



DREAM ...

A New Musical about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Book & Lyrics
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Music
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Interactive Media
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SYNOPSIS:

In “**Dream...**” we reenact Martin Luther King Jr.’s struggle for meaning as a young man, and children discover that learning History can be Fun!
- 2002 Season at Univ. Pennsylvania and Newmann College

DREAM ... is the story of the days during the early 1950’s, when young Martin Luther King studied theology at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. Through his reading and his experiences during this time — especially the painful experience of having to renounce his love for a white woman in order to preserve his career as a teacher in the black community — King developed and refined his theory of nonviolent resistance based on the Greek idea of “agape,” a love higher than one’s self.

Later, meeting Rosa Parks and leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, King’s beliefs were sorely put to the test. He had to endure threats, bombings, and jail, while convincing his followers not to answer violence with violence, but with agape. The musical excitingly dramatizes how a person can carry the beliefs and principles learned in the classroom out into the “real world,” and how that one person’s philosophy can transform the actions and feelings of an entire nation.

The story of ***DREAM ...*** is told with five ethnically-diverse 8-to-12-year-olds, who hyperlink through time and space onstage with the help of their wacky guide, Mr. History. During the play, Mr. History has the kids reenact events from this formative period in King’s life and thought. The story illustrates how beliefs that he formed during the years at Crozer Theological Seminary influenced King’s actions throughout his life.

Children need to learn about the important people and events from our history. The use of play-acting – an activity all children enjoy – enables those onstage, as well as those in the audience, to share in the excitement of real events from our past. And, the students learn that history is not the boring subject they may have thought.

SONGS: “TRAVEL THE PAST,” “TIRED”, “AGAPE”.

DREAM ... is developed by EdVenture Networks Inc. Time Travellin’ Productions, whose mission – “Learning Values Through History” – is to entertain, engage and excite children about history, while exploring the important issues of our past.

<u>ACT 1

<u>SCENE 1

A schoolyard, near Chester, PA, Valentine's Day, the present. SARAH and COLLIE are having a catfight, CHARLIE, ALEX, and CARLOS watching. The fight should be humorous: name-calling, hair pulling, big pinches, using others for protection, perhaps a big chase through the audience. CARLOS remains aloof. ALEX eggs the combatants on. At some point, CHARLIE tries to break it up.

CHARLIE

Come on, you two, this is ridiculous!

COLLIE

What's ridiculous is that stupid Valentine she sent Carlos!

SARAH

I got as much right to send him a Valentine as you do! He's my boyfriend!

COLLIE

He's my boyfriend!

SARAH

Was!

(COLLIE attacks SARAH. Once SHE has SARAH in a hold, COLLIE screams:)

COLLIE

I hate you! Hate you! Hate you! Hate you!! HATE YOU!!!!!!
(COLLIE suddenly seems "yanked" away from SARAH and begins whirling about. The lights start splashing around, Whirling Music plays, and MR. HISTORY spins onstage with his History Trunk, striking a pose.)

ALEX

Mr. History!

CHARLIE

What are you doing here?!

CARLOS

Yeah, this ain't history.

MR. HISTORY

Ah, but it is!

CHARLIE

Two girls fighting over a boy?

MR. HISTORY

The history of violence.

(To the girls)

The two of you fighting, on Valentine's Day! Shame!

SARAH/COLLIE

(Simultaneously)

She started it!

MR. HISTORY

That's what produces violence, all right: I'm right, you're wrong.

(To COLLIE)

And you, Colleen!-- I thought you were a Quaker.

ALEX

Yeah, some pacifist you are!

COLLIE

Shut up!

ALEX

(Running away in mock fear)

Quakers don't believe in violence!

COLLIE

(To MR. HISTORY)

How'd you know I've been going to Quaker meeting?

MR. HISTORY

It's in the past, isn't it?

COLLIE

Yeah.

MR. HISTORY

Then I know it.

CHARLIE

He is Mr. History, remember?!

SARAH

I still don't understand why you showed up today.

CARLOS

Yeah, last time you dropped in on us with your Whirling Act, I thought it was because we were all shouting "I hate history!"

MR. HISTORY

(Covering his ears)

Don't do that!

CARLOS

Sorry, I forgot.

ALEX

So, what is it makes you go darting around like a chicken with his head cut off?

(MR. HISTORY clucks and struts like a chicken.)

ALL

(Impatient for the answer)

Mr. History!!!

MR. HISTORY

Sorry. The answer is: "You never know/When Mr. H will show." Today I whirled in to stop the violence.

(To COLLIE)

I do believe I heard the word "hate?"

COLLIE

(Ashamed)

You did.

MR. HISTORY

That's all right, Collie. We all hate sometime. Even Martin Luther King, Jr.

SARAH

No way, man, he was into nonviolence.

MR. HISTORY

But he didn't start out that way. When he was young, he went to the grass plenty.

CHARLIE

Martin Luther King smoked dope?!!!

MR. HISTORY

When King was growing up, that was an expression they used for fighting.

CARLOS

Don't diss my man, Mr. History! King was one of the greatest men who ever lived.

MR. HISTORY

Agreed. But he didn't start out that way. He had to change and grow, just like the rest of us. As a matter of fact, some of his greatest growth took place right in Chester, Pennsylvania.

ALEX

That's just down the road!

CARLOS

No way, man, King was never up here.

MR. HISTORY

He attended Crozer Theological Seminary.

ALEX

Where Crozer hospital is now?

MR. HISTORY

Yep.

CHARLIE

Martin Luther King, Jr. walked right around here! I'd like to see where.

COLLIE

Hey, maybe we could time travel and walk where King walked!

ALEX

And learn where King learned!

CARLOS

That man was so smart!

MR. HISTORY

Yep, C+ average at Morehouse College.

ALL

Get out! C+?! No way!, etc.

MR. HISTORY

Terrible speller. Not much better at grammar.

ALEX

I'm liking this dude more and more!

MR. HISTORY

Wanted to be a doctor, but couldn't stand science!

SARAH

(Teasing)

There's hope for you yet, Collie!

(COLLIE, not amused, approaches SARAH, who stands her ground.)

CHARLIE

(Shouting)

What would Martin do?!

(COLLIE relaxes)

MR. HISTORY

Dr. King would have been proud of you.

COLLIE

I get so mad sometimes. How am I supposed to love my enemy?

MR. HISTORY

By learning a new kind of love, like King did.

CARLOS

Shoot, I don't even want to love my enemy. People mess with me, I mess with them right back!

MR. HISTORY

Dr. King would not have been proud of you.

CARLOS

You got to stand up for yourself, man!

MR. HISTORY

Yes, you have. But Martin Luther King stood up for a lot more people than just himself?

ALEX

How'd he do it?

MR. HISTORY

What say we time travel and find out?

(ALL shout "hooray!", "all right!", etc. MR. HISTORY moves his History Trunk into place as the driver's seat/front of the bus.)

SARAH

Don't we wear a costume piece?

CHARLIE

Or carry something to become that person in history, like last time?

MR. HISTORY

We're not time travellin' yet. First, we're taking a side trip.

CARLOS

Where?

MR. HISTORY

To one of the most famous sites in American history!

COLLIE

How're we getting there?

MR. HISTORY

On a bus.

ALEX

I don't see any bus.

MR. HISTORY

Remember my calling card?

(Hands him a card.)

ALEX

(Reading)

"Have Imagination, Will Travel."

MR. HISTORY

All aboard!

CHARLIE

That's trains!

MR. HISTORY

Ah, yes. Places!

SARAH

That's theatre.

MR. HISTORY

Just get on the bus!

(As the KIDS grumble about being silly, MR. HISTORY encourages them.)

ALEX

I feel like an idiot!

SARAH

Don't tell any of my friends you got us pretending to ride on a bus!

CHARLIE

We're not pretending, we're using our imaginations!

MR. HISTORY

Right! Who wants a window seat?!

COLLIE

I do!

(The others look at her like she's crazy, but finally everyone is settled in a seat.)

CARLOS

Is it my imagination, or are we ain't goin' nowhere?!

MR. HISTORY

We haven't started the bus.

(The music to "TRAVEL THE PAST" begins under. Mr. History turns on the bus, making the sound of the engine firing.)

SARAH

Mr. History, can't we just go back in time?

COLLIE

Yeah, what's the point of this side trip?

MR. HISTORY

The point is, there is no point in remembering the past if it's not going to remind you what to do in the present.

"TRAVEL THE PAST"

(During the song, HE distributes props/costumes.)

THIS WORLD SPINS SO FAST
WE FORGET HOW TO THINK.
HELPS IF YOU'LL TAKE A DRINK
FROM THE WELLS OF THE PAST

TO DEAL WITH THE "NOW,"
GOT TO THINK ABOUT "THEN."
KNOW THE "WHAT?," "WHERE?," AND "WHEN?,"

AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND "HOW?"

TO SEE HOW OTHERS FELT THE JOY AND SORROW
HELPS IF YOU CAN "BORROW"
ANOTHER MAN'S SHOES.

WE ACT LIKE "TODAY"
JUST DROPPED OUT OF THE BLUE
OH, IF WE ONLY KNEW
WHAT MIGHT LEAD US ASTRAY.

CAN'T KNOW YOUR DESTINY WITHOUT YOUR HIST'RY
COME EXPLORE THE MYST'RY
OF WHERE WE CAME FROM.

SO BUCKLE YOUR SEAT,
AND HANG ONTO YOUR HAT,
'CAUSE MAY I REPEAT?
THE PAST IS WHERE...
IT'S...

(HE stomps on the pedal and makes "vrooming" noises,
but nothing happen.)

CARLOS

We ain't goin' nowhere!

CHARLIE

An there're no seat belts.

MR. HISTORY

AT!!!!

(HE stomps the pedal again and all begin whirling as
the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 2

A bus stop in Montgomery, Alabama, same day and time.
The KIDS and MR. HISTORY whirl into place at the
deserted stop.

MR. HISTORY

Montgomery, Alabama!

(The KIDS exit the bus, ad-libbing about how great time
travelling is, etc., followed by MR. HISTORY.)

ALEX

Dag, you're some driver, Mr. History!

MR. HISTORY

My pleasure.

CHARLIE

This doesn't look like one of the most amazing sites in
American history to me.

SARAH

Yeah, looks like a bus stop!

MR. HISTORY

Hand that girl a silver dollar!

(Beat)

This is the bus stop, where Rosa Parks made her defiant
stand!

COLLIE

You mean, defiant sit!

(ALL laugh.)

CARLOS

What's that monument-looking thing over there?

MR. HISTORY

The Wall of Tolerance. They're building it to remember.

SARAH

Building something that beautiful to commemorate something
ugly.

MR. HISTORY

You don't know how ugly.

CARLOS

What do you mean, King's my man, I know all about him.

ALEX

Except that he went to school in Chester!

CARLOS

I mean about segregation, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, all that.

(Beat)

Man, it's hot.

(HE heads towards an offstage water fountain. MR. HISTORY suddenly morphs into a Southern cop.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-COP

Hey, boy, what do you think you're doin'? Cain't you read?

CARLOS

Read what?

MR. HISTORY

(Pointing)

"Whites Only." The colored's water fountain is over yonder-- 'ceptin' it's broke!

(HE chuckles.)

CARLOS

Mr. History, you're too weird.

(HE goes and puts his arm around COLLEEN,)

MR. HISTORY-AS-COP

Don't you touch that white girl! Have you lost your mind, nigger?!

CARLOS

Don't you call me that--!

CHARLIE

Carlos!

(HE and ALEX restrain CARLOS. MR. HISTORY relaxes back to "normal.")

MR. HISTORY

(To CARLOS)

Just trying to show you what I mean by "ugly."

CARLOS

I wanted to hurt you bad! How did they hold themselves back?

MR. HISTORY

By finding a new way to move forward. It wasn't an easy time. Blacks were attacked by police dogs, clubbed by the police--

CHARLIE

The police are supposed to help you!

MR. HISTORY

Exactly. Churches were bombed, buses burned. That used to be a city park over there-- until they paved it over rather than let blacks use it.

COLLIE

That's stupid!

MR. HISTORY

How about this: They had a law preventing blacks and whites from playing cards together! And all to keep this--

(HE holds up CARLOS' hand.)

Away from this--

(HE holds up COLLIE's hand. A long beat.)

CARLOS

I guess we don't know what it was really like.

MR. HISTORY

But we can find out. Anybody want to get on my "imaginary bus?"

(The KIDS get on(except for Sarah, who lingers. THEY ad-lib: "Great, I love this time travellin'!" "I wish we had seatbelts." "Seatbelts on an imaginary bus?!", etc. To SARAH:)

Anything wrong?

SARAH

I'm beginning to feel how special this place is. It's almost like we owe it to them to remember.

MR. HISTORY

We do.

"TRAVEL THE PAST"--REPRISE

[new lyrics to be written!]

CAN'T KNOW YOUR DESTINY WITHOUT YOUR HIST'RY
COME EXPLORE THE MYST'RY
OF WHERE WE CAME FROM.

SO BUCKLE YOUR SEAT,
AND HANG ONTO YOUR HAT,
'CAUSE MAY I REPEAT?
THE PAST IS WHERE...
IT'S...
AT!!

MR. HISTORY

Next stop: Montgomery, Alabama, December 1, 1955!

(HE stomps on the gas and ALL whirl back in time as the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 3

This same bus stop, December 1, 1955. MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER(J.H. Blake)drives SARAH-AS-ROSA and COLLIE-AS-WHITE SYMPATHIZER on the bus. CARLOS-AS-BLACK RIDER waits at one stop, CHARLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER waits at another, and ALEX-AS-WHITE RIDER waits at a third. MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER stops and opens the door. CARLOS-AS-BLACK RIDER pays his fare at the front door, then gets off the bus and re-enters by the back door, sitting next to SARAH-AS-ROSA as the bus moves off.

CARLOS-AS-BLACK RIDER

Why cain't we just walk to the back like everybody else?

SARAH-AS-ROSA

'Cause "everybody else" is white!!

CARLOS-AS-BLACK RIDER

I'm gettin' tired of havin' to pay up front, get off, and get back on in the rear!

SARAH-AS-ROSA

I'm just plain tired...

(The bus stops in front of CHARLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER. HE gets on and pays.)

CHARLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER

Mornin', Stumpy! Gettin' cold!

MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER

I like a cold Christmas, keeps people off the buses.

CHARLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER

Don't you like your job, Stumpy?!

MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER

Too many niggers.

(CHARLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER heads back, then stands in front of BLACK RIDERS, expecting them to move.)

Hurry up there, we ain't got all day!

(SARAH-AS-ROSA and CARLOS-AS-BLACK RIDER move to new seats further back, CHARLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER sits, and the bus drives off.)

SARAH-AS-ROSA

(To herself)

Tired... Tired...

(The bus stops and ALEX-AS-WHITE RIDER gets on, pays, moves towards the back and waits for the BLACKS to move. THEY don't.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER

All right, folks, I want those two seats.

(THEY don't move.)

Y'all better make it light on yourself and let me have those seats.

(CARLOS-AS-BLACK RIDER reluctantly moves further back to stand in the aisle, but SARAH-AS-ROSA doesn't move.)

Look, woman, I told you I wanted the seat. Are you gonna stand up?

SARAH-AS-ROSA

No.

MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER

I'm going to have to have you arrested.

SARAH-AS-ROSA

Do what you gotta do.

MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER

What's wrong with you?

SARAH-AS-ROSA

I'm tired.

(MR. HISTORY-AS-DRIVER goes off to find a policeman. SARAH-AS-ROSA remains seated.)

"TIRED"

BEEN WORKIN' ALL DAY,
AN' I'M TIRED.
GOT NOTHIN' TO SAY
'CEPT I'M TIRED.
I'M TIRED OF STANDIN UP, WHEN THEY GET TO SIT,
I'M TIRED OF ACTIN' "DUMB" FOR THER BENEFIT,
I'M SO TIRED OF THE WHOLE MESS, I COULD JUST ABOUT
SPIT!--

But I won't.

I'M TOO TIRED!

BEEN DOWN TOO LONG,
AN' I'M TIRED.
AIN'T DONE NOTHIN' WRONG,
I'M JUST TIRED.
AIN'T TRIED TO CAUSE TROUBLE, AIN'T TRIED TO PLAY ROUGH,
AIN'T TRIED TO ACT UGLY,-- I'M UGLY ENOUGH!
IF WHITE FOLKS DON'T LIKE IT, THEN I SAY--...TOUGH!
'CAUSE I'M TIRED.

MR. HISTORY-AS-POLICEMAN

(HE has entered during the above. To COLLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER as HE passes by:)

'Scuse me, ma'am.

(To SARAH-AS-ROSA)

You got to move, lady.

SARAH-AS-ROSA

My name's Mrs. Parks. An' if you can say "ma'am" to her,
(Pointing at COLLIE-AS-WHITE RIDER)
You can sure-boys say it to me!

MR. HISTORY-AS-POLICEMAN
The only thing I'm sayin' to you is, you're under arrest, ni--
(SHE cuts him off.)

SARAH-AS-ROSA
Don't say that!
(During the following, the POLICEMAN handcuffs her and
leads her off)

DON'T CALL ME THAT NAME,
'CAUSE I'M TIRED.
YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAME'!,
AREN'T YOU TIRED?
AREN'T YOU TIRED OF LOOKIN' PAST WHAT YOU DON'T WANNA
SEE?
AREN'T YOU TIRED OF WEARIN' A BADGE THAT DON'T PROTECT
ME?
'LONG AS YOU HOLD ME DOWN, AIN'T NEITHER OF US FREE--

MR. HISTORY-AS-POLICEMAN
You're wrong there, "Ma'am!" You're the one's going to jail.
("TIRED!" ends, then the music changes as ALL whirl
back to the present as the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 4

The Schoolyard, present. The KIDS and MR. HISTORY whirl back into place. ALL remain quiet for a moment.

CARLOS

(With controlled anger)

I'd have killed that driver!

ALEX

Then they'd have killed you.

COLLIE

Non-violence, remember?

CHARLIE

(To SARAH)

I couldn't even be friends with you and Carlos.

SARAH

How did Rosa Parks do it? When I was her, you know, back then?... I wanted to scream and hit and... worse!

(The KIDS nod/speak their understanding)

How could she control her anger like that?

MR. HISTORY

"Agape."

ALEX

Excuse me?

MR. HISTORY

"Agape."

ALEX

"Agape" to you, too!

MR. HISTORY

It's Greek for "love." Not the kind of love we're used to thinking about, but a new kind of love-- that has been around for centuries.

CARLOS

You're talking total Greek now!

MR. HISTORY

It was one of King's favorite topics. He loved talking about "philia"-- that's Greek for a brotherly kind of love--

SARAH

Phila-delphia-- City of Brotherly Love!

MR. HISTORY

Bingo!

(Beat)

Then there was "eros"-- that's the marrying kind of love--

COLLIE

Like Cupid. That's what the Romans called the Greek god
"Eros."

MR. HISTORY

And "agape."

CHARLIE

Gesundheit!

MR. HISTORY

Oh, you speak German?

ALEX

Greek, German!-- this is beginning to sound a lot like
school.

MR. HISTORY

Bingo again!

CARLOS

(Worried)

Crozer Theological Seminary?...

MR. HISTORY

Bingo-Bingo-Bingo!!!

ALEX

We've got to time travel to a divinity school?

SARAH

Study about God?

CHARLIE

Take exams?!

MR. HISTORY

No! Learn about "love"-- like Mike did.

COLLIE

Mike?!

MR. HISTORY

That's what Martin Luther King was called till he was twenty-
five.

ALL

No way! C'mon! You're kidding?!, etc.

ALEX

"I Have A Dream", by Mike King!

CARLOS

Aw, man, don't ruin my image of him!

MR. HISTORY

I'm not going to ruin it, I'm going to enhance it. I'm also going to show you that sometimes school can be a very exciting place to be.

ALEX

Especially seminary school!

(Pause. The KIDS look at each other and decide THEY have no choice.)

Who am I this time?

(The music to "TIME TRAVELLIN'" begins under.)

MR. HISTORY

(Getting a costume/prop from the trunk)

Martin Luther King, Jr.!

CARLOS

Why not me?!

MR. HISTORY

You already know what it feels like to be black. Wouldn't it be good if Alex got to see what it feels like?

CARLOS

Who am I, then?

MR. HISTORY

(Getting costume/prop from the trunk)

King's best buddy, Walter McCall, who came to school with him from Atlanta.

(To CHARLIE)

And you're Lucius Z.Hall, a white student who also happened to be from Georgia. And later, you're a restaurant owner, and then...-- Well, some of you have lots of parts, you'll see.

Now, all aboard for the Agape Express to Chester, PA, 1949! 10-9-!

(The KIDS join him.)

ALL

8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-! Blast off!

(THEY whirl back in time as the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 5

A classroom at Crozer Theological Seminary, 1949. A spirited debate is going on, presided over by MR. HISTORY-AS-TEACHER. CHARLIE-AS-KING is finishing a report on the book "Christianity and the Social Crisis". (COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT plays the same character throughout, who falls in love with King.)

CHARLIE-AS-KING

..."In short, capitalism is a mammonistic organization with which Christianity can never be content!"

SARAH-AS-BLACK STUDENT

"Mammonistic?!"

CHARLIE-AS-HALL

Mike, can't you ever use words the rest of us can understand.

ALEX-AS-KING

You're in theological school and you've never heard "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon?"

CHARLIE-AS-HALL

Oh, "mammonistic!" I couldn't understand you, with that funny accent of yours.

ALEX-AS-KING

Look who's talkin'!

MR. HISTORY-AS-TEACHER

Gentlemen, gentlemen, we are discussing the social philosophy of Walter Rauschenbusch, not Accents of the Modern South!

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

I agree with Mike: capitalism is evil. It causes wars.

SARAH-AS-BLACK STUDENT

What we need is a classless society like Karl Marx said.

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Marx?! He doesn't even believe in God. If there's no God, what the heck are we all doing at Crozer?

MR. HISTORY-AS-TEACHER

Rauschenbusch says exploitation, prostituion, crime,-- all come from a system that praises profit over brotherhood. Anyone disagree?

CHARLIE-AS-HALL

Capitalism is great!

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Oh, come on, Lucius, you really want a society where a man's worth is judged by the size of his car?

ALEX-AS-KING

And not the content of his character?

MR. HISTORY-AS-TEACHER

Very nice, Mr. King.

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

Who cares? Religion's about people's souls, not their bodies.

ALEX-AS-KING

(Impassioned)

No! All the preachers back home ever talked about was how we should put up with life down here 'cause when we die and go to heaven it'll be sweet as roses. I say we work for the kingdom of heaven down here as well as up yonder!

CHARLIE-AS-HALL

Patience is a virtue.

ALEX-AS-KING

That's easy for you to say, because all you've got to be patient for is, when is daddy gonna buy you your next car!

CHARLIE-AS-HALL

King, anybody ever tell you you've got a big mouth?!

ALEX-AS-KING

And I plan to use it!

MR. HISTORY-AS-TEACHER

Gentlemen!

(The bell rings.)

Roud Two next week! Meanwhile, I think we could all benefit from reading a little Ghandi. Pages 342-405 of your textbook. Go in peace.

(HE exits, followed by CHARLIE-AS-HALL and SARAH-AS-BLACK STUDENT. COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT is packing her books, as CARLOS-AS-MCCALL approaches ALEX-AS-KING.)

ALEX-AS-GAYLE

I'd like to bust that guy sometimes, Walter!

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

What you need is some fun. Lucille and I are going to Camden for dinner tomorrow, why don't you grab a date and join us?

ALEX-AS-KING

Gotta study.

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Mike, I'm sure God wants you to have fun once in a while.

ALEX-AS-KING

If God wanted me to have fun, He'd find me someone to have fun with.

(COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT approaches.)

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

I really thought your report on Rauschenbusch was terrific,
Mike. I wish I could use words the way you do.

ALEX-AS-KING

Thanks.

(THEY stand there, liking each other, but not knowing
what to say next.)

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Maybe he has...

(To ALEX-AS-KING)

Don't tell me Martin Luther King is at a loss for words?!

ALEX-AS-KING

(To COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT)

Would you like to join us for dinner tomorrow?

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

I'd love to.

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

God works in mysterious ways!

ALL begin to whirl forward in time
as the lights change to...

<u>SCENE 6

A roadside cafe in Maple Shade, New Jersey, just east of Camden, Christmas, 1949. ALEX-AS-KING, SARAH-AS-LUCILLE, CARLOS-AS-MCCALL, and COLLEEN-AS-"PACIFIST" are seated, talking while awaiting service.

COLLIE-AS-"PACIFIST"

(Reading from a book)

Listen to this. Gandhi's got a first-class train ticket but he's pushed out of the compartment by a white guard and left shivering in a dark waiting room. "What was my duty? Should I go back home, or go forward, and face whatever was in store for me? I decided to stay and suffer. My active non-violence began from that day."

(CHARLIE-AS-WAITER crosses the room.)

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Oh, waiter?

(CHARLIE-AS-WAITER ignores him and continues to another table, where he mimes taking an order, then exits to the kitchen to place it.)

ALEX-AS-KING

Ghandi was probably always non-violent.

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

No, the book says he had a bad temper and once drove his wife from their home. He embraced nonviolence partly to subdue his own violent nature.

ALEX-AS-KING

Really?

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

But how can you wipe out social evil by doing nothing?

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

He said active non-violence. Ghandi organized boycotts, led marches, went on fasts.

ALEX-AS-KING

Christian love is the strongest force there is. Man is essentially good and his goodness will prevail.

(Seeing CHARLIE-AS-WAITER again)

Waiter, could we get some menus please?

(CHARLIE-AS-WAITER ignores them.)

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Goodness will prevail, huh?

SARAH-AS-BLACK STUDENT

Don't be so naive, Mike. "Love" didn't free the slaves, war did.

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

A war that could have been avoided if--

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Patience, patience, patience, right?! That's all black people ever hear.

ALEX-AS-KING

Speaking of which, I'm losing my patience about ever getting served in this restaurant

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

What do you expect, we're the only black people in here.

ALEX-AS-KING

I expect New Jersey to be different from Alabama.

SARAH-AS-LUCILLE

We could always fast, likd Ghandi!

ALEX-AS-KING

Great! Fasting in a restaurant so you can get served food!

(THEY laugh.)

Waiter?!.... Waiter?!

(When CHARLIE-AS-WAITE continues to ignore them, ALEX-AS-KING goes to him and turns him to face him.)

I'm talking you you!

CHARLIE-AS-WAITER

Get your hands off me!

ALEX-AS-KING

Get me the manager!

(CHARLIE-AS-WAITER leaves.)

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Mike, take it easy!

ALEX-AS-KING

You were the one who was tired of being patient!

(MR. HISTORY-AS-MANAGER approaches.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-MANAGER

What seems to be the problem here?

ALEX-AS-KING

The problem is, we can't get any service.

MR. HISTORY-AS-MANAGER

Maybe that means the best thing would be for you to leave.

ALEX-AS-KING

No, the best thing would be for you to obey the laws of New Jersey, which prevent racial discrimination in a public place!

MR. HISTORY-AS-MANAGER

I want you out of here.

(ALEX-AS-KING sits defiantly.)

Didn't you hear me?

ALEX-AS-KING

I'm fasting.

(The WOMEN laugh. The Manager pulls out a gun.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-MANAGER

This is not a joking matter.

ALEX-AS-KING

(Rising)

Then go ahead!

ALL

(Rising in fear)

Mike! Mike! What are you doing, etc.

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

(Grabbing him)

Come on, let's go!

(As ALEX-AS-KING resists)

MR. HISTORY-AS-MANAGER

Maybe you need more motivation!

(HE fires the gun in the air. The WOMEN scream, and CARLOS-AS-MCCALL drags ALEX-AS-KING away.)

CARLOS-AS-MCCALL

Come on!

ALEX-AS-KING

Are you threatening me?

MR. HISTORY-AS-MANAGER

We don't want your kind in here, you hear me? Don't ever let me see your black face again!

(HE "slams" the door.)

ALEX-AS-KING

You haven't heard the last of me!

(A slow version of the Whirling Music begins. ALL whirl forward in time as the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 7

King's dormroom, Crozer Theological Seminary, night,
1950. Books are scattered all over the room as ALEX-
AS-KING addresses COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT.

ALEX-AS-KING

I'm giving my valedictory address on the three kinds of love--
philia, eros, and agape! What do you think?

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

I think whatever comes out of your mind will be brilliant.

ALEX-AS-KING

If I can say it out loud, maybe I've found out how to stop
this hatred I've always had for white people!

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

Present company excluded, I hope.

ALEX-AS-KING

Always. It's ironic, isn't it, me and you?

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

What it is, is scary.

(Beat)

Have you told your father yet?

ALEX-AS-KING

We'll tell him at graduation. If I ever get this speech
written. But it's getting harder and harder to believe
"agape's" the strongest love there is.

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

Why?

ALEX-AS-KING

Because funny little Cupids start flying around every time I
look at you, and I realize I might never understand the true
meaning of "love."

"AGAPE"

FUNNY LITTLE WORD, "AGAPE"
SOUNDS A BIT ABSURD, "AGAPE"
RUMBLES 'ROUND MY MIND:
HOW CAN IT BE TRUE?
I LOVE ALL MANKIND
MUCH AS I LOVE YOU?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN, "AGAPE?"

MARRY ME RIGHT NOW,-- "AGAPE."
WE WILL SHOW 'EM HOW--"AGAPE."
HOW TO STICK LIKE GLUE,

SIMPLE AS CAN BE:
I AM "WHITE" FOR YOU,
YOU ARE "BLACK" FOR ME.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS, "AGAPE."
(Music under)

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT
What if it's not that easy, Mike. You've got your heart set
on teaching down south...--

ALEX-AS-KING
Right! And we'll show 'em what "love" really means!

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT
I'm not your political statement!

ALEX-AS-KING
Here's the only statement I want to make with you.

JUST ME AND YOU,--"AGAPE."
A GARDEN FOR TWO,--"AGAPE."

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT
IF THERE'S ONLY ME,
WHY WON'T YOU WANT MORE?

ALEX-AS-KING
OKAY, LET'S HAVE THREE!
HECK, LET'S MAKE IT FOUR!
LET'S HAVE IT ALL, "AGAPE!"
LET'S HAVE THE KITCHEN, THE CRADLE-- THE WORKS!
LET'S HAVE IT ALL,
(HE holds out his hand and THEY dance. At some point,
as ALEX-AS-KING spins her out, SHE continues twirling
offstage as MR. HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR interrupts the
dance and the lights change to...)

SCENE 7A

The home of PHILLIP BARBOUR, 50's, on the eve of
graduation, 1951. ALEX-AS-KING is responding to MR.
HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR's urgings.

ALEX-AS-KING
But why?!

MR. HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR
You know the answer to that, Martin.

ALEX-AS-KING
I love her!

MR. HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR
You may be called to a higher kind of love.

ALEX-AS-KING

Than that between man and woman? Why did God put us here?
Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden--who else was there?

MR. HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR

The snake! The snake of human prejudice. The snake of
violence and hatred. Maybe your calling is to deal with the
snake.

ALEX-AS-KING

I have!

MR. HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR

In your heart, yes. But what about in the hearts of others?

ALEX-AS-KING

Why do I have to live for everybody else? Why can't I just
live for me?!

MR. HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR

You'll have to ask God that, Martin.

(MR. HISTORY-AS-BARBOUR leaves. The music to "ACAPE"
comes under and ALEX-AS-KING turns to meet COLLIE-AS-
WHITE STUDENT, as the lights change to...)

SCENE 7B

King's dorm room, later. ALEX-AS-KING has just told COLLIE-AS-WHITE-STUDENT that they cannot marry. Silence under the first two lines of "AGAPE."

"AGAPE"--REPRISE

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

SO THEN WE MUST PART?
THOUGH YOU LOVE ME STILL?
YOU HAVE BURST MY HEART!

ALEX-AS-KING

PRAY THAT IT'S GOD'S WILL.

COLLIE-AS-WHITE STUDENT

I HATE THAT WORD, "AGAPE."
(SHE runs from the stage. The music pauses, then:)

ALEX-AS-KING

I FEAR I'LL NEVER FIND LOVE AGAIN,
IS THAT WHAT IT MEANS, "AGAPE?"

(HE hangs his head as the music ends and the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 8

The schoolyard, the present. The KIDS and MR. HISTORY whirl back into place.

SARAH

If you believe in "agape," does that mean you can't marry?

CARLOS

No, King married Coretta Scott.

ALEX

That's right. Then what does "agape" mean?

MR. HISTORY

For that we'll have to travel back to the days of the Montgomery Bus boycott.

COLLIE

You mean, no more school?!

MR. HISTORY

Well, King did to to another graduat eschool in Boston. WE could go back there first--

KIDS

No, thanks! That's all right. Tell us about it later, etc.

MR. HISTORY

You sure? I know how much yo like school...

KIDS

Mr. History!

MR. HISTORY

All right. Let's travel back to the night of December 5, 1954, a Monday.

(The music to "TIME TRAVELLIN'" comes under as HE hands out props/costumes)

The blacks of Montgomery had stayed off the buses all day. Martin Luther Kingd, Jr., after only three months as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, now found his church crammed full of people and himself newly-elected president ot eh Montgomery Improvement Association. With his new friend E.D. Nixon looking on, he was about to launch his career as one of the gretest orators in American history. Shall we?...

KIDS

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-Blast off!

(THEY whirl back in time as the lgihts change to...)

<u>SCENE 9

ALEX-AS-KING addresses SARAH-AS-ROSA, CARLOS-AS-NIXON, COLLIE-AS-AUDIENCE, CHARLIE-AS-AUDIENCE, and MR. HISTORY-AS-AUDIENCE, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, December 5, 1954, night. (The Company encourages the audience to participate where appropriate.)

ALEX-AS-KING

...When I woke up this morning, I was tired. I hadn't slept much, wondering when that first bus stopped outside my house, would it be full or empty? Then, there it was, and-- O Happy Day!-, it was empty!

(Cheers)

The bus was empty, but my heart was full! Full of pride in Rosa Parks!

(SARAH-AS-ROSA is acknowledged with cheers.)

Full of pride in Mr. E.D. Nixon and the organizers of this boycott!

(CARLOS-AS-NIXON is acknowledged with cheers.)

Full of pride in you and you and you, and every Negro in Montgomery who stood up today and shouted: "I am tired!"

"TIRED"-- REPRISE

BEEN SWALLOWIN' MY PRIDE,
AND I'M TIRED!
BEEN SHOVED TO THE SIDE,
AND I'M TIRED!
I'M TIRED OF SEEING SIGNS FOR "COLORED" AND "WHITE,"
I'M TIRED OF MOTEL ROOMS WHERE I CAN'T SPEND THE NIGHT,
I'M TIRED OF IT ALL-- YEAH, YOU HEARD ME RIGHT!--
I AM TIRED!

(ALEX-AS-KING comes down from the "pulpit" and addresses the whole auditorium. The audience may be encouraged to join in at any time.)

ALEX-AS-KING

If you're tired of separate drinking fountains, let me hear you!

(A COMPANY MEMBER shouts.)

COMPANY MEMBER

I am tired!

ALEX-AS-KING

If you're tired of seeing movies from the balcony, let me hear you!

ANOTHER COMPANY MEMBER

I am tired!

ALEX-AS-KING

If you're tired of broken-down schools with broken-down teachers, let me hear you!

ANOTHER COMPANY MEMBER

I am tired!

ALEX-AS-KING

Everybody in this room, get up!

(The COMPANY encourages the audience to stand.)

That's right, get up and get your neighbor up, too. If you're tired of "separate but equal," get up! If you're tired of being judged by the color of your skin, get up! If you're tired of hatred and violence--, If you're tired of lynchings and bloodshet--, If you're sick and tired of the shame of living in a country where all men are NOT created equal, let me hear you!!!

COMPANY AND AUDIENCE

I am tired!!!

ALEX-AS-KING

BEEN WILLING TO WAIT,--

COMPANY AND AUDIENCE

AND I'M TIRED!

ALEX-AS-KING

BEEN LIVING WITH HATE,--

COMPANY AND AUDIENCE

AND I'M TIRED!

ALEX-AS-KING

IGNORING WHAT'S WRONG,--

COMPANY AND AUDIENCE

AND I'M TIRED!

ALEX-AS-KING

BEEN BLIND TOO LONG,--

COMPANY AND AUDIENCE

AND I'M TIRED!

ALEX-AS-KING

BUT I'M CHANGIN' DIRECTION,
I'M CHANGIN' MY WAY,
I'M CHANGIN' IT ALL--
RIGHT HERE,-- TODAY!!

Mr. Nixon and I are paying a little visit to the mayor tomorrow!

(Cheers)

And what is it we're going to tell him?

ALL AND AUDIENCE

I!.....
AM!.....

ALEX-AS-KING

Let me hear you long and loud!!!

ALL AND AUDIENCE

TIRED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(Much cheering and clapping and hugging as the lights
change to...)

<u>SCENE 10

The Office of Mayor W.A. "Tacky" Gayle, immediately following. CHARLIE-AS-GAYLE and COLLIE-AS-CRENSHAW, the bus company attorney, listen as ALEX-AS-KING reads the demands, CARLOS-AS-NIXON nearby.

ALEX-AS-KING

"...First-come, first-serve seating, with whites filling in front-to-back, and blacks filling in from back-to-front. Number 2: Courteous treatment by bus drivers. Number 3: Negro drivers employed on predominantly Negro routes." Mr. Mayor, we are not out to change the segregation laws. We are merely asking for better accommodations for Negroes.

(HE sits.)

ALEX-AS-GAYLE

Askin', or demandin'?

CARLOS-AS-NIXON

We don't want no fight, Mr. Mayor. We're lookin' for a peaceful resolution.

COLLIE-AS-CRENSHAW

You're lookin' to violate the law, and, as the lawyer for the bus company, I cannot condone that-- or agree to it.

ALEX-AS-KING

Other cities have done it-- Atlanta, Nashville, Mobile.

COLLIE-AS-CRENSHAW

Then other cities have violated their own segregation laws. And as far as having Negro cabbies drive the boycotters, State Law Title 14, Section 54 prohibits a conspiracy to prevent the operation of a lawful business-- which, of course, the Montromery Bus Company is! You might tell your cabbies they'll be facing jail time.

ALEX-AS-KING

Is that a threat?

COLLIE-AS-CRENSHAW

Call it what you like.

CHARLIE-AS-GAYLE

I know you, King. If we grant these demands, you'll go aroun' boasting about a victory you've won over white people, and we won't stand for that.

ALEX-AS-KING

We have no intention of bo--

COLLIE-AS-CRENSHAW

And as far as bus drivers are concerned, we have no intention of ever hirin' nigras!

ALEX-AS-KING

Why are you being so hostile?

COLLIE-AS-CRENSHAW

Why?

"TIRED"-- REPRISE

YOU'RE FEELIN' UPSET,
'CAUSE YOU'RE "TIRED!"
YOU'RE MAKIN' A THREAT,
'CAUSE YOU'RE "TIRED!"
WELL, I AM TIRED, TOO, AN' ITCHIN' TO FIGHT,
DON'T TRY TO PREACH TO ME WHAT'S WRONG AN' WHAT'S RIGHT
'CAUSE YOU AIN'T GONNA CHANGE HOW I SEE BLACK AN' WHITE--
IF YOU'RE "TIRED,"
OR "FIRED,"
"ADMIRE"
OR "RE-TIRED!"--
YOU NIGRAS CAN GO FLY A KITE!

COLLIE-AS-CRENSHAW

If it rains tomorrow, you nigras'll be back on the buses
lickety-split!

CHARLIE-AS-GAYLE

(Gavelling)

Meeting adjourned!

(HE and CHARLIE-AS-MAYOR leave. Beat.)

CARLOS-AS-NIXON

Don't worry, Martin, the more they over-react, the better off
we'll be! If the cabbies can't drive, we'll organize a
carpool--that'll just get more people involved!

ALEX-AS-KING

I do believe you're enjoying this!

CARLOS-AS-NIXON

Durn straight! I been totin' luggage on and off trains for
forty years waitin' for this day. And you know what? I
ain't a bit tired!

(THEY laugh and exit, as the lights change to...)

SCENE 10B

COLLIE-AS-JULIETTE MORGAN, a white sympathizer,
writes a letter.

COLLEEN-AS-JULIETTE

(Music under)

"Dear Dr. King,

Your fight for the cause of justice is supported by the
prayers of thinking people everywhere. I'm so... so...

"TIRED"--REPRISE

SO TIRED OF STUPID LAWS 'BOUT WHO'S GOT WHICH SEATS,
PRETENDING THAT IT MATTERS WHERE A BLACK PERSON EATS,
I'M 'SHAMED TILL I DIE OF MEN HIDING IN SHEETS!--

Forgive me for making this an anonymous letter. Not all
of us have your courage."

(SHE signs and says/sings:)

I AM TIRED.

An eerie version of "TRAVEL THE
PAST" begins as the lights change
to...

SCENE 10C

Limbo. Out of the darkness CHARLIE-AS-KLAN emerges, dressed in white sheet and hood, looking ominously down on the history unfolding below him. In the half-light, the COMPANY accompanies MR. HISTORY's reading of newspaper headlines.

COMPANY

TRAVEL THE PAST...
TRAVEL THE PAST...
TRAVEL THE PAST...

MR. HISTORY

"December 10, 1955. The Montgomery Bus Company suspends service in black neighborhoods."

COMPANY

TRAVEL THE PAST...

MR. HISTORY

"December 17, 1955. Negotiations Fail with Boycott Leaders."

COMPANY MEMBER

(As Mayor Gayle)

"As your Mayor I'm telling you that equal accommodations is just a front for the Communists and extremists behind this boycott, who're tryin' to stir up trouble and ruin our country!"

COMPANY

TRAVEL THE PAST...

MR. HISTORY

"January 3, 1956. Money Trickles In To Support Boycott."

COMPANY MEMBER

(With a Swiss accent)

"I send you these 500 dollars. You would make me a very great pleasure, if you accepted, because what else could I do?"

COMPANY

TRAVEL THE PAST...

MR. HISTORY

"Any day in January, 1955, ten to twenty-five times a day."
(A phone rings. SARAH-AS-CORETTA answers)

SARAH-AS-CORETTA

Coretta King.

CHARLIE-AS-KLAN

"Your family ain't safe in this town much longer, so why
don't you just git on back to the jungle where you belong?!"
(SARAH-AS-CORETTA runs offstage, calling:)

SARAH-AS-CORETTA

Martin!

COMPANY

TRAVEL THE PAST...

(The lights change to...)

SCENE 10D

The Kings' living room, the next day.
CARLOS-AS-NIXON holds a gun in the air as
HE addresses ALEX-AS-KING sharply.

CARLOS-AS-NIXON

What do you mean, for protection?!

ALEX-AS-KING

They are threatening my family! How much are we supposed to
take?!

CARLOS-AS-NIXON

(Quoting the Bible)

"An' then came Peter to Jesus, and said, 'Lord, how oft shall
my brother sin against me, and' I forgive him? till seven
times?' Jesus saith unto him, 'I say not unto thee, Until
seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.'"

(CARLOS-AS-NIXON lays down the gun.)

That's a lot of forgivin', Martin.

(HE leaves.)

MR. HISTORY

"January 26, 1956. King Arrested On Charge of Travelling 30
miles per hour in a twenty-five mile per hour zone."

(A COMPANY MEMBER-AS-COP arrests ALEX-AS-KING, throws
him in jail and clangs shut the door as the lights
change to...)

SCENE 10E

Montgomery city jail.

COMPANY

TRAVEL THE PAST....

ALEX-AS-KING

(Railing at his god)

Get somebody else, somebody without a wife and a little girl!
I'm too tired, for this, Lord, I don't have the strength!
When I leave this jail, I am leaving this movement, and You
can't stop me!!

MR. HISTORY

"When a large crowd of Negroes gathered outside the
jailhouse, the Sheriff thought it prudent to release King on
his own recognizance."

COMPANY

TRAVEL THE PAST...

SCENE 10F

Inside King's home. ALEX-AS-KING opens a bedroom door to check on his wife and child. A FLASH OF CARLIGHTS and the SOUND OF BROKEN GLASS. ALEX-AS-KING rushes forward and picks up a brick with a note tied to it. As HE reads CHARLIE-AS-KLAN speaks the words.

CHARLIE-AS-KLAN

(Filled with hatred)

"Nigger, if you ain't out of this town in three days we gonna blow you out!"

(Impulsively, ALEX-AS-KING grabs his gun and runs to look out the window. The squeal of tires as the car races off. ALEX-AS-KING aims to kill, then suddenly lowers the gun. HE looks down at the gun in his trembling hand, then kneels and prays fervently.)

ALEX-AS-KING

I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. Take this hatred from me, please, and teach me the meaning, please teach me the meaning!...

(The "AGAPE" music comes in under as King continues praying. Then, slowly, HE rises and looks upward. A Divine Light seems to spread across his face and HE is filled with peace. HE picks up the gun, knows it is not the answer, and hurls it offstage. The TREMENDOUS SOUND OF A BOMB EXPLOSION as the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 11

The porch and yard of King's home, January 30, 1956. The SOUND OF A LARGE CROWD as the COMPANY awaits the arrival of King, who will address the crowd from the same spot vacated by the CHARLIE-AS-KLAN. MR. HISTORY-AS-REPORTER sets the scene, speaking into a microphone.

MR. HISTORY-AS-REPORTER

... Things are tense outside the King home. Hundreds of Negroes are angrily milling about, awaiting King's reaction to the bombing. Montgomery police are anxiously keeping their distance. Many of the Negroes are carrying weapons.

SARAH-AS-ANGRY BLACK

(Shouting towards the house)

Just say the word, Reverend, we're ready to fight!

(The CROWD shouts its assent.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-REPORTER

There's another bomb ready to blow right here in this yard, and Martin Luther King, Jr. is the man who's holding the match.

SARAH-AS-CROWD

He's comin'! There he is!

(ALEX-AS-KING slowly enters, looking down on the crowd.)

CROWD

(Shouting on top of each other)

Speak to us, Reverend! Show us the way! We're ready! We'll show 'em!, etc.

(ALEX-AS-KING raises his hand for quiet and the crowd settles. HE addresses them calmly.)

ALEX-AS-KING

My friends, "love your enemy" is about the hardest thing the Lord ever asked us to do. How do we love those who revile us, and persecute us, lynch us and bomb us? Last night, I prayed with all my might for an answer.

"AGAPE"-- REPRISE

(King sings/speaks the first two lines.)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, "AGAPE?"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, "AGAPE?"

GOD, IF YOU'RE LIST'NING SOMEWHERE ABOVE,

GIVE ME TO KNOW

HOW I'M TO LOVE,

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, "AGAPE?j"

(Music under)

Hatred and violence was stirring in me strong! I wanted to strike back, just the way you all want to strike back tonight! "Love my enemy?!"-- never! Then came a calm... And a

certainty...

ALEX-AS-KING

PRETTY LITTLE WORD, "AGAPE."
NOT A BIT ABSURD, "AGAPE."
WHEN YOU STAND AND LOOK
DEEP IN THE UNKNOWN,
HERE IS WHAT YOU SEE:
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS, "AGAPE."

(Music under)

The hate callers, those who bombed my home,--they are the
ones who stand alone! We are not alone. If you see every
man as your brother, you will never be alone!

LIVE FOR THE WHOLE, AND NOT FOR THE PART,
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS, "AGAPE."

(HE joins the COMPANY as THEY all join hands.)

ALL

LET'S LIVE TOGETHER, WITH ONE BEATING HEART,
HARD AS IT SEEMS...
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS...
"AGAPE."

(ALL whirl forward in time as the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 12

The Schoolyard, the present. As MR. HISTORY and the KIDS settle into place, SARAH goes to COLLIE.

SARAH

I'm sorry for sending that Valentine to Carlos.

COLLIE

I'm sorry for starting to fight.
(THEY shake, and say together:)

BOTH

Agape!

ALL KIDS

Agape!
(THEY laugh and congratulate each other. MR. HISTORY begins packing his trunk.)

CARLOS

Mr. History, where're you going?

MR. HISTORY

There're others waiting to learn the excitement of history.

CHARLIE

But you haven't told us the end of King's story.

MR. HISTORY

There is no end. What Martin Luther King, Jr. lived endures to this very day.

ALEX

But what happened to the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

MR. HISTORY

The Supreme Court ruled that the buses of Montgomery had to be de-segregated. That was the beginning of the end of segregation in the South. One of the most remarkable triumphs in all of history.

SARAH

And what happened to Rosa Parks?

MR. HISTORY

Alive to this day. And feisty as ever!

SARAH

I mean, what happened then?!

CARLOS

And to E.D. Nixon?

ALEX

I want to feel King's triumph!

ALL

Me, too! Yeah, come on, etc.

MR. HISTORY

Then the best way to do that is to speak his words. Dr. King was silenced by an assassin's bullet. But nothing will ever still the power of his words.

(HE gestures as the lights change to...)

<u>SCENE 13

Limbo. In isolated specials, the COMPANY recite some of the quotations of Martin Luther King, Jr.

MR. HISTORY

"We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers."

COMPANY MEMBER #1

"All prejudice is evil, but the prejudice that rejects a man because of the color of his skin is the most despicable expression of man's inhumanity to man."

COMPANY MEMBER #2

"Man has reached the day when violence toward another human being must become as abhorrent as eating another's flesh."

COMPANY MEMBER #3

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

COMPANY MEMBER #4

"The nonviolent resister not only refuses to shoot his opponent, he refuses to hate him."

COMPANY MEMBER #5

"If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you to go on in spite of all."

MR. HISTORY

"And so today, I still have a dream."

COMPANY MEMBER #1

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.'"

COMPANY MEMBER #2

"I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join in hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers."

COMPANY MEMBER #3

"I have a dream that one day, on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit together at the table of brotherhood."

COMPANY MEMBER #4

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color

of their skin, but by the content of their character."

MR. HISTORY

"I have a dream that one day 'every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.'"

ALEX

"God has allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!"

(A shot rings out. The COMPANY freezes in stillness for a long moment. Music to "AGAPE," as ALL join hands, move downstage and sing to the audience:)

ALL

LOVE MUST PREVAIL, "AGAPE."

THE END