

FAT KATZ AND EXPATS

by

Mickey James
and
Sharon "Squirt" James

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CHARACTERS

Ed Katz: a recent Boquete retiree, 60's, on the heavy side

Florida Gale: an ex-showgirl now living in Boquete, around 50

Ramon Rodriguez: a Panamanian entrepreneur, around 30

Lucy Katz: Ed's daughter visiting from the U.S., around 30

Boquete Betty (Betty Bodine): a real estate mogul, around 45

Clyde Brady: a local from the South, around 45

Mickey: Entertainer, guitar player, old hippy, 60's

Squirt: Entertainer, Mickey's wife, 60's

Pete Dubinskey: Tourist looking for property, 60's

Tessie Dubinskey: Pete's wife, 50's

Bob: A Departing Gringo

Nixia: A Pretty Panamanian Girl

Nudist Buddhist

SONGS

ACT I

BAJAREQUE TIMES BOB MOYLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

LAND OF THE FREE MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

PHONE RAMON MICKEY, SQUIRT, RAMON, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY BOQUETE BETTY, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN ED, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

MIDDLE AGES ED, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey James, Sharon "Squirt" James, Ray Flacke

POSIBLE MAS TARDE RAMON, BETTY, MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

JOSE RECUERDO MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA..... MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey James, Sharon "Squirt" James, Bud Smith

GARBAGE MAN..... PETE
by Mickey James

THE DAILY BUMP AND GRIND FLORIDA GALE, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE? MICKEY, SQUIRT, FLORIDA
GALE, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

DOWN SOUTH CLYDE, FLORIDA GALE, MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey James

FUN HOUSE ED, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey James

GOING GRINGO SQUIRT, MICKEY, ENSEMBLE
Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

SONGS

ACT II

ALL MESSED UP ED, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey James, Sharon "Squirt" James, Shel Silverstein

BE HERE NOW FLORIDA GALE, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey and Sharon "Squirt" James

BACK IN HARMONY MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
by Mickey James, Shel Silverstein, Rich Fagan

ACT I

SCENE I

Setting: STAGE RIGHT is a meeting room for expats to gather to socialize and share information. There are chairs set up for the meeting which is about to take place. There are enough chairs to accommodate the main actors. The ENSEMBLE and MICKEY and SQUIRT are already seated STAGE LEFT. They are the entertainers. There is a sign above them that says, "Mickey and Squirt and the Geezer Pleasers" with arrow pointing to ENSEMBLE. There is a small bar. There is a sign on wall that says, "Welcome to Boquete Betty's Tuesday Gringo Meeting".

At Rise: MICKEY and SQUIRT and the ENSEMBLE (Geezer Pleasers) prepare to sing. They sit just off the area where the meeting will take place on STAGE LEFT next to guitar and music equipment, which have already been set up. BOB, a departing Gringo, and NIXIA, a pretty Panamanian girl, ENTER and stand apart from each other as BOB sings "BAJAREQUE TIMES" to HER.

Time and Place: Tuesday P.M. in Boquete, Panama

SONG: BAJAREQUE TIMES

BOB

GENTLE GIRL
FLASHING EYES
SUMMER DRIZZLE
RAINBOW SKIES
MISTY MOUNTAIN
I CAN'T SEE BARU
WE WERE HOLDIN' HANDS
LIKE LOVERS DO

VACATION'S OVER
I'LL FLY AWAY
TINY AIRPORT
I'LL BE BACK SOMEDAY
GENTLE PEOPLE, STILL ON MY MIND
AND I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER
THOSE BAJAREQUE TIMES

RUSHING RIVER
YELLOW BRIDGE
WHITE CLOUDS RESTING
UP ON THE RIDGE
ORANGE BLOSSOMS
SCENT THE AIR
COFFEE DREAMS
ARE EVERYWHERE

BOB (Continued)

VACATION'S OVER
I'LL FLY AWAY
TINY AIRPORT
I'LL BE BACK SOMEDAY
GENTLE PEOPLE, STILL ON MY MIND
AND I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER
THOSE BAJAREQUE TIMES
ALWAYS REMEMBER
BAJAREQUE TIMES

(After song BOB and NIXIA exit as next song, LAND OF THE FREE begins)

SONG: LAND OF THE FREE

MICKY

WAY DOWN SOUTH OF MEXICO
WE GOT A LITTLE PLACE WHERE THE EXPATS GO
CALLED BOQUETE...LITTLE MOUNTAIN TOWN IN THE SKY
RIVER NEAR HERE WHERE I WANNA BE
JUST FLOATIN' ON DOWN OLD CHIRIQUI
IT'S THE REAL LAND OF THE FREE .. OH ME, OH MY

MICKY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

I LIKE IT RIGHT HERE, SUITS ME JUST FINE
GIVE ME ONE OF THEM FIFTY CENT BEERS
A BOX OF THAT TWO DOLLAR WINE
ALL MY FRIENDS DON'T THINK LIKE ME, BUT WE GET ALONG HANDSOMELY
'CAUSE WE FOUND OUR LAND OF THE FREE AND IT FEELS JUST FINE

MICKY

THERE'S NO GEORGE BUSH AND NO DICK CHENEY
WHERE THE SUNSHINE SHINES, WHEN IT AIN'T RAINY
IT'S A PEACEFUL PLACE, NO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
WE DON'T WATCH TOO MUCH CNN
'CAUSE IT'S THE CORPORATE FOLKS THAT ARE TELLIN' THEM
WHAT TO TELL US, JUST TO SELL US .. THAT OIL SEDUCTION

MICKY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

I LIKE IT RIGHT HERE, SUITS ME JUST FINE
GIVE ME ONE OF THEM FIFTY CENT BEERS
A BOX OF THAT TWO DOLLAR WINE
ALL MY FRIENDS DON'T THINK LIKE ME, BUT WE GET ALONG HANDSOMELY
'CAUSE WE FOUND OUR LAND OF THE FREE, AND IT FEELS JUST FINE

MICKY

YOU CAN CATCH YOU A CAB FOR A DOLLAR GOIN' ANYWHERE
GET YOU A FRIEND FOR A HOLLER, THERE'S PLENTY THERE
"TRANQUIL", BE THANKFUL, THAT'S THE KEY WORD
THEY DON'T PAY MUCH MIND TO A GRINGO WITH AN ATTITUDE

MICKEY (Continued)

AT EIGHTY-TWO WEST, EIGHT FORTY-SIX LATITUDE WHERE
SPANGLISH IS THE LANGUAGE, IF YOU WANT TO BE HEARD

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE (Sing twice)

I LIKE IT RIGHT HERE, SUITS ME JUST FINE
GIVE ME ONE OF THEM FIFTY CENT BEERS, A BOX OF THAT TWO DOLLAR WINE
ALL MY FRIENDS DON'T THINK LIKE ME, BUT WE GET ALONG HANDSOMELY
'CAUSE WE FOUND OUR LAND OF THE FREE, AND IT FEELS JUST FINE
RIGHT HERE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE IT FEELS JUST FINE

(RAMON ENTERS. HE starts straightening up the room)

RAMON

(To MICKEY and SQUIRT)

Buenos días, Squirt. Como está, Mickey. You do fine show
yesterday! You sing pretty swell ... for Gringos!

MICKEY

Thanks, Ramon. How's your new house plan coming?

RAMON

It come slow, but it come. I can see my beautiful new house in my
head. My cousin, the architect ... he do design for me. He
working on it right now, as we SPEAKING!

MICKEY

That's good. And in the meantime ... it's great that you were
able to get that rental from Boquete Betty right across the
street.

SQUIRT

Yeah, pretty convenient for your job here.

RAMON

Es bueno, but it cost plenty, and Boquete Betty .. she don't cut
me no "slick".

SQUIRT

Slack, Ramon. I think you mean "slack".

RAMON

Oh, yeah, that what she don't cut me. Boquete Betty ... she going
to want the rent today. Good thing that new Gringo, Ed, come to
live with me. You know him? That very sad man whose wife marry
new hombre?

MICKEY

Sure, Ed Katz ... the rather .. plump guy! He told me all about
the ex wife thing ... in great detail. He saved my butt though.

RAMON

How he do that?

MICKEY

Last week Squirt and I took a drive up the mountain to Palmyra. Squirt forgot her cell phone ...

SQUIRT

It's our cell phone, and you're on it a lot more than I am!

MICKEY

Anyway, we ran out of gas. ONE of us forgot to fill the tank last week.

SQUIRT

One of us?

MICKEY

So there we are ... dead in the water ... right in front of the Push and Posh Motel Motel ... you know ... where they rent those rooms to lovers by the hour ...

RAMON

Si, sometime it pay to be fast lover.

SQUIRT

You ever go to one of those places, Ramon?

RAMON

Me? No! I married ... well ... I used to be.

SQUIRT

So ... we get out of the car in front of this place for fast lovers, thinking maybe we'd walk the two miles to town for gas. Mickey pushes the button down locking his door, which, of course, locks all the doors, after CONVENIENTLY leaving his keys in the ignition!

RAMON

I hate it when I do that!

SQUIRT

(Points to MICKEY)

I hate it when HE do that!

MICKEY

ANYWAY, we didn't know what we were going to do! And then ... Along comes the full figured sad guy, Ed ...

SQUIRT

And hanging in the back seat above the door on that little hook was a ... ?

(SQUIRT motions to RAMON)

RAMON

(SUNG)

... lov-el-y bunch of coconuts?

SQUIRT

A coat hangar, silly!

RAMON

Oh, si, never leave home without one.

SQUIRT

So Ed opens the door with a coat hangar!

MICKEY

AND brought us back some gas from the Accel Station ... saving the day!

RAMON

Ed save my day too with his money for Boquete Betty rent! He cut down my ...

(Pats top of his head)

How you say ... cabeza top?

MICKEY

You mean overhead?

RAMON

Si, that's the word ... overhead. Ed very helpful, but I wish he was not so depression! He SO sad!

(Emotionally)

Make me want to cry!

(PHONE RINGS and RAMON pulls out two phones, not sure which one is ringing. HE answers first one and it is wrong phone. Ringing continues. HE answers second phone. Possibly he wears different hats when describing different jobs he does)

RAMON (Continued)

Alo ... si. This is Ramon. Si, Mr. Peterson ... I can do plumbing ... electric? I can do electric. Comida? You need food? Si, I grow food ...

(Smiling and speaking next line slowly)

RAMON (Continued)

And that not all I grow ...

(PAUSE)

You like pretty flowers? Si, I am bilingual too. Chinese?
No ...

SONG: PHONE RAMON

MICKEY, SQUIRT

HEY, MR. GRINGO, WANNA LEARN THE LOCAL LINGO?

RAMON

YOU CAN CALL ME

ENSEMBLE

PHONE RAMON

MICKEY, SQUIRT

WANNA BUY A BAGEL OR RENT A WINNEBAGO

RAMON

YOU CAN CALL ME

ENSEMBLE

PHONE RAMON

MICKEY, SQUIRT

LOOKIN' FOR A DEAL, I MEAN A REAL STEAL
IN A CONDO

ENSEMBLE

IF YOU GOT THE DOUGH

MICKEY, SQUIRT

A PLACE TO GET A TUNE UP BY A TROPICAL SALOON
UP IN THE JUNGLE

ENSEMBLE

COMON LET'S GO

MICKEY, SQUIRT

A RAFT RIDE, THEN A BACK RUB
A COLD BEER IN A HOT TUB ..YOU JUST

RAMON, ENSEMBLE

PHONE RAMON ...

MICKEY, SQUIRT

YOU GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM
YOU CAN ...

RAMON, ENSEMBLE

PHONE RAMON ...

MICKEY, SQUIRT

HE CAN HELP YOU SOLVE `EM
WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE, JUST PICK UP THE PHONE

ENSEMBLE

DO IT

RAMON, ENSEMBLE, MICKEY, SQUIRT

(Back and forth between RAMON and ENSEMBLE)
PHONE RAMON, PHONE RAMON, PHONE RAMON, PHONE RAMON

MICKEY

GOTTA GIG TO PLAY, NOW YOU GOTTA FIND A WAY
TO GET YOUR BAND STRAIGHT

RAMON, ENSEMBLE

PHONE RAMON

MICKEY

THEY DRANK A CASE OF BEER, NOW THE POLICIA'S HERE
HE CAN TRANSLATE

RAMON, ENSEMBLE

PHONE RAMON

MICKEY, SQUIRT

ANY JOB AT ALL, NO JOB TOO SMALL,
AND ITS GUARANTEED

RAMON

I GOT KIDS TO FEED

MICKEY

GIMME CASH ... CHECK, GIMME PLASTIC
YOU GONNA WALK AWAY SAYING

ENSEMBLE

FANTASTIC!

MICKEY, SQUIRT

FIX THE HOUSE, CUT THE LAWN
WASH THE DOG, AND SING THIS SONG CALLED

RAMON, ENSEMBLE
PHONE RAMON ...
MICKEY, SQUIRT
YOU GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM, YOU CAN
RAMON, ENSEMBLE
PHONE RAMON
MICKEY, SQUIRT
HE CAN HELP YOU SOLVE `EM
WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE, JUST PICK UP THE PHONE
ENSEMBLE
DO IT
MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
PHONE RAMON (PHONE RAMON)

MICKEY
CALL 1 800 F-O-N

RAMON
(Hollers)
RAMON

MICKEY
DO IT!!!

ENSEMBLE
PHONE RAMON, PHONE RAMON, PHONE RAMON, RAMON
PHONE RAMON (IN HARMONY)

ENSEMBLE
PHONE RAMON (IN HARMONY)

RAMON
(PAUSES to listen on phone)
Today? No, not today. Maybe mañana. Today I work Gringo meeting for Boquete Betty. I call when I come, or maybe I come when I call.

(Hangs up phone, then addresses AUDIENCE)
See, plenty of work, but not enough Ramon. And no time to do what I really want. I can see my dream house right here ... right here.

(Points to HIS own head)
And my cousin, José, the architect, he put my dream house on paper ... TODAY! I so excited!! He is helping me, but HE also want to be paid, and how I going to pay HIM and Boquete Betty for my rent?

(Gleefully)
How? I already tell you ... I get rent from the depressing Gringo, Ed Katz, while he builds his new house ... with my help. But, Ed? He pretty demanding. He going to give us

RAMON (Continued)

both a nervous brokeup. He wanting everything done yesterday. BUT ... he has dinero.

(Smiles)

He is a GRINGO. Ramon need dinero!

(Ponders)

Gringo.... ?

ENSEMBLE

Dinero!

RAMON

(Ponders)

Gringo?

ENSEMBLE

Dinero!

RAMON

Ramon need more Gringos!

(Looks to the sky with praying hands)

BRING ME GRINGOS!

(A bang is heard offstage to the left at unseen door to meeting room as BOQUETE BETTY angrily enters and faces RAMON)

RAMON

(To AUDIENCE)

Not Gringo I have in mind.

(to BOQUETE BETTY with big fake smile)

Buenos dias, Boquete Betty. You looking pretty today. Si, BONITA!

BOQUETE BETTY

Don't you "bonita" me! Where's my rent? You promised you'd have it yesterday, YOU LITTLE ...

RAMON

Late, posible?

BOQUETE BETTY

Yes!! And who is that fat man I saw coming out of the house that I rented to YOU?

RAMON

That Ed Katz. He is one of your countrymen .. very sad though. He need help, so ... I help him. I rent half of my house to him, while my cousin make a plan to build HIM his OWN house of dreams ... eventually. His daughter ... she coming from Estados Unidos today. Maybe he not be so sad now, and maybe his daughter, she even help him clean up his room. Aaaay! He very sloppy Gringo.

BOQUETE BETTY

Ramon, I told you .. NO SUBLETTING!
(Delivered quickly)
Has he got any money?

RAMON

Sure! Ed give ME money, so I can give YOU money ... soon.
(Proudly)

And NOW also I am on the staff of the Habla Bla complete cultural immersion program for Gringos. That where I meet the sad Gringo, who need place to stay.

BOQUETE BETTY

HABLA BLA? Oh, yeah. That new Spanish language school at Los Establos. I've heard of it.

RAMON

Si, and they have this bueno brochure.

(RAMON holds brochure up for HABLA BLA Language School)

BOQUETE BETTY

(Grabs brochure and looks at it)
... But, Ramon, it says,
(Reads)
You will be placed with a carefully selected Panamanian FAMILY.

RAMON

Si. A carefully selected Panama family of one ... that is ME ...

BOQUETE BETTY

(Tone changes to more amused as she continues reading)
Oh, this is a hoot! It says ...
(Reads)
We can impact global society by showing how people from different cultures can live together in perfect harmony.

BOQUETE BETTY (Continued)

(Snidely through her nose)

Ha-bla-bla!! So what does this perfect harmony pay, and how much are YOU ready to pay me ... NOW?

RAMON

Is that all you think about? Money?

BOQUETE BETTY

(Makes threatening move towards RAMON)

No, sometimes I think about what I'm going to do to YOU, if you don't GIVE me my money!!

SONG: MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

ENSEMBLE

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

BOQUETE BETTY

I JUST LOVE THAT SOUND

ENSEMBLE

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

BOQUETE BETTY

MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND
SO DOES THAT MAKE ME EVIL
TO KNOW A SUCKER WHEN I SEE ONE?
I LOVE THE LITTLE PEOPLE
I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE ONE

I GOT A CONDO IN THE MOUNTAINS
GOT A CONDO BY THE SEA
I GOT A LOT OF THINGS YOU'LL NEVER HAVE
'CAUSE YOU DON'T THINK LIKE ME

ENSEMBLE

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

BOQUETE BETTY

I LOVE THE WAY IT SPENDS

ENSEMBLE

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

BOQUETE BETTY

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T BUY FRIENDS?
YOU CAN SQUANDER IT, YOU CAN LAUNDER IT
STEAL IT, IF YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT
THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE DOUGH BUSINESS (*SUNG LIKE ETHEL MERMAN*)
SO, HONEY, GIMME ALL YOU GOT

YOU GOTTA WORK ON SUNDAYS?
WELL, ISN'T THAT A BUMMER
NOT HAPPY WITH YOUR HYUNDAIS?
ME AND ARNOLD WE GOT HUMMERS ... HMMM

ENSEMBLE

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

BOQUETE BETTY

"M" IS FOR THE MULA THAT I'M MAKING
SO WATCH YOUR ASS, AND DON'T GET IN MY WAY

ENSEMBLE

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

RAMON

Ramon is ambitious but you really take the cookie!

BOQUETE BETTY

The CAKE, Ramon!

RAMON

Oh, yeah, TAKE the CAKE, like BAKE the CAKE. Oh, I think Ramon
write song! You like?

BOQUETE BETTY

Sure, sure, Ramon ... but don't give up your day job. Hey, comon!
We need to go pick up that case of Cabernet for the bar.

RAMON

Sure, boss lady person.

(RAMON and BOQUETE BETTY exit. Immediately afterwards ED and LUCY enter. ED and LUCY carry LUCY'S suitcases. ED is munching from a giant bag of potato chips he is carrying)

LUCY

(Looks around)

This is nice. The expats meet here every Tuesday, huh?

ED

Without fail. Chip?

(ED offers LUCY some chips from his bag)

LUCY

No thanks, Dad. Do you know how many grams of fat are in just ONE chip?

ED

(Continues to munch)

Do I care?

LUCY

So what's your new address, Dad, so I know where to write you when I get back to the States?

ED

We don't have addresses in Boquete.

LUCY

You're kidding! No addresses in Boquete? So what happens, if your house is on fire, and you call the fire department? What do you tell them?

ED

Go to the house with the flames.

LUCY

Oh, boy ... so tell me about this Panamanian family you're living with, Dad?

ED

(Continues to munch)

Actually, now it's just this Ramon ... and me, and it's only

ED (Continued)

temporary ... until I get my house built. His cousin, the architect, is supposedly working on my plans right now, but with these people ... you never know.

LUCY

These people! Dad, really! But I thought you told me there were kids, Mama and Papa, a couple of grandmothers, aunts, cousins, a Rottweiler ... you know, a real Panamanian family.

ED

Well, yes, there was a real Panamanian family, but they ... sort of ... kicked me out ... just because I left a few things laying around. Your mother used to bitch about that.

LUCY

Yeah, she still talks about that, Dad. Compares you to some sort of Easter Bunny or Johnny Appleseed character

(Delivered song like)

... joyfully scattering socks, screw drivers, beer cans, and Twinky wrappers .. hither and yon.. as you travel from room to room.

ED

Yeah, yeah, yeah! But that's not going to be a problem anymore, honey, because now I'm living with a MAN ... who probably has a similar ... sensible ... MANLY filing system.

LUCY

Oh, Dad! Were you born in a barn?

ED

Maybe, I was...but I'm NOT the only one ...I tried to explain that to your mother ...

SONG: EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN

ED

SHE WAS ALWAYS COMPLAININ' 'BOUT ME AND MY STUFF

LUCY

WELL, YOU SPREAD IT AROUND, AND YOU DON'T PICK IT UP

ED

GIRL, THAT'S A GUY'S THING, WE DO IT LIKE THAT
WHEN WE NEED IT AGAIN WE KNOW RIGHT WHERE IT'S AT

LUCY

STILL SHE PICKED UP YOUR THINGS AND SHE PUT THEM AWAY

ED

YEAH, WHAT I SET DOWN IN AUGUST I DON'T FIND TIL MAY
AND SHE PUSHED ME TOO FAR WITH HER COMMENTS ONE MORNIN'
IMPLYIN' MY PROBLEM'S THE PLACE I WAS BORN IN

(LISTEN HERE)

ED, ENSEMBLE

EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN
AND MY SOCKS IN THE CORNER
AIN'T DOIN' NO HARM
SO SAY WHAT YOU WILL
I JUST DON'T GIVE A DARN
EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN

ED

SO I WENT HONKY TONKIN', NOW WHAT DID THAT HURT?
A LITTLE BARBECUE SAUCE ON THE FRONT OF MY SHIRT

LUCY

BUT YOU LEFT IT FOR LAUNDRY ON THE LIVING ROOM TABLE

ED

SHE TELLS ME I ACT LIKE I'S BORN IN A STABLE

ED, ENSEMBLE

EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN
AND MY SOCKS IN THE CORNER
AIN'T DOIN' NO HARM
SO SAY WHAT YOU WILL
I JUST DON'T GIVE A DARN
EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN

ED

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT WORSE PLACES A MAN COULD BE REARED

ENSEMBLE MEMBER

HOW 'BOUT NEW JOISEY?

ED

NOW THAT WOULD BE WEIRD
DON'T GO CASTING ASPERSIONS, ON ME AND THE FARM
EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN

ED, ENSEMBLE

EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN
AND MY SOCKS IN THE CORNER
AIN'T DOIN' NO HARM
SO SAY WHAT YOU WILL
I JUST DON'T GIVE A DARN
EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN

EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN
AND MY SOCKS IN THE CORNER
AIN'T DOIN' NO HARM
SO SAY WHAT YOU WILL
I JUST DON'T GIVE A DARN
EVEN JESUS WAS BORN IN A ...
THIS SONG IS CORNY, HEY
JESUS WAS BORN IN A BARN

ED

Lucy, you're going to love it here! This place is O.K. ... not perfect, of course, but ... nice.

LUCY

It is pretty ...

(Ponders)

... PRETTY here .. but remember, Dad ... I am only here for a SHORT visit ... I just needed to know you're alright. Are you?

(LUCY takes a good look at ED)

And what do you weigh now?

ED

Well ...

(Take chip out of bag and munches)

LUCY

Still "chipping" away at it, huh?

ED

A man's got to do something that feels good!

LUCY

(Gently)

Is your depression still getting the best of you?

(LUCY puts her arm around ED)

ED

(Puts his head down)

Well, they're telling me now I'm bipolar, whatever the hell that is. Sounds like some kind of world traveler, doesn't it?

(Tone changes)

But, you know, I always bounce back. A new place, a new state of mind, a new pill ... And, Lucy, honey, you ought to give this place a serious look too. I'd love to see more of you, and what's so great about your mundane and oh so plain life back home?

LUCY

It's stable. Is that a word you're familiar with? Stable? It's more than just a place to put your horse.

ED

Yeah, yeah, yeah ... very clever. But you wait and see what a difference my new house is going to make. 'Course, I still might have to take a look at Nicaragua ...

LUCY

Nicaragua!!

ED

Just for comparison ... You know, honey, I just read in "International Living" that they're practically giving away land there! Most of the world still thinks Nicaragua is politically unstable.

LUCY

Isn't it?

ED

Well, it's still settling down, I suppose. You know ... Uruguay looks kind of interesting too ...

LUCY

Uruguay!! What goes on in Uruguay? I mean, how many times do you hear someone say, "Oh, I just got back from Uruguay", and it was so ... "

ED

(Interrupts)

Yeah, you're probably right. And Panama DOES seem to be just about as good as it gets.

LUCY

And that's what you said about Nashville, and before that about Park City! Then I seem to recall similar rumblings about Saratoga, or was that Sarasota?

ED

It depends on the season.

LUCY

Dad, your special place is always the place just before the next place. And now ... FOR now ... it's this place.

ED

Alright, Lucy. You've made your point. But listen ...

LUCY

(Interrupts)

Why don't you just admit it, Dad. You're like the not so happy wanderer. You get a little down, and you move on to your next "would be" sanctuary. Just like you did with Mother.

ED

Is that where all this is coming from, Lucy? Get your facts straight. I didn't leave your mother. Your mother refused to come with me when I took that advocate's job in Astoria ... or was that Fostoria?... Remember? "The Friends of Furry Forest Fellows"?

LUCY

How could I forget?

ED

Anyway, your mother's the one who filed for divorce, and who was I to stand in her way?

LUCY

How many times did you expect her to uproot her life, leave her family, her friends .. and go chasing after ...

ED

A dream? Your mother and I had DIFFERENT dreams. AND it's not like she sat around and pined for me. She's had how many new boyfriends? And now ... a new husband. DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THAT HURT?

LUCY

Hurt's a two way street, Dad. No one comes out of divorce feeling very good. But it's time to move on, isn't it?

ED

I moved here, didn't I?

LUCY

Yeah ...

(Changing subject)

So tell me about your NEW lady friend ... the one you mentioned in your last email .. said she was a teacher? Named Florida something?

ED

Gale. Florida Gale. She's quite a character. I'm starting to develop a fondness for her. A man gets lonely, you know. She seems to have a thing for me too.

(Tentatively)

At least I think she does. You know how these things go.

LUCY

Listen to you! You are SO negative! Ever hear of, POSITIVE THINKING?

ED

Ever hear of MURPHY'S LAW?

LUCY

So this thing with Florida Gale ... is it getting serious?

ED

Serious? Well it might be. We seem to have a lot in common, like, if I should ever decide to check out some other countries ... Florida Gale would be packed up and ready to go. She's a free spirit ... just like me. But let's talk about you, Lucy. That great scholarship you turned down.

LUCY

I've got a job, Dad.

ED

I'm sure you're a FINE hairdresser, but where's your sense of achievement ... adventure? Lucy ... with your smarts ... why, you could do just about anything! Be anything! But, you're still living at home.

LUCY

(Snippily)

I have my own apartment.

ED

In your mother's house for God's sake. Are you BECOMING your mother? Don't you have dreams?

LUCY

I have dreams, and SOMEDAY there'll be time for them.

ED

Honey, "somedays" HAVE a way ... of SLIPPING away. You wake up one morning, and you're a lot older than you were just the night before. And what you WERE and what you WANTED to be.. is NOT what you are. I'm very familiar with that feeling. You look in the mirror and ...

LUCY

Oh, Daddy ...

(LUCY moves away. ED sings to audience)

SONG: MIDDLE AGES

ED

THERE'S A BOY BEHIND THIS DOUBLE CHIN
FACE DON'T FAIL ME NOW
THESE LINES THEY DON'T BELONG ON HIM
FACE DON'T FAIL ME NOW
MIRROR MIRROR ABOVE MY SINK
DON'T TELL ME I NEED A DRINK
'CAUSE MY HEART'S BACK AT THE ROLLER RINK
FACE DON'T FAIL ME NOW

I'M GONNA JOIN THAT HEALTH CLUB SOON
HEART DON'T FAIL ME NOW
DON'T SAY YOU'VE HEARD THIS SAME OL' TUNE
HEART DON'T FAIL ME NOW
I'LL CLIMB MOUNTAINS ONCE AGAIN
JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO CATCH MY WIND
IF I CAN GET FAT, WELL I CAN GET THIN
HEART DON'T FAIL ME NOW

ED, ENSEMBLE

HERE'S TO THE BABY BOOMERS
AND ALL US REAL LATE BLOOMERS
MILITANTS AND SAGES
FLYIN' THRU THESE MIDDLE AGES

ED

SO DON'T TELL ME I'VE RUN MY RACE
FEET DON'T FAIL ME NOW
IT WASN'T ME WHO SET THIS PACE
ED (By Himself..NO ENSEMBLE)
I'LL KEEP UP SOMEHOW

ED

AND DON'T GO STEPPIN' ON MY PRIDE
'CAUSE ME I'VE GOT THIS KID INSIDE
AND YOU KNOW HE'S JUST HIT HIS STRIDE
FEET DON'T FAIL ME NOW

ED, ENSEMBLE

HERE'S TO THE BABY BOOMERS
AND ALL US REAL LATE BLOOMERS
MILITANTS AND SAGES
FLYIN' THRU THESE MIDDLE AGES

(LUCY spins around in front of ED playfully in a kind of dance)

ED

WHOSE THAT PIXIE DANCIN' BY?
SHE LOOKS LIKE ME SOMEHOW
SHE ASKS A LOT OF "HOWS AND WHYS"
MIND DON'T FAIL ME NOW
HER MAMA USED TO LOOK AT ME
LIKE SHE BELIEVED I'D ALWAYS BE
FOREVER YOUNG, FOREVER FREE
(SPOKEN)
LIFE DON'T FAIL ME NOW

(RAMON and BOQUETE BETTY enter with case of wine which
RAMON takes to the bar)

RAMON

Hola, Mister Ed!

(Ponders)

Mister Ed? Wasn't that a horse that say funny things? You should
say funny things ...

(Takes a good look at LUCY)

Is THIS is your daughter? !!

ED

That's right, my rock ... the love of my life. Lucy, this is
Ramon, I guess you could say ... my roommate.

RAMON

(Bows graciously)

Lucy! Hola..la! May I service you?

LUCY

Service me?

ED

BE of service, Ramon.

RAMON

Oh, yeah ... BE of service ... I get that wrong. Anyway, buenos
dias, Lucy!

LUCY

(Flirtatiously)

Well, a big buenas dias to you too!

ED

(ED clears his throat)

Ramon, would you mind taking Lucy's bags over to the house ... while I make a call?

RAMON

(Confrontationally)

Who you calling?

ED

Your cousin, Ramon. The one who, as of yesterday, STILL hadn't completed my house plans. Know the one I mean?

RAMON

Sure ...

(ASIDE to AUDIENCE)

The one who is working on MY house plans today!

(To ED)

But Lucy ... your lovely daughter ... she just arrive. You should make call later.

Ed

Well, maybe you're right.

RAMON

Sure ... later ... MUCHO later. Maybe even wait until he call you.

ED

Do you not WANT me to call your cousin, Ramon?

(RAMON looks uncomfortable)

LUCY

Dad! Ramon's right. I just got here. Can't you take care of business later?

ED

Well, I guess so ... but I just have this feeling ...

(RAMON and LUCY give each other long flirtatious looks)

ED (Continued)

Ramon! Are you going to take Lucy's bags?

(BOQUETE BETTY makes a sound indicating that she expects an introduction)

RAMON

With much ... PLEASURE ... I will do that ... But FIRST I want you should meet ...

(Gestures to BOQUETE BETTY who appears to be sizing up ED)
Very important mujer ... my boss lady person ... Betty Bodine ... who is known all over this town as BOQUETE BETTY. She OWN this building!

(Nods toward theoretical street. LUCY, ED, and BETTY nod in UNISON)

And THAT building, and THAT building, and THAT building, and THAT building ...

BOQUETE BETTY

No, not THAT building.

(Points further down the horizon)

But THAT building.

ED

(As THEY shake hands)

Nice to meet you, Boquete Betty. Name's Ed Katz ... and this is my daughter, Lucy.

BOQUETE BETTY

Ah, Ed Katz, Ramon's new Gringo. I've heard so much about you!

ED

You have?

BOQUETE BETTY

Yes, it's a pleasure to finally meet you, Ed ... Lucy ... my card.

(Hands them each her business card and looks around)

Is your wife here with you, Ed?

LUCY

He doesn't do that anymore.

BOQUETE BETTY

I see. Well, Ed, Ramon tells me that he and his cousin are

(Chuckles to HERSELF)

going to help you build a house. Aren't you the brave soul!

ED

Huh?

BOQUETE BETTY

Why don't you let me show you some sweet little properties with already completed homes. No muss. No fuss. No waiting. You know, Ed, nothing against Ramon, here, OR his little cousin ... they're nice enough young men ... but you could be sitting here a year from now looking at nothing but a foundation.

LUCY

(Looking fondly at RAMON)
It's a start, Dad.

ED

(Looks sharply at RAMON)
A YEAR FROM NOW! A foundation? But, Ramon, I thought ...

(RAMON looks uncomfortable)

BOQUETE BETTY

Apparently, not enough.

ED

Ramon! You said, after we got the plans approved, your cousin, Jose could build my house in ... what was it? Three months?

RAMON

Mas o menos. Less or more.

BOQUETE BETTY

THREE MONTHS? Oh, that's a good one!! Ed, has the concept of Panama time been explained to you?

RAMON

I go take suitcases for Lucy to my house .. our house, Ed. I be right back. Ciao.

(RAMON grabs LUCY'S bags and EXITS hurriedly)

LUCY

Ciao?

ED

Yeah, they say that here. Probably left over from Columbus, or something.

(to BOQUETE BETTY)

So you don't think it's going to be possible to get my house built in three months?

BOQUETE BETTY

Ed, are you a religious man?

ED

Not much chance, huh?

BOQUETE BETTY

In a word ... NO! Well, you know where to find me, Ed. I have a number of lovely liveable listings that would be PERFECT for you.

(Somewhat motherly to LUCY)

And young lady, how about you? Have you thought about where YOU'RE going to be spending the next thirty years?

LUCY

That reminds me of one of those Southern Baptist bumper stickers "Do you know where you're going to be spending eternity? Smoking or non-smoking?"

BOQUETE BETTY

(Impatiently)

Oh, that's cute, but like I always say, "Feather your nest while the feathering's best"! Do you have any idea what these houses are going to cost a year from now? Or what you could have stolen them for a year AGO? I do ... and I did.

LUCY

I don't have any money. I'm a hairdresser.

ED

She's still living with her mother.

(BOQUETE BETTY dismisses LUCY with her hand)

BOQUETE BETTY

(Impatiently to RAMON as HE ENTERS)

Ramon ... THE RENT?

RAMON

Si.

(to ED)

Hey, Mister Ed ... you pay me rent now? O.K.?

ED

But I already paid you? What's the problem?

RAMON

No problema. It's just I uh uh ...

(More quickly)

... just I be needing rent for next month too ... in advance.

(Smiling reassuringly)

It is the custom here.

ED

(Distressed)

But...!

LUCY

Dad, it's the custom!

ED

Well, alright.

(ED takes money out of his wallet and begrudgingly hands one bill at a time to RAMON who hands it to BOQUETE BETTY one bill at a time. BOQUETE BETTY quickly pockets it. RAMON continues to leer at LUCY)

ED (Continued)

(To RAMON)

So, Ramon, when will my house plans be finished ... and when will my house be finished?

RAMON

My cousin, Jose .. He is very careful man. He design FINE house for you.

ED

WHEN, Ramon? WHEN?

RAMON

SOON, Mr. Ed SOON.

(Lightly)

In the meantime, you stay with me, and I teach you Spanish. This very important thing, but no come fast. Español is a very complex language.

(Cheerfully)

See how the timing all going to work out MUY bueno?

LUCY

(Looking affectionately at RAMON)

Yeah, Dad, see?

ED

Yeah, right, Lucy ... but something's wrong here ... I can't quite put my finger on it, but ...

RAMON

You should not trust fingers. You don't know where they been.

ED

(Losing him patience ED takes cell phone out of his pocket)
Alright, Ramon ... enough of this nonsense! I'm going to call Jose right now. I mean, what's going on here?

RAMON

Oh ... I would not call him now! Jose very busy man. Probably doing something VERY IMPORTANT.

ED

(ED dials number)

Back off, Ramon!

(Angrily)

It's busy!

(ED dials again and again getting more and more frustrated)

STILL BUSY! Probably talking to some girlfriend!

RAMON

Girlfriend important. Could be family someday.

LUCY

Yeah, chill, Dad ... chill!

BOQUETE BETTY

So, Ed, the new concept we learned today .. IS?

ED

Huh? What new concept?

BOQUETE BETTY

It is the Panamanian's job to teach the Gringo PATIENCE.

RAMON

Si, it is a VERY big job sometimes!

LUCY

This IS Panama, Dad. I've heard things don't always go by the clock here ..

ED

I'm not even sure they HAVE clocks here!

RAMON

You hear of ...

(SUNG)

MAÑANA?

(SPOKEN)

It part of our culture.

LUCY

(To ED)

It says right here in my guide book, Dad ...

(Reads from book)

"While Americans LIVE TO WORK, Panamanians WORK TO LIVE"

(Affectionately to RAMON)

Is that right, Ramon?

RAMON

Si, That be our filo-saw-fee. Sometimes mañana ... or possibly a little later. In Español, we say, "Posible ... mas tarde" ... possibly ... a little later.---

SONG: POSIBLE MAS TARDE

MICKY

IF YOU NEED A PLUMBER AND YOU CALL UP RAMON
IF IT RING AND IT RING, NO ONE PICK UP THE PHONE
THEN COME THE RECORDING, YOU HEAR WHAT IT SAY

RAMON

"CALL MI CELL PHONE, IF YOU HAVE HAVING A PARTY
OR LEAVE ME ALONE TIL POSIBLE MAS TARDE"

RAMON, ENSEMBLE

POSIBLE MAS TARDE, POSIBLE MAS TARDE
THIS IS THE LAND OF POSIBLE MAS TARDE
SO WHY GET ALL WORKED UP, AND TAKE IT SO HARDLY
WHEN WE LIVE IN THE LAND OF POSIBLE MAS TARDE

MICKY

YOU GO TO THE DENTIST, 'CAUSE YOU HEARD HE WAS CHEAP
HE GIVES YOU A SHOT; PUTS YOUR WHOLE MOUTH TO SLEEP
THEN HE LOOK AT HIS WATCH, SAY ... IT'S TIME TO GO EAT
YOU CAN GO FOR A WALK, OR YOU CAN GO TO A BAR
HEY, I CAN'T EVEN TALK ...

RAMON, ENSEMBLE

WELL, POSIBLE MAS TARDE

POSIBLE MAS TARDE, POSIBLE MAS TARDE
THIS IS THE LAND OF POSIBLE MAS TARDE
SO WHY GET ALL WORKED UP, AND TAKE IT SO HARDLY
WHEN WE LIVE IN THE LAND OF POSIBLE MAS TARDE

ED

NOW THIS PAIN IN MY SHOULDER'S A PAIN IN THE NECK
I KEEP GETTING OLDER, MY BODY'S A WRECK

MICKY

WELL, YOU LIVE AND YOU DIE; IT'S THE ONLY SURE THING
SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL LIVE AS THE LIFE OF THE PARTY
TIL THE FAT LADY'S SINGIN' POSIBLE MAS TARDE

RAMON, ENSEMBLE

POSIBLE MAS TARDE, POSIBLE MAS TARDE
THIS IS THE LAND OF POSIBLE MAS TARDE
SO WHY GET ALL WORKED UP, AND TAKE IT SO HARDLY
WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE LAND OF POSIBLE MAS TARDE
AND YOU'RE LOVIN' THIS LAND OF POSIBLE MAS TARDE

ED

(Dials cell phone again and puts it away disgusted)
STILL BUSY! It's hard to believe how unreliable you people are!
And where's the guilt?

RAMON

The guilt?

ED

Yeah. At least in the United States when we don't do what we say we're going to do, we feel GUILTY about it.

RAMON

(Tries to comfort ED)

Guilty? Oh, that is too bad!!

LUCY

We do pack around a lot of guilt, Dad, and they seem so ...

(Looks at RAMON)

at peace here.

(RAMON smiles sweetly)

ED

Lucy!! Whatever happened to patriotism? THESE people ... can be TOTALLY irresponsible AND lackadaisical!

RAMON

Like-a-daisy-cal? I like that. Not sound so bad.

(RAMON puts his head on LUCY'S shoulder like a puppy)

LUCY

AND they're so friendly ... and TRANQUIL!

RAMON

(Proudly)

Tranquilo. You will hear that word a lot here, Mister Ed.

ED

That's MISTER ED to you!

LUCY

Dad, you're being very confrontational!

ED

(To LUCY)

Traitor!

BOQUETE BETTY

(Looks at her watch and kind of hollers)

O.K., everybody! Almost time for the Gringo meeting. Bar's open. Buy yourself a BOQUETE BETTY BIG BAMBOOZEL and let's get rolling!

(Looks at ENSEMBLE and MICKEY and SQUIRT)

You guys ready?

MICKEY, SQUIRT

Ready on the right.

ENSEMBLE

Ready on the left.

BOQUETE BETTY

(Looks at AUDIENCE and addresses RAMON)

My God ... Would you look at all those old farts!

RAMON

You look in mirror lately?

BOQUETE BETTY

You get your behind ... BEHIND that bar and hustle some hooch. Now remember. Cash on the barrel head, son! ... No checks, No credit, No discounts por favor!

(CLYDE enters hurriedly. HE wears a really strange looking wig or hairdo, exaggerated horned rim glasses, and weird looking clothes, ie. Baggy pants pulled up to his armpits, wild colors that don't go together at all, etc.)

CLYDE

(Breathlessly)

Made it!

(To BOQUETE BETTY)

Hi, Boquete Betty. Sorry I'm late. Just got back from Panama City.

BOQUETE BETTY

(Snidely)

That's exciting, Clyde.

(Looks him over)

You didn't have to get all dressed up on my account. So what's up in Panama City?

CLYDE

I found this great DVD sale ... cartoons for a buck! I bought this really old Bugs Bunny flick.

BOQUETE BETTY

Bugs Bunny? Whatever for?

CLYDE

I wanted to see what Elmer Fudd sounded like in Spanish!

BOQUETE BETTY

Oh, my God.

(Walks away shaking her head)

Adios (pronounced eh-dee-ose), Clyde.

CLYDE

O.K., Boquete Betty.

(CLYDE approaches RAMON at bar)

A woman with an agenda, Ramon ... but a handsome one!

RAMON

You call woman "handsome"?

CLYDE

(To RAMON)

Si. How about a rum and coke, Ramon?

(As he hands RAMON his Jubilado card)

And the Jubilado discount, please ... for a starving musician.

RAMON

You hungry, Clyde? Ed ... he got plenty potato chips.

ED

Not THAT many.

(ED puts bag behind his back)

RAMON

(Calls out to BOQUETE BETTY as he studies the card)
What ABOUT the Jubilado discount, Boss lady person?

BOQUETE BETTY

It's built into the price.

RAMON

(To CLYDE)
It like invisible discount, Clyde.

(BOQUETE BETTY nods affirmatively. RAMON shakes his head and hands Jubilado card back to CLYDE, who puts the card back in his pocket. ED and LUCY approach CLYDE)

ED

Hello, Clyde. I want you to meet my daughter, Lucy.

CLYDE

Hi, Lucy. So you finally made it. Your Dad's been talking about you for weeks. You know, he's a really GOOD man ... helped me find my lost kitty, Mister Puss Puss.

LUCY

Mister Puss Puss?

CLYDE

Yeah, me and Mister Puss Puss are family. When he disappeared, I was devastated! I don't have a car, so your Dad drove all over this town for days calling out "Mister Puss Puss", "Mister Puss Puss". People looked at him like he was crazy. You can imagine. Ed finally found him with this cute little Calico behind Java Juice ... and brought him home to Daddy.

LUCY

(Looks fondly at ED)
What a nice story!

ED

(Turns to LUCY)
If you haven't already figured it out, Clyde is one of our more ... colorful characters. Sings pretty good too ... down at the Bistro.

LUCY

(Looks CLYDE over somewhat in disbelief)
YOU'RE an entertainer?

CLYDE

I like to think so.

BOQUETE BETTY

Clyde is a FINE singer.

CLYDE

(To BOQUETE BETTY)
Thanks, Boquete Betty!

MICKY

(To RAMON)
Ramon, send me over a shot of tequila.

RAMON

Sure! I have a whole bottle of Jose Cuervo, the good stuff ...
coming upright.

SQUIRT

Mickey, you're not going to get all crazy again, are you?

MICKY

What are you talking about? I don't recall EVER getting crazy
over a shot or two.

SQUIRT

You really don't remember, do you?

MICKY

(Ponders)
There are a few things I don't remember.

SONG: JOSE RECUERDO

MICKY

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DID MY HAIR GO
I DON'T REMEMBER
WAS IT THE CUERVO
NO, I DON'T REMEMBER
QUE PASÓ... I DON'T KNOW

MICKEY (Continued)

JOSE RECUERDO

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DOES THE TIME GO
SLIPPIN' AWAY NOW
WHERE DOES A MIND GO
I GOT TO TAKE IT
THING AT A TIME, OH
POCO A POCO

NOW I'M STANDING IN THE KITCHEN
I MUST HAVE COME IN HERE FOR SOMETHING
I LEFT THE T.V...MY FAVORITE CHAIR
THESE DAYS I DON'T REMEMBER NOTHING

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DID MY HAIR GO
I DON'T REMEMBER
WAS IT THE CUERVO
I DON'T REMEMBER
QUE PASÓ... I DON'T KNOW
JOSE RECUERDO

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DOES THE TIME GO
SLIPPIN' AWAY NOW
WHERE DOES A MIND GO
I GOT TO TAKE IT
THING AT A TIME, OH
POCO A POCO

MICKEY

TOO MUCH TEQUILA WITH AMIGOS
YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS YOUNG
SO MANY SHOTS THEY SAY
WE USED TO PUT AWAY
I LEFT MY MEMORY IN ONE

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DID MY HAIR GO
I DON'T REMEMBER

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE (Continued)

WAS IT THE CUERVO
I DON'T REMEMBER
QUE PASÓ... I DON'T KNOW
JOSE RECUERDO

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DOES THE TIME GO
SLIPPIN' AWAY NOW
WHERE DOES A MIND GO
I GOT TO TAKE IT
THING AT A TIME, OH
POCO A POCO

MICKEY

FEEL THE YEARS GO FLYING BY NOW
EACH DAY A LOVELY, LIVING THING
WHILE I LEARN HOW
TO JUST BE HERE NOW
I STILL REMEMBER HOW TO SING

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DID MY HAIR GO
I DON'T REMEMBER
WAS IT THE CUERVO
NO, I DON'T REMEMBER
QUE PASÓ... I DON'T KNOW
JOSE RECUERDO

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DOES THE TIME GO
SLIPPIN' AWAY NOW
WHERE DOES A MIND GO
I GOT TO TAKE IT
THING AT A TIME, OH
POCO A POCO

(MICKEY and SQUIRT sing the following refrain together.
After they have sung it once SQUIRT and half the ENSEMBLE
sings the refrain again at the same time that MICKEY and the
other half of the ENSEMBLE sing the chorus part "Jose
Recuerdo where did my hair go....etc.")

MICKEY, SQUIRT

SEE THAT BLUE SKY
WATCH THE TIME FLY
NOW AIN'T THAT SOMETHING
SEE THAT MOUNTAIN
IN THE MORNIN'
WHAT A FUN THING

CIELO AZUL
SEE THAT OLD FOOL
ADONDE IDO
LA MONTAÑA
EN LA MAÑANA
QUE DIVERTIDO

(MICKEY, ENSEMBLE)

(SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE)

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DID MY HAIR GO
I DON'T REMEMBER
WAS IT THE CUERVO
I DON'T REMEMBER
QUE PASÓ... I DON'T KNOW
JOSE RECUERDO

SEE THAT BLUE SKY
WATCH THE TIME FLY
AIN'T THAT SOMETHIN'

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DOES THE TIME GO
SLIPPIN' AWAY NOW
WHERE DOES A MIND GO
I GOT TO TAKE IT
THING AT A TIME, OH
POCO A POCO

SEE THAT MOUNTAIN
IN THE MORNIN'
WHAT A FUN THING

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DID MY HAIR GO
I DON'T REMEMBER
WAS IT THE CUERVO
I DON'T REMEMBER
QUE PASÓ ... I DON'T KNOW

CIELO AZUL
SEE THAT OLD FOOL
A DONDE IDO

JOSE RECUERDO
WHERE DOES THE TIME GO
SLIPPIN' AWAY NOW
WHERE DOES A MIND GO

LA MONTAÑA
EN LA MAÑANA
QUE DIVERTIDO

I GOT TO TAKE IT
THING AT A TIME, OH
POCO A POCO
JOSE RECUERDO
JOSE RECUERDO

JOSE RECUERDO

BOQUETE BETTY

(to AUDIENCE pointing to MICKEY and SQUIRT)
Ladies and gentlemen, THAT was Mickey and Squirt ...

SQUIRT

(Points to ENSEMBLE)

AND don't forget ... our chorale, the "Geezer Pleasers"!
(ENSEMBLE bows, then starts talking loudly to each other. BOQUETE BETTY raps gavel sharply before speaking to get everyone's attention. SHE is ignored. Finally SHE hollers loudly and startles everyone)

BOQUETE BETTY

HEY!!! Please settle down. We require a little order here!

(Tone change)

However, if any of you should get thirsty during the meeting, go right ahead and belly up to the bar, and BUY yourself a Boquete Betty Big Bamboozel Cocktail. You'll be amazed at what an attitude adjustment can do to contribute to the enjoyment of this little get-together. We also have a few more "Boquete Betty" T-shirts and CD's for sale.

(Calls out)

Ramon, did the extra large sizes come in?

RAMON

Si, boss lady person. Big enough for very well-fed Gringos.
(RAMON walks across stage showing off BOQUETE BETTY T-shirt and CD to AUDIENCE)

BOQUETE BETTY

(To AUDIENCE)

So ... any of you here for the first time?

(If no response from AUDIENCE)

I SAID ... IS ANYONE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME!!!

(BOQUETE BETTY raises her hand to encourage AUDIENCE to do likewise)

Great! We're glad to have you. I'd like to welcome you people to the Tuesday Gringo meeting at the Boquete Betty Bar ... that's me

BOQUETE BETTY (Continued)

... Betty Bodine ... the money machine!! Now we'd like to encourage everybody attending these meetings to contribute a dollar ... one lousy buck, and that, of course, goes a hundred percent to our favorite charity ... Amigos de Animales ...

(ENSEMBLE applauds wildly)

The Passionate Protectors of Our Little Furry Friends. Ramon, pass the can.

RAMON

Sure, boss lady person ... here! You first.

(RAMON holds can out to BOQUETE BETTY)

BOQUETE BETTY

(Looks startled)

Me? Well, alright. For the little fuzzy fellows.

(BOQUETE BETTY ceremoniously drops a dollar in the can. RAMON gives can to someone in AUDIENCE for them to pass around amongst themselves)

RAMON

(To someone in AUDIENCE)

You second.

(ED pulls out his cell phone and begins dialing it)

RAMON

(To ED)

You going to bother my cousin, the architect ... again?

ED

Yes, I am.

BOQUETE BETTY

(Raps gavel loudly and looks right at ED)

Now we have a few rules for this meeting.

ED

Rules?

RAMON

(Looks VERY relieved)

Si ... the rules.

BOQUETE BETTY

Rule number one. Turn off your cell phones.

ED

Is this some kind of conspiracy? Well, alright.

(ED hangs up and turns off his cell phone. Then gives RAMON a nasty look)

BOQUETE BETTY

Thank you. There is nothing more obnoxious than those corny little melodies sneaking out of someone's pant's pocket and shattering our concentration, when I'm trying to ..

RAMON

.. sell something?

BOQUETE BETTY

(Gives RAMON a nasty look)

... SHARE information that might be useful to the entire expat community.

(ENSEMBLE begins grumbling among themselves. BOQUETE BETTY glares at ENSEMBLE and raps gavel)

Rule number two. Under no circumstances WILL we tolerate any talking WHILE I am explaining rule number one.

(More grumbling from ENSEMBLE. BOQUETE BETTY glares again and hands RAMON large list)

Here is the complete list of rules. Ramon!

(RAMON unfolds page after page of rules in front of AUDIENCE)

Please read and initial each rule before you leave the meeting today. They'll be hanging in the back of the room.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER

Hey, what happened to that skinny little Aussie gal who used to run the meetings? She was hot!

BOQUETE BETTY

She's been exiled to Potrerillos. Now behave yourself!

(Sweetly)

Where were we? Oh, yes ... Does anyone here have anything they'd like to share with the group?

CLYDE

(Stands up)

Yes, I would. I'm Clyde Brady, and I'd like to discuss the town's water problems.

BOQUETE BETTY

Of course, you would.

(BOQUETE BETTY dismisses CLYDE with her hand. CLYDE sits back down meekly. NUDIST BUDDHIST enters and parades through meeting. HE is dressed only in a saffron colored towel. HE carries a large sign that reads: NUDIST BUDDHISTS FOR PEACE)

BOQUETE BETTY

Can't you see we're in the middle of an important meeting here?

(BOQUETE BETTY waves off NUDIST BUDDHIST. NUDIST BUDDHIST bows and makes prayer sign with hands as he exits)

BOQUETE BETTY (Continued)

Now I'd like to tell you folks about my exciting new real estate development. As we all know we have left our homeland and chosen a NEW life here in Central America, and why have we come here to Panama? Now be honest! Because it's cheap. Right?

(ENSEMBLE gives affirmative responses)

BOQUETE BETTY (Continued)

(Soft sell)

AND, of course, it's ... pretty.

(Sales pitch tone again)

BUT do we really want to FEEL like we're living CHEAP in Central America? Of course not! The answer ..

(Hangs or holds up large poster which reads Boquete Betty's Gated Estates)

Boquete Betty's red, white, and blue (WITH the occasional Canadian).. gated .. estates. Now at Boquete Betty's Gated Estates you'll feel like you're still living in the safety of the suburbs .. or wherever the hell you came from, BUT ... it's prettier here AND, once again, It's ..

(BOQUETE BETTY motions to AUDIENCE and keeps encouraging them to say: CHEAP)

ENSEMBLE

CHEAP.

BOQUETE BETTY

My beautiful complex is surrounded by a fifteen foot high bullet proof plexiglass security wall with a triple locked ... now don't touch it, because it's electrified ... SECURITY gate, AND ... now listen to this ... a twenty-four, seven, around the clock armed guard who will be stationed outside ... right next to ... THE ... MOAT. You will, of course, have your own individual keys, AND the common areas will all have men's and lady's rest rooms, each containing it's own sanitary hot air hand dryer and condom machine. People ... this is as close as you will ever feel to living in a bubble. You just pick out your lot and we'll take care of the rest. Prices start at a LOW, LOW \$229,000. And, folks, at these prices they won't last long. But, as I look around the room today ... neither will some of you. SO let's move quickly now. That's all the commercial information we have time for today. Now are there any other COMMUNITY announcements?

CLYDE

(Remains seated)

Yes ... I have one.

BOQUETE BETTY

Haven't you read the rules? Rule number seven. STAND UP AND ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE AND CLEARLY STATE YOUR NAME!

CLYDE

(Hangs his head)

I already did that, Boquete Betty. Besides, you know who I am.

BOQUETE BETTY

Clyde, we have our RULES!

(As cell phone rings)

What was that? Did someone forget to turn off his cell phone? Oh, that's bad. That's very bad!

ENSEMBLE

(UNISON)

Rule number one!

CLYDE

(Waves hand in air trying to get BOQUETE BETTY'S attention)
Excuse me.

(BOQUETE BETTY ignores him)

CLYDE (Continued)

(LOUDER)

Excuse me.

BOQUETE BETTY

(Impatiently)

What is it, Clyde?

CLYDE

(Standing up and facing audience)

Thanks, Boquete Betty. It's me again ... Clyde.

ENSEMBLE

(Unison as in an AA meeting)

Hello, Clyde.

CLYDE

I just wanted to tell you folks what I overheard at the planning meeting down at the Mayor's office today. One of the city officials said they're now projecting eight thousand more Gringos moving to Boquete in the next five years!

(ENSEMBLE reacts to this news .."Eight thousand?")

Can you believe that? Where are we going to put them all?

BOQUETE BETTY

(Big smile)

Boquete Betty's Gated Estates!

RAMON

Eight thousand more Gringos! It good news for me too! More dinero! More "Phone Ramon"!

ED

Hey, I didn't move here to be trampled in the same rat race I just escaped from!

LUCY

It does seem pretty nice the way it is.

CLYDE

(Excitedly)

And forget five years! What about the tourists? They're here right now ... all over the place ... And once they've gotten a taste of Boquete, a lot of them are going to want to move here, and start throwing their money around!

LUCY

Like a lot of you did?

(ENSEMBLE members seem to contemplate this remark and look at each other)

SQUIRT

You know, Clyde, you got a point. We might have us a nasty old land rush going on here. Look!!

(Points at PETE and TESSIE who enter from behind AUDIENCE. PETE has camera and appears to be taking a picture. TESSIE sips from plastic cup and carries maps and brochures)

SQUIRT (Continued)

There's two of 'em right over there! See that guy with the camera? I think I saw him earlier today coming out of the real estate office at Valle Las Libidos.

LUCY

VALLE LAS LIBIDOS?

SQUIRT

Hey, you!

PETE

(Points to himself questioningly)

Me?

SQUIRT

Yeah, you! Snow whitey! Come 'ere. Sit down!

(SQUIRT points to chairs and PETE and TESSIE dutifully sit)

SONG: DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA

MICKEY

YOU'RE SNAPPIN' ALL THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS
YOU'RE SUCKIN' UP THAT RUM
YOU'RE SURE YOU FOUND NIRVANA
AND YOU WANNA BUY YOU SOME
YOUR NEW FRIEND, SAM, HAS OFFERED YOU

MICKEY (Continued)

THIS PIECE OF PARADISE
BUT BEFORE YOU GRAB YOUR CHECK BOOK
LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA
THE SKIES ARE JUST TOO BLUE
FRESH AIR AND THE SUNSHINE
TEND TO GET ALL OVER YOU
YOU'RE MUCH TOO OLD
THE BEER'S TOO COLD
AND THINK ABOUT YOUR WIFE
DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA
IT JUST MIGHT CHANGE YOUR LIFE

MICKEY

YOU MIGHT WAKE UP EACH DAY AND FIND
YOUR TIME IS ALL YOUR OWN
THERE'S MORE TO LIFE IN PARADISE
THAN MAIL ON MOBILE PHONES
SO TAKE THIS SIMPLE WARNIN'
I'M OFFERIN' FOR FREE
HELL, YOU DON'T EVEN SPEAK THE LANGUAGE
YOU MIGHT END UP LIKE ME

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA
THE SKIES ARE JUST TOO BLUE
FRESH AIR AND THE SUNSHINE
TEND TO GET ALL OVER YOU
YOU'RE MUCH TOO OLD
THE BEER'S TOO COLD
AND THINK ABOUT YOUR WIFE
DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA
IT JUST MIGHT CHANGE YOUR LIFE

MICKEY

SO WHY AM I STILL HERE, YOU SAY, IF THINGS ARE ALL THAT BAD
AND WHY AM I SO CONCERNED THAT YOU MIGHT END UP BEIN' HAD
IT'S A CRAZY KIND OF COUNTRY; YOU GOT SO MUCH TO GAIN
SO WELCOME TO BOQUETE, NOW GO GET BACK ON YOUR PLANE

MICKY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA
THE SKIES ARE JUST TOO BLUE
FRESH AIR AND THE SUNSHINE
TEND TO GET ALL OVER YOU
YOU'RE MUCH TOO OLD
THE BEER'S TOO COLD
AND THINK ABOUT YOUR WIFE
DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA
IT JUST MIGHT CHANGE YOUR LIFE
DON'T CHOOSE PANAMA
IT'S BOUND TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

(BOQUETE BETTY approaches PETE and TESSIE with big smile. SHE hands PETE her card)

BOQUETE BETTY

(To PETE and TESSIE)

Welcome to Boquete! Don't pay any attention to this bunch of clowns! I for one am happy to have you here!

RAMON

Me for two!
(SUNG)
Phone Ramon ...

BOQUETE BETTY

And what is your name, sir?

PETE

Name's, Pete. Pete Dubinsky ... from Wichita in the great State of Kansas.

(Motions to TESSIE)

My wife, Tessie.

TESSIE

It's a pleasure to meet you, Boquete Betty! We are delighted to be here! We are SO looking forward to moving to Boquete in two years, when Pete retires.

(BOQUETE BETTY pushes RAMON aside and literally pulls property brochures out of TESSIE'S hands)

BOQUETE BETTY

I see you've been looking at property at Valle Las Libidos.

(PETE and TESSIE nod affirmatively)

PETE

Yeah, we have. It's very pretty there, but I'm afraid it's a little out of our league. My retirement money isn't gonna amount to all that much.

TESSIE

(To PETE)

Well, don't make it sound like we're paupers, Pete!

BOQUETE BETTY

What kind of work do you do, Mr. Dubinskey?

TESSIE

Pete deals in refuse.

BOQUETE BETTY

Refuse?

PETE

You know, the stuff folks throw away.

BOQUETE BETTY

So, let me get this straight. You are a ...

SONG: GARBAGE MAN

PETE

I'M THE GARBAGE MAN, YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I AM
AND YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT I'M CREEPY
BUT I HATE BEIN' DIRTY, N' GETTIN' UP AT 2:30
AND, IF I LOOK LIKE I'M MEAN, I'M JUST SLEEPY

I RIDE THE REAR BUMPER FROM DUMPSTER TO DUMPSTER
SEE THINGS THAT MAKE MOST PEOPLE SICK
I HANDLE THAT STUFF YOU WOULDN'T EVEN TOUCH
'FACT YOU WOULDN'T EVEN POKE WITH A STICK

PETE (Continued)

YEAH, I'M THE GARBAGE MAN, THAT'S WHAT I AM
I SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE GOIN' FROM CAN TO CAN TO CAN

ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'M GONNA GET ME A RAISE
AND MOVE UP TO THE FRONT OF THE TRUCK
I'M GONNA DRIVE AND PUSH BUTTONS AND NEVER TOUCH NOTHIN'
BACK HERE IN THE SLIME AND THE MUCK

MY WIFE'S NAME IS TESSIE, SHE KNOWS I GET MESSIE
BUT STILL I COME HOME WITH THE CASH
SHE KNOWS I ADORE HER, DO ANYTHING FOR HER
JUST DON'T ASK ME TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH
'CAUSE I'M A GARBAGE MAN, THAT'S WHAT I AM
AND I SPEND MY LIFE GOIN' FROM CAN TO CAN TO CAN TO CAN TO CAN

BOQUETE BETTY

That's just fine, Pete. Good honest hard work. Tell you what.
Want to see the rest of the town? I have a little time ... after
the meeting. How about I show you and Tessie some of MY GREAT
DEALS around Boquete ... give you the cook's tour ... so to
speak.

RAMON

(Sarcastically)
As in "goose is cooked"!

PETE

Gee, that'd be great.

TESSIE

You're too kind, Ms Bodine!

PETE

We don't have a lot of dough. All we got is ...

TESSIE

(To PETE)
Pete! She doesn't need to know that!

BOQUETE BETTY

Actually, it might help to have a ball park figure ...

PETE

Well, we just sold our little house back in Wichita for a little over a hundred and fifty thousand, and ...

BOQUETE BETTY

A hundred fifty K, eh? It might be a little tough to find anything in that range. Boquete prices HAVE increased considerably recently But I'll give it my best.

(Appears to be thinking)

You know, Pete ... Tessie ... I ... just ... might have the perfect property for you. A fixer upper. Let me make a call. If I can get you in to see this fantastic property today ... Yeah, that would be good ... but whatever you do ... DON'T DISCUSS PRICES WITH THE SELLER! It's considered in very bad taste here in Panama. You let me negotiate for you. That's what I'm here for.

PETE

Well, sure!

TESSIE

Yes, Boquete Betty, we understand that we're GUESTS in this country, and we CERTAINLY don't want to offend anyone!

BOQUETE BETTY

No, you don't. Now you just wait over there ... by the bar. Ramon, buy these folks a Boquete Betty Big Bamboozel.

(PETE and TESSIE sit in bar stools by the bar)

RAMON

(Looks surprised)

Really?

BOQUETE BETTY

Well ... give them a nice discount, anyway ...

(Puts on a sneaky look)

... while I make my call. And you folks ...

(Wags her finger at AUDIENCE)

just chill for a minute.

(Walks over to one side of stage so that she cannot be heard by actors and speaks into cell phone)

Ola, Roberto! It's Boquete Betty Bien, gracias. And you? ... Oh, that's too bad ... Really? ... Really! And the hospital wants HOW much money? ... Oh, that's terrible! ... Yes, it IS hard

BOQUETE BETTY (Continued)

getting old. But what's the alternative? Well, Roberto, the reason I'm calling is that I heard a rumor you might be thinking about selling your home ... You are? ... Really? ... How much? ... SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS! SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS? That's a LOT of money, Roberto! Not all Gringos are rich, you know. But let me see what I can do. Actually, there IS this one couple that I MAY be able to convince to take a look. Seventy-five thousand! Boy, mucho dinero! But what have we got to lose? Let me bring them by for a look see. Thanks, Roberto, I really do appreciate your confidence. So we'll see you in about...

(Looks at watch)

an hour? ... Great! And again, sorry about the hospital thing. Oh, and Roberto, don't mention the price to these people. Let's keep that between you and me. Gringos don't like to discuss money. It's considered impolite in our culture. I'll handle all of the negotiations No problema, Roberto ... I'm happy to do it! See ya. Ciao!

(Walks over to PETE and TESSIE)

Well, actually he WAS hoping for a little more than a hundred and fifty thousand, but, you know what? I ... think ... I might be able to swing this deal for what you got.

PETE

Oh, that would be great!

TESSIE

You're so helpful!

BOQUETE BETTY

I do what I can. Let me wrap up the meeting here, and I'll take you two happy home hunters over to see the place. You're going to love it! And what a deal! A hundred and fifty thousand! Can you believe it? It's almost like winning the lottery. In the meantime, order yourself a Boquete Betty Big Bamboozel. Celebrate!

PETE

We sure will!

TESSIE

Thanks, Boquete Betty!

(CLYDE waves frantically again)

BOQUETE BETTY

What ever is it now, Clyde?

CLYDE

I want to talk about my charity. It's the new feed the hungry program. You know, "Mister Gringo, share the wealth with the needy folks". We call it the "Spread the Bread Better" Group, and they voted me the president.

BOQUETE BETTY

Spread the Bread Better"? What happened to the old "Spread the Bread" Group?

CLYDE

Didn't work. You know, THE BOARD. Too many rules. The new group has its first meeting tonight.

BOQUETE BETTY

And your agenda?

CLYDE

Set up the new rules committee.

BOQUETE BETTY

Perfect.

(To AUDIENCE)

Alright, folks. That wraps it. Meeting's adjourned. Let's get social. Ramon, ready to do some more bar magic?

RAMON

(SUNG)

Phone, Ramon ...

(RAMON begins making drinks, as ED, LUCY, and CLYDE mill around bar. BOQUETE BETTY joins CLYDE, ED and LUCY at the bar)

CLYDE

I don't get it, Boquete Betty. Why were you so formal with me at the meeting? We've known each other a long long time. We even had a "date" once. Remember?

BOQUETE BETTY

A "date"? You call going on a fishing trip to Boca Chica with thirty-five strangers on an old beat-up Blaine, Minnesota school bus "a date"? Let me be FRANK, CLYDE.

RAMON

How she going to do that?

BOQUETE BETTY

Clyde, sometimes you are just so white bread and wholesome.

CLYDE

And boring?

BOQUETE BETTY

No, not boring ... exactly. I do like you, Clyde. But look at you?

CLYDE

(Looks himself over)

Look at what?

BOQUETE BETTY

Well, I mean ... that hair, those glasses. You look like Woody Allen on steroids. And what about those suspenders? I mean, get rid of all that camouflage. You could be a decent looking hombre. Might even be a real lady killer with a new do.

CLYDE

Really?

BOQUETE BETTY

Really!

RAMON

Cocktails? Get your Big Bamboozel.

LUCY

(To ED)

He's so cute.

ED

Set your sights a little higher, young lady. What's a man like that got to offer?

LUCY

Ramon IS giving you a place to stay, isn't he?

ED

For which he is being paid handsomely ... and in advance.

(Stripper type music is mimicked by ENSEMBLE. FLORIDA GALE ENTERS dressed sexy and outrageous carrying what looks like a firemen's pole. SHE playfully dances around)

CLYDE

Florida Gale!

BOQUETE BETTY

... in the flesh.

FLORIDA GALE

Well, not quite ... but it IS early.

ED

(Looking very uncomfortable)

Uh oh.

LUCY

(To ED somewhat amused)

You said she was a teacher? And what's that pipe for, Dad?

(ED appears to be speechless)

FLORIDA GALE

Not a pipe, dear. A pole.

(Wraps her leg around pole)

I just finished the new class I'm teaching over at the Lion's Club ... Pole Work for Seniors. My gals love it. It's been known to rekindle a fire or two in some of these burned out old fogies. You know ... back in my exotic dancing days ...

(Holds up pipe)

This little teaser was half the act.

LUCY

Wow! That kind of teacher.

(FLORIDA GALE gives ED a big hug and kisses HIM soundly. ED looks uncomfortable)

FLORIDA GALE

(To ED)

How's my little sugar plum?

LUCY

(Amused)

Sugar plum?

FLORIDA GALE

(Looks at LUCY)

Well, aren't you going to introduce us, sweetie?

ED

Sorry, I was just about to ... this is ... uh ... uh ... uh ...

(Ed looks at LUCY blankly, as, if he forgot her name)

LUCY

(To FLORIDA GALE with amused tone)

I'm Lucy ... Ed's daughter. Just visiting.

FLORIDA GALE

Well, hi, Lucy! Heard a lot about you. Visiting, huh? That's what I said FIVE years ago! Watch out! Boquete gets in your blood like a parasite on a pig farm.

RAMON

What she mean, boss lady person?

BOQUETE BETTY

It's kinda complicated, Ramon.

LUCY

I can already see it's a pretty special place, Florida Gale. So you're here for the long run?

FLORIDA GALE

Let's put it this way, Lucy. When I leave here, it will be in a little ceramic urn!

FLORIDA GALE (Continued)

(To ED)

So, Mr. Katz ... I mean, SEÑOR Gatos ... are we still on for tonight?

LUCY

On what, Dad?

ED

Uh, Sure.

LUCY

That's some outfit, Florida Gale!

FLORIDA GALE

Thanks, hon. Just a little number I picked up at the "Less Is More" Store. You like it?

LUCY

I do.

CLYDE

So what's up, Florida Gale?

FLORIDA GALE

Aerobics ... you know, heavy breathing ... right up your alley, I'll bet.

CLYDE

Easy, Florida Gale.

LUCY

Wow!

BOQUETE BETTY

(Points to FLORIDA GALE and addresses LUCY)

Yeah, Lucy, this is THE Florida Gale. A big name way back when. You know, Tempest Storm? Florida Gale?

FLORIDA GALE

That's right. We "Weather Girls" brought the temperature up some ... down in vacation land.

LUCY

I'll bet you did!

RAMON

Caliente!

FLORIDA GALE

But mostly I'm remembered for my self-help video for lady postal workers. Remember? ... "Master Your Male With Florida Gale"? ... AND don't forget my Polish dance video with Bobby Vinton, "Strip Polka"? It was great for shaking off the pounds. At one point I gave Jane Fonda a serious run for her money ... and she had plenty!

LUCY

Did you see that one, Dad?

ED

Sure! ... The polka was groovy, honey.

ALL

Groovy?

LUCY

Florida Gale ... you know I think I've seen your stuff on eBay!

FLORIDA GALE

Wouldn't be surprised. They're kind of collector items now.

LUCY

(To FLORIDA GALE)

So how does one get to BE an exotic dancer?

FLORIDA GALE

(To LUCY)

Well, hon, it all started in Nashville. I came up from Key West to try my luck as a country singer. I wasn't too bad either, but my manager kept telling me to "dress down", "dress down". And you can probably figure out the rest. It all CAME down to the daily "Bump and Grind" ... and let me tell you, girl, it paid my rent in some really nice places.

SONG: THE DAILY BUMP AND GRIND

FLORIDA GALE

IF THE LIFE YOU CHOOSE IS LIVIN' DOWN BY THE RIV-AH
YOU GOTTA LEARN HOW TO USE THE TOOLS GOD GIVE-YA
YOU GOT ALL YOU NEED, JUST TAKES A LITTLE TIME

FLORIDA GALE (Continued)

TO MAKE UP YOUR OWN LITTLE .. BUMP AND GRIND

ENSEMBLE

BUMP AND GRIND ... BUMP AND GRIND

FLORIDA GALE

NOW A GIRL'S GOTTA DO WHAT A GIRL'S GOTTA DO
AND IT AIN'T WHAT YOU LEARN IN NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
YOU GOTTA USE YOUR HEAD AND WHAT'S BEHIND
WHEN YOU'RE DEALIN' WITH THE DAILY .. BUMP AND GRIND

ENSEMBLE

BUMP AND GRIND ... BUMP AND GRIND

FLORIDA GALE

BUMP AND GRIND, BUMP AND GRIND
YOU SHOW ME YOURS, I'LL SHOW YOU MINE
YOU START OFF SLOW, THEN YOU PICK UP THE TIME
NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU GOTCHA BUMP AND GRIND

ENSEMBLE

BUMP AND GRIND ... BUMP AND GRIND

NOW THE WORKING MAN .. HE GOT HIS HANDS AND HIS MUSCLES
BUT THE WORKING GIRL .. SHE GOTTA GET OUT AND HUSTLE
IT'S HER NINE TO FIVE, IT'S HER DAY TO DAY
YOU WANNA STAY ALIVE, YOU BUMP AND GRIND YOUR WAY

ENSEMBLE

BUMP AND GRIND ... BUMP AND GRIND

FLORIDA GALE

BUMP AND GRIND, BUMP AND GRIND
YOU SHOW ME YOURS, I'LL SHOW YOU MINE
YOU START OFF SLOW, THEN YOU PICK UP THE TIME
NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU GOTCHA BUMP AND GRIND

ENSEMBLE

BUMP AND GRIND ... BUMP AND GRIND ...
BUMP AND GRIND ... BUMP AND GRIND
BUMP AND GRIND ... BUMP AND GRIND

LUCY

Sounds like a very interesting career.

FLORIDA GALE

You could say that.

ED

And before that, Florida Gale, didn't you say you were a body guard in L.A.?

LUCY

A body guard?

FLORIDA GALE

Yeah, well, it wasn't a very big body. Remember that little guy on "Fantasy Island"?

LUCY

Yeah!

FLORIDA GALE

He was a real firecracker, that little feller. Always trying to push his ... luck ... just like the big guys.

CLYDE

Interesting folks here in Boquete, huh, Lucy?

LUCY

(Glancing at RAMON who is looking back at her)
That's for sure!

(Looks at MICKEY and SQUIRT)
And that's really cool. You got an old hippy band!

MICKEY

I'm not a hippy!

SQUIRT

I'm not a hippy!

MICKEY

Well, maybe we used to be.

SQUIRT

A long time ago.

Mickey

There used to be a lot of us.

FLORIDA GALE

I was one.

LUCY

You did that too?

FLORIDA GALE

Sure did. Remember Upstate New York 1969?

ALL

(Affectionately)

YEAH

(FLORIDA GALE shakes her head affirmatively)

SONG: WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE?

MICKEY

NOW I REMEMBER WOODSTOCK LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY
HOW COUNTRY JOE AND JIMI BLEW 'EM ALL AWAY

FLORIDA GALE, SQUIRT

SAW IT ON THE T.V ... WISHED THAT I WAS THERE
LYIN' ON A BLANKET WITH FLOWERS IN MY HAIR

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE?
WHERE IS ALL THAT PEACE AND LOVE WE BUILT OUR DREAMS UPON?
CAN ANYBODY TELL ME WHERE DID WE GO WRONG
AND WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE?

MICKEY

ANOTHER BAGHDAD BOMBING LAST NIGHT ON CNN
THE NEXT ELECTION'S COMING ... SAME OLD THING AGAIN
THEY CAUGHT A SEVENTH GRADER WITH HIS DADDY'S LOADED GUN
AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHO TO BLAME NOW, THE FATHER OR THE SON

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

AND WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE?
WHERE IS ALL THAT PEACE AND LOVE WE BUILT OUR DREAMS UPON?
CAN ANYBODY TELL ME WHERE DID WE GO WRONG
AND WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE?

MICKEY, SQUIRT

AND THE DOVES TOOK WING FROM SHORE TO SHORE

ENSEMBLE

WHEN THEY HEARD THOSE FAR OFF CANNONS ROAR

MICKEY

THEY ASKED HOW COME, THEY ASKED WHAT FOR

ENSEMBLE

THEY FED THEIR HEADS, THEY STOPPED A WAR

MICKEY, SQUIRT

AND THE GENERATION TIME FORGOT

TAUGHT THEIR CHILDREN WELL, THEY THOUGHT...SO

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE?

WHERE IS ALL THAT PEACE AND LOVE WE BUILT OUR DREAMS UPON?

CAN ANYBODY TELL ME WHERE DID WE GO WRONG

AND WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWER CHILDREN GONE?

Where have all ...

(CHORUS .. Preceding part .. starts over on the word
"gone" by second part of ENSEMBLE)

LUCY

You guys are really good!

SQUIRT

Thanks a lot, Lucy! There's a lot of us music types in Boquete now. Wait until you catch Clyde's act down at the Bistro.

MICKEY

Clyde does a great job on Van Morrison, a little Jimmy Buffett. You know, the kind of stuff you'd expect to hear from Gringos in this part of the world.

CLYDE

Thanks for the plug, Mickey!

RAMON

I mean to ask you, Clyde ... What part of Estados Unidos you come from? You talk funny.

CLYDE

Originally I'm from North Carolina ... you know, the South. At least that's what I called it until I moved way down here. This place is REALLY down South. I just love it!

SONG: DOWN SOUTH

MICKEY

SINGIN' FOR THE GRINGOS; SELLIN' WHAT HE CAN
MIDDLE AGED AND SINGLE

CLYDE

I'M STILL A WORKIN' MAN

MICKEY

WALKIN' INTO TOWN NOW

CLYDE

I DON'T NEED A CAR

MICKEY

GETS HIMSELF AROUND NOW; PRETTY GOOD SO FAR

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
GOIN' DOWN SOUTH...BUT NOT IN CAROLINA
FURTHER DOWN SOUTH WHERE THE COFFEE GROWS
WELL, SHUT MY MOUTH; NOTHIN' COULD BE FINER
THAN TO KICK OFF YOUR SHOES, FREE UP YOUR TOES

MICKEY

HE'S A SIT AROUND AND GAB MAN
LOTTA STORIES TOO

CLYDE

IF YOU GOTTA GOOD ONE, I'LL REMEMBER YOU

MICKEY

HE CAN MAKE A NEW FRIEND DRINKIN' LOCAL BEER

CLYDE

I LOVE THE WAY O' LIFE NOW

MICKEY

THAT IS WHY HE'S HERE

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
GOIN' DOWN SOUTH...BUT NOT IN CAROLINA
FURTHER DOWN SOUTH WHERE THE COFFEE GROWS
WELL, SHUT MY MOUTH; NOTHIN' COULD BE FINER
THAN TO KICK OFF YOUR SHOES, FREE UP YOUR TOES

MICKEY
GROWIN' WHAT HE NEEDS NOW, WITH JUST A LITTLE HELP

CLYDE
LOOKIN' TO THE EAST NOW; NOT THE BIBLE BELT

MICKEY
LEARNED A LITTLE SPANISH; JUST ENOUGH TO SAY

CLYDE
"AQUI IN PARAISO, IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY"

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
GOIN' DOWN SOUTH...BUT NOT IN CAROLINA
FURTHER DOWN SOUTH WHERE THE COFFEE GROWS
WELL, SHUT MY MOUTH; NOTHIN' COULD BE FINER
THAN TO KICK OFF YOUR SHOES, FREE UP YOUR TOES

MICKEY
SUN BLOCK YOUR NOSE

CLYDE
DOWN WHERE ANYTHING GROWS

FLORIDA GALE
AND ANYTHING GOES

MICKEY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE
GOIN' DOWN SOUTH...BUT NOT IN CAROLINA
FURTHER DOWN SOUTH WHERE THE COFFEE GROWS
WELL, SHUT MY MOUTH; NOTHIN' COULD BE FINER
THAN TO KICK OFF YOUR SHOES, FREE UP YOUR TOES

CLYDE, ENSEMBLE, MICKEY, SQUIRT
DOWN SOUTH ... DOWN SOUTH

SQUIRT
So how's the tips down at the Bistro, Clyde?

CLYDE

Hmmm. Could be better, I guess. Maybe it's my wardrobe. I still gotta turn a few veggies from my garden to make ends meet.

BOQUETE BETTY

Clyde's a bit of a legend here in Boquete, Lucy ... Everyone's seen him pulling his little red American Flyer veggie wagon through the streets. Pretty earthy. He's also into a lot of that organic and Eastern spiritual stuff. Actually, Florida Gale dabbles in the Dharma too.

(To FLORIDA GALE)

Don't you.

FLORIDA GALE

Yes, I do ... and the Tao, Alan Watts, Tai Chi ..

ALL

RAM DAS RULES!

FLORIDA GALE

I never got over that great stuff from the old peace and flowers era. Still works today. You just gotta look inside a little ... and BE HERE NOW!

CLYDE

(to LUCY)

Right!

(PAUSE)

Florida Gale and I have started teaching a class together ... "Qi Gong in the Park" ... every Thursday, seven A.M. Panamanians probably think we're all a little weird ...

RAMON

Probably?

CLYDE

Ramon, it's good for the mind, good for the soul. Good for the body

(Looks at FLORIDA GALE)

Right, Florida Gale?

FLORIDA GALE

(SHE moves her body in reaction)

That's a big ten four, Clyde!

CLYDE

We're even talking about putting out a video together ...

(CLYDE and FLORIDA GALE come together suggestively)

LUCY

A video?

CLYDE

Sure ... Call it, "Eastern Stuff from Way Down South". Hit it, guys!

(Three ENSEMBLE MEMBERS do Qi Gong routine)

LUCY

Wow! This place is really growing on me!

ED

Hey, you know, Clyde ... Florida Gale ... while you're on that subject ... Did I ever tell you guys I started writing a book way back then. Kind of a sixty's approach to recovering from divorce. Call it, "Past Lives and Past Wives".

LUCY

Dad!

ED

Just kidding, Lucy. I never got into that voodoo stuff. I'll leave that to those two.

(Points to CLYDE and FLORIDA GALE)

I have enough trouble with the real world.

(LUCY screams. RAMON reaches her side first and puts his arms around her)

ED

(Rushes to LUCY'S side)

What is it, Lucy?

LUCY

(Points to place on floor and jumps up and down)

Is that ... a SCORPION?

RAMON

That's a big one, Lucy! This is a job for ..

RAMON, FLORIDA GALE, CLYDE, BOQUETE BETTY
PHONE RAMON!

(RAMON grabs fly swatter and gently pushes LUCY out of the way)

FLORIDA GALE, CLYDE

Wait!!

(FLORIDA GALE pushes RAMON out of the way and carefully scoops up scorpion with two pieces of paper making sure not to harm it)

ED

What are you doing?

FLORIDA GALE

I can't stand to see any living creature suffer.

(FLORIDA GALE carries it OFFSTAGE to let it go. SHE quickly returns without the scorpion)

CLYDE

Good girl, Florida Gale!

LUCY

You let it go?

ED

I bet you'd feel differently, if one of those buggers stuck his thing in you!

FLORIDA GALE

Stuck his ... ?

ED

His stinger.

FLORIDA GALE

Actually, one did ... one time.

BETTY

(Looks FLORIDA GALE up and down)
Of course, it did. It's a friendly town.

CLYDE

(To LUCY)

Lucy, I'll bet you didn't know we also have vampire bats here in Panama.

LUCY

(Incredulously)
Vampire bats? Noooo!

BOQUETE BETTY

(Playfully)

I want to suck your blood!

CLYDE

They grow garlic here too. It all kind of evens out.

LUCY

Oh, I'm going to sleep really good tonight! And, Dad, you want me to move to this place?

ED

Yeah, I'd like that, honey. A little family around would be nice. You know how I get sometimes.

LUCY

(Sympathetically)

Oh, Dad.

CLYDE

Can I buy you a Big Bamboozel, Boquete Betty?

BOQUETE BETTY

(Turns to RAMON behind bar)

Ramon, how are we doing on cocktails?

RAMON

(Shakes his head)

Not too good, boss lady person.

BOQUETE BETTY

(Turns back to CLYDE)

Sure, you can ... Shoot your wad, Claude.

CLYDE

Clyde. Remember?

BOQUETE BETTY

I know who you are.

CLYDE

Florida Gale, how about you? Cocktail?

ED

Why don't you let me get hers. And maybe one for my daughter too.

LUCY

Thanks, Dad!

FLORIDA GALE

(To ED)

Yeah, thanks, hon. I'll have a pink miner.

RAMON

A pink miner? What's that?

FLORIDA GALE

It's like a Pink Squirrel, only it goes down a lot quicker.

BOQUETE BETTY

(To CLYDE as she looks him over carefully)

You're a real gentleman, Clyde. So how about that new do I mentioned? ... A make over.

CLYDE

You mean like a new wardrobe?

BOQUETE BETTY

You could start there.

LUCY

You know, Clyde ...

(LUCY places both hands on CLYDE'S face, as if to size him up)

Boquete Betty might have something with that make over idea. I may be able to help. That's what I do back home, you know. There just might be more to you than meets the eye.

FLORIDA GALE

(Also inspects CLYDE)

Good color. Nice shoulders. Cute little tush. You know, Lucy? You may be right.

CLYDE

(Hopefully)

Really?

LUCY

Really! Let me get my tools together, and I'll give you a call.

(Dishes are heard rattling at the bar)

LUCY

What's that?

RAMON

It just a little tremor.

LUCY

You mean an earthquake? How often does that happen?

RAMON

You mean this week?

LUCY

Oh, my God!

RAMON

Just kidding, Lucy.

BOQUETE BETTY

(To audience)

Keep your seats, folks! There is ABSOLUTELY nothing to worry about!

RAMON

The mayor say these tremors...

LUCY

Earthquakes!

RAMON

(Happily)

Little ones. But, Manolo, he say, we got nothing to worry about. It probably got nothing to do with Volcan Baru.

ENSEMBLE

(Chants)

Nothing to do with Volcan Baru
Nothing to do with Volcan Baru

LUCY

That's a volcano?

RAMON

Si. That mountain right over there.

(Points)

WAS volcano. Now she sleep ... how you say ... estink.

LUCY

How long has she been ... "estink"?

RAMON

Well ...

(Looks at his watch)

I joking, Lucy. About five hundred years.

LUCY

And before that?

RAMON

About five hundred years.

LUCY

So ... every five hundred years ... she erupts?

RAMON

No, before that, it was only four hundred years.

LUCY

Oh, I feel a lot better now.

RAMON

Not to worry. Ramon take good care of you.

(RAMON gives LUCY a little hug, and LUCY squeals)

LUCY

Ooh.

ED

Lucy! This is not like you!

LUCY

I know! Isn't it wonderful!

BOQUETE BETTY

(to ED)

A little SHAKE UP might not hurt you either, Ed. You're so uptight and rigid!

FLORIDA GALE

(To ED)

Rigid ... and, nothing like a little eruption among ... friends? Is that what are we, Ed?

ED

Friends? ... I like to think we're a little more than that.

FLORIDA GALE

(Teasingly)

You mean ... really GOOD friends?

ED

(Timidly)

I was thinking ... a little more than that.

LUCY

Dad, I think she likes you.

ED

Can you imagine a knockout like her having feelings for a loser like me?

LUCY

That's your depression talking again, Dad!

ED

That's what they told me at the hospital.

LUCY

Hospital?

BOQUETE BETTY

What kind of hospital?

FLORIDA GALE

You mean a head banger kind of a place, Ed? Shrinks and all that? Cool!

ED

Yeah, one night back in the States I was down in the dumps ...
kicking the cans around. I ended up checking myself in with the
rest of the looneys. It was quite an experience!

FLORIDA GALE

Tell us about it, Ed!

ED

(Tentatively)
Well, O.K.

SONG: FUN HOUSE

ED

YOU GOT TROUBLES, BIG TROUBLES
YOU FIND YOU'RE IN A TIZZY
AND YOU JUST CAN'T COPE
'CAUSE YOUR MIND IS JUST TOO BUSY
YOU'VE GIVEN UP HOPE
AND YOU'RE ACTIN' KINDA WEIRD
SO THEY TAKE YOU TO A DOCTOR WITH A SCRUFFY LITTLE BEARD

ED, ENSEMBLE

AT THE FUN HOUSE

ED

AND HE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU FUNNY

ED, ENSEMBLE

AT THE FUN HOUSE

ED

I WANT MY BINKY AND MY BUNNY
THEY'RE ALL DRESSED IN WHITE; THE NURSES ARE SO GROOVY
BUT YOU'RE STILL UPTIGHT 'CAUSE YOU SAW THAT CUCKOO MOVIE

ED, ENSEMBLE

'BOUT THE FUN HOUSE

ED

WITH THE WEEPERS AND THE MOANERS

ED, ENSEMBLE

AT THE FUN HOUSE

ED

THERE'S THE CREEPERS AND THE GROANERS
YOU'RE KEEPIN' TO YOURSELF; YOU'RE QUIET AS A MOUSE AT THE FUN

ED, ENSEMBLE

FUN HOUSE

ED

YOU GET NERVOUS .. SO NERVOUS
YOUR ROOMMATE IS A DROOLIN'
AND YOU CAN'T CONVINCING THE DOCTOR
THAT YOU WERE ONLY FOOLIN'
'CAUSE HE GOT NO SENSE OF HUMOR
JUST A PATRONIZING SMILE
THE ONE THAT LETS YOU KNOW THEY'RE GONNA KEEP YOU FOR A WHILE

ED, ENSEMBLE

AT THE FUN HOUSE

ED

WHERE THEY HELP YOU WITH YOUR COPIN'

ED, ENSEMBLE

AT THE FUN HOUSE

ED

WHERE THE WINDOW'S NEVER OPEN
AT THE FUN HOUSE .. THERE'S A LOTTA BEDS TO LAY ON
AND AT 2:45 THEY'LL BE PASSIN' OUT THE CRAYONS

ED, ENSEMBLE

AT THE FUN HOUSE

ED

WHERE THE NURSE IS ALWAYS HUMMIN'
AND IT MAKES YOU KIND OF EDGY, BUT YOUR MEDICATIONS COMIN'
IF YOU EVER GET OUT YOU'RE GONNA WRITE YOURSELF A SONG
'BOUT THE DAY THEY CAME AND GOT YOU AND YOU HAD TO GO ALONG
TO THE FUN

ED, ENSEMBLE

FUN HOUSE

BOQUETE BETTY

(To PETE, TESSIE)

Speaking of houses ... Pete ... Tessie ... You folks ready? Let's go see that great property. Shall we?

TESSIE

Oh, yes! Lets!

(BOQUETE BETTY, PETE, and TESSIE start to exit together)

RAMON

It's Gringo bingo! Look out!

CLYDE

(To BETTY)

Oh, I'll bet you're going to show them Roberto's place. I heard he might be selling. Poor guy! And that's a great price for that property, isn't it? He only wants ...

BOQUETE BETTY

(Interrupts as she literally pushes PETE and TESSIE to hurry them along)

Comon, Pete ... Tessie ... time's awastin' ... see you later, guys!

CLYDE

Hey, I know Roberto pretty well. Why don't I tag along.

BOQUETE BETTY

NO!!!

(Softer)

Not now, Clyde. This is business.

(BOQUETE BETTY, PETE, and TESSIE exit)

RAMON

I have a feeling somebody about to GET the business.

CLYDE

I think you're reading her wrong, Ramon. Boquete Betty may take her work seriously, but down deep she has a big heart.

RAMON

She hide it pretty good. I think maybe you the one with the big heart ... for Boquete Betty.

CLYDE

Is it that obvious?

RAMON, LUCY, FLORIDA GALE, ED

(UNISON)

Yes.

CLYDE

Ah, well ...

(Looks at his watch)

Time to go feed Mister Puss Puss.

LUCY

I'll call you about the make over, Clyde

CLYDE

Yeah? O.K. Later everybody.

(As CLYDE exits, those on stage respond with "See ya", "Later", "Ciao", etc.)

ED

(ED pulls out cell phone)

Ramon, I'm calling your cousin about my house plans!

RAMON

Uh oh.

(ED dials number)

ED

STILL BUSY!! I'm starting to get very upset, Ramon!

RAMON

You just "Going Gringo".

LUCY

"Going Gringo"?

RAMON

Si, that what we call it when extranjero get tight up.

LUCY

You mean "uptight"?

RAMON

Si, uptight. "Going Gringo".

ED

Well, sometimes you people can drive a man to the wall!

RAMON

YOU PEOPLE? Maybe you already drive there before you come here!
You the one been to "Casa de Feliz"... the fun house! You "Going
Gringo", even before you become Gringo!

SONG: GOING GRINGO

MICKY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE

HE GOING GRINGO, HE GOING LOCO
MAYBE DRINKING TOO MUCH COFFEE, TOO MUCH COCOA
IS IT THE CAFFEINE IN HIS BLOODSTREAM
MAKE HIM WORRY, WORRY, WORRY
MAKE HIM ALWAYS IN A HURRY
TIL HE LOOKING LIKE A BLURR
HE GOING GRINGO

LIFE'S NOT A SHOWDOWN, HE'S GOT TO SLOW DOWN
HE LIKE SOME CRAZY COWBOY AT A HOEDOWN
HE SO DEPRESSING, SEE HOW HE'S STRESSING
DRIVING EVERYBODY CRAZY
HE SHOULD GO AND PICK A DAISY
'CAUSE HE LIKE A MENTAL CASE
HE GOING GRINGO

HE GOING GRINGO, HE GOING LOCO
IS HE COMING, IS HE GOING, DOES HE KNOW? NO!
MAYBE THE WEATHER'S RUFFLED HIS FEATHERS
HE'S AMAZING, HE'S AMUSING
HE COULD USE A LITTLE BOOZING
'CAUSE TODAY HE BLEW A FUSE
HE GOING GRINGO

HE GOING GRINGO, HE GOING LOCO
MAYBE DRINKING TOO MUCH COFFEE, TOO MUCH COCOA
IS IT THE CAFFEINE IN HIS BLOODSTREAM
MAKE HIM WORRY, WORRY, WORRY

MICKY, SQUIRT, ENSEMBLE (Continued)

MAKE HIM ALWAYS IN A HURRY
TIL HE LOOKING LIKE A BLUR
HE GOING GRINGO, HE GOING GRINGO, HE GOING GRINGO

ED

Yeah, yeah, yeah!

LUCY

Ramon, at first I thought this was all kind of funny, but don't you think you're being a little mean now? My father is a very sensitive man with ...

(Sensitively)
a few problems.

RAMON

He no have problems! He IS problem!

LUCY

That's cruel, Ramon!

ED

I tried to tell you, Lucy! THESE PEOPLE ... they just don't think like WE do.

FLORIDA GALE

See? This is exactly where the problems start ... when the subject becomes "THEY" and "WE"!

ED

Florida Gale? Whose side are you on?

LUCY

She's got a point, Dad. When you start talking about "sides" ... pretty much everybody ends up on the WRONG side!

ED

You too, Lucy? Now you're turning on me? You know, I've just about had it with all of you. I've got to make this call.

(Ed dials, and is so shocked when phone is answered that he shouts into the receiver)

ED (Continued)

HELLO!! I mean "hello". No, I wasn't shouting at you ...
YET. Yes, this IS Ed Katz. How did you know? My breath?
(Looks at cell phone receiver inquisitively. Then puts
it back to his ear)
... Yes, Ramon is here. Why? What did you say? "HIS house
plans are ready"?

RAMON

(Dances around)
Yippee!!! My cousin finish design of my dream house!!!

ED

(Angrily into PHONE)
What about MY house plans, Jose? You didn't have TIME to
work on them ... because you were working on Ramon's plans
What do you mean family comes first? We have a contract!!! I'll
get an attorney, and I'll ... I'll Hello! Hello!

ED

(Looks at phone in his hand in disbelief)
He hung up on me!!

RAMON

It because you raise your voice.

FLORIDA GALE

It's really not acceptable to raise your voice in Panama, Ed.

ED

YOU PEOPLE ARE ...

FLORIDA GALE

So now ALL of us are "you people"?

ED

Yes, Florida Gale ... YOU PEOPLE!

LUCY

Daddy!

ED

That goes for you too, Lucy!

FLORIDA GALE

Ed, maybe you're not quite the man I thought you were.

ED

You're no bargain either, Florida Gale! And I'm not at all sure you're the woman I need in my life right now!

FLORIDA GALE

No problema, Ed! YOU CAN COLOR ... ME ... GONE!

(FLORIDA GALE exits rapidly giving ED the one finger salute)

ED

(Angrily)

Look at that ... all of you ... my supposed friends ...

(Looks at LUCY)

And even you, Lucy, my own daughter! Depressing, you've called me? I'll show you! You'll be sorry!

(ED exits rapidly)

END OF ACT ONE

ACT II

SCENE I

Setting: A small section of the meeting room in STAGE RIGHT has been temporarily transformed into a dark and dingy hotel room. This can be accomplished by creating something akin to a cubicle. The area that was the meeting room should be darkened. AUDIENCE looks into open side of cubicle. There is a small table in the hotel room, and perhaps a cot. The only item on the table is a very large liquor bottle. There is a back drop, which makes up the back of the cubicle. A window with a view of a brick wall is painted on it. A sign reading, "MICKEY'S FLOP HOUSE" is visible. We have a neon sign which reads MICKEY'S already. There is a lone light bulb with no fixture hanging noticeably from a fake ceiling overhead. A sign is prominently displayed in the room, which reads something like, "FLOP HOUSE RULES, NO DRINKING, NO DRUGS, NO SEX, NO FUN" and "CHECK IN TIME IS 5:00 P.M" and "CHECK OUT TIME IS 8:00 A.M." STAGE LEFT, as before, is the area where the ENSEMBLE and MICKEY and SQUIRT sit.

AT RISE: ED is seated at small table looking morose. *He has a heart sewn on his shirt sleeve. It is not obvious until it comes up in song lyric.* He stares at the light bulb. He drinks the last swig of the contents of the liquor bottle. ENSEMBLE and MICKEY and SQUIRT are already seated STAGE LEFT as before. They are not part of the action. THEY are here to help sing the song.

Time and Place: Six hours later. Late evening in David, Panama ... twenty-five miles from Boquete.

ED

(Obviously drunk)

Who'da thunk that in just a few hours a man's life in paradise could turn into disaster and self destruction in a dingy little hotel room in a big ugly city? My God! How did it come to this?

(Picks up empty rum bottle and turns it upside down to show there is nothing in it, and then sniffs it)

Oh, that's disgusting!

SONG: ALL MESSED UP

ED

EMPTY BOTTLE SMELLS REVOLTING

CAN'T BELIEVE I DRANK THE WHOLE THING

ED (Continued)

SINCE YOU LEFT I'M A LOW DOWN SO AND SO
WRINKLED SHIRTS ARE ALL I'M WEARIN'
HAIR AIN'T COMBED, BUT I'M PAST CARIN'
I'M ALL MESSED UP WITH NO PLACE TO GO

THERE'S DIRTY LAUNDRY IN THE HALL
DON'T FEEL LIKE DOIN' MUCH AT ALL
A WOMAN'S TOUCH COULD CHANGE SO MUCH YOU KNOW
MUSTY, DUSTY, DIMLY LIT HERE
BUT YOU DON'T COME, SO I JUST SIT HERE
ALL MESSED UP WITH NO PLACE TO GO

ED, ENSEMBLE

ALL MESSED UP, WEARIN' THIS HEART ON MY SLEEVE
WHEN A MAN AIN'T KNOWIN', IF HE'S COMIN' OR GOIN'
DON'T MAKE MUCH SENSE TO LEAVE

ED

MY OLD FRIENDS AIN'T COMIN' OVER
TO OFFER ME A CRYIN' SHOULDER
I DON'T HEAR NO KNOCKIN' ON MY DOOR
THEY DON'T KNOW HOW MY HEART HURTS
GOIN' FROM GOOD TO BAD TO WORSE
TO ALL MESSED UP WITH NO PLACE TO GO

ED, ENSEMBLE

ALL MESSED UP..THINGS ARE TOUGH, SINCE YOU LEFT ME

ED

I'M WEARIN' MY BLUES, WAITIN' FOR YOU
TO COME OVER HERE AND UN-MESS ME

NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT 'BOUT WHAT'S TO FOLLOW
FOOD RUNS OUT AND MY EYES GET HOLLOW
WHEN YOU'RE EATIN PRIDE, YOU SWALLOW SLOW
BUT MAYBE YOU'LL SPEAK OF ME KINDLY
WHEN THEY KICK DOWN THIS DOOR AND FIND ME
ALL MESSED UP WITH NO PLACE TO GO
I'M ALL MESSED UP WITH NO PLACE TO GO

ED

I think I'm gonna be sick.

(ED exits presumably to bathroom making sick sounds)

END OF SCENE I

ACT II

SCENE II

Setting: STAGE RIGHT is a meeting room for expats to gather to socialize and share information. It is also Boquete Betty's Bar. STAGE LEFT is area for the entertainers, MICKEY and SQUIRT and the ENSEMBLE. There is a sign above them that says, "Mickey and Squirt and the Geezer Pleasers" with arrow pointing to ENSEMBLE. There is a small bar. There is a sign on wall that says, "Boquete Betty's Bar".

At Rise: MICKEY and SQUIRT are ready for their afternoon gig at Boquete Betty's Bar. The ENSEMBLE, the Geezer Pleasers, are already seated.

Time and Place: Early P.M. the following day in Boquete, Panama

(LUCY, FLORIDA GALE, and RAMON enter. THEY are leading a reluctant CLYDE. LUCY has clippers, comb, and hand mirror. FLORIDA GALE has various male garments draped over her arm. RAMON goes behind bar)

LUCY

(To CLYDE)

For goodness sakes, Clyde ... you act like you're going to the dentist!

CLYDE

Are you sure about this, Lucy? I feel like I'm about to be neutered!

FLORIDA GALE

Nothing like that, Clyde. If anything, we're about to put some spice in your life.

RAMON

You need relax, Clyde. I could sneak you a taste of tequila to calm your nervous before Boquete Betty get here.

CLYDE

That might be good, Ramon.

FLORIDA GALE

Boquete Betty will be here any minute. We want HER to be the first one to see Prince Charming here after his transformation.

(Holds up a pair of child size, obviously too small for

CLYDE, blue jeans to show LUCY)

What do you think?

LUCY

Perfect!

CLYDE

I can't fit into those!

LUCY

Sure you can. You know what they say, it's all in the jeans.

FLORIDA GALE

(To CLYDE as SHE pats HIM on the butt)

Relax, Clyde! You're in good hands.

CLYDE

Oh my!

LUCY

(To FLORIDA GALE)

Shall we?

FLORIDA GALE

(Taking CLYDE by the arm and leading him CENTER STAGE)

After you, Lu! But in case Boquete Betty shows up before we're done, let's create a little privacy. We want her to be surprised.

LUCY

Good idea!

(LUCY and FLORIDA GALE put up a tablecloth or sheet creating a curtain effect for themselves and hiding CLYDE. Both LUCY and FLORIDA GALE are behind the sheet with CLYDE. Different parts of all three characters are visible from time to time as the make over progresses. CLYDE protests throughout the transformation)

LUCY

That shirt, my God! Now we know what they do with all those old hotel shower curtains.

CLYDE

This is one of my favorites!

FLORIDA GALE

We're here to change all that, Clyde.

(Shirt is thrown over sheet as CLYDE squeals in protest)

LUCY

And those high rise polyester pants! Got to go!

CLYDE

NO, not the pants!! These were my father's.

FLORIDA GALE

I should have guessed.

(A struggle; CLYDE screams. Pants are thrown over sheet)

LUCY

The glasses ...

(Glasses are tossed over sheet)

CLYDE

How am I going to see?

RAMON

Not too good, I think.

FLORIDA GALE

It's a small sacrifice, Clyde. When we get through with you the little details won't be important. It's the BIG picture that's going to count.

LUCY

Scissors!

FLORIDA GALE

Scissors!

(Scissors are seen being held in a threatening manner above sheet, like Jack the Ripper. A struggle is heard)

LUCY

HOLD STILL!

CLYDE

No, not my cowlick!

FLORIDA GALE

Moooo ...

(More chaos behind sheet)

LUCY

And now ... presenting ... the new and improved ...

FLORIDA GALE

CLYDE BRADY!!!

(MICKEY and SQUIRT make trumpet sound, like DA DA DA DUM DE DUM. CLYDE steps out from behind sheet timidly. HE is wearing tight fitting blue jeans and an elegant looking form fitted shirt. CLYDE was wearing these jeans and form fitted shirt underneath the baggy clothes he wore, but the audience is unaware of this. It should appear that FLORIDA GALE and LUCY have actually undressed and dressed CLYDE behind the sheet. CLYDE'S hair is now elegantly coiffed. Either he was wearing a wig before and this was removed during the make over, or his hair had just been severely tousled and uncombed before. At this moment BOQUETE BETTY hurriedly ENTERS)

BOQUETE BETTY

(Looks surprised to see anybody there and astonished to see CLYDE)

What the ...! Clyde! Is that you?

CLYDE

That bad, huh?

BOQUETE BETTY

No ... you're adorable! Did you do this, Lucy?

LUCY

With a little help from my friend.

(LUCY motions to FLORIDA GALE)

CLYDE

Yeah? You like it?

(CLYDE stands a little more confidently)

BOQUETE BETTY

You bet!

CLYDE

(Stands even more confidently)

Lucy ... Florida Gale ... I guess a thank you is in order!

LUCY, FLORIDA GALE

(UNISON)

You're very welcome Clyde.

(LUCY and FLORIDA GALE give each other a high five.
BOQUETE BETTY and CLYDE move away, and appear to be
flirting with each other)

LUCY

(Glancing approvingly at BOQUETE BETTY and CLYDE)

Well, look at those two!

FLORIDA GALE

We done good, girl! Quite a team! Too bad you're leaving us next
week. Are you sure you want to do that?

LUCY

(Looking at RAMON affectionately who is still behind bar)
No ... since Ramon apologized for being mean to my Father, I sort
of wish I had a chance to get to know him better.

RAMON

(Smiles at LUCY)

I no want you to leave, Lucy!

(To BOQUETE BETTY)

Boss lady person, now that you here, I go pick up the beer ...
for tonight and check up on crazy roommate. Maybe he

RAMON (Continued)

settle down now.

BOQUETE BETTY

Good idea, Ramon.

RAMON

Hasta luego. Bye, Lucy.

LUCY

Bye, Ramon.

(RAMON exits)

FLORIDA GALE

In all the time that I've known Ramon, I have never seen him quite so smitten!

LUCY

Really? Then I guess the feeling's mutual, but I've got to get back to my job, my mother ... you know, my other life.

FLORIDA GALE

Are you sure that's what you want to do, Lucy? I know your father is **DESPERATELY** hoping you'll stay longer ... maybe even move here.

LUCY

Who knows what Dad wants. He got really crazy when you walked out last night, not that I blame you. A few minutes later he stormed out of the room himself, and I haven't seen him since.

FLORIDA GALE

I can't let myself feel guilty about leaving last night. Your father was totally out of control. Besides, he knows where to find me ... if he really wants to.

LUCY

I'm not even sure that he's come out of his room since last night. And he didn't show up for breakfast either ...

(PAUSE)

... which is a little odd, now that I think about it. He has such an insatiable appetite! I knocked on his door right before I came here ... but he didn't answer ...

LUCY

(Looks a little concerned)
Maybe I need to go check on him too.

FLORIDA GALE

Maybe so. Hey, has ANYBODY seen Ed today?

CLYDE

Not me. Although, he did leave a message last night on my phone. I couldn't really understand it. Like he was drunk, or something. I guess maybe I should have called him back.

LUCY

Drunk? That doesn't sound like Dad. He's never been much of a drinker.

FLORIDA GALE

More of a grazer, I'd say. Might be at the grocery store right now stocking up on potato chips.

(RAMON enters breathlessly and looks around the room wildly)

RAMON

I not find Ed. I start to worry now. He not show up for dinner last night or breakfast this morning. I not want to scare you, Lucy, but this could be serious ... Ed never miss food. I bang and bang on his door. He no answer. So, I open door, thinking he probably going to scream at me. But Ed ... he not there! His suitcase gone too. His bed not been slept in, and worse of all, I see he leave behind five potato chip bags ... UNOPENED!!

ENSEMBLE

UNOPENED?

FLORIDA GALE

Oh, my God! This IS serious!

BOQUETE BETTY

Ed's probably fine ... but as down in the dumps as he's been, I wonder, if we should have left him alone at all. He is really depressed! My ex was like that ... a yo-yo ... up and down ... up and down ... A couple of times he even threatened to ... uh ... well, you know ...

LUCY

You mean ... ?

FLORIDA GALE

No, he couldn't do that!

RAMON

He might ...

FLORIDA GALE, LUCY, CLYDE

Ramon!!!

BOQUETE BETTY

O.K., people! We've got to do something! Let's get organized!
Ramon you go announce an emergency Gringo Meeting! Call Hershel.
He'll get everybody down here pronto!! The rest of you ... you
know what to do.

(CLYDE, FLORIDA GALE, RAMON, and LUCY pull out their
cell phones in unison like a drill team and prepare to
make calls)

END OF SCENE II

ACT II

SCENE III

Setting: STAGE RIGHT is the meeting room for expats to gather to socialize and share information. The ENSEMBLE and MICKEY and SQUIRT are already seated STAGE LEFT. They are the entertainers. There is a sign above them that says, "Mickey and Squirt and the Geezer Pleasers" with arrow pointing to ENSEMBLE. There is a small bar. There is a sign on wall that says, "Welcome to Boquete Betty's Emergency "Find Ed" Gringo Meeting". There is also a sign that reads, "Ed Heads of Boquete", similar to logo for GRATEFUL DEAD, rock group. Several members of the ENSEMBLE hold "ED HEAD" signs with this logo.

At Rise: MICKEY and SQUIRT and the ENSEMBLE (Geezer Pleasers) sit just off the area where the meeting will take place on STAGE LEFT next to guitar and music equipment, which have already been set up. BOQUETE BETTY stands in front and leads the meeting. FLORIDA GALE, LUCY, RAMON, and CLYDE sit at table with sign reading "ED HEAD CRISIS CENTER". They are all wearing headsets and theoretically taking incoming calls about ED as meeting begins.

Time and Place: One hour later the same day in Boquete, Panama
(ENSEMBLE MEMBER walks across stage holding sign that reads, "One hour later", then returns to ENSEMBLE)

BOQUETE BETTY

(To AUDIENCE)

Alright, people ... let's get started! Now, I think we should break up into small groups. We can cover more ground that way. But first ... a game plan ...

RAMON

What game?

BOQUETE BETTY

It's a figure of speech.

(TURNS to group at table)

Now what do we know for sure?

FLORIDA GALE

Ed is not in his room!

RAMON

Si, and he lose his appetite.

(ENSEMBLE reacts)

BOQUETE BETTY

Right.

(BOQUETE BETTY writes their responses in notepad. LUCY raises her hand)

BOQUETE BETTY (Continued)

Lucy?

LUCY

Nobody's seen Dad since last night!

RAMON

And he miss breakfast this morning too!

(ENSEMBLE reacts)

FLORIDA GALE

(Visibly upset)

He is feeling all alone in a new country!

RAMON

And he not even speak the language!

(ENSEMBLE reacts)

CLYDE

(Even more upset)

He may be drunk!

RAMON

He may be DEAD!!

LUCY, FLORIDA GALE, BOQUETE BETTY, CLYDE

Ramon!!!

(ED walks from behind and through audience and ENTERS unseen by the actors. HE is carrying HIS usual bag of potato chips. HE stands to one side of the STAGE and listens and observes as THEY carry on. Members of ENSEMBLE wave their "ED HEAD" signs from time to time. ED is close to tears. HE is visibly affected by what he sees and hears. FLORIDA GALE, LUCY, CLYDE, and RAMON become more and more emotional as they progress)

FLORIDA GALE

It's probably all my fault. I should have insisted that we "talked" it out, and not just "walked" out.

RAMON

I should have said, "Ed, you go head ... "GO GRINGO"! No hurt nothing.

LUCY

(Almost in tears)

I should have been a better daughter ... like Mary Cheney.

CLYDE

I should have remembered that he saved my Mister Puss Puss! And HOW do I repay him? I ignore his crying out for compassion, his woeful weeping from the depths of the darkness His pitiful plea for

CLYDE, LUCY, FLORIDA GALE, RAMON, BOQUETE BETTY
Potato chips.

(Take potato chip out of bag HE is carrying and munches)

RAMON

(Near hysteria)

I should NOT have let my cousin design my house first! I knew it would destroy him! Why I do it? WHY, WHY, WHY?!

BOQUETE BETTY

I should have ...

(BOQUETE BETTY dismisses the idea. ED sobs uncontrollably and is seen by actors at this point. HE runs to LUCY and FLORIDA GALE. HE hugs them both)

ED

(Emotionally)

I'm so sorry. Can you ever forgive me!

LUCY

Daddy!!

FLORIDA GALE

Ed!!

ED

I've been such an idiot!

FLORIDA GALE

That's true.

(PAUSE and then tone changes to a kinder one)
Maybe you've just been looking at life the wrong way.

ED

MY life has been a disaster. Divorce, depression, da waistline!

FLORIDA GALE

Ed, that's all in the PAST.

ED

Yeah, but the future doesn't look so rosy either. I mean, look at me! I'm a mess!

FLORIDA GALE, LUCY, CLYDE, BOQUETE BETTY, RAMON
(In agreement ... and in UNISON)

Yeah.

CLYDE

Ed, can you hear yourself? PAST? FUTURE? Life is about living!
NOW! It's about what's going on RIGHT NOW!

FLORIDA GALE

Hon, you've been so caught up in the future and the past, you don't even see the present. It's beautiful! Take a look!

(NUDIST BUDDHIST enters and hands CLYDE two books)

CLYDE

(To NUDIST BUDDHIST)

Thanks!

(NUDIST BUDDHIST nods affirmatively on his way back out the door making his little bow and prayerful hands sign)

CLYDE

(Holds up Ram Dass book, "Be Here Now")
It's all in here, Ed. "Be Here Now". Remember Ram Dass? ... from the sixties? Still applies. The man is timeless.

ED

Ram Dass? Sounds kind of Indian ... I mean, not like Roy Rogers and Tonto. You know, like FROM India, the country.

FLORIDA GALE

(Takes Eckhart Tolle's book, "The Power of Now" from CLYDE and holds it up)

And don't forget this one ... "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle ... While our minds drive us crazy re-playing our life stories over and over again ... the peaceful, quiet NOW places are right here ...

(Gestures as to the universe)

We only have to be still and listen.

ED

Let me look at that.

(ED inspects books)

Eastern stuff?

CLYDE

Yes, it is ... but it works just as well way down South.

ED

(Emotionally)

Do you really think there's something here for ME?

CLYDE

And everybody else on the planet.

ED

Think I could borrow them for a little while?

FLORIDA GALE

Sure. I don't think the Nudist Buddhist would mind. But let me sum it up for you. Like the book says ...

(Points to the "Be Here Now" book)

"BE ... HERE ... NOW". I mean, how do you FEEL right now, Ed?

ED

Well ... right now, thanks to you guys, I feel pretty good!

CLYDE

You're getting the idea. THIS ... IS ... WHAT IS ... right now ... right this second ... in beautiful Boquete. THIS IS ... WHAT

CLYDE (Continued)

IS!

RAMON

Viva hoy!

FLORIDA GALE

Live today! Right, Ramon?

(RAMON shakes his head affirmatively)

RAMON

Si! Ahora!

FLORIDA GALE

Look at this way, Ed ...

SONG: BE HERE NOW

FLORIDA GALE

Yesterday they hurt your pride
You're keepin' all that hurt inside
Times were so much better way back when
There's stories that you love to tell
Of glorious days before this hell
But you can't ever go back there again

FLORIDA GALE, SQUIRT, MICKEY, ENSEMBLE

This is what is ... this is what is

FLORIDA GALE, MICKEY, SQUIRT

Be here now, be here now
Yesterday is history
Tomorrow is a mystery

FLORIDA GALE, SQUIRT, MICKEY, ENSEMBLE

This is what is, be here now

FLORIDA GALE

Tomorrow there may be a flood
Forty days of rain and mud
or it might be that perfect sunny day
but while you're waiting for the worst
or figuring how to come in first
another precious moment wastes away

FLORIDA GALE, SQUIRT, MICKEY, ENSEMBLE
This is what is ... this is what is
FLORIDA GALE, SQUIRT, MICKEY

Be here now
Be here now
Yesterday is history
Tomorrow is a mystery

FLORIDA GALE, SQUIRT, MICKEY, ENSEMBLE
This is what is, be here now
This is what is, be here now

FLORIDA GALE
Make sense, Ed?

ED
Sure does.

LUCY
I'll bet you Panamanians know all about living in the now. Right,
Ramon?

RAMON
Si ... is true ... Verdad ... We no worry about nothing ... Cable
and Wireless bill? Money come sometime. If no come, we get cell
phone. We no worry about past either. Past gone. And tomorrow? No

RAMON (Continued)

come yet. You remember OLD song ...

(SUNG)

Yes, we have no mañanas.

(SPOKEN)

Life going to do what life going to do. What? Me worry? No!

LUCY

That's pretty cool, Ramon.

(LUCY walks over to RAMON and THEY share a little hug)

ED

That's nice. That's really nice. You know, I like all this "Now" stuff.

LUCY

That's good, Dad!

ED

(Matter-of-factly to FLORIDA GALE)

So, Florida Gale ... ready to check out Nicaragua?

LUCY, BOQUETE BETTY, FLORIDA GALE, CLYDE, RAMON, ENSEMBLE

(UNISON)

Nicaragua?!!!

ED

Yes, it will be a great adventure, Florida Gale! I think a man should look at the whole picture before making any monumental decisions about his future.

FLORIDA GALE

His future? Ed, have you been listening to any of this?

ED

Yes, I have ... "Be here now" or maybe ... be THERE now ... Right?

FLORIDA GALE

I don't believe you!

LUCY

There you go again, Dad ... off and running.

ED

No ... just comparing, and besides, this will give Florida Gale and I a chance to work out our little differences AND see Nicaragua together in the process.

FLORIDA GALE

I'm not going anywhere!!

ED

You're not? But I thought everything was ...

FLORIDA GALE

Well, you thought wrong, BUSTER! You got all these people who care about you ... right here in Boquete! What exactly are you looking for, Ed, that you don't have right here?

ED

I'm not sure. So, Florida Gale ... you're not going to go see Nicaragua with me?

FLORIDA GALE

No ... nor Colombia, Thailand, or Mars! I feel more at home here than anywhere I've ever lived. I've FOUND my special place in the world. So ... no. I'm not going anywhere. I'm happy in Boquete, and I'm happy in here ...

(FLORIDA GALE Points to HER heart)

ED

(Somewhat sarcastically)

That must be nice.

FLORIDA GALE

You're impossible!

ED

Tell you what ... I'm going to give all of this some serious mind time ... AND look through these great books you turned me on to ... as well as that one I've been meaning to read about Nicaragua.

(ED exits. BOQUETE BETTY puts her purse on the bar, and walks away. CLYDE very sneakily grabs the purse and hides it behind the bar. LUCY sees this happen. No one else does. BOQUETE BETTY goes back to bar and looks for her purse)

BOQUETE BETTY

I put it right here! I know I did.

CLYDE

What?

BOQUETE BETTY

My purse! All the rent money for the month is in it! THOUSANDS of DOLLARS!

RAMON

Mucho dinero! Ay yai yai!

CLYDE

That's terrible!

FLORIDA GALE

Are you sure you left it on the bar?

BOQUETE BETTY

(Pointing to spot on the bar where she left it)
It was RIGHT HERE! I'm positive! I put it RIGHT HERE! Didn't anybody see it?

LUCY

(Looks knowingly at CLYDE)
Clyde?

(CLYDE puts his finger to his mouth and shushes LUCY)

CLYDE

Hmmm. Sounds like a lot of money. Quite a loss. Must feel pretty bad, huh, Boquete Betty?

BOQUETE BETTY

Are you crazy? Of course, it does!

CLYDE

Does what, Boquete Betty? Exactly how do you feel ... right now?

BOQUETE BETTY

Plundered, violated ... ravaged! What kind of person would just take what is mine? All the money I worked so hard for! Can you understand that, Clyde?

LUCY

Clyde!!

(CLYDE shushes LUCY)

CLYDE

Yes, Boquete Betty, I think I can. Kind of like Pete and Tessie are going to feel when they find out they paid you TWICE what Roberto actually wanted for his house. You're about to take seventy five thousand dollars that doesn't belong to you from Pete and Tessie. Isn't that kind of the same thing?

BOQUETE BETTY

That's DIFFERENT, Clyde! That's how I make my living! I DESERVE to make a little profit, don't I?

CLYDE

A LITTLE profit, Boquete Betty?

BOQUETE BETTY

(Somewhat sheepishly)

Well ... a SIGNIFICANT profit.

(Forcefully)

After all, it's my LIVELIHOOD!

(NUDIST BUDDHIST enters again dressed in saffron colored towel and carrying a NUDIST BUDDHISTS FOR PEACE sign and "Be Here Now" book. HE opens book and hands it to CLYDE. HE adamantly points his finger at a particular passage in the book)

CLYDE

Here?

(NUDIST BUDDHIST shakes his head affirmatively)

CLYDE (Continued)

(Read from book)

"LIVELIHOOD" ... "The method of gaining your LIVELIHOOD must not increase the paranoia and separateness in the world. A dishonest or exploitive venture would be a case in point".

ALL

Ram Dass.

(NUDIST BUDDHIST smiles warmly and takes the book back and exits making his bow and prayer sign)

BOQUETE BETTY

(Pondering)

Yeah, that does make sense. I can see how Pete and Tessie might feel like I feel about my purse.

CLYDE

That's good. I kind of figured you would.

(CLYDE pulls purse from behind the bar and hands it to BOQUETE BETTY)

LUCY

(Warmly)

Clyde ...

BOQUETE BETTY

You devil! You think maybe I need to do something about Pete and Tessie? Maybe lower my commission a skosh?

CLYDE

It's your call.

BOQUETE BETTY

(Softly)

You may be right, Clyde.

(Takes out cell phone and begins dialing. As she dials, PETE and TESSIE enter)

There you are! Pete ... Tessie ... We were just talking about you.

TESSIE

Oh, that's nice.

PETE

Tomorrow's the big day!

TESSIE

We are so excited!

PETE

That's sure a lot of money though ... a hundred and fifty grand!

TESSIE

Oh, don't listen to him! Pete, we have enough money in the bank.

PETE

Yeah, and that's ALL we have.

BOQUETE BETTY

Uh, I want to talk to you about that, Pete. When we close tomorrow on your new house, it's not going to cost you a hundred and fifty thousand. It's going to

PETE

That's ALL the money we have in the world!

TESSIE

(Very excited)

We don't have ANOTHER penny!

BOQUETE BETTY

Now don't get excited! What I'm TRYING to tell you is uh ... there's been a little mistake ... The point is ... your new house is ACTUALLY only going to cost you .. a hundred thou ..

(Looks to CLYDE for approval. HE does not give response)

Make that ninety .. ?

(Looks to CLYDE. No response)

How about eighty .. ?

(Looks to CLYDE. No response. Then says firmly)

SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND dollars.

PETE

(Very excited)

SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND? Not a hundred and fifty? That's wonderful! That's ...

BOQUETE BETTY

Well, it was just a minor miscalculation on my part.

TESSIE

Oh, my gosh! Oh, my gosh!

PETE

Are you sure?

(PETE and TESSIE are visibly excited and emotional)

BOQUETE BETTY

..... Now, Pete, Tessie, get a hold of yourself Yes, I'm sure. Isn't it wonderful?

(PETE and TESSIE hug BOQUETE BETTY)

PETE

This calls for a celebration!

(To TESSIE)

Comon, woman, I'm taking you out for a real fancy dinner ... I mean, french fries ... chocolate shake ... the whole works!

TESSIE

Oh, Pete. That's super!

(PETE and TESSIE exit hand in hand. BOQUETE BETTY looks somewhat misty eyed and very pleased with HERSELF)

BOQUETE BETTY

You know ... that felt pretty good ... REALLY good! Thank you, Clyde!

CLYDE

Thank yourself, Boquete Betty. I always knew you had it in you. I always knew!

(BOQUETE BETTY and CLYDE hug as ED enters dressed in saffron colored robe with dot painted on forehead. HE is carrying stack of books. ED has huge bad of potato chips strapped to his back)

FLORIDA GALE, LUCY, CLYDE, BOQUETE BETTY, RAMON, ENSEMBLE
WOW!!

FLORIDA GALE

What's up, Ed?

ED

Well, I've been looking at "Be Here Now" and the "Power of Now", and I think NOW I know what to do, and THIS is where I need to do it.

FLORIDA GALE

Well, alright!

LUCY

Super! But what's with the outfit, Dad?

ED

Well ... I saw some pictures in these books, and I stopped by the "Less is More" store, and there it was. What do you think? The new me!

(ED turns around and models his outfit)

FLORIDA GALE

I like.

ED

I also found these other books that look like good reading for a guy who looks like me ... "The Present Moment" by Thich Nhat Hanh ... "Ethics for the New Millenium" by his holiness, The Dalai Lama ... and how about this old beauty? "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" ...

LUCY

Do you HAVE a motorcycle, Dad?

ED

Not yet ...

CLYDE

Looks like you're going to be a busy boy, Ed.

ED

Looks like. Oh, and I donated that Nicaragua book to Irene at the charity book concession. Won't be needing that one.

FLORIDA GALE

O.K. I could go for this guy!

RAMON

(To LUCY)

It good you not mad at me no more, Lucy. Maybe I could have you for dinner tonight?

LUCY

Something like that. Sure, Ramon.

RAMON

I warn you head of time ... I try talking you to stay here.

LUCY

I have to go back SOME time, but maybe I COULD put it off
for a little while

(RAMON and LUCY hug)

FLORIDA GALE

(Looks at RAMON and LUCY and BOQUETE BETTY and CLYDE)
That is so sweet! Isn't it, Ed?

ED

Pretty sweet.

FLORIDA GALE

You know ... I'm sorry I walked out on you ... twice ...

ED

Actually, you were more like jogging at the time, but I'm the one
who screwed up!

RAMON

Look to me like everybody got harmony now!

BOQUETE BETTY

Harmony is good.

ED

Better than where we were. Harmony! Mickey Squirt

SONG: BACK IN HARMONY

MICKEY

WE'VE ALL HAD OUR BACK AGAINST THE WALL
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THIS THING A DRAW
THIS DAILY DO OR DIE IS TEARIN'US APART
AIN'T IT TIME THAT YOU AND I GOT BACK TO MATTERS OF THE HEART

ALL

BACK IN HARMONY .. LIKE WE USED TO BE
TAKE A LITTLE PART OF YOU .. ADD A LITTLE PART OF ME
NO ONE HAS TO LOSE .. IF WE DISAGREE
LET'S GET ME AND YOU BACK IN HARMONY

MICKEY

LITTLE QUARRELS HAPPEN EVERY DAY
IT'S JUST A FACT OF LIFE, BUT THAT'S O.K.
THERE'S SOMETHIN' SWEETER THAN OUR PRECIOUS POINTS OF VIEW
WHEN YOU HEAR ME ... AND I HEAR YOU

ALL

BACK IN HARMONY .. LIKE WE USED TO BE
TAKE A LITTLE PART OF YOU .. ADD A LITTLE PART OF ME
NO ONE HAS TO LOSE .. IF WE DISAGREE
LET'S GET ME AND YOU BACK IN HARMONY

MICKEY

WE COULD TEACH THE WORLD A THING OR TWO
WHY SHOULD WE ALL MAKE EACH OTHER BLUE?
HEAR THAT HARMONY; YOU CAN FEEL IT GROW
HAPPY ENDINGS .. ALWAYS STEAL THE SHOW

ALL

BACK IN HARMONY .. LIKE WE USED TO BE
TAKE A LITTLE PART OF YOU .. ADD A LITTLE PART OF ME
NO ONE HAS TO LOSE .. IF WE DISAGREE
LET'S GET ME AND YOU BACK IN HARMONY

BACK IN HARMONY .. LIKE WE USED TO BE
TAKE A LITTLE PART OF YOU .. ADD A LITTLE PART OF ME
NO ONE HAS TO LOSE .. IF WE DISAGREE
LET'S GET ME AND YOU BACK IN HARMONY

(NUDIST BUDDHIST enters and approaches ED. Everyone is mesmerized, especially ED. ED with hand gestures points to the attire of NUDIST BUDDHIST and then points to HIS own saffron robe. When ED points to HIS saffron robe, NUDIST BUDDHIST shakes his head negatively to indicate that this is not the appropriate attire. NUDIST BUDDHIST motions with his finger to ED indicating that ED is to follow HIM. ED is faced with a difficult decision. HE begins to follow NUDIST BUDDHIST offstage slowly, but continues to look longingly back to FLORIDA GALE, LUCY, CLYDE, and RAMON. They make weak sounds of protest, ie. Dad ... ED ... No .. ED very briefly exits offstage following NUDIST BUDDHIST, but almost immediately reappears on stage)

ED

Nah ...

(FLORIDA GALE, LUCY, RAMON, CLYDE and BOQUETE BETTY embrace ED as ENSEMBLE sings chorus to "Back in Harmony". As cast takes final bow NUDIST BUDDHIST enters carrying sign that reads NUDIST BUDDHISTS for POTATO CHIPS. ED offers him a potato chip from his bag and NUDIST BUDDHIST takes one and begins munching along with ED)

(LIGHTS GO DOWN)

END OF SCENE III

END OF ACT II