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Dramatic Publishing



A MUSICAL COMEDY

ALL AMERICAN

Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Lee Adams

Book by Mel Brooks

Adapted by June Walker Rogers

Based on "Professor Fodorski"

by Robert Lewis Taylor



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY



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Lyrics by Lee Adams, Music By Charles Strouse

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(ALL AMERICAN)

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ALL AMERICAN

A Musical Comedy in Two Acts
Six Principal Men, Six Principal Women
Many small roles, several of which may
be played by men or women
Cast size easily adjusted

CHARACTERS

HEAD CUSTOMS OFFICER]
McCAFFEE, His assistant] . . . *at Kennedy Airport*
FEINSHVEIGER]
FILLCHER]
FLEISSER] *immigrants*
SHINDLER]
KATRINKA]
T-MEN
PROFESSOR FODORSKI
RECEPTIONIST *at S. B. I. T.*
ELIZABETH HAWKES-BULLOCK *Dean*
HULK STOCKWORTH *football coach*
MOOSE]
FARQUAR] *football players*
PIEDMONT *President*
SUSAN *his daughter*
TRISH]
AGNES] *her friends*
EDWIN BRICKER *a student*
PROFESSOR WHITE]
PROFESSOR DAWSON] *instructors*
H. H. "HILLY" HENDERSON . . *a business woman*
PHOTOGRAPHER *employed by Hilly*
Immigrants, Americans, Students, Football Players,
Homecoming Queen and Attendant; Hilly's Secretary,
Assistants and Models.

PLACE: *Mostly at Southern Baptist Institute of
Technology.*

TIME: *The Present.*

Charles Strouse and Lee Adams, who wrote the music and lyrics to such other musical hits as “Bye Bye Birdie” and “Applause” created the score to this bright, newly published musical, “All American.”

“Once Upon a Time” from this musical is perhaps one of the most beautiful songs in all of modern musical comedy.

The book to this musical was especially adapted by June Walker Rogers from writing by the celebrated author-movie producer-comedian Mel Brooks.

ACT ONE

Scene One

(Customs at Kennedy Airport. A huge sign reads "Customs." At stage C there is a table or low counter on which baggage is inspected. There are several bags on the counter and upstage of it an excited group of immigrants (among them FILCHER, FLEISSER, SHINDLER, KATRINKA, and FEINSHVEIGER) clusters about, all talking at once. We can hear the words: "America . . . at last . . . it's so big . . . what do we do first," etc.)

(The HEAD CUSTOMS OFFICER enters L downstage of the table followed by an assistant GERTRUDE McCAFFEE. The officer blows a whistle and yells:)

HEAD CUSTOMS OFFICER. OK. Let's hold it down! Hold it down, I said. Now, you're all gettin' in to America so dere's no need to panic. We want you all to feel welcome . . . we're glad to have you aboard. Dis here's a democracy so we're gonna divide you into your own ethical groups. Now all you Krauts over dere . . . (He points R, then indicates other areas as he continues. The immigrants divide as he suggests.) . . . all you frogs dere . . . Limeys there and the rest of you gooks right here. (Indicates where he is standing. The IMMIGRANTS, touched, applaud and form lines ad libbing, "He's nice . . . so efficient . . ." etc.) OK. OK. Hold it down! Hold

it down. McCaffee . . . gimme dat list of Austro- Hungarians. (She hands him a list. He picks a name from it.) Feinshveiger! Anything to declare? (A woman, FEINSHVEIGER, rushes forward and opens her suitcase on the table. McCAFFEE digs into it, comes up with a dark, round object, puts it to her ear to listen for ticking sounds. She is satisfied it's not a bomb.)

McCAFFEE. What is this?

FEINSHVEIGER. It used to be a honey dew. I guess it got rotten on the way over.

McCAFFEE (puts chalk mark on suitcase). OK. Move on.

HEAD CUSTOMS OFFICER. Fillcher! Anything to declare? (FILLCHER, a woman in a large, baggy overcoat, opens her suitcase.)

FILLCHER (crying, emotionally). I have nothing to declare but my love for America. . . . America at last! The land of opportunity.

(From off R we hear a police whistle and TWO PLAINCLOTHESMEN rush on.)

FIRST PLAINCLOTHESMAN (to CUSTOMS OFFICER, flashing badge). Treasury Department. This woman is a notorious smuggler! (The two men grab FILLCHER's arms, her coat falls open revealing a veritable jewelry store pinned to the lining: necklaces, pins, bracelets, etc.)

FILLCHER (philosophically). Vell, you can't win zem all. (They drag her off R.)

HEAD CUSTOMS OFFICER (sardonically). Land of opportunity. All right now, you people stay here. The Immigration Inspector will be here in a minute. Come on, Gertrude. (HEAD CUSTOMS OFFICER and McCAFFEE exit R. FLEISSER, one of the immigrants, speaks to

SHINDLER, another.)

FLEISSER. Well, Magda, what do you think of America?

SHINDLER. I can't believe it. It's a miracle. I shut my eyes, I'm in Austria. (She shuts them.) I open them, I'm in America. (She opens them.) I shut my eyes, I'm in Austria. (She shuts them.) I open my eyes, I'm in America. (She opens them.) I shut my eyes . . .

FLEISSER. Will you open your eyes and shut your mouth already? Well, Feinshveiger, how do you like the new country?

FEINSHVEIGER. The airport is nice.

FLEISSER. The airport is nice! The airport is nothing! Wait till you see Cincinnati!

FEINSHVEIGER. Cincinnati? What's in Cincinnati?

FLEISSER. What's in Cincinnati? Me!

(SONG: "THE OLD IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION RAG")

FLEISSER.

I'm off to Cincinnati,

I gonna go to work.

In Uncle Heintz's bakery

I'll be a clerk.

But with American know how

I'll soon own the bakery.

Yankee Doodle Fleisser, that's me!

ANOTHER IMMIGRANT. Hey, rich American!

Lend me a few thousand dollars.

FLEISSER (to SHINDLER). Where you goin', pardner? You gonna sashay out Vest?

SHINDLER. Me? (Sings:)

I'm heading for New Jersey

Not far from Cousin Max

I'll pay like everybody

The income tax!

BOTH.

A little house with a mortgage
A car and a family
All American women, we'll be.

FLEISSER (to a pretty girl who has been playing a tambourine). So, Katrinka . . . what are your plans?

KATRINKA.

Which way's Atlantic City?
That's where I want to go.
My mother says I'm pretty
And she should know.

OTHERS.

She's got her bathing suit ready,
The judges will agree.

KATRINKA.

The New Miss America . . . that's me!

ALL IMMIGRANTS. Melt us. (Sing:)

Put us in
Your big American Melting Pot and
Melt us!
Melt us!
Oh, say, can't you see
We're ready to be . . .
Joe Di Maggios . . . Sal Mineos . . .

Take us,
Make us
All red, white, and blue.
Hey, you, Americans!
Make us Americans, too!

SHINDLER. Coca-Cola!

FLEISSER. Dot's how de cookie crumbles.

KATRINKA. Try it . . . you'll like it!

ALL.

Hey, you, Americans,
Make us Americans, too!

FLEISSER. Say, where's Fodorski?

OTHERS. Fodorski! Professor Fodorski. . . .
Where are you?

(FODORSKI appears, smiling and waving an umbrella. He wears frock coat, striped trousers, black derby, carries a battered suitcase that's labeled, "Welcome to Niagara Falls." The others wave and surround him as he comes up.)

FODORSKI. I forgot my umbrella.

SHINDLER (to other immigrants). This is our professor. He's an intellectual.

FLEISSER. Professor, where are you going in America?

FODORSKI.

I have a nice position
At a University
And always in the classroom
Is where I'll be.

OTHERS.

A real American teacher
With coeds on your knee.

FODORSKI.

A regular Joe College . . . that's me!

ALL.

Don't mean maybe,
Hot dog, baby,
We're regular Joe's
In spite of our clo's

FLEISSER.

So fit us in
Like a citizen.

ALL.

Hey, there, Yankee
We're raising the flag

To the old Immigration
And Naturalization Rag!

Melt us!
Melt us!
Oh, say, can't you see
We're ready to be

SHINDLER.

Here with you today
In the U. S. A.

ALL.

We're here
Waiting
With bundle and bag.
Make us Hungarians
Into Rotarians.
Change us Roumanians
To Pennsylvanians.
The Immigration
And Naturalization . . . Rag!

Hau kay!

BLACKOUT

CURTAIN

ACT ONE

Scene Two

(Curtains close in in blackout and immediately FODORSKI appears before the curtain DR. A spot picks him up as he enters, carrying his bag and umbrella. He looks about, eager, apprehensive. New York street sounds are heard. Pedestrians walk across in front and in back of him, all in a decided hurry. FODORSKI starts L, cautiously, gets bumped by a passing teen-age girl crossing with a friend. MUSIC continues under all this.)

FIRST GIRL. Sorry, Pop.

FODORSKI. Please . . . the way to the Pennsylvania Station?

SECOND GIRL. Two blocks up, brother.

FODORSKI (earnestly). Thank you.

(The MUSIC becomes sadder for a moment as he looks around.)

FODORSKI. What am I doing here? Five thousand miles from home. I'm too old to change my ways. (Decides to try.) But a good teacher should be able to teach anywhere. I'll give it a try. (FODORSKI walks L, passing several people.)

NEWS VENDER. Hey, big newspaper strike. No papers being sold in New York! Read all about it!

FODORSKI. I wonder if I'll like it here.

SHRILL WOMAN EVANGELIST. Repent! Repent!
Judgment Day will come on Arbor Day!

FODORSKI. I hope I'll like it.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER (with another, looking
'way up). Eighty-six stories. Gee, Harry,
we'll never get it up by Friday.

FODORSKI. Why shouldn't I like it? (Smiles.) I
like it!

(SONG: "WHAT A COUNTRY")

FODORSKI.

What a country!
What a country!
What a crazy place to be.
Over two hundred million people
And not two of them agree!

What a country!

What a country!

(Cowboy in 10-gallon hat goes by.)

Every day a new frontier.

What a rootin', tootin'

Six-gun shootin' country

You've got here!

(FODORSKI moves toward C. Curtain opens just
enough to reveal a train set up. Two train seats
facing each other, a luggage rack . . . perhaps a
a frame to indicate a window. As he goes, he
checks timetable and small pocket notebook.)

FODORSKI. Ten sixteen . . . Southern Limited . . .
Track 14. There it is! Oh, my goodness, what
did I forget? Passport? Umbrella? Hat? When
you get to Nashville change your watch to

Eastern Standard Time. Good heavens, I'll miss the Orange Blossom Special if I don't do that.

(FODORSKI gets on train, moves to seat. In seats already, a MAN, and older WOMAN, a LADY with a baby.)

FODORSKI. Pardon me, madam, I think you're in my seat. Excuse me, sir, most kindly for stepping on your feet. (He puts suitcase in rack and sits.) Passport? Umbrella? Tickets? Tickets! (He searches his pockets frantically, finds them, sighs.) Tickets, ah. (Sings:)

MAN.

What a country
What a country
What a pleasant place
to be.

Name's O'Brien. (Shakes FODORSKI'S hand.) Insurance. Man your age should be insured.

LADY

So many friendly folks
to be with
And so much to do
and see.

(puts baby on his lap). Would you watch Hortense for a minute. (Baby cries. FODORSKI doesn't know what to do.)

WOMAN.

What a funny, sunny
Honey of a country
You've got here!

My cousin's a professor. You must know him. He teaches at Yale.

(FODORSKI gets off train, waving good-bye to the people. Curtain closes behind him, he walks downstage.)

You ride on a train and you travel all day
And still you're only two states away.

It's terrific!
What a country!
And you pass more towns than you can name,
And every main street looks the same.
And the traffic!
It's amazing!
And there's so many rivers and farms and herds
And who can pronounce all those Indian words?
Shenandoah
Chattahoochee
Susquehanna
Tuscarora
Allegheny
Wallagootchie!

(CHORUS members enter in various costumes and sing the end of the song with him.)

FODORSKI and CHORUS.

What a country!
What a country!
What a happy place to be!
A million mountains, billboards, motels,
Rivers rushing to the sea.

What a country!
What a country!
I could give a mighty cheer
For the rootin', tootin'
Six-gun shootin' country
You've got here.
For the funny, sunny, honey of a country
You've . . . got . . . here.

BLACKOUT

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

ACT ONE

Scene One: Kennedy Airport.

The Old Immigration and Naturalization Rag . .
Fodorski and the Immigrants

Scene Two: New York Street & Section of Railroad Car

What a Country! . . . Fodorski and Americans

Scene Three: Dean's Office, S. B. I. T.

Our Children Fodorski and Elizabeth

Scene Four: The Football Field.

Scene Five: The Classroom.

We Speak the Same Language . . . Bricker and
Fodorski

Scene Six: Outside the Stadium (Before the curtain)

I Can Teach Them Fodorski, Elizabeth
and Bricker

Scene Seven: The Classroom.

It's Fun To Think The Students

Scene Eight: In Front of Elizabeth's House

(Before the curtain)

Once Upon a Time . . . Fodorski and Elizabeth

Scene Nine: Susan's Room.

Scene Ten: Before the curtain.

I've Just Seen Her Bricker

Scene Eleven: The Stadium.

Are We Gonna Fight? Team, Fodorski,
Bricker and Company

ACT TWO

Scene One: The Field (Before the curtain)

Physical Fitness The Team

Scene Two: A Photography Studio-Henderson's Office

Scene Three: A bench on campus (Before the curtain)

Nightlife Susan and Trish and Agnes

Scene Four: The Homecoming Ball.

If I Were You Fodorski and Elizabeth

I Couldn't Have Done it Alone Bricker,
with Susan and girls

Scene Five: The Bench.

Scene Six: The Dean's Office.

Reprise: Once Upon a Time Elizabeth

Reprise: I've Just Seen Him. . Susan & Elizabeth

Scene Seven: (A) Bricker's room.

(B) Fodorski's room.

The Real Me Elizabeth

Which Way? Fodorski

Scene Eight: Press Box (Before the curtain)

Scene Nine: The Classroom.

Reprise: What a Country! All

PROPERTIES

GENERAL

DEAN'S OFFICE: Receptionist's desk and chair, telephone on desk. Dean's desk and chair, telephone on desk, several chairs, other furnishings as desired
Act One, Scene Three: Papers, school newspaper, on desk.

CLASSROOM: Two or three rows of chairs or chair desks, blackboard with chalk and eraser, Teacher's desk and chair. Act Two, Scene Nine: Fodorski's personal items (books, notes, etc.) on desk, Bricker's bridge model on desk.

SUSAN'S ROOM: Wall panel with Women's Lib posters and other decorations, dresser or other piece of furniture (optional), French windows (practical), dressing table with mirror, chair.

OTHER: Airport: Sign CUSTOMS, table or counter, several pieces of luggage (one containing blackened melon). Train: Two train seats facing each other, luggage rack, window frame (optional). Hilly's Office: Lights, cameras. Homecoming: Table with white tablecloth, five chairs, center-piece for table (optional), standing microphone, French windows leading to terrace. Bricker's room: Foot locker, bookcase with trophies, telephone. Fodorski's room: Love seat. Miscellaneous: Bench, football, door on casters (optional), section of grandstand.

PERSONAL

HEAD CUSTOMS OFFICER: Whistle.

McCAFFEE: List of names, chalk.

FILLCHER: Many items of jewelry pinned to lining of coat.

T-MEN: Badges.

KATRINKA: Tambourine.

FODORSKI: Act One: Umbrella, battered suitcase labeled "Welcome to Niagara Falls," time table, small notebook, train tickets, note pad and pen; brief case containing miscellaneous papers and documents, books, etc.; parchment document, handkerchief, S.B.I.T. pennant, pom pom. Act Two: Hilly's attache case containing two telephones, comb, whistle, two suitcases.

COWBOY: Ten-gallon hat.

LADY: Baby.

STUDENTS: Books, notebooks, pencils, etc.

HULK: Megaphone or electric police horn, whistle.

SUSAN, AGNES, and TRISH: Signs reading:
IF WOMEN CAN'T DO IT, IT SHOULDN'T BE DONE
FOOTBALL IS FOR MEATHEADS
BRAINS NOT BRAWN.

Notebooks and pens or pencils.

SUSAN: Act One: Cold cream, curlers in hair. Act Two: Suitcase, paper shopping bag containing Edwin's football shoes and a football.

BRICKER: Act One: Pad, pencil, books, bridge model in carton, notebook for Susan. Act Two: Shoes and socks, football shoes, suitcase.

HILLY: Attache case containing telephone.

DOAK: Microphone.

MODEL: Baby.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Camera.

SECRETARY: Steno pad and pencil.

HILLY'S ASSISTANTS: Huge photographic blow-up of Fodorski, notebooks, pens.

TRISH: Wrist watch.

HOMECOMING QUEEN: Plaque.

ATTENDANT: Basket of wreaths.

ELIZABETH: Two suitcases, purse, large envelope in purse.

MOOSE and FOOTBALL PLAYERS: Books, notebooks and pencils, suitcases.