

**PERUSAL SCRIPT as of 2/24/2024**  
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# **The Shadow Dancers**

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# The Shadow Dancers

## Dramatis Personae

**Fr. Carl Rogers** A priest, and a composer of sacred music, who seems to feel the undying passion of the divine spirit being snuffed out of every pure human left on earth. Since the apocalypse, most churches are closed, therefore he lives in the memory of celebrating his Catholic faith. He's gentle with an unmistakable humbleness with an intensity in his voice that could tame the wildest beasts. He still composes hoping that some how, someday, someone will hear the music in his soul.

**Jonathan Taylor** Once a famous and prolific painter, a prodigy from New York University who became the darling of the Big Apple Art scene... until he refused to prostitute himself to the whims of the powerful people. Now a castaway artist, sleeping in the streets, drinking heavily, Jonathan's down on his luck. Still grounded by his unfailing sense of the aesthetic, people are immediately attracted to his creative passion. He is the connecting force between Sharon and Fr. Carl.

**Sharon Silverman** The third leg of the first triangle, Sharon once poured her very heart and soul onto the Broadway stage. Although her success was short-lived, it was phenomenal. A brief illness took her out of the scene, and she was soon forgotten. Still determined to make a come back, Sharon has remained a faithful wife to the stage though it constantly lets her down. Although she has been around the block and back, her captivating spirit radiates a mesmerizing charm and physical grace that makes everyone want to embrace her.

**Middigan Smith** Jonathan's soulmate and divine guide. She is an ascended being, recently transcendent from her earthly form. She has come to NYC to help the new theatre troupe get started and gather momentum. Beautiful and magnetic, she has truth voice of an angel that is hard for anyone to resist. Headliner at Grossinger's .

**Brother Verit MC at Grossinger's** The resonator of the cosmic wind, an Immortal One who is known to secret societies and esoteric spiritual practice as an Ascended Master. Gifted with special powers, which he has chosen to tune into acting as Fr. Carl's and Middigan's spiritual guide. He can transcend time and space at will, employing the finer arts of communication with bilocation, telepathy and presentiment. He is physically very large and has a voice that echoes when he speaks. He lives in a cave in the Catskill

## **The Ensemble -**

- New Year's Eve Crowd in Another Year
- The Shadow Tree Chorus
- Beaumont Crowd ( Various characters)
- The Mystic Mentor -Mountain Creatures
- Desert Shadows in Nightmare
- Groucho Marx and other solo small roles

# The Shadow Dancers

## Synopsis of Scenes and Songs

### .....ACT I.....

#### MUSICAL #1 — OVERTURE

*Scene 1 — A few seconds before midnight, New Years Eve • NEW YORK CITY*

MUSICAL #2 — ANOTHER YEAR

• Carl, Jonathan, Sharon

MUSICAL #3 — THIS THING CALLED LIFE

• Sharon

MUSICAL #4 — THIS TIME

• Sharon, Carl, Jonathan

*Scene 2 — Washington Square Park*

MUSICAL #5 — MY IMAGINARY LAND

• Sharon & Middigan

*Scene 3 — THE NEW STAGES THEATRE, EAST VILLAGE, NYC*

MUSICAL #6 — TO BE THE LIGHT

• Sharon, Middigan, Carl, Jonathan and Company

*Scene 4 — THE NEW STAGES THEATRE, EAST VILLAGE, NYC — AFTER THE PERFORMANCE*

MUSICAL #7 — EVERY LITTLE FEELING

• Middigan & Jonathan

*Scene 5 — THE NEW STAGES THEATRE — ONSTAGE*

MUSICAL #8 — WONDROUS CELEBRATION (Patter)

*Scene 6 — THREE WEEKS LATER • THE VIVIAN BEAUMONT THEATER, LINCOLN CENTER*

MUSICAL #9 — THE SHADOW TREE

• Carl, Jon, Sharon, Chorus

MUSICAL #10 — I'M NOT WHO YOU SEE

• Middigan

MUSICAL #11 — DANCE IN THE STARLIGHT Sharon and Middigan (disappear)

*Scene 7 — a few days after the disappearing act*

MUSICAL #12 — ONE BY ONE BY ONE

• Verit & Creatures

MUSICAL #13 — LIVE AT GROSSINGER'S BEYOND • Brother Verit

MUSICAL #14 — SING FOR YOUR SUPPER

• Groucho

MUSICAL #15 — NEW DAY

• Middigan

### .....ACT II.....

#### MUSICAL #16 — ENTRE'ACTE

*Scene 1 • days later, JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT • THE ARIZONA DESERT, OUTSIDE OF SEDONA*

MUSICAL #17 — THE MAGIC OF STARS

• Carl

*Scene 2 • later that night • THE CAMPFIRE IN THE DESERT*

MUSICAL #18 — DANCE DREAMS, DISTANT DRUMS • Instrumental

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### *THE DREAM SEQUENCE*

**Scene 3 •** the next morning — AT THE CAMPFIRE

**MUSICAL #19 — STARRY EYES**

• Middigan

**MUSICAL #20 — ANGELINA, MY LOVE**

• Jonathan

**Scene 4 •** BACK AT GROSSINGER'S BEYOND

**MUSICAL #21 — AN OPEN STAGE**

• Sharon

**Scene 5 •** THE NEXT DAY, THE CAVE OF INNER LIGHT

**MUSICAL #22 — DON'T!**

• Sharon

**Scene 6 •** A few seconds before midnight, new years eve

**MUSICAL #23 — FINALE: ANOTHER YEAR**

• Sharon, Ensemble

**MUSICAL #24 — BOWS**

**MUSICAL #25 — EXIT MUSIC**

**The Shadow Dancers** takes place in the year 2112. It's fanciful overture reeks of nagging themes that tell of a very dark side of mortal existence. We can feel just how low man sunk before his transformation into the light. **The Shadow Dancers** is the story of three artists. Jonathan, Sharon and Carl, who each live in three completely different worlds. Yet, they all share the same pangs of rebirth for the suffocation of their creative endeavors. Jonathan was once a very prosperous painter. He was once the darling of society and the prodigy of the university scene. He now lives in dire straits, drinks heavily amongst the company of drug addicts, thieves and prostitutes. His theme music carries a bit of the blues and croons lewdly of the broken heart that drove him to this point of desperation. Carl is a priest, a choral composer, who feels the undying passion of the divine spirit being slowly snuffed out of every human being on the earth. Since most churches no longer have followers, he lives in the memory of celebrating his Catholic faith. His song of Holy Ordination chimes of a classical theme not yet forgotten. He is a gentle man with an unmistakable humbleness. Still there is a bass intensity in his voice that could tame the wildest of beasts. Sharon, the third leg of the triangle, once put her very heart and soul on the stage. She gave up a chance at marriage, wealth, and secure family life all for the support of the theatre that ended up chewing her to pieces. She has remained a faithful wife to the stage although it constantly lets her down. Shrill violins screech a theme of the theatre of the grotesque for Sharon. She now has become so depressed about the recent death of live theatre that she is about to commit suicide. The music introduces us to each character carrying them across this reality of the cruel new world, by integrating their themes in variations like crosscurrents of snow, sleet and hale; beginning their journey of becoming during a mighty blizzard.

The Shadow Dancers

THE SHADOW DANCERS

ACT I

MUSICAL #1 — OVERTURE

**Scene 1**— *A few seconds before midnight, New Years Eve, New York City. The ball is just about to drop, the image of its light spins an enchanting lattice upon the audience; an offstage chorus chimes the countdown)*

**CHORUS:** *(offstage)* SEVEN, SIX, FIVE, FOUR, THREE, TWO, ONE....

**SFX:** FIREWORKS AND CLAMOR

*(offstage, shouting)* .... Happy New Year!

MUSICAL #2 — ANOTHER YEAR

**CHORUS:**

SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT

AND NEVER BROUGHT TO MIND.

SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT

AND THE DAYS OF AULD LANG SYNE.

*(The sounds of the joyful CHORUS fade out with the first verse.)*

**CARL:**

ANOTHER YEAR BEHIND ME,

ANOTHER YEAR AHEAD.

I CAN BARELY SEE WHERE MY PATH WILL LEAD....

I TRUST I'M BEING LED.

I CAN BARELY RECOGNIZE MY VOICE ... ANOTHER YEAR.

WHAT'S THIS MURMUR IN MY HEAD??

SEARCHING AND FINDING

NOT KNOWING JUST WHO I AM ...

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THE ONLY ONE WHO'S MINDING... WHO I AM.

TIME CAN BE A PARADISE. (CUT THIS as song is too long?)

WHEN WE SACRIFICE THE PAIN

TIME IS JUST A MYSTERY; (The theme/metaphor of the show)

TRANSCEND THE MISERY

BEFORE YOU FIND YOURSELF INSANE!

### JONATHAN:

ANOTHER YEAR OF BOOZING;

ANOTHER YEAR HALF DEAD.

I'M REALLY SICK OF LOSING. CAN I TURN BACK INSTEAD?

I CAN BARELY HOLD MY PAINTBRUSH STILL... ANOTHER YEAR!

THERE'S THIS POUNDING IN MY HEAD!

INCREASING...UNCEASING..

WITH TIME I CAN PAINT THE TRUTH ....

MY MASTERPIECE IS WAITING FOR THE TRUTH!

TIME CAN BE A PARADISE

WHEN WE SACRIFICE THE PAIN.

TIME IS JUST A MYSTERY.

TRANSCEND THE MISERY

BEFORE YOU FIND YOURSELF INSANE!

### SHARON:

ANOTHER YEAR OF ACTING,

ANOTHER YEAR NOT CAST.

I CAN'T FACE MY FRIENDS... WITH THIS EMPTY PAST.

DON'T EVEN KNOW MY LINES...

OR RECALL THE ROLE THAT I PLAYED LAST! ANOTHER YEAR.

ANOTHER YEAR OF HEARTACHE.

ANOTHER YEAR OF PAIN.

*(Laughs)*

MY PARENTS BEG FOR GRANDKIDS ...

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AND ALL I WANT'S A NAME.

I'M NOT HERE FOR RICHES,

I'M NOT HERE FOR FAME.

**ALL:**

BUT THERE'S THIS SPARK I CARRY IN MY HEART

LIKE A SLAVE I'M WORKING FOR MY ART.

FOR I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY...

AND I CAN'T DENY...

THAT I'D RATHER DIE IN SHAME,

THEN EVER PLAY THIS POINTLESS, POINTLESS GAME!

~~TIME CAN BE A PARADISE (CUT THIS as song is too long?)~~

~~— WHEN WE SACRIFICE THE PAIN~~

~~— TIME IS JUST A MYSTERY.~~

~~— TRANSCEND THE MISERY~~

~~— BEFORE YOU FIND YOURSELF INSANE!~~

**CARL, SHARON, JONATHAN:**

TIME CAN BE A PARADISE

WHEN WE SACRIFICE THE PAIN

TIME IS JUST A MYSTERY.

TRANSCEND THE MISERY

BEFORE ANOTHER YEAR HAS PASSED

BEFORE YOU FIND YOURSELF, AT LAST, INSANE!

*(The crowd cheers and SFX: Fireworks sound off as the ball drops at Times Square marking the beginning of the new year. after the final refrain the music fades into the sounds of the night life of the city, as it slowly softens, the sounds of the river flow in, a barge blasts as it passes by. The LIGHTS come up on SHARON, who is very carefully climbing up onto the icy railings of the Brooklyn Bridge. JONATHAN passes by behind her; she looks back at him and he glances at her, but rushes on pretending not to notice her there. CARL enters from stage left, and physically bumps into Jonathan.)*

**CARL:** Oh, excuse me, sir. I didn't see you, sir...

*(Sees SHARON about to jump, CARL grabs onto Jonathan.)*

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Oh my!

**JONATHAN:** *(Staggering his way offstage)* Hey, no problem.

**CARL:** Angels of mercy!

*(Clutching onto JONATHAN's coat so he can't get away)*

*Look! There! On the bridge rails... A woman is climbing up the...*

**JONATHAN:** Hey, let go of me, man. I have no money.

**CARL:** *(Still clutching onto JONATHAN's coat)* She's going to jump!

*(pulling him closer, whispering)*

Look! That woman! There!

**JONATHAN:** *(Trying to pull away)* Let me go! I'm drunk and I need to get drunker. C'mon... It's New Year's Eve, peace on earth and all that crap...

**CARL:** We've got to help her...

**JONATHAN:** I can't even help myself, now go away.

**CARL:** Help me, help her.... I can't do this alone.

*(Screams to SHARON)*

Stop! Wait!

Hold on! Don't!

*(SHARON breaks off an icicle as she ends the song, then tosses it into the waters in the silence, Starts to sob. CARL screams as it MAKES a splash.)*

*(CARL approaches SHARON, dragging JONATHAN along with him)*

Wait for us! We want to join you.

**JONATHAN:** Hey, man, are you mad?

**CARL:** *(Whispering to Jonathan)* Trust me. I'm a priest. Just play along for one minute. Just help.

*(THEY slowly approach Sharon)*

Tis the season... Time to share. Share your courage with us please. Here now, take my hand, and I'll take his. We can all do this together!

**JONATHAN:** You're nuts! He's a nut case, I don't even know this guy.

**SHARON:** Stay back! I'm warning you.

**CARL:** Please. We've been trying to do this, too... We thought we could get it over with before the ball dropped but as you can see, we're still here.

**SHARON:** Don't you dare! Figures! Someone always tries to upstage me! I can't even end my own life in



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the limelight!

*(points to Carl)*

Uh-uh, not here. Sorry, guys. This is my big scene! My swan song!

**CARL:** There is no reason...

**SHARON:** Reason! Ha!

*(Using a Southern accent)*

Well honey let me tell you about reason, I just lost the love of my life. This is a crime of passion, pal.

**CARL:** Passion and madness usually travel together...

**SHARON:** Yes and I'm mad as a hatter! Ha!

*(Betty Davis impression)*

Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Why can't someone do The Betty Davis' Story? Now there's a role for me!

Look boys, nice of you to drop by but.... This is a solo act!

**CARL:** No, you look!

*(Grabs Sharon's arm)*

I refuse to let you jump!

**SHARON:** Well, I refuse to continue doing walk-ons just to pay my rent! I'm a damn good actress.

**CARL:** I'm sure you are. And, I'm a dang good priest, but I understand what you're feeling.

**SHARON:** You're a priest? You sound like an actor to me. I mean that voice. I'm sure I know that voice... I can swear I've heard it in a show somewhere. You've got one of those voices that people don't forget...

**CARL:** You may have heard me around the city. But I am not an actor, just an ordinary, usually unemployed, priest, the only dramas I do are weddings and funerals.

**SHARON:** That's it! You're that famous singing priest, aren't you?

**CARL:** Yes, I'm the infamous Father Carl of Old St. Pats.

**SHARON:** *Oh* of course. Now I remember! You sang at Mona and Doug's wedding. I had the hots for you, till Mona told me you were a priest. Oh Gawd, was I sweating. Oh but you were so coo-ool, you were the star of the show... You've got the voice of an angel!

**CARL:** Aww, thank you.

**SHARON:** Wish my voice was that lovely... Not to mention your charming little smile there, eh?

Hi, Father Carl, I'm Sharon Silverman.

**CARL:** My pleasure, Sharon.

**SHARON:** You probably think I'm pretty lame. I really don't want to commit suicide, but with all the

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theaters closing with this health crisis — There is no work...And now, I just found out that I'm going to have to give up my apartment.

### MUSICAL #3 — THIS THING CALLED LIFE

WHY CAN'T I DO WHAT'S SO SIMPLE TO DO?  
WHY MUST I PLAY EV'RY PART WITH MY HEART ON MY SLEEVE?  
I KNOW THE ROLE SO WELL ...  
NO ONE COULD EVER TELL,  
I LIVE A LIVING HELL  
WHERE THE STAGE IS THE ONLY PLACE  
LOVE EVER SHOW'S IT'S FACE!

ONCE, LIFE GAVE ME A DREAM  
BUT THEN I LOOKED AROUND  
AND NOW I'VE FOUND  
THAT I AM BOUND  
TO A BOAT THAT ONLY DRIFTS UPSTREAM!

WHY CAN'T I LIVE MY LIFE?  
WHY CAN'T I DO IT?  
WHY CAN'T I SING IT'S SONG?  
THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!  
I GET THE WORDS ALL WRONG.  
I KNOW THE TUNE SO WELL...  
IT RINGS NO BELL!  
THIS THING CALLED LIFE IS NOT SO SWELL!

*(sarcastic)*

HA! MY DREAM! MY RAISON D'ÊTRE!  
NEVER SURE, IT'S JUST PEUT-ÊTRE.  
SERVE MANKIND THROUGH ART?

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*(laughs)*

WHY DID THAT START?

I WAS JUST A KID...

DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT I DID...

*(crying)*

THIS SHOW OF LIFE'S A LONG-RUNNING FLOP!

IT'S TIME TO STOP

THIS... THING... CALLED ... LIFE!

*(CARL pulls JONATHAN as he tries to slip away, he flies into railing, almost knocking SHARON off. JONATHAN then clutches onto SHARON's arm to pull her back. SHARON falls toward CARL, and grabs onto his hand. CARL holding JONATHAN with his other hand; the three of them, hands entwined, bodies balanced now have formed a triangle.)*

*(SFX: Thunder and lightning accompany the image of a shadow rising from Sharon's shoulders. As it dissipates into the waters below, it echoes a loud and mighty splash.)*

*(CARL and JONATHAN help SHARON down off the railing and huddle together.)*

**SHARON:** Did you see what I saw? Was that a ghost? Did... I... just... give... up... the... ghost?

**JONATHAN:** Was it really a ghost?

**SHARON:** Gawd! I just gave up the immortal, bloody ghost! Wow! I never thought it would be like this! I didn't think I'd be so aware of the actual event when it happened. I'm still conscious of everything, yet I guess I'm dead. I committed suicide. Didn't I?

**CARL:** I don't think you're dead.

**SHARON:** No?

**CARL:** To me, it looked more like a shadow.

**SHARON:** My shadow?

**JONATHAN:** Yeah. Like Peter Pan, you just lost your shadow!

**SHARON:** Okay. Great. Here I am, minding my own business, contemplating suicide, feeling lousy and... Hey, wait a minute! I don't feel bad anymore! I mean, I don't feel lousy! I mean, I feel good. In fact, I

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feel great.

**CARL:** What? Are you serious?

**JONATHAN:** You just lost your shadow. You should be sad and sulking.

**SHARON:** I've never felt better in my life! Why it's even better than falling in love! I've got this sudden burst of energy, like I just lost ten pounds.

**JONATHAN:** Well, if it's that good, let me try it!

**SHARON:** My whole body is tingling. It's like I'm shivering but I'm not cold.

**JONATHAN:** I'm doing it, anything's better than this lousy bourbon buzz... I've got nothing to lose.

*(Climbs up on the bridge rails, then hesitates)*

The question is...can I live without a shadow?

**SHARON:** *(suddenly sullen)* Oh no! What a thought! Maybe I *am* dead! How can I live without a shadow? Isn't casting a shadow a normal reflection of being alive?

**CARL:** *(with sudden revelation)* I don't think so...Shadows burden us with all of the doubts from our past. This is the Prophecy! Mankind's evolution. The ascension! A time after the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to allow humanity to rise above their past without fear of the future...The gift of the present moment.

*(Wildly to himself)*

It all makes sense now, what Brother Verit told me.

**SHARON:** Wait. What? What? Hey, clue us in, will ya!

**CARL:** Call it whatever you like. An answered prayer! A vortex. It's about human energy transfer.

**SHARON:** I do feel refreshed! My body is still tingling.

**CARL:** I think it has something to do with the fact there's three of us, the power of the triangle, the trinity, the structure of the pyramid, it's an archetype that speaks to the heavens...

**JONATHAN:** *(to Carl)* Are you sure you don't need a shadow?

**CARL:** Yes. Well, I think so.

**SHARON:** I feel so full of life!

**JONATHAN:** Let me do it! I want to try it!

**CARL:** Just look at that star... It's so bright. Perhaps we were chosen to be bearers of that light!

**SHARON:** It's extremely bright.

**CARL:** Part of the constellation Orion. It's the third star in his belt, pouring more light into the universe.

**JONATHAN:** It sure feels like it.

**CARL:** It's been predicted, we get the light, then we must pass it on to others. Go on, do it! I'll go after you!

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**JONATHAN:** Okay, okay! I'm going.

**CARL:** Well, come on.... Let me do it next before the position of the stars change.

**JONATHAN:** Okay.

**CARL:** I'll go next if you want me to go next.

**JONATHAN:** It's a long way down. And I'm not sure that I remember how to swim. Maybe this is a black hole or something! One of those leaks in the cosmos where we can jump through and beyond the ordinary dimensions of space. A tear in the fabric of time!

**SHARON:** We'll never know if you keep stalling.

**CARL:** Wait! Tell us your name...

**JONATHAN:** Why?

**CARL:** In case you disappear.. I think we are part of something... Something big.

**JONATHAN:** My name is Jonathan Taylor.

**CARL:** Jonathan Taylor, the painter?

**JONATHAN:** Yes.

**CARL:** You've got a studio on East 54th Street. I adore your work. It's got a touch of the Renaissance... Last I saw you were working on a series of Angel Prints. You had an exhibit at The Metropolitan... Absolutely breathtaking.

**JONATHAN:** One minute I was on top of world, the next, it was like I never even existed. I haven't any family. Fame was all ever knew. I'm like the man without a past... My studio days are long gone. Fact is... I haven't touched a brush in over two years, too busy working on my death wish in a bottle.

*(He climbs up)*

**SHARON:** This has to be divine intervention... How could three people meet in New York City on New Years Eve... I know his work and he knows your work. Not to mention we are all in the arts!

*(The same exact thing happens as it did with SHARON, the sounds, the thunder, the lightning, and soon... JONATHAN leaps from the bridge rail full of life and filled with joy. JONATHAN lands safely back on the bridge and the THREE OF THEM embrace.)*

**JONATHAN:** *(laughing)* Wow! I've never felt so, so, so...

**SHARON:** So alive.

**JONATHAN:** That's it exactly.

**SHARON:** I told you it was cool.

**JONATHAN:** It's like I'm supercharged!

**CARL:** Well! What on earth am I waiting for?

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*(He climbs up onto the bridge rail, holding their hands.)*

**JONATHAN:** Go for it, Padre! Whew! I'm still tingling.

**SHARON:** Me, too.

**CARL:** But wait... What if this isn't from God? It might just be a little too gratifying.

**SHARON:** Just do it!

**CARL:** All this pleasure might just be an illusion...

**JONATHAN:** Hey, come on... You started it. Ye of little faith! Don't tell me you can't feel it. There's more positive energy flowing right here than there was at Times Square at midnight!

**SHARON:** You said it yourself... We need you to make the magic of the triangle. Third time's a charm. And you know.... If this can happen to us, it can happen to anyone! Just think... We can start a whole new movement. We can get others to see how great it feels to cast off their shadows.

**JONATHAN:** I used to hang out with a group of theatre people who talked about painting the scene as it was happening...

**SHARON:** I love it. I can see it now .... Literally painting the scenes of truth as they happen... The Theatre of Truth and Total Contentment!

**JONATHAN:** The Theatre of Truth and Total Contentment! I like it. Sounds European... Come on Padre, just do it!

*(He does it and feels the same as the others.)*

**CARL:** This is wonderful! We need to share this with the world.

**SHARON:** YES, WE DO! I know the perfect little space in the East Village where we can get started. — New Stages Theatre — The artistic director's a friend of mine, Alan Dale. I'll put an ad out for auditions. We'll need to form an ensemble.

**CARL:** My friend used to take me to that theatre, that's where I met Verit... I know that space very well. Maybe this is the beginning of the metatheatre he used to talk about...

**SHARON:** Metatheatre! Yes! Yes! We've got the cultural cure for an aesthetically sick society! Let's do this, Father Carl. I've got to call Alan so he can book the space for us. I've known my whole life that theatre has the power to make a difference. This time, we will do it!

**MUSICAL #4 — THIS TIME!**

**SHARON:**

MY PAST WON'T RAISE IT'S HEAD.

THIS TIME MY PAST IS DEAD!

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I FEEL IT HERE INSIDE,  
THIS TIME I WILL NOT HIDE!  
TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE IT,  
SHAKE IT OFF — THIS AWFUL, DROWNING GLOOM.  
I CAN'T SAY EXACTLY WHEN,  
BUT I'LL NEVER FAIL AGAIN.

IF WE PLAY OUR PARTS,  
IF WE FIND OUR HEARTS,  
IF WE REACH INTO THE DARK,  
WE WILL WORK IT OUT.  
NO DOUBT.  
FIND AND LIGHT THAT SPARK!  
THIS TIME THE DREAM COMES TRUE!

WITH ME, WITH YOU AND YOU...  
THIS TIME THE DREAM COMES TRUE.  
IT HAS TO WORK, I KNOW  
THIS TIME WE'LL HAVE A SHOW!  
TOGETHER THIS WILL MAKE US,  
TAKE US FARTHER THAN WE'VE EVER DREAMED!  
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW,  
BUT I KNOW OUR TIME IS NOW.

WHEN WE PLAY OUR PARTS,  
WHEN WE FIND OUR HEARTS,  
WHEN WE REACH UP TO THE LIGHT;  
THERE'S A COMFORT THERE,  
I SWEAR,

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POWER SHINING BRIGHT.

**SHARON:**

WE CAN SEE THE RIGHT.

**CARL:**

WE CAN SHINE THE LIGHT.

**JONATHAN:**

WE CAN POINT THE WAY TO GO!

**ALL THREE:**

THERE'S A POWER HERE  
THAT DISPELS ALL FEAR,  
AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO GROW!  
THIS TIME THE DREAM COMES TRUE!  
THIS TIME!

***BLACKOUT***

**Scene 2** — *The scene opens in Washington Square Park in the Village in Lower Manhattan. Sharon had organized a cattle call audition to get the company started. The performers have been chosen and they are getting acquainted with one another.*

**SHARON:** Well, thank you everyone. Thank you for coming.

**JONATHAN:** *(laughs)* And staying with us nutty theatre people.

**SHARON:** Seriously, our first rehearsal is tonight, 6-10 pm in the Gandolf in the New Stages Theatre on First Avenue — I will text you the exact address. When you come in, there will be a staff member at the box office on your left, just give them my name and they will ask you to sign in. Thank you again. Now are there any other questions?

**ACTOR 1:** Yes, please. Is there a script?

**SHARON:** No, no script. Not yet. As I was trying to explain, we will be creating the scenes as we go.

**ACTOR 1:** Oh interesting. Kind of like The Living Theatre.

**SHARON:** Sort of. We'll create the script with improv.



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**ACTOR 1:** Cool. I get it now.

**ACTOR 2:** This is based on truth?

**ACTOR 1:** It is. How did you guys come up with this concept?

**SHARON:** We will reenact exactly how the idea for this theatre came about tonight.

**ACTOR 1:** Cool.

**JONATHAN:** It is cool. It's very cool. As students of art we will share with you exactly how the stars infused us with new light, new energy...

**CARL:** And we are about to share it with the world.

**SHARON:** See you all soon. New Stages on First Ave. You have my cell.

*(The actors all disperse, but not SHARON, CARL, or JONATHAN. SHARON calls out to MIDDIGAN as she gathers her things.)*

**SHARON:** Middigan, have you met Jonathan yet?

**MIDDIGAN:** No, I met Carl, but not Jonathan.

**SHARON:** She's a singer/songwriter. Quite a beautiful voice, too.

*(To Middigan)*

Maybe you can write a duet for us.

**MIDDIGAN:** Sure. I'd love to — Hello, Jonathan.

**JONATHAN:** Hello. You look familiar. Have we met somewhere else maybe?

**MIDDIGAN:** Not sure.

**JONATHAN:** Maybe in a dream.

**MIDDIGAN:** Maybe.

**JONATHAN:** You just look really familiar to me.

**MIDDIGAN:** You as well.

**JONATHAN:** You're coming tonight?

**MIDDIGAN:** Absolutely.

**JONATHAN:** Great.

**SHARON:** Okay guys, you know what do. Get us set up. Water and something light to snack on.

**MIDDIGAN:** I can go help, too.

**SHARON:** No, I want, need to talk to you.

**MIDDIGAN:** Oh, okay.

**SHARON:** Just tell Alan you're part of my new group.

## The Shadow Dancers

**CARL:** *(Cleaning up the area)* Sounds good.

**JONATHAN:** You got it, girl.

*(As CARL and JONATHAN exit, SHARON motions for MIDDIGAN to join her on the bench.)*

**MIDDIGAN:** Thank you.

**SHARON:** It is I that should be thanking you, Middigan. I see your brilliance. I know who you are.

**MIDDIGAN:** You do?

**SHARON:** Yes.

**MIDDIGAN:** You recognize me?

**SHARON:** Yes.

**MIDDIGAN:** But how?

**SHARON:** My grandparents listened to your music long after your passing. They were huge fans.

**MIDDIGAN:** And you're comfortable with this?

**SHARON:** Yes. And well, no. I realize that time and age are perceptions... You were a mega-star before there was such a thing.

**MIDDIGAN:** True.

**SHARON:** Let me put it openly. I have been a seeker my whole life. Many artists are; the ones that are not in it for fame or fortune.

**MIDDIGAN:** I agree.

**SHARON:** Now, I know you came here to help us...

**MIDDIGAN:** Correct.

**SHARON:** And I know that this is the blossom time, where all the delicate flowers are coming into bloom.

**MIDDIGAN:** Yes, it has been predicted that the 21st Century will be spiritual or not at all.

**SHARON:** Still the negative can consume us, so we must be careful.

**MIDDIGAN:** We are protected.

**SHARON:** As long as we keep our attention on the light...

**MIDDIGAN:** ... we will not fall into darkness. If we stay creative, the destructive one cannot hurt us. Most people are of things outside themselves, the negative works from within... If we get out of balance, when our attention slips too far into the past, we get depressed, pining for what used to be...but that is not your problem, Sharon.

**SHARON:** No?

**MIDDIGAN:** No. Your attention is always pulled into the future. You slip out of balance when you focus on what is going to happen next... the next big thing. Instead of being in the moment.

## The Shadow Dancers

**SHARON:** I do. I know I do.

**MIDDIGAN:** The dark one knows that as well.

**SHARON:** How can I stay in the present?

**MIDDIGAN:** Love. Love what you are doing while you are doing it.

**SHARON:** I'm trying.

**MIDDIGAN:** It's not easy, but when we are in the process of creating, especially performing, we are safely lodged in the present. You see, we are all human life forms... we conform, reform, deform to our circumstances, but when we perform - we perfect the form by being in connection with the creative part of ourselves. Listen.

### MUSICAL #5 — MY IMAGINARY LAND

*(MIDDIGAN pulls out her guitar and starts to play a melody.)*

**SHARON:** That's beautiful.

**MIDDIGAN:** I call it *My Imaginary Land*. I am inviting you to step into it with me. Listen, deeply, and as the spirit moves you, add the words to tell your story.

**MIDDIGAN:**

I CAN'T STOP THINKING OF YOU, JOHNNY  
WHAT GOT YOU TO DRINKING, MY FRIEND JOHNNY?  
I'VE SEEN YOU FROM AFAR.  
YET I'D PRETEND... A HAPPY END;  
IN MY IMAGINARY LAND.

**SHARON:**

I CAN'T STOP THINKING OF YOU, DADDY.  
I HOPED YOUR DRINKING WOULD END, DADDY.  
I NEVER KNEW YOUR LOVE  
YET I'D PRETEND...A HAPPY END;  
IN MY IMAGINARY LAND.

## The Shadow Dancers

### SHARON & MIDDIGAN

ONLY SOMEONE MISSING COULD MOVE ME ALONG.  
ONLY SOMEONE NEEDING ME, SINGING MY SONG.  
LIKE YOU WERE A DREAM AND SO, WHAT CAN I SAY?  
NO LONGER REAL... FADING AWAY.

#### SHARON:

I CAN'T STOP THINKING  
OF YOU, DADDY.  
I HOPED YOUR DRINKING  
WOULD END, DADDY.  
I NEVER KNEW YOUR LOVE  
YET I'D PRETEND...  
A HAPPY END;  
IN MY IMAGINARY LAND.  
IN MY IMAGINARY LAND.

#### MIDDIGAN:

I CAN'T STOP THINKING  
OF YOU, JOHNNY  
WHAT GOT YOU TO DRINKING,  
MY FRIEND JOHNNY?  
I'VE SEEN YOU FROM AFAR.  
YET I'D PRETEND...  
A HAPPY END;  
IN MY IMAGINARY LAND.  
IN MY IMAGINARY LAND.

**Scene 3** — At **NEW STAGES THEATRE** — *Later that night at the East Village Theatre. MIDDIGAN is rehearsing Imaginary Land. CARL comes in and sits by her.*

**CARL:** That's a beautiful song, Middigan. So happy you decided to join our ensemble.

**MIDDIGAN:** Thanks.

**CARL:** What's it called?

**MIDDIGAN:** I call it *My Imaginary Land*.

**SHARON:** Enchanting. And I get to sing it with her.

**CARL:** Lucky you.

**STAGE MANAGER:** (*popping in*) Ten minutes till we open the house...

**SHARON:** Thanks

**MIDDIGAN:** Thanks.

**CARL:** (*to Middigan*) Would you be up for doing a little music to the opening?

## The Shadow Dancers

**MIDDIGAN:** Sure.

**CARL:** We want the audience to know exactly how this happened to us, so that it can happen to them. We of course don't need the Brooklyn Bridge but — Everyone, at one time or another, finds themselves in a precarious position. My mentor, Brother Verit said...

**MIDDIGAN:** I know Brother Verit... I studied with him.

**CARL:** When?

**MIDDIGAN:** Well, it's really not about when.

**CARL:** Oh, you are a transcendent being?

**MIDDIGAN:** Yes. Verit saw the light in me.

**CARL:** Yes. Tes. To be the light — that's what it's all about.

### MUSICAL #6 — TO BE THE LIGHT

**CARL:**

AS YOU CAN SEE,  
I AM A SIMPLE PRIEST  
LIVING IN THIS WORLD  
TO HELP THE LEAST.  
I LOOKED TO THE STARS  
TO LIFT ME  
A GIFT OF LOVE LOOKED BACK  
TO SHIFT ME  
AND PUT ME BACK ON TRACK.

*(The lights change and they are in 'performance' at the theatre.)*

THERE WAS A NIGHT,  
THAT NEW YEARS EVE, JUST PAST,  
MIRACLES CAME TRUE  
IN ONE BIG BLAST!  
THE POWER OF STARS  
TO CURE ME,  
ASSURE A PATH UNKNOWN.

## The Shadow Dancers

A PURE ME,  
MY FEARS AND DOUBTS HAD FLOWN.

NO SHADOWS ANYMORE;  
DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT THAT WAR!  
THROUGH DEEP DESPAIR  
THE STARS OUT THERE  
ARE CLEARER NOW TO SEE.  
THE LIGHT I FOLLOWED  
NOW FOLLOWS ME!

TO BE THE LIGHT  
TWO ARTISTS HERE,  
WERE THERE THAT NIGHT,  
TO SEE A STAR, IT'S LOVE THAT BURNED SO BRIGHT.  
YOU COULD CALL IT REVELATION  
**MIDDIGAN:**  
YOU COULD CALL IT SIMPLY: LIGHT.

**CARL:**

A SPECIAL NIGHT

**MIDDIGAN:**

A STAR SO BRIGHT

**BOTH:**

THIS SPARK DIVINE

IS YOURS AND MINE

TO GIVE TO OTHERS.

DO WHAT'S RIGHT

WE ARE TO BE THE LIGHT!

*(Blackout)*

## The Shadow Dancers

**Scene 4** — *After the song, huge applause, MIDDIGAN exits as SHARON comes on. CARL and SHARON begin to tell their story.*

**CARL:** Sharon, let's tell them our story.

**SHARON:** Here's what happened.

**CARL:** When I met her, she was about to jump from the Brooklyn Bridge....

**SHARON:** It was all an act. I've been threatening myself for years.

**CARL:** I see her up there, and I scream, WAIT!

*(Scene shifts to backstage. MIDDIGAN starts to her dressing room, JONATHAN grabs her arm.)*

**JONATHAN:** Wait!

**MIDDIGAN:** *(Turns)* Yes?

**JONATHAN:** There's something about you.

**MIDDIGAN:** Yes.

**JONATHAN:** About you with me... maybe.

**MIDDIGAN:** Yes.

**JONATHAN:** It's like I know you from somewhere.

**MIDDIGAN:** Where?

**JONATHAN:** I'm not sure.

**MIDDIGAN:** I've always felt this way.

**JONATHAN:** Wait, what?

**MIDDIGAN:** I have always known that my destiny would lead me to you.

**JONATHAN:** Oh really?

**MIDDIGAN:** Yes, really.

**JONATHAN:** Why is that? Is it about me?

**MIDDIGAN:** I don't know.

*(Smiles)*

It's more about me, I can only know my own destiny.

### MUSICAL #7 — EVERY LITTLE FEELING

**MIDDIGAN:**

## The Shadow Dancers

EVERY TIME I SEE YOU...

**JONATHAN:**

EVER SINCE I MET YOU...

**MIDDIGAN:**

EVERY LITTLE FEELING...

**JONATHAN:**

EVERY LITTLE FEELING....

**MIDDIGAN:**

TELLS ME, THAT IT'S LOVE.

**JONATHAN:**

IT'S LOVE!

**BOTH:**

I FEEL SO ALIVE!

**MIDDIGAN:**

EVERY LITTLE FEELING...

**JONATHAN:**

EVERY SINGLE MESSAGE...

**MIDDIGAN:**

OPENS UP MY HEART NOW...

**JONATHAN:**

RACING THROUGH MY MIND NOW...

**MIDDIGAN:**

GROWING EVERY HOUR...

**JONATHAN:**

SOWING EVERY DETAIL...

**MIDDIGAN:**

BLOOMING LIKE A FLOWER...

**JONATHAN:**

FLYING LIKE AN EAGLE...

**MIDDIGAN:**



## The Shadow Dancers

REACHING FOR THE SUN...

**JONATHAN:**

SOARING THROUGH THE STARS...

**BOTH:**

I NEVER HAD SOMEONE TO CARE FOR,  
I'VE GONE AND GIVEN UP MY WHEREFORE...  
BUT NOW, RIGHT NOW,  
MY HEARTS BEATS UP AND PAST THE CEILING!

**MIDDIGAN:**

EVERY TIME I'M WITH YOU...  
EVERY THOUGHT I'M THINKING...  
EVERY NERVE IS TWINKLING...  
I'M HIGH ON A CLOUD!

**JONATHAN:**

EVERY TIME YOU'RE WITH ME...  
I JUST LONG TO HOLD YOU...  
HOW I WISHED I'D TOLD YOU...  
WHY HAVE I BEEN PROUD?

**MIDDIGAN and JONATHAN:**

EVERY LITTLE FEELING I FEEL,  
EVERY LITTLE FEELING IS REAL!  
EVERY LITTLE FEELING TELLS ME  
I'M FALLING FOR THE FEELING OF YOU!  
EVERY LITTLE FEELING!

*(After the song, JONATHAN takes MIDDIGAN in his arms and they share a warm embrace.)*

**JONATHAN:** Middigan, how do I know you? Where are you from?

**MIDDIGAN:** You'd never believe me if I told you.

**JONATHAN:** Try me.

**MIDDIGAN:** In your dreams.

**JONATHAN:** Be serious.

**MIDDIGAN:** I am.

**JONATHAN:** Middigan!

**MIDDIGAN:** Seriously.

## The Shadow Dancers

**JONATHAN:** Please.

**MIDDIGAN:** I am very serious. It started like twenty years ago, just before my transcendence, I was studying with a master ascetic, Brother Verit—he lives in the Catskills.

**JONATHAN:** Brother Verit? The same guy the Carl talks about?

**MIDDIGAN:** Yes. He prophesied this whole encounter, with... all of us.

**JONATHAN:** What did you mean by “before my transcendence”?

**MIDDIGAN:** Well, I... I mean, I am...

*(CARL in.)*

**CARL:** Quick Middigan, you have to come on stage right now. It’s your duet— Sharon is waiting for you.

*(MIDDIGAN exits. CARL steps up to face JONATHAN.)*

What were you two talking about??

**JONATHAN:** What?

**CARL:** Please don’t ruin this for us?

**JONATHAN:** What on earth are you talking about.

**CARL:** That’s just it Jonathan, that’s just it.

**JONATHAN:** I not allowed to hug her?

**CARL:** In a word, no. Not just yet.

**JONATHAN:** Why? When?

**CARL:** Trust me. You’ll know when.

*(Blackout.)*

**Scene 5** — — ON THE STAGE IN THE EAST VILLAGE, NEW YORK CITY. *The scene opens with a very enthusiastic COMPANY. CARL, SHARON & JONATHAN dart and dash about the stage as they wave the newspapers containing their reviews.)*

### SONG #8 — WONDROUS CELEBRATION (PATTER)

**CARL:** *(chanting to a drum beat)*

THE SHADOW TREE’S SENSATIONAL...

*(The CARL leader tosses each newspaper behind him as he reads the headline; the*

## The Shadow Dancers

*CHORUS* people pick up the papers and trail a repeat of the news.)

**COMPANY:**

SENSATIONAL...SENSATIONAL...

**CARL:**

TRULY INNOVATIONAL...

**COMPANY:**

OVATIONAL? SENSATIONAL.

**CARL:**

A THEATRICAL SPECTACULAR... MYSTICAL VERNACULAR!

**COMPANY:**

SPECTACULAR...VERNACULAR! SPECTACULAR...VERNACULAR!

**SHARON:**

THE NEW AGE REFORMATION!

TO SAVE OUR GENERATION!

**JONATHAN:**

ARTISTIC ACCLAMATION!

THE RAVE OF OUR GREAT NATION!

*(The CHORUS and CARL sing.)*

**COMPANY:**

WE'RE HERE FOR YOUR ELATION,  
YOUR GREAT SOPHISTICATION!  
AND WORLD-WIDE COMMUNICATION!  
MAN'S NEW EMANCIPATION!

**CARL:** *(tossing last newspaper with the final CHORD)*

A WONDROUS CELEBRATION

**COMPANY and CARL:**

OF ART!

*(Blackout. LIGHTS shift to backstage.)*

**SHARON:** Jonathan, can you ask the stage manager to gather everyone here with me for an announcement.  
I have a really big surprise.

**JONATHAN:** So what's the surprise?

## The Shadow Dancers

**JONATHAN:** Okay, okay, I'll get them.

*(Exits)*

**MIDDIGAN:** Something wonderful?

**SHARON:** Yes, Middigan. It's absolutely wonderful.

*(JONATHAN returns with the STAGE MANAGER and ENSEMBLE. All gather around SHARON waiting to hear the big news.)*

**SHARON:** Okay. You guys recall me saying that my friend Ned Rubinstein was here with another a big producer the other night? Well, they did some talking to some of their friends and...

**CARL:** Tell us, tell us.

**SHARON:** Here.

*(She gives Carl her phone)*

Carl read this email aloud.

**CARL:** "after seeing your performance last week, we called a staff meeting this morning, and would like to ask you to move your show to our space at the Vivian Beaumont at Lincoln Center. Contact me at your earliest convenience. Let's do a zoom.

*(ALL stand dumbstruck.)*

**SHARON:** So yayyyyyy! We've been invited to play at Lincoln Center!

*(ALL are suddenly reanimated, shouting, jumping for joy.)*

**JONATHAN:** So we are going to perform at Lincoln Center?

**SHARON:** Looks like it.

**JONATHAN:** When?

**SHARON:** As soon as possible. We don't even need to worry about selling tickets because a major corporation is underwriting us.

**JONATHAN:** Who?

**SHARON:** I'm not sure but...

**JONATHAN:** Well, that's a major concern, isn't it? I mean it should be.

**CARL:** He's right, Sharon. It's important to know who we associate ourselves with now...

**SHARON:** Please don't be negative.

**JONATHAN:** I'm just being smart.

**MIDDIGAN:** He's right, Sharon. Not everyone has pure intentions.

**CARL:** She's right, we know they'll be like lemmings... if the audience trusts us, we just can't take them down the wrong road for fame and fortune.

## The Shadow Dancers

**SHARON:** Really? Relax guys... I got this. Just let me handle it. There's nothing to fear but fear itself.

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 7** — *At The Beaumont, six weeks later. LIGHTS up on a large proscenium stage with THE SHADOW TREE, a big production number with lots of dance.*

### **MJUSICAL #9 — THE SHADOW TREE**

#### **COMPANY:**

COME ON, COME IN AND WELCOME!

OUR SHOW'S ABOUT TO BEGIN.

YOUR LIFE'S ABOUT TO CHANGE — AGAIN!

COME SEE, COME FEEL THE MAGIC

A ROUND THE SHADOW TREE!

*(The CHORUS AND PRINCIPALS continues with syncopated scat singing behind each other's verses, until the refrain.)*

#### **SHARON:**

IF YOU — SAW THE SECRET OF YOUR SADNESS.

IF YOU — COULD TURN YOUR FROWN AROUND.

IF YOU — COULD MAKE IT THROUGH THE MADNESS

WOULDN'T'YA DO IT?

LET'S GET TO IT;

JUST SEE THE SHADOW TREE.

#### **CARL:**

IF YOU — HEAR THE SINNER'S CRY FOR MERCY.

IF YOU — COULD GRANT THEM PEACEFUL REIGN

AND IT — WOULD TAKE AWAY THEIR SUFF'RING,

WOULDN'T'YA DO IT?

LET'S GET TO IT;

JUST SEE THE SHADOW TREE.

*(DANCE SECTION — let Fred and Ginger take a hold)*

## The Shadow Dancers

**JONATHAN:**

IF YOU — SAW THE RAINBOW OF LIFE'S MAGIC  
IF YOU — COULD PAINT THE DARKNESS BRIGHT,  
AND IT — COULD SET US ALL IN FLIGHT NOW,  
ISN'T IT RIGHT NOW?  
LET'S GET TO IT;  
JUST SEE THE SHADOW TREE.

**JONATHAN, CARL, SHARON and COMPANY:**

COME IN, COME ON AND JOIN US.  
COME ONE, COME ALL THERE'S NO FALL!  
NO WORRY!  
COME TASTE, COME FEEL,  
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE  
AFTER THE SHADOW, AFTER THE SHADOW, AFTER THE SHADOW TREE!  
AFTER THE SHADOW, SHADOW, SHADOW, TREE!

*(Blackout. Then LIGHTS up backstage.)*

**JONATHAN:** Hey, can I see you a minute?

**MIDDIGAN:** Sure Jon, what's up?

**JONATHAN:** Let's go back to my place after the show tonight.

**MIDDIGAN:** Tonight?

**JONATHAN:** Yes.

**MIDDIGAN:** I don't think I...

**JONATHAN:** Please

**MIDDIGAN:** I can't — it's not that I don't want to but ...

**JONATHAN:** Why?

**MIDDIGAN:** Well, it's complicated.

**MUSICAL #10 — I'M NOT WHO YOU SEE**

**MIDDIGAN:**

## The Shadow Dancers

I USED TO BE A GIRL;  
LONG BROWN HAIR,  
THE VOICE OF AN ANGEL,  
OR SO I'M TOLD.  
I USED TO BE FREE.  
NOTHING MATTERED MUCH TO ME.  
THEN ONE NIGHT  
IT CHANGED SO FAST  
I KNEW IT WASN'T MEANT TO LAST  
AND NOW  
I'M NOT WHO YOU SEE.

I USED TO BE IN LOVE.  
EVERYWHERE  
I'D FIND A NEW LOVER.  
NO DIFFERENT NOW.  
I HAVE TO BE SHY  
I MUST CAREFULLY ASK 'WHY.'  
SINCE THAT NIGHT  
NOTHING'S BEEN THE SAME.  
I HAD TO SHUN THE WORLD'S ACCLAIM.  
SO, NOW  
I'M NOT WHO YOU SEE.

LIFE IS BUT ILLUSION;  
MAKES US BELIEVE IT.  
TIME CREATES CONFUSION;  
THIS LOVE WON'T LET YOU RECEIVE IT.  
YOU CAN'T FEED FAKE LOVE.

## The Shadow Dancers

ALWAYS HUNGRY, NEVER FILLED.  
ALL CONSUMING, SO STRONG-WILLED.  
NOT WELCOME ANYMORE.  
SO, I CLOSED THE DOOR.  
I'M NOT WHO YOU SEE.

**JONATHAN:** Middigan, what are you taking about?

**MIDDIGAN:** That's my cue. I need to get on stage for my duet with Sharon.

**JONATHAN:** You're cracking up, but that's okay. There's been a lot of pressure on us all. But just one thing, Middigan Smith, I think I'm falling in love with you. Please don't leave me now. I've lost everyone that ever mattered to me. If you leave me, I'll be the one jumping off the Brooklyn Bridge.

*(STAGE MANAGER peeps in to warn her.)*

**STAGE MANAGER:** Two minutes to places, Middigan.

**MIDDIGAN:** I know I'm coming.

*(MIDDIGAN gives JONATHAN a kiss on the forehead and quickly exits.)*

**JONATHAN:** Okay. But we have to talk. Seriously

*(Blackout)*

### MUSICAL # 11 — DANCE IN THE STARLIGHT

**MIDDIGAN:**

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE,  
MOVEMENT IMPROMPTU.

**SHARON:**

LET THE MUSIC OF STARS  
WASH OVER YOU.

**MIDDIGAN:**

FEEL IT INSIDE,

**SHARON:**

CARRY IT DEAR,  
DON'T LET IT HIDE,



## The Shadow Dancers

**MIDDIGAN:** *(clutching her chest)*

KEEP IT RIGHT HERE.

**BOTH:**

A LIFE-LONG DREAM,

LET IT REDEEM

AS YOU DANCE —

DANCE IN THE STARLIGHT.

FEEL IT INSIDE,

CARRY IT DEAR,

DON'T LET IT HIDE,

KEEP IT RIGHT HERE

AS YOU DANCE —

DANCE IN THE STARLIGHT.

*(Suddenly a skylight appears above the stage. Sunlight streams in. Suddenly it changes to the night sky filled with thousands of stars that twinkle all around Middigan and Sharon, as they are absorbed into the twinkling mist.)*

**MIDDIGAN:** Sharon?

**SHARON:** Yes.

**MIDDIGAN:** Stay focused?

**SHARON :** Okay. But what is happening?

**MIDDIGAN:** The light is blinding, it's hard to see. Stay with me. Here take my hand.

**SHARON:** Okay.

**MIDDIGAN:** Don't get distracted...don't look down.

**SHARON:** I can't help it, Middigan. Something is pulling me down.

**MIDDIGAN:** Sharon?

**SHARON:** Yes. Middigan — What is happening to me? Am I dreaming?

*(CARL and JONATHAN come running out from backstage. The LIGHT on Sharon and Middigan disappear, taking MIDDIGAN and SHARON with it.)*

**JONATHAN:** What's going on?

**CARL:** Bring up the house lights, please.

## The Shadow Dancers

**JONATHAN:** Where are Sharon and Middigan?

**CARL:** I don't know where they went.

**JONATHAN:** You mean this wasn't a cheap theatrical trick?

**CARL:** No.

**JONATHAN:** I knew something would go wrong tonight. Look! I think I see them. It's very faint, but...

**CARL:** Where are they?

**JONATHAN:** Now all I see is a stage in some supper club.

**CARL:** I see it. It's Grossinger's.

**JONATHAN:** What's Grossinger's?

**CARL:** It was a very famous resort in the Catskills. Quite popular in its day. It's been gone for decades.

**JONATHAN:** Gone?

**CARL:** Yes.

**JONATHAN:** So what's this got to do with Middigan and Sharon? How'd they wind up there?

**CARL:** Super string. Super String theory claims that all dimensional realities are happening at once— Past present and future. Everything is connected by vibrating strings.

**JONATHAN:** But how? How do we go to the ... past? We'd need a time machine.

**CARL:** No, no machine... we need, we need...

*(snaps his fingers)*

Brother Verit, he'll know. It has something to do with this play... the reality of now slipped into the past, but it's not the past, it's beyond the the past, Sharon and Middigan are at Grossinger's Beyond.

*(Grabs Jonathan excitedly )*

Brother Verit is in the Catskills, too. We should go and see him.

**JONATHAN:** Now.

**CARL:** Yes, now.

*(Blackout.)*

**Scene 8** — JUST AFTER THE DISAPPEARING ACT — A CLEARING DEEP IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS. — *LIGHTS UP. Sounds of nature teeming all around, including the sound of nearby waterfall. Into the misty mountaintop, The BROTHER VERIT makes a grand entrance with an entourage of woodland creatures, real and imaginary, some recognizable beasts some resembling nymphs and gnomes and fairies. CARL and JONATHAN stand motionless on the mountaintop, with their backs to*

## The Shadow Dancers

*audience completely oblivious to what is going on all around them.*

### **MUSICAL # 12 — ONE BY ONE BY ONE**

#### **VERIT:**

THE ASCENSION HAS BEGUN,  
ONE BY ONE BY ONE.  
HERE WE CAN SEE  
A NEW REALITY  
WHERE THE LOVE OF THE ONE LIVES ON.

#### **CREATURES:**

ONE BY ONE BY ONE!

#### **VERIT:**

THE TRANSCENDENCE NOW IS HERE.  
NO MORE LIFE OF FEAR.  
WHAT OUR LIFE CAN BE  
THIS ETERNITY,  
IS WHERE THE POINT OF IT ALL IS CLEAR!

#### **CREATURES:**

ONE BY ONE BY ONE!

#### **VERIT and CREATURES:**

MUST THIS SHOW OF LIFE GO ON— (**VERIT:** [Spoken]: “Yes.”)  
ONE BY ONE BY ONE!  
THERE WE CAN PLAY,  
EACH AND EVERY DAY.

## The Shadow Dancers

'TIL ALL THE DARKNESS IS GONE!

**CREATURES:**

ONE BY ONE BY ONE!

*(MUSIC continues through the pantomime and dance. This culminates in a sight and sound fantasia, as an ominous, large dark SHADOW CREATURE abruptly intrudes and hovers over the forest family, holding them in fearful suspension. BROTHER VERIT drives out the SHADOW CREATURE. and tries to comfort their distress by gently putting all of the other creatures to sleep. Only the sounds of the crickets remain. All is now calm and bright. The sunlight filters in with brilliant streaming patterns on the forest scene to illuminate the backs of CARL and JONATHAN wander into the scene through the haze. BROTHER VERIT, now appears, they see him enter a cave and they rush to follow him inside. It's very dark and silent. )*

**CARL:** *(calling after Verit)* Verit? Brother Verit?

**VERIT:** I am Verit. Father Carl? It is *Father* Carl now, isn't it?

*(LIGHTS up but dimly, CARL nods, but is speechless. JONATHAN jumps in.)*

**JONATHAN:** Wow, you look really good for your age. Carl here tells me you are over 400 years old?

*(The LIGHT on VERIT gets even brighter.)*

**VERIT:** Yes. I knew you would come, because I am connected with Middigan.

**JONATHAN:** You know where Middigan is?

**VERIT:** She will be here shortly. She is one of my headliners tonight.

*(LIGHTS up full to reveal Grossinger's Beyond, a famous nightclub from the Borscht Belt during the 20th century.)*

**CARL:** What is this place?

**VERIT:** Grossinger's. Beyond.

**JONATHAN:** I'm not sure I understand. Why are we at Grossinger's Beyond?

**CARL:** A lot of stars get discovered here.

**VERIT:** And Grossinger's Beyond keeps them burning brightly.

**#13 — LIVE AT GROSSINGER'S BEYOND**

**BROTHER VERIT:**

## The Shadow Dancers

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE STARS LIVE ON;  
THEY LIVE HERE NOW AND THEY'RE NEVER GONE!  
THIS IS WHERE WE KEEP ON SINGING;  
EV'RY NIGHT ANOTHER SHOW.  
AND NOW YOU KNOW.

**ALL:**

WHERE LIFE GOES ON  
BETWEEN ALL TIME AND SPACE  
WHERE LOVE LIVES OUT ITS ODD REFRAIN.  
BEGIN AGAIN...  
NO REGRETS, NO RETAKES, NO MISTAKES  
THIS IS THE SHOW!

**BROTHER VERIT:**

LIVE

**ALL:**

AT GROSSINGER'S.

**BROTHER VERIT:**

THOSE SO-SO SINGERS  
NEVER APPEAR;  
NO, NOT HERE!  
HAVE NO FEAR  
WHEN WE'RE  
LIVE AT GROSSINGER'S BEYOND!

ALL THE BACK-UP SINGERS SOUND LIKE ANGELS!  
ALL THE SERVERS DRESS SO HEAVENLY!  
THE BAND IS LED BY GAB'RIEL  
AND THE MAITRE'D IS ME!

## The Shadow Dancers

ON THOSE WARM NIGHTS ALL THE LIGHTS GO OUT!  
SOME PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT!  
HERE IS WHERE THE STARLIGHT GREETUS US  
WITH LATENT POSSIBILITIES.  
FOR YOU TO SEE!

**ALL:**

LIVE

**BROTHER VERIT:**

AT GROSSINGER'S.

**ALL:**

THOSE

**BROTHER VERIT:**

SO-SO SINGERS

**ALL:**

NEVER APPEAR;

NO, NOT HERE!

HAVE NO FEAR

WHEN WE'RE

LIVE AT GROSSINGER'S BEYOND!

*(SUDDEN BLACKOUT. After thunderous applause simmer, VERIT comes out for the curtain call in a top hat and tails bows and applauds the orchestra pit.)*

**VERIT:** Thank you, thank you, thank you. Wow! Yes another powerful night here at Grossinger's Beyond.

With the talent of the galaxy, big stars, rising stars, you saw it here first at Grossinger's Beyond, Our stars never fizzle, they sizzle. So, yes, we have a very special guest here for you tonight... You know at Grossinger's, we are said to have everything you could possibly want... and good comedy, though hard to come by sometimes, is rare... but tonight, it's here.... So let's give a warm welcome to the one and only Groucho Marx.

**GROUCHO MARX:** Ladies and Gentlemen? Welcome to Grossinger's Beyond. Beyond what you ask?

Well, I would like to know that too... Like the club, I've been dead for years ... But I just can't give up comedy. You know why? "Dying is easy... Comedy is hard." I was in Africa last week, one morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas... How he got in my pajamas I'll never know." I wouldn't be Groucho if

## The Shadow Dancers

I didn't sing a song... I'm not exactly sure who I'd be... But, let's just stick with me for now. I never really wanted to be anyone else, so I guess you're stuck with me for eternity. You want to know what the secret to life is? Of course, I know. "The secret to life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made." "Those are the principles, if you don't like them — I have others." On to the song,

*(Clears throat)*

Here we go, I don't know where, but any place is better than here...

*(Waves and shouts to the back of the house)*

Ah-ha! There you are, Mrs. Grossinger! Yes, I do want to be paid this week... Yes, I will sing now. "If you've heard this before, don't stop me, because I'd like to hear it again."

### MUSICAL #14— SING FOR YOUR SUPPER

#### GROUCHO:

*(Spoken in Patter)* SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY  
I WAS ON THESE VERY BOARDS  
SINGING WITH MY BROTHERS  
TO THE FOLKS WHO'D COME IN DROVES AND HOARDS!  
A regular Mongol invasion! Or maybe a cattle convention.  
THEY'D LAUGH AND CRY.  
...AND SO WOULD I...  
YOU WONDER WHY?  
I THOUGHT I'D DIE?

*(clears his voice and cues the band)*

Maestro?

THE MENU LOOKS DIVINE!  
WITH ALL THIS LUSCIOUS FOOD.  
AMAZING YOU DON'T GAIN AN OUNCE;  
IT MUST BE... THE ALTITUDE!

OH, WE MAY CALL THIS HEAV'N  
BEYOND THAT MORTAL TOIL;  
BUT I THOUGHT THERE'D BE LESS WORK TO DO  
FOR EVERY GUY AND GOIL!

SING FOR MY SUPPER, WHILE YOU EAT YOURS.  
SING FOR MY SUPPER, YOU GIVE ENCORES!  
IF YOU'RE NOT HAVING FUN, YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG.  
IT TAKES A LOT OF MOXIE JUST TO SING THIS SONG!

## The Shadow Dancers

SING FOR MY SUPPER, ENJOY YOUR FEAST.  
SING FOR MY SUPPER, I'M GOOD AT IT TO SAY THE LEAST!  
And the least is the most I can say for you!

I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS SONG  
AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT.  
I'VE HAD A PERFECTLY WONDERFUL EVENING,  
BUT THIS WASN'T IT!

*(LIGHTS and sound fade out on stage and come up on JONATHAN and CARL backstage who are talking with VERIT.)*

**VERIT:** About your friend, Sharon, she is in the Cave of Inner Light in Sedona. It's one of the seven sacred vortices in the material world. It's not hard to find, but I asked Middigan to be your guide and mentor. The desert can be a very cold and lonely place and the illusions there are very strong.

**JONATHAN:** And where can we find Middigan?

**VERIT:** She'll be coming through that door, after she finishes her solo, which follows the comedy act. Just wait on the other side.

*(Enchanting music filters in as smoke gathers around BROTHER VERIT as he disappears. CARL and JONATHAN exit through the door.)*

### MUSICAL #15 — NEW DAY

**MIDDIGAN:**

THERE IS A TIME TO STAY  
AND WASH YOUR FEARS AWAY;  
TO BREACH THE EDGE OF DAY.  
YEARN WITH ME.

WHEN FATE HANGS IN THE AIR  
AND WHISPERS NOT TO CARE;  
WHEN LIFE'S A BIT UNFAIR,  
LEARN WITH ME.



## The Shadow Dancers

EVERYTHING IS SACRED WITH EVERYTHING ALIVE.  
NOTHING'S EVER COMMON, YOU NEVER JUST SURVIVE.  
TIME UNRAVELS RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.  
NO SURPRISE.  
ALL ARE BLESSED WHEN EACH OF US IS HERE  
IN EACH MOMENT, EACH DAY, EACH YEAR.

A MOMENT YOU MUST LEAD.  
THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU NEED  
TO FIND AND PLANT A SEED.  
GROW WITH ME!

WE ALL NEED TO KNOW HOW;  
TO HAVE A FRIEND RIGHT NOW.  
BUT WHAT WILL LIFE ALLOW?  
KNOW WITH ME!

TIME TO REACH OTHERS, TIME TO LET THEM GO.  
TIME TO BE THE STUDENT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW.  
TIME WITH ME.  
TIME TO SEE YOUR THREAD OF DESTINY.

FAR BEYOND BEYOND IS SOMEPLACE BRIGHT AND NEW.  
HEAR IT AS IT BECKONS, CALLING JUST TO YOU.  
TIME UNRAVELS RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.  
NO SURPRISE.  
ALL ARE BLESSED WHEN EACH OF US IS HERE  
IN EACH MOMENT, EACH DAY, EACH YEAR.

NO CLOUDS OF GREY.

## The Shadow Dancers

SO, CAST AWAY  
THAT YESTERDAY.  
THEN YOU CAN SAY,  
“NEW DAY, COME KNOW WITH ME!”

*INTERMISSION*

*22 more pages in Act Two*