

**OM**  
**The Musical**

Book and Lyrics by Smartin Winner  
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Dedicated to Danny Paradise.

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## Scene / Song Overview

Prologue 1: The Agora  
Full cast: DANCING TO THE CITY (OVERTURE)

Prologue 2: The Agora  
Barbra: WHEN PEOPLE LIE

I 1: The Flat, Kitchen  
Danny: I LOVE CATHERINES

I 2: The Yoga Studio  
Katie: GIMME A MAN

I 3: The Parliament, Cafe  
Timo: YOU WON'T  
Danny: LET'S MAKE IT BETTER

I 4: The Flat, Bedroom  
Catherine: THE SEDUCTRESS  
Catherine and Danny: MARRIED LOVERS

I 5: The Parliament, Cafe  
The Politicians Choir: THE ADS SONG  
Danny: NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT  
Timo: UPLOAD AND UNLOAD  
Danny: THIS IS THE ONE

I 6: The Parliament  
Catherine: NEVER SAW A TEAR IN THE PARLIAMENT  
Danny: I LOVE CATHERINE (REPRISE)

Interlude: The Agora  
Both Choirs: IMMERSE YOURSELF

II 1: The Yoga Studio  
Danny: WHO I AM NOT  
Katie: THE ETERNAL BREATH  
The Yoginis Choir: HUNTERS AND GATHERERS

II 2: The Parliament, Cafe  
Timo: THE HEDGEHOG AND THE FUDGE FROG

II 3: The Agora  
Barbra: FROM UP HERE

II 4: The Parliament  
Full cast: BREATHE

Epilogue: The Parliament, Café  
Danny, Catherine, Katie, Timo: CHEERS, OM

## **Prologue Scene 1**

Still behind the curtain: Rhythm of „Berlin, Berlin, wir gehen nach Berlin“, getting louder. Finally, we hear the full CAST singing.

*CAST*

*the city the city  
we're going to the city  
the city the city  
we're dancing to the city*

Curtain up. The agora. Cast is on empty stage. The cast: CATHERINE, a yoga teacher. DANNY, her husband, an aspiring politician. KATIE, a yoga studio owner. TIMO, an older leader of a parliamentary group. BARBRA, an older banker. THE YOGINIS CHOIR. THE POLITICIANS CHOIR. CATHERINE and DANNY leading the crowd, laughing, dancing, happy. If theatre allows, this could also be organized as CAST entering through audience making its way to stage. The rhythm evolves into a stomping, marching song.

*CATHERINE*

*the city the city  
we're going to the city*

*DANNY*

*the city the city  
we're dancing to the city*

*TIMO*

*bull and bear*

*POLITICIANS*

*change the world!*

*KATIE*

*dog and dolphin*

*YOGINIS*

*open your heart!*

*TIMO*

*donkey and elephant*

*POLITICIANS*

*change the world!*

*KATIE*

*crow and cobra*

*YOGINIS*

*open your heart!*

Boisterous chaos on stage, everybody clapping, dancing, including yoga poses.

*CAST*

*the city the city*

*we're going to the city*

*the city the city*

*we're dancing to the city*

Finally, they all leave, music fades out, until we only hear the rhythm again. Only BARBRA remains on stage.

**End Prologue Scene 1**

## Prologue Scene 2

BARBRA, alone at the almost empty agora, a lectern on the right side of the stage. She lies on a yoga mat, stands up and starts picking up and putting into order some of the artifacts the others left, a yoga block, party giveaways such as caps and flags. Rhythm changes into new song, an up-tempo pop number. She sings:

*BARBRA*  
*when people lie*  
*they almost always try*  
*to prevent somebody else from crying*

*partners, friends and politicians*  
*some, they do it for the money*  
*mostly however we are cowardly*  
*we just don't dare to speak the truth*  
*and then employ a little ruse*

*when people lie*  
*they almost always try*  
*to prevent somebody else from crying*

*lawyers, priests and musicians*  
*some, they do it for the money*  
*mostly however we are cowardly*  
*we just don't dare to speak the truth*  
*and then employ a little ruse*

BARBRA moves behind the lectern.

*BARBRA*  
Hi! My name is Barbra. I have nothing to do with what's going on tonight. Well, almost nothing. Don't we all have a little skeleton in the closet? You'll see. But I have an opinion. And my two cents are worth just as much as the one of your neighbors. At least that's what I've learned democracy is all about. So, here's what I think: I think these guys you'll meet now, they all have their flaws, but they are good people. Normal people. I would trust them. If I had to do a handstand and close my eyes and trust someone to catch me if I fall, I'd trust them. And if I had to delegate my powers and turn my back on them and trust them to take the right decision in my name, I'd trust them. But you're entitled to your own opinion. See for yourself. See you again at the end of the show.  
BARBRA leaves the lectern, walks around.

BARBRA

*and if you pass judgment on me  
i am here to tell you the truth  
my good mood ain't fake, i'm real and pure  
i'm not heartbroken, i'm not hurt  
and i don't like the casual flirt*

*when people lie  
they sometimes try  
to prevent themselves from crying*

BARBRA leaves. Curtain down.

**End Prologue Scene 2**

**ACT I Scene 1**

Curtain up. DANNY, alone in their new flat, unpacking moving boxes. Nailing a picture onto the wall. Singing lightheartedly. Music: Easy, swinging in Fred Astaire musical style.

DANNY

*i love catherines  
not just one  
not indiscriminately every one that comes along*

*it's just i love these women  
all of whom are beautiful  
all with a heart bigger than the universe  
all so clever and conscious  
perky and profound  
assertive and amiable  
gracious and genial*

*i love catherines  
i love catherines*

His mobile phone rings. He takes it without looking.

DANNY

Danny here. Hi, honey. (listens, caught) No, no, just practicing my speech. (listens) Sure. Looking forward to meeting them. (listens) Ok. See you in a sec then...

He stops working, moves to the desk and grabs some papers.

*i love catherines  
i love catherines*

*or maybe catherines love me  
maybe there's something deep down in our dna  
makes us love the sound of a name  
maybe it's just serendipity*

*i love catherines  
i love catherines*

Doorbell rings. DANNY braces. CATHERINE appears with her new friends from the yoga studio, KATIE and some of the YOGINIS CHOIR.

DANNY

..and that is why, ladies and gentlemen, freedom is important, but solidarity is even more important..

CATHERINE

Hi honey.

DANNY

(moves over to kiss her)

Hiiii!

CATHERINE

And this is Katie. Isn't she as cute as I told you?

DANNY and KATIE shake hands, they're obviously impressed by each other.

KATIE

Welcome to our city! Do you like it so far?

DANNY

You bet.

KATIE

(provocative)

Been here before?

DANNY

Rarely. But always for good reason.

KATIE

I bet.

DANNY

And you're the boss of the yoga studio Catherine applied for?

CATHERINE

We've settled the details so far. It was a good meeting. Just picking up my stuff here and we're off to the studio again.

DANNY

Awesome.

CATHERINE

Are you making progress with your speech?

DANNY

Absolutely. Been practicing all day.

CATHERINE

You're gonna win over the party in a jiffy. As always.

KATIE

So you're going to become the new party leader, Catherine told me?

DANNY

Possibly.

KATIE

What a development.

DANNY

(approaching CATHERINE)

And you? Nervous?

CATHERINE

Katie offered to let me fill in for one of her teachers today. If it runs smoothly, I'll get the job.

KATIE

She's got no reason to be nervous. If only half of what her CV promised is true, she'll be my next partner.

When CATHERINE turns her back to DANNY and KATIE for a moment, they gesture. Now it is clear that they know each other.

CATHERINE

So what kind of class would you like me to hold tonight? Any focus? Back bends, breathing, shoulder stand?

KATIE

(looking at CATHERINE'S body, then towards DANNY)

Bet you're really good with back bends?

DANNY rolls his eyes.

CATHERINE

Ok. We'll go for that.

CATHERINE looks at her watch.

CATHERINE

Gotta go. See you, honey.

DANNY kisses CATHERINE goodbye and signals KATIE to stay calm. The girls leave for the studio.

DANNY

*i love catherines  
i love catherines*

*it's just i love these women  
by some caprice of fate  
all of which are called katie, cathy, catherine  
all so clever and conscious  
perky and profound  
assertive and amiable  
gracious and genial*

*i love catherines  
i love catherines*

DANNY remains in the room, distressed. He picks up the papers again.

DANNY

Freedom is important, but solidarity is even more important...

**End Act I Scene 1**

**ACT I Scene 2**

CATHERINE, KATIE and YOGINIS in the Yoga Studio. Mats, blocks, pillows, blankets, buddhas, candles, colorful setting.

KATIE  
Cool guy, your Danny.

CATHERINE  
Indeed, he is. But, you know.

KATIE  
Know what?

CATHERINE  
Everything comes with a price tag. Cool guys get a lot of attention from hot women.

KATIE  
You think he...? Any evidence?

CATHERINE  
No. Just a feeling. It was different with my high school boyfriends who I knew like forever. He's the first one with his own past.

CATHERINE  
(to YOGINIS)  
Come closer, there's enough space at the front.

KATIE  
Don't you talk?

CATHERINE  
Sure, he told me lots of stories, showed pictures. But still. It's like there is something else, a side he can't show, secrets..

KATIE  
They all have secrets. The more baffling, the more attractive. Right? If it ever proves to be a real problem, you know what to do: breathe in, breathe out.

CATHERINE  
(laughs, then to YOGINIS)  
Everyone got a block? Belts and blankets are in the back.

CATHERINE

(to KATIE)

Om shanti. What about you? Any man in your life?

KATIE

Sure, see the orange shirt over there? And the green leggings to the right?

CATHERINE

But not, I mean, the one man?

KATIE

Nope, not for a long time.

CATHERINE

But you would like one?

KATIE looks at her, smiles, and starts singing, activating the YOGINIS CHOIR to dance and sing along.  
Music: hard rocking, boogie.

*KATIE*

*gimme a left wing  
vegan or at least vegetarian  
man  
and i'll fuck him right away  
being single for a long time or not*

*gimme an eco-green  
yogi or at least non-football  
guy  
and i'll fuck him right away  
being on my period or not*

*gimme a handsome  
adventurous or at least lgbtq-friendly  
dude  
and i'll fuck him right away  
being in a working lesbian relationship or not*

*no i won't go out with one more overbearing, boastful  
bragger  
no i won't have any more dates with a chubby hubbie or  
a married mcp*

*but gimme a literate  
benign or at least non-snoring  
tom, dick or harry  
and i'll fuck him right away*

*being the particularly picky woman i am*

CATHERINE

Don't let Danny hear that. He'd think it's about him.

KATIE

Possibly. They're all the same.

They laugh. KATIE rotates a mallet around a singing bowl.

KATIE

And now let's do some back bends. Catherine, the show is yours.

**End ACT I Scene 2**

### ACT I Scene 3

In the Parliament Café. Pictures of politicians on the wall, men and women, very diverse. TIMO and POLITICIANS CHOIR in suites.

TIMO

Dunno. I'm not convinced yet. I'm just not sure.

POLITICIANS CHOIR clap.

TIMO

We have to be careful. No single man will save us. Only, let me repeat that, only if we stick together, will we succeed.

POLITICIANS CHOIR clap.

TIMO

Our party looks back upon a long, long history. Our future depends on our ability to trust in our values.

POLITICIANS CHOIR clap. TIMO starts singing. Music: Dark, dramatic, funky.

*TIMO*

*you're young and ambitious and you don't believe what  
the wise men say  
but it's written with blood on the pavement that life  
is vicious and you better keep mistakes at bay*

*so you feel ready for the sea  
are you ready to drown  
so you feel ready for the sky  
are you ready to fall*

DANNY arrives, enthusiastic. Shaking hands with everyone. POLITICIANS friendly, but not overwhelmed. While TIMO sings, DANNY gets more and more attentive.

*TIMO*

*the devil's a-waiting at the crossroads and whatever  
street you take there's a whore  
and that each friend you made after high school will  
suck is as true as weather lore*

*so you feel ready for democracy  
are you ready to endure the recall  
so you feel ready for administration  
are you ready to bear with the snakes*

*you dreamers and goody-goodies, idealists and bleeding  
hearts*

*whatever you think you will change, you won't  
you think the mouth is for breathing and to use for  
discourse*

*but our teeth are made to bite, people lock jaws and  
cut their throats*

*you dreamers and goody-goodies, idealists and bleeding  
hearts*

*whatever you think you will change, you won't*

POLITICIANS CHOIR clap enthusiastically.

TIMO

And here he is. Welcome the future of our party. Let's hear it for Daniel Paradiso.

POLITICIANS CHOIR clap with restraint. DANNY wants to say something, but TIMO goes on.

TIMO

Danny, it's a pleasure to have you in the city now. That you moved here is a huge opportunity for us, as the party, well, we've seen better days. Your track record has fueled expectations. Your new role will make you a public figure in our city, standing out from the crowd from day one. We're looking forward to working with you. I promise we'll support you. But I also want to make clear that this also places a huge burden on you. We don't need another young gun playing a lone hand. Our voters will accept anything but another sex scandal. Make it better than your predecessor. Daniel Paradiso, Danny, welcome!

POLITICIANS CHOIR listening carefully, all eyes on DANNY. DANNY takes a deep breath, then jumps on table. Long pause. Then with an outburst of energy. Wild, fast rock'n'roll.

DANNY

*old women chatter  
old men get fatter  
let's make it better*

*cherish their cars  
nourish their scars  
let's make it better*

*it is notorious  
they stop being curious  
let's make it better*

*we are the future  
we are the go-getters  
let's make it better*

The POLITICIANS, skeptical at the beginning, gathered round him during the singing. At the end they applaud DANNY frenetically.

*POLITICIANS CHOIR  
he's our vote-getter  
he's our vote-getter  
we'll make it better*

Dancing with lots of handshaking, backslapping etc.

**End ACT I Scene 3**

**ACT I Scene 4**

DANNY and CATHERINE at home in bed in their jammies.

CATHERINE  
Good night.

DANNY  
Sweet dreams.

They roll around. A quiet moment.

DANNY  
It's going to be a hard ride. Tough city.

CATHERINE  
Tough city, nice people. I like Katie. How's Timo?

DANNY  
Speaking of tough... Old school. But ok. I'll crack 'em.  
They're eager for inspiration. As eager as I am for  
sleep...

CATHERINE  
Nighty night.

They roll around. Another quiet moment.

DANNY  
You happy with the yoga class?

CATHERINE  
Participants were happy. The studio is beautiful,  
heating, cooling, hardwood floor, locker rooms, and  
such a cute vegan bistro. But Katie was more aloof than  
I expected.

They roll around. A last quiet moment.

DANNY  
She seemed to be so open?

CATHERINE  
Just the type of girl you adore, right? But she's a  
maneater.

DANNY gets in an upright position.

DANNY

What do you mean?

CATHERINE gets in upright position, too, turns lights on. Sings, introspective music that leads to the ballad that follows.

*CATHERINE*  
*seductress has a visitor*  
*every other day*  
*burning like tinder*  
*she gets things under way*

*seductress is into yoga*  
*for a reason*  
*last month was biting cold*  
*now she's back in season*

DANNY turns out the light. Both lie down. Roll around. Then CATHERINE turns on the light again, sits up, leans forward, strokes him.

*CATHERINE*  
I love being married to you. Nothing in the world would make me go back to the single life.

*DANNY*  
Me neither.

CATHERINE and DANNY sing a moving ballad:

*CATHERINE*  
*we're*  
*married lovers*

*we're*  
*storied lovers*  
*making amends*

*we're*  
*avid lovers*  
*crawling back under the covers*

*we're*  
*married lovers*

*DANNY*  
*yes we're*  
*married lovers*

*we're  
storied lovers  
making amends*

*we're  
avid lovers  
crawling back under the covers*

*we're  
married lovers*

They lie down and finally fall asleep.

**End ACT I Scene 4**

## ACT I Scene 5

Next morning. DANNY and TIMO in the Parliament Café with the POLITICIANS CHOIR. TIMO shows different campaign designs. If production budget allows to, here TV spot, merchandise for audience etc. Great work from the stage designer appreciated! TIMO presents posters to DANNY.

TIMO  
This one?

DANNY shakes head.

TIMO  
This is fresh, what do you mean?

DANNY shakes head.

TIMO  
So what else have we got, guys?

THE POLITICIANS CHOIR starts singing. One line or more for everyone in the choir. Frenzied electronic music. Light show. They present more posters.

*THE POLITICIANS CHOIR*  
*peace - just do it*  
*think different: affordable housing*  
*have a break, have justice*  
*gender equality - once you pop you can't stop*  
*no poverty, no hunger, no thirst - put a tiger in your tank*  
*there are some things money can't buy. for everything else there's a free election*  
*don't mess with a sustainable economy*

TIMO  
Dunno. Dunno. What's the use of a USP anyhow? Voters are not customers. We're not selling.

DANNY sings, a capella. POLITICIANS CHOIR echoing the last lines like a thundering church choir.

*DANNY*  
*we use our creativity*  
*to enhance our polity*  
*nothing wrong with that*

POLITICIANS CHOIR  
*nothing wrong with that!*

DANNY  
*we invest our qualities  
to improve our policies  
nothing wrong with that*

POLITICIANS CHOIR  
*nothing wrong with that!*

DANNY  
*we're running around like lunatics  
to fix what's wrong with politics  
nothing wrong with that*

POLITICIANS CHOIR  
*nothing wrong with that!*

DANNY  
*we're following our visions  
that's why we're politicians  
nothing wrong with that*

POLITICIANS CHOIR  
*nothing wrong with that!  
oh no  
nothing wrong with that!  
oh yeah...*

TIMO  
Dunno. We're a party, not a brand.

Frenzied electronic music and light show again.

THE POLITICIANS CHOIR  
*i'd walk a mile for free transport  
green city - what happens here stays here  
reduced inequalities - i'm lovin it  
human rights: a diamond is forever  
good health - it keeps going and going and going  
impossible is nothing: no borders  
emmy tony oscar grammy - critics would ballot for danny*

TIMO  
Dunno. Values yes. But those buzzwords? Never needed them.

Now it's DANNY thumbing through the posters, checking colors and font sizes from different perspectives and distances, looking for one he likes. From time to time he shows one to TIMO, who always shakes his head.

DANNY

Before social media, you mean? Or before TV? Timo, times change.

TIMO

For the worse.

DANNY

(kidding)

Dunno.

TIMO

Not everything was better in the past. For sure. But all this research and marketing and social media stuff... After all, it's all about a good life. A roof over one's head, enough food, a car...

DANNY

(teasing)

...or a horse...

TIMO

(unimpressed)

...safety in the street...

DANNY

...don't forget a gun in the closet...

TIMO

Nah!

DANNY

Timo, this is the 21st century. Voters don't just sit on a chair in a venue anymore, listen to a hero and believe what you preach to them.

TIMO

(with a direct view into the house)

They don't?

DANNY

They don't! You and me, we're just knots in a global net...

DANNY pinches TIMO at his upper arm.

DANNY

...we're analog blinkers for a digital crowd.

TIMO

(looks at him, ironically)

Blinkers, I like that.

TIMO starts singing, an alternative country song with a hammering banjo.

*TIMO*

*ridin' down the digital highway  
ridin' down a dusty road  
delivering goods to the people  
my business is upload and unload*

*turn left, turn right, force onward  
keep the machine greased  
my cargo is perishable and precious  
my cargo is freedom and peace*

*pebbles and gold, maple and wenge  
i carry what needs to be purveyed  
to the rich and to the poor, night and day  
diversity and equity are underway*

*turn left, turn right, force onward  
keep the machine greased  
my cargo is perishable and precious  
my cargo is freedom and peace*

Suddenly DANNY picks one of the posters. Points at it.

TIMO

Dunno.

DANNY

A lesson I've learned from my wife for the primary:  
focus on the breath, not the pose. And this one  
breathes.

TIMO

What do you guys think?

Members of THE POLITICIANS CHOIR examine the poster and pass it along.

THE POLITICIANS CHOIR

OK.

Not sure.

Well.

Why not?

DANNY steps on a chair and sings an acoustic indie pop number that could also be a love song to a person.

*DANNY*

*this is the one  
the one i was waiting for  
the one i feel comfortable with  
the one i can look at for the rest of my life  
the one i'll be proud of  
this is the one*

*this is the one  
if you see this piece of art  
on a screen or from afar  
like everybody passing by you'll recognize  
how unique this is  
this is the one*

DANNY

Can't you feel it? This one's got life. Heart and soul. It touches body and mind. And it'll work online.

TIMO

Body and mind! We should've tested it with first-time voters, unionists, senior citizens.

DANNY

You should trust your inner voice.

TIMO is really upset now. He chucks some of the material to the ground.

TIMO

You should trust the party's inner circle. Young guns. I should have known better. I'm such an idiot.

**End ACT I Scene 5**

## ACT I Scene 6

CATHERINE enters stage to pick up DANNY, who is visiting the empty parliament (= full house in the audience). Sometimes during the dialogue they take turns behind the lectern and act as speakers and opposition.

CATHERINE  
Wow, even empty this is impressive.

DANNY  
It's most impressive when it's full. On each seat a representative of the people. You can't imagine what it feels like to speak to the nation. It's a huge responsibility.

CATHERINE  
(lectern)  
To stay true to yourself is a huge responsibility.

DANNY  
Said about the same to Timo this morning.

CATHERINE  
Did he like the artwork?

DANNY  
Not really.

CATHERINE  
I do. Wish we had the same positive energy in the studio.

DANNY  
Don't you?

CATHERINE  
Maybe I'm just antsy. I'm just not sure about Katie. Can't read her. She seems to like what I'm doing but there's something I don't get.

DANNY  
You'll get the job, honey. You know how good you are.  
(lectern)  
Everybody loves you, always.

CATHERINE  
From your lips to God's ears.

DANNY  
God?

CATHERINE  
Karma, the divine, Ganesha.  
(mimics an elephant)

DANNY  
(serious)  
There's an elephant in the room.

CATHERINE  
(lectern)  
God is female, did you know?

DANNY  
God is a cow?

CATHERINE  
Bitilasana. Hold for four seconds, inhale into dog,  
exhale into cat.

DANNY  
I'd love to have your confidence. Yoga makes life so  
easy. There's a pose for every question. And a sequence  
following it. No such thing in politics.

CATHERINE  
(lectern)  
Purity and poorness, that's the sequence. No such thing  
as money in yoga.

DANNY  
(lectern)  
Ladies and gentlemen, here's the ultimate truth.  
Today's resolutions from the parliament include: A) God  
is a cow. B) If you're into salary, choose a career in  
politics over yoga. If you're into salvation, vice  
versa. C) I love a woman, she's got a heart bigger than  
the universe.

CATHERINE  
We didn't debate c.

DANNY  
(kidding)  
If your new job really doesn't work out, you can always  
start a career in politics, too.

CATHERINE

You know I'd never do that. Those old farts. All those lies. Not with me.

CATHERINE sings. Music: aggressive, rapping.

*CATHERINE*

*never saw a tear in the parliament  
never saw a serious smile  
but i could smell the breath of corruption  
and i could hear 'em whisper lies*

*they passed a thousand laws in the parliament  
none of them would pass for good  
while outside the rallies were marching  
the mps put on their magic hoods*

*bored and empty faces in the parliament  
most of them are heavily drunk  
the all-you-can-eat is kind of intense  
at the taxpayer's expense*

DANNY

(suddenly has an idea)  
Taxpayer!

*CATHERINE*

*behind the doors on the corridors  
the conversations full of hate  
inside while the cameras are rolling  
the debate is big with fate*

*never enjoyed a hug in the parliament  
too long, too wet, too fat  
when it comes to racism, classism, sexism  
the parliament is your best bet*

DANNY

Honey, I gotta go.

CATHERINE

What's up?

DANNY

Forgot something. Could you do me favor and bring this to Timo?

DANNY hands her a few posters and after she has left,  
sings.

DANNY

*it's just i love a woman  
she is so beautiful  
she's got a heart bigger than the universe  
she's so clever and conscious  
perky and profound  
assertive and amiable  
gracious and genial*

*i love catherine  
i love catherine*

*i love catherine  
i love catherine*

He gets in a hurry and leaves quickly. Curtain down.

**End ACT I Scene 6**

## **Interlude**

Curtain up. The Agora. DANNY and CATHERINE appear, searching, as if blinded, BOTH CHOIRS appear and surround them, they get chased around the stage. Postmodern theatrical moment. Funky, electronic music.

*The YOGINIS CHOIR with THE POLITICIANS CHOIR  
you're new here  
we  
don't want you  
unless you change change change  
immerse yourself*

*this system here is established  
the hierarchies are intact  
we don't live on dumb fantasies  
base decisions on our facts*

*we are one while you are still you  
take a day off to prepare  
you won't fit in our program  
till you chose a wing and a prayer*

*let go of your individuality, arrive at our conclusion,  
your ego is an illusion  
give in to the original practice, rituals and pose,  
adjust your axis, align your elbows*

*if you're asked to share opinions  
please embed our code  
always refer to our q & a  
no need to cope with a free vote*

*you're new here  
we  
don't want you  
unless you change change change  
immerse yourself*

Curtain down.

**END INTERLUDE**

**ACT II Scene 1**

Curtain up. DANNY alone in the Yoga Studio. In a suit. He sits on a single mat in the middle of the room. Beside him a huge bag. He tries some yoga poses. He breathes and starts singing. Introspective, folky music.

*DANNY*

*i am i am i am  
i don't know who i am anymore*

*clapping hands  
sparkling eyes  
are enough to lift my feet off the ground and make me  
fly?*

*i am no eagle  
i am no swan  
the force of gravity pulls*

He crashes. He's not good in yoga. He takes off his jacket.

*who i am not  
boss, leader  
who i am not  
star, hero  
who i am not  
god, father  
who i am not*

KATIE arrives at the studio, but she hides. He doesn't see her. She watches him doing his amateur poses.

*who i am not  
loser  
who i am not  
normal  
who i am not  
special  
who i am not*

Whatever pose he tries, his huge bag always gets in the way.

*a name crumbles to letters  
a soul vaporizes to tears  
an ego vanishes into qualms  
a body decomposes into scars*

*who i am not*

*i am no eagle  
i am no swan  
the force of gravity pulls  
and i don't know who i am anymore*

KATIE makes some noise and enters, DANNY stops immediately.

KATIE  
Danny! Surprise, surprise.  
(ironically)  
Welcome to the city.

DANNY  
Katie, I...

KATIE  
Ah, you remember my name? Thought you might have forgotten it.

DANNY  
Katie, let me...

KATIE  
Mr. Leader, nah.  
(angry)  
Who do you think that you are? Prick. Gets into my life out of the blue. Vaporizes into nothing. Sends a birthday message and Christmas text. And you think you can appear here a married man, leading the nation, and I'll grin and bear it? Fucker.

KATIE starts setting up the stage for CATHERINE's session.

DANNY  
Let me explain...

KATIE

No.

DANNY

Katie, I really loved you.

KATIE

(disgusted)

Oh god.

DANNY

(on sudden impulse)

Ganesha?

(mimics an elephant)

KATIE

(totally caught off guard she stops in her tracks, looks at him in astonishment and starts laughing)

Oh Danny. You're still such a boy.

(caresses his hair)

How could anyone bear a grudge against you?

DANNY

(moves back)

Don't. Katie, really. You've got to understand. I loved you. And I still do. But when I met Catherine I knew that this would work out. Not as a love story, but as a partnership.

KATIE

(angry)

But I wouldn't?

DANNY

Katie, please. You know how you are. You're... a maneater!

KATIE

Oh no. That's not what I am. It's just that I'm full of love.

KATIE starts singing a soulful up-tempo pop number and courts him dancing.

*KATIE*

*i love the seed*

*i love the ants  
i love the crop  
and elephants*

*i love the black  
i love the blue  
i love the red  
i love green too*

*i love the guts  
i love the skin  
i love the yang  
i love the yin*

*i love the luff  
i love the lee  
i love you  
i love me*

*and even if i never find someone to hold and love me  
the way i hold and flow  
i will remain  
a blessed and happy being  
cause i'm held  
by the eternal breath*

*i love the wood  
i love the air  
i love the wet  
i love my hair*

*i love the host  
i love the guest  
i love the east  
south, north and west*

*i love at work  
i love at ease  
i love to pose  
i love to cease*

*i love the stale  
i love the fresh  
i love life  
and i fear death*

*and even if i never find someone to hold and love me  
the way i hold and flow  
i will remain*

*a blessed and happy being  
cause i'm held  
by the eternal breath*

DANNY

(resisting)

Katie, I am here because I want to ask something from you. I know I have no right to do so, but please be fair to Catherine. Don't punish her in place of me.

KATIE

So, asshole, you want me to give your spouse a job in my yoga studio and not tell her what happened between us? Not anybody? Not even mention the past between the two of us anymore?

DANNY

Except for the asshole part I think you summarized it well.

KATIE

What you are asking for emphasizes the asshole part!

DANNY

Katie, for the good times. I'm living in the city now. We can sort this out in the coming weeks. But do me this favor: give Catherine the job and help me get things right with the party.

KATIE

What's in it for me?

DANNY

What do you want?

KATIE

(totally the tough business woman now)  
Your new colleagues from the municipality refused the building permission for my new outdoor terrace. Plus, I need a cheap credit from the cooperative bank. And you take over patronage for my summer festival.

DANNY

You serious?

KATIE

As hell.

DANNY

Well, I think you're a good taxpayer. Theoretically feasible. Once I'm in the lead I'll do my best.

KATIE

I'll make sure that you won't forget. You will make this work for me.

DANNY

Ok, ok. Thank you. And please...

CATHERINE opens the door, looks around, enters with her yoga equipment. Following her, more and more YOGINIS appear.

CATHERINE

Thank you for what? Any deals going on here?

KATIE

Ain't politics the art of compromising?

CATHERINE

That's why politicians make good husbands.

CATHERINE

What are you doing here, honey? Wanna join us for the session?

DANNY unpacks a huge bronze elephant from his bag. The YOGINIS marvel at the elephant, CATHERINE and KATIE can't see what it is.

YOGINIS

Look at that!  
So sweet!

The YOGINI CHOIR starts singing, a sky-reaching gospel tune.

*THE YOGINIS CHOIR*

*remember how it used to be  
constant jeopardy  
hunters and gatherers  
that was us*

*the trees, the trees, the trees  
the grass, the grass, the grass  
they were so green, so green, so green  
and they grow, grow, grow  
just like us*

*remember how it used to be  
constant jeopardy  
hunters and gatherers  
that was us*

*the lake, the lake, the lake  
the sea, the sea, the sea  
they were so blue, so blue, so blue  
and they rest, rest, rest  
just like us*

*remember how it used to be  
constant jeopardy  
hunters and gatherers  
that was us*

*the sun, the sun, the sun  
the rose, the rose, the rose  
they were so red, so red, so red  
and they shine, shine, shine  
just like us*

*remember how it used to be  
constant jeopardy  
hunters and gatherers  
that was us*

*now we're wise, safe and free  
love and democracy  
cultured, civilized  
this is us*

DANNY snatches the elephant from the YOGINIS.

DANNY  
(to CATHERINE and KATIE)  
Here's a little present for the both of you. May it  
bring you luck.

CATHERINE  
An elephant. How cute.

DANNY  
(aimed at KATIE)  
They remember everything but never talk about it.

KATIE

Quite the opposite of a politician. It's never either-or, it's always searching for a win-win, isn't it, Danny?

DANNY

(snappy)

For sure it's easier to base all decisions solely on idealistic motives without ever having to care about the economic or legal aspects.

CATHERINE

(naive, without understanding what's going on)

Oh, leading a yoga studio has a lot of administrative aspects. Katie and I talked about that in our first meeting. I suggested to her that an outdoor terrace would be a perfect expansion of the studio. And we could do a summer festival there to attract new customers.

KATIE

I had never thought about those things before. Catherine is so creative. Although money will be an issue.

CATHERINE

Oh, I gave that a second thought, too. Danny, don't you know this chairman from the cooperative bank? Barbra?

DANNY

(deeply ashamed)

Yes, I could, I will ask Barbra.

KATIE

(arms crossed, smiling)

That's such a noble, humble gesture. Thanks, Danny.

CATHERINE rotates the mallet around the singing bowl. DANNY leaves with a kiss and an apologizing wink to Katie.

CATHERINE

Ok. Everybody set? Let's go then.

She starts to lead into a session. Just as everyone is in a headstand, TIMO enters, agitated.

TIMO

Is Danny here?

YOGINIS  
Psssssst! Shushhhh!

KATIE  
Who's that bully?

TIMO  
(walking through the YOGINIS in headstand)  
Danny? Danny?

CATHERINE  
So who are you, bully?

TIMO  
I'm working with Daniel Paradiso. Excuse me, ladies. My  
name is Timo.

CATHERINE  
That Timo?

TIMO  
Not sure what that means, but probably yeah.

CATHERINE  
You missed him by a hair.

TIMO  
Shit. Sorry I've disturbed your aerobics. Bye.

TIMO leaves, the YOGINIS laugh and go on with the  
class.

**End of Act II Scene 1**

## Act II Scene 2

TIMO at the Parliament Café, nervously walking up and down.

TIMO  
Where is he? Where the fuck is he? We gotta rehearse that speech.

He takes another look at the script.

TIMO  
Double negatives. Loanwords. Rhetorical questions. Irony! No one will understand this.

He throws the script to the floor.

TIMO  
Bring me my notebook! Delivering an impressive speech is the be-all and end-all of political success. (shouting) My laptop! And this script is crap. One wouldn't even win the class clown election with this bureaucratese. My tablet!

DANNY enters. With his bag. Walks over the mess.

DANNY  
Didn't like it either.

TIMO  
So we have finally something in common, young gun. Where have you been?

DANNY  
I was at the zoo.

TIMO  
Excuse me?

DANNY  
I stole an elephant and gave it to my wife. And because I was at it anyhow I made a visit at the cooperative bank and dropped off a bull for Barbra Arkson. She asked me to say Hi to you. You were close? She said you liked frogs. So here's a frog for you.

He takes a frog out of the bag.

TIMO

(confused)

What has Barbra got to do with the speech?

DANNY

Oh, nothing. Private matters. She also mentioned, that just like you she thinks it would be important for us not to cause any scandal, especially not to have an affair with a married woman if one's married.

Flashing him a knowing look he hands over the frog to TIMO and tips out the bag. TIMO looks at the frog, you can see he's going back in time. Music: World music, Irish nursery rhyme meets Balkan brass.

*TIMO*

*one day a hedgehog met a fudge frog  
it was love at first sight  
they held each other tight  
croaking loud and jumping wide  
shivers running down the spine  
day and night, give and take  
slowly strolling round the lake  
trout and blackbird watched from far  
as did the waves and the stars  
until one day alone again was the hedgehog  
after all it was a fudge frog*

DANNY

It's not easy being green.

TIMO

(surprised, then amused, then serious)  
Oh, no. It's not easy with the quills.

DANNY

Actually it wasn't only a private visit. Maybe you'll get a chance to meet her again soon.

TIMO

We'll see. Back to business now. My laptop!

One POLITICIAN enters with TIMO's notebook. TIMO opens it on his knees.

DANNY

So you will campaign for me? Troops on full alert?

TIMO

(teeth-gnashingly, but approving)

I will.

DANNY

(picks up one of the pages from the floor and hands it to TIMO, joking)

So we're married now. Deal.

TIMO

Instead of ,I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of man's present condition makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts him', what do you think of..

DANNY

We shouldn't change that part...

TIMO

Why?

DANNY

It's a quote from Martin Luther King that Obama used in his Nobel Prize for Peace acceptance speech.

TIMO

Agreed. So we'll keep that. What do you have?

**End Act II Scene 2**

### Act II Scene 3

The agora. BARBRA appears on the otherwise almost empty stage. Some yoga artifacts, some from the politicians, some private from our couple's home.

BARBRA

Hahaha. You remember me? I'm Barbra. Didn't I tell you the truth. No need to cry here so far. Decent people in this city. Timo, that old rake. Danny, what a handsome new signing. And wasn't it a pleasure to watch Catherine and Katie showing off so strongly committed to their goals. Such assertive, amiable women. Each one of them a tangle of contradictions. But, no crying today! There are few places man has established where conflicts can be solved without weapons. Or a ball. There are good reasons to assert that a yoga studio and a parliament are the greatest institutions humans invented to find balance. A good argument and a deep breath will calm everybody down. As for me, you could only top this with a stage and a song. So let's see how this story ends now.

BARBRA sings. A piano ballad.

BARBRA

*from up here  
lights shine like grounded stars  
from up here  
people bustle around like ants*

*air is rare up here  
the view is good, the future is looking bright  
thanks to the grants*

*from up here  
it's a long way back to street level  
from up here  
it's easy to see what's right*

*air is rare up here  
thanks to the grants  
the view is good, the future is looking bright*

*i've seen my share of down and out  
the devil's kept me busy  
and he will, in the night  
but right now everything looks easy from up here  
no cross no crown*

*and like I always did i'll go on taking my chances*

*air is rare up here*

*thanks to the grants*

*the view is good, the future is looking bright*

Curtain down.

**End Act II Scene 3**

**Act II Scene 4**

Curtain up. DANNY just ends his speech in the parliament. This is a great opportunity for the director and actual team to rant about a current issue, which we don't stipulate here in the script, although we recommend referring to (one of) the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Make sure it's pathetic.

DANNY

...

It must have been a great success. Long applause by the POLITICIANS CHOIR and YOGINIS CHOIR. DANNY won everybody over. TIMO hugs him. CATHERINE and KATIE hug him, together.

TIMO

I declare the buffet officially open!

DANNY starts walking through the audience, shaking hands, the perfectly smart politician. The CHOIRS are eyeball to eyeball. They move forward when they sing their line and back when the others sing theirs. Music: house / electro swing.

*POLITICIANS*

*dues*

*YOGINIS*

*bees*

*POLITICIANS*

*taxes*

*YOGINIS*

*freedom*

*POLITICIANS*

*city hall*

*YOGINIS*

*peace on earth*

*POLITICIANS*

*public transport*

*YOGINIS*

*save our gaja*

*POLITICIANS*  
*development area*

*YOGINIS*  
*anahata chakra*

*POLITICIANS*  
*mayor minister secretary*

*YOGINIS*  
*mala mantra shavasana*

*POLITICIANS*  
*efficiency authority*  
*law and order*  
*we govern, rule and judge*

*YOGINIS*  
*meditation mindfulness*  
*laugh and open*  
*we give, pool and share*

The CHOIRS turn around and face the audience.

*YOGINIS and POLITICIANS together*  
*how can we get together*  
*what is our common ground*  
*the equity that we envision*  
*the future that we'll found*

A POLITICIAN and a YOGINI step forward.

*A POLITICIAN*  
*stop, i need to take a deep breath*

*A YOGINI*  
*breath?*

*A POLITICIAN*  
*breathe!*

*A YOGINI*  
*breathe!*

*All POLITICIANS*  
*breathe!*

*ALL YOGINIS*

*breathe breathe breathe breathe breathe breathe!*

Both CHOIRS mingle. DANNY joins them, singing with both CHOIRS, CATHERINE and KATIE with YOGINIS, TIMO with POLITICIANS. Stomping house music, morphing into hard techno.

*THE POLITICIANS CHOIR*

*we're the party that likes to party  
we're the party that likes to party  
we go slumming at the bar  
we go pandering to the dance floor  
we're the party that likes to party  
we're the party that likes to party*

*THE YOGINIS CHOIR*

*we're the body with the perfect body  
we're the body with the perfect body  
we go slumming at the bar  
we go pandering to the dance floor  
we're the body with the perfect body  
we're the body with the perfect body*

*BOTH CHOIRS*

*breathe breathe breathe breathe breathe breathe!*

Both CHOIRS face the audience, getting more and more quiet, with the last words already whispered, then it's only heavy breathing, involving the audience. Curtain down.

**End of Act II Scene 4**

## **Epilogue**

Curtain up. Possibly already into applause after last scene because audience thought it's over. DANNY and CATHERINE, TIMO and KATIE meet in the Parliament Café. Heavy drinking of yogi tea (DANNY and CATHERINE) and old-fashioned whiskey (TIMO and KATIE). Both CHOIRS dancing and singing. Everybody gets wet eyes as the curtain goes down. It's a classic Broadway sing along hit, a swaying drinking song for a pub, a melody to be sung a thousand times.

*TIMO*

*you can start with hot water  
or whiskey on the rocks  
you can add lime or honey  
and then you finish with the ginger ginger ginger  
oh my, how i love them old drinks*

*CAST*

*cheers, om*

*DANNY*

*you can start with a rhythm  
or with a melody  
you can add blue or high notes  
and then you finish with the chorus chorus chorus  
oh my, how i love them old songs*

*CAST*

*(activating the audience to sing along)  
cheers, om*

*KATIE*

*you can start with cold calls  
or with a warm welcome  
you can add moon or sunshine  
and the you finish with the kisses kisses kisses  
oh my, how i love them old loves*

*CAST and audience*

*cheers, om*

*CATHERINE*

*you can start with a rhythm  
or with a melody  
you can add blue or high notes  
and then you finish with the chorus chorus chorus  
oh my, how i love them old songs*

*CAST and AUDIENCE*  
*cheers, om*

Music stops abruptly. Barbra steps in front, raises a glass and says loudly.

*BARBRA*  
*Cheers, om!*

**Curtain down. End Epilogue. End of Show.**