH DAY

HOPING HE'LL HELP HIM ALONG SOME
WAY

GOD MAY RULE THE HEAVENS ON HIGH

BUT I'M GOING TO RULE WHAT'S UNDER
HIS SKY. FULL CHORUS REFRAIN

FULL CHORUS

ABSALOM, DAVID'S SON

DAVID'S SON, ABSALOM

WHO WOULD KNOW, WHO KNOWS WHY

HE WOULD TRY HE WOULD LIE

STEAL THE THRONE, BETRAY HIS OWN

ABSALOM, ABSALOM,

DAVID'S SON, DAVID'S SON

DELUSION NOW CONCLUSION WHEN

DAVID'S MEN FIGHT AGAIN

PRIDE COMES FIRST, THEN THE FALL

YOU SHOULD NEVER WAGER ALL

DAVID

Is it true? Is it true?

JOAB

Yes. Absalom is leading a revolution. He's
taken some officers with him and has the
northern area in his control, and they are all
marching this way.

DAVID

He asked me if he could go to Hebron. I said,
 "yes." I had no idea what he was planning. My
 own son! Revolting against me. How can this
 be? How I have failed!

REFRAIN (DAVID ALONE)

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW, THE WAY A
 PARENT FEELS,

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW THE WAY A
 PARENT LOVES,

ABSALOM THINKS ITS A THRONE HE
 STEALS,

BUT CROWNS DON'T BREAK THE WAY A
 HEART DOES,

A CHILD CAN NEVER KNOW.

DAVID

LUST FOR POWER GREED FOR GAIN

IT'S NOT JUST KINGS WHO FEEL THE
 PAIN

FAMILIES ARE BROKEN JUST LIKE MINE

BY THOSE WHO WANT MORE ALL THE
 TIME REFRAIN

DAVID

IS IT WORTH A BROKEN HEART TO GAIN
 A GOAL?

IS SUCCESS WORTH HAVING IF IT COST
 YOUR SOUL?

WHAT IT IS WORTH, EACH PERSON MUST
SAY

WE TELL WITH OUR LIFE EVERY DAY_
FULL CHORUS REFRAIN

(Bathsheba enters, runs and hugs David)

I told Absalom a few days ago that Solomon
would follow me, and this is his response.

BATHSHEBA
What's going to happen?

DAVID
What happens is in God's hands...(firmly) And
in ours. We shall see.

(Joab enters)
Joab, we must retreat... We cannot let this
city of Jerusalem be attacked. Ready the army,
we will retreat.

HUSHAI
(comes up to the king)
David, my king, let me come with you.

DAVID
No. This isn't your fight. Stay here. Maybe
you can serve me better by staying here.

HUSHAI
I'll do that!

(Joab leaves; David to Bathsheba)
Absalom, my son, my son... The lamb that ate
from my plate, and drank from my dish. How I
have failed him!

CHORUS

FULL CHORUS

O JERUSALEM! O JERUSALEM!

WE STOP AND WE WEEP WHEN WE THINK
OF YOU

A CITY TORN AND DIVIDED IN TWO

O JERUSALEM!

O SADDEST DAY! O SADDEST HOUR!

WHEN A FATHER AND SON MUST FIGHT
FOR POWER

A FAMILY TORN AND DIVIDED IN TWO.

O SADDEST HOUR!

THE GREATEST LEADER WE HAVE EVER
KNOWN,

IS FORCED TO FLEE BY HIS VERY OWN

IS ABSALOM DOOMED IS HIS FATE SURE

DOES GOD LOVE DAVID WILL HE ENDURE

O ISRAEL! O ISRAEL!

IS THE REIGN OF DAVID THROUGH

A NATION TORN AND DIVIDED IN TWO!

O ISRAEL!

(withdrawal, David, Bathsheba, Joab
leaving...)

SCENE CHANGE TO ABSALOM

ABSALOM

What is the latest with my father?

SOLDIER

He has fled to the east.

ABSALOM

Are you certain?

SOLDIER

Yes, I saw the King and all his followers
leaving the city across the Kidron Valley.

ABSALOM

Should we go after them right now?

SOLDIER

Yes. They are on the run, and so it should be
an easy victory for us.

HUSHAI

I disagree. David is very smart. If you attack
too soon, and lose, everyone will desert you. I
suggest you wait until all your supporters are
here. Then you can attack him and know victory
for certain.

ABSALOM

I think that advice is the best; for once I'll
try to be patient.

CHORUS

ABSALOM, DAVID'S SON

DAVID'S SON, ABSALOM

WHO WOULD KNOW, WHO KNOWS WHY

HE WOULD TRY HE WOULD LIE

STEAL THE THRONE, BETRAY HIS OWN

ABSALOM, ABSALOM,

DAVID'S SON, DAVID'S SON

DELUSION NOW CONCLUSION WHEN

DAVID'S MEN FIGHT AGAIN

PRIDE COMES FIRST, THEN THE FALL

YOU SHOULD NEVER WAGER ALL

SCENE CHANGE - DAVID AND JOAB

DAVID

(as Joab comes in)

What is going on today, anything?

JOAB

Yes, Absalom is leading his army out of the city to find us.

DAVID

So, we'll divide into three groups. I'll be at the foot of the hill to draw the attack. Joab, you will be around one side out of sight. Abishai will head another group from the other side. I will draw their attack, and then retreat up the hill letting them pursue us, and at that moment, both of you will come from around each side, we will turn to fight, and we will have surrounded them.

JOAB

Sir! you cannot be in the battle. If we lose it is only one battle, but if you are killed, all is lost. But your plan is good; leave it to us.

DAVID

I don't like it, but all right.
I have to send troops out against my own son...

JOAB

Don't think of him, think of those who have joined his revolt instead...

DAVID

Yes... But, Joab... there is one more thing.

JOAB

Yes?

DAVID

When you go into battle, no matter what
happens...deal gently with my son Absalom...and
tell the others: deal gently with my son.

AS EVERYONE EXITS DAVID SINGS

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, AND ALL I
NEED

HE GIVES ME A WORLD WITH GREEN
PASTURES

HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS THAT I
SHOULD WALK

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

YES WHEN I WALK

THROUGH THE VALLEY WITH DARKNESS
AND DEATH ALL AROUND

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

FOR YOU ARE WITH ME

YOUR PRESENCE ALWAYS COMFORTS ME

YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL

MY CUP RUNS OVER

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL
FOLLOW ME

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

AND I WILL LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF
THE LORD FOREVER.

(sounds of troops filling out to war.
Themes of a Child Can Never Know, We are
the Army of Israel, How the mighty are
fallen....music illustrates sounds of
war...David watches with a watchman)

WATCHMAN

I see a man running this way.

DAVID

Alone? He must have news.

RUNNER

Praise God, for delivering us.

DAVID

My son Absalom, how is he?

RUNNER

May every one who revolts against you meet the
same death.

DAVID

What! Dead! No! O No! Leave me... All of
you...O God!

O MY SON! ABSALOM, O MY SON, MY
SON ABSALOM!

IF ONLY I HAD DIED, DIED INSTEAD
OF YOU!

O ABSALOM MY SON, MY SON!

O MY SON! ABSALOM, O MY SON, MY
SON, ABSALOM!

IF ONLY I HAD DIED! IF ONLY I HAD
DIED! DIED INSTEAD OF YOU!

O ABSALOM MY SON, MY SON!

O ABSALOM MY SON, MY SON!

(scene changes as David returns to
Bathsheba's room)

BATHSHEBA

(as David enters) I hear we've won!

DAVID

Yes, but Absalom, is dead.

(David starts to break down, she comforts
him and says:)

BATHSHEBA

... he was trying to overthrow you.

DAVID

He was my son, ... my son! I failed him...

BATHSHEBA

David, he brought it on himself.

DAVID

He was my son, my son...damn how the false gods
seduce us... Those giants: passion, temptation
and deception...

BATHSHEBA

He did not get them from you..

DAVID

Or did he? No, they're inside us all, waiting
for our moment of weakness.. The apple on the
tree..But I could not show him the way. (pause)
Life is too precious, too costly.

BATHSHEBA

He did not get this from you.

DAVID

Love always causes pain - Even if only at death... the greater the love the greater the pain...Why do we only learn through suffering?

BATHSHEBA

He had his choices and he made them.

DAVID

...why is the most important thing the hardest thing to do? To love...with all of its faces: joy, grief, kindness, compassion, forgiveness...

BATHSHEBA

You showed him forgiveness, but he chose treachery.

DAVID

Bathsheba, I feel nothing but loss and emptiness. It's hard to hold on...how do I hold on to what I believe, or believe at all...(Pause)...(determined) But I do, and I will...

THIS IS GOD'S WORLD, ALWAYS AND
AGAIN

A CHANCE TO BEGIN TO DO MORE THAN
WIN

WITH THE SUN'S NEW DAY THE DEW
BURNS AWAY

WHEN PRIDE DOES THE SAME THERE'S A
NEW GAME

THAT FIRE FROM ABOVE CAN TOUCH THE
HEART

THE SPARK ONCE LIT WILL NEVER
DEPART

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU IT'S NOT ABOUT
ME

THE WISE ALL LEARN IT'S ALL ABOUT
WE

THERE IS NO LOVE WITHOUT HURT

NO LOVE WITHOUT PAIN

IT'S BEEN THAT WAY

SINCE RAISING CAIN

LOVE IS THE WAY THAT WE CAN GROW

LOVE IS THE LIFE THAT WE CAN SHOW

BUT LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS AND LOVE
WITHOUT END

IS WHAT GOD GIVES FOREVER AMEN

(transition to big finale)

FINALE DAVID (TO SOLOMON) (David facing audience directly,
Solomon with back to audience kneeling in front of him.)

I'VE LIVED A LIFE WITH RIGHT AND
WRONG

GOD KNOWS I TRIED MY WHOLE LIFE
LONG

OUR NATION'S STRONGEST ON THE
EARTH

ITS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SINCE YOUR
BIRTH

YOUR TIME HAS COME, NOW'S YOUR
HOUR

TAKE THE THRONE, HAVE THE POWER

TRUST YOUR PASSION, YOUR HEART
YOUR GUIDE

MAY THE SPIRIT, BURN INSIDE

GO FORTH EACH DAY WITHOUT FEAR

WITH GOD AS YOUR GUIDE THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR

DON'T LOOK FOR A LIFE OF COMFORT
AND EASE

CARE FOR ALL, HEAR THEIR PLEAS

BE OPEN TO IDEAS WHEREVER THEY
COME

CHANGE IS ADVENTURE, THE BEAT OF
THE DRUM

HEARTBREAK AND JOY, LOVE AND PAIN

COME TO ALL, LIKE SUNSHINE AND
RAIN

IT'S UP TO YOU, TO SHOW THE WAY

TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF EACH NEW
DAY

TRIUMPH DISASTER, VICTORY DEFEAT,

THE SIGNS OF GROWTH, THAT YOU WILL
MEET

WHEN ALL SEEMS HOPELESS, PERSEVERE

WHEN NOTHING SEEMS RIGHT, HEED THE
VOICE YOU HEAR

LOVE IS THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL

LEARN TO LOVE, AND YOU WILL STAND
TALL

NEW IDEAS BRING NEW CHOICES

BURY THE OLD, HEAR NEW VOICES

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THESE WORDS I
GIVE

BRING HOPE TO ALL, DARE TO LOVE
AND LIVE

BRING HOPE TO ALL, DARE TO LOVE
AND LIVE,

BRING HOPE TO ALL, DARE TO LOVE
AND LIVE

("David" reprise to words
below) (As Nathan crowns solomon,
who stands and turns around as
david goes upstage and sits on
chair as old man)

SOLOMON O SOLOMON KING OVER ALL
THE LAND

SOLOMON O SOLOMON, GOD'S FAVORED
AND CHOSEN MAN

Curtain