



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Book, Music and Lyrics by Daniel Wolf

Orchestration and additional music by Ed Etkins

## Cast of Characters

John F. Kennedy (JFK)	Television voiceovers
Jackie Bouvier/Kennedy	Chief Justice Earl Warren
Robert F. Kennedy (Bobby)	Debate moderator
Joseph P. Kennedy (Joe)	Helen Thomas
Edward M. Kennedy (Teddy)	Sander Vanocur
Pat Kennedy/Lawford	Servant to Kennedy household
Eunice Kennedy/Shriver	Assistant to Jackie Kennedy
Peter Lawford	Leonard Hall (Nixon's campaign manager)
Sargent Shriver	Dallas businessman
Rose Kennedy	Kennedy/Nixon supporters
Hubert Humphrey	Two newspaper reporters
Richard M. Nixon	Wedding guests
Lyndon Johnson	Woman interviewed on street
Stuart Symington	Man interviewed on street
Adlai Stevenson	Janet (Jackie Bouvier's assistant)
Dwight Eisenhower	Secretary to Senator Kennedy
George Scott (Humphrey's campaign manager)	Jackie Kennedy's mother and father
Frank Waldrop (Editor, Washington Times-Herald newspaper)	Myer Davis (band leader)
Ted Sorensen	Make-up assistant
Larry O'Brien	Light and sound technicians
Arthur Schlesinger	Plant in audience



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## Act I

### Scene 1: Downtown Washington, D.C., spring, 1953

*Jackie Bouvier, 23 years old and strikingly attractive, and her assistant Janet, 30-ish and rather dowdy, enter as people walk along a sidewalk in downtown Washington. It is mid-day. Jackie carries a notepad while Janet carries a large, heavy, Speed Graflex camera attached to a strap around her neck. There is a bench stage left. Cherry blossoms are in full bloom.*

Janet: This looks like a good spot. Let's wait a few minutes, see who passes by.

*She notices a woman standing alone, checking her watch, waiting to meet someone.*

Say, how about that woman over there? She looks nice.

Jackie: I think you're right. Let's go.

*They approach the woman.*

Excuse me, madam. I hope you don't mind. My name is Jackie Bouvier and my assistant, Janet.

Woman: Oh, I know you! You're the Inquiring Camera Girl in the Times-Herald.

Jackie: That's right.

Woman: I read your column every week. I never miss it. You ask such interesting questions.

Jackie: So you wouldn't mind if I asked you something then take your picture?

Woman: Not at all. Go right ahead.

Jackie: Thank you. Let me see. *(looks through her notepad)* Oh, here's a good one. How do you feel when you get a wolf whistle?

Woman: That's easy. It all depends who the wolf is.



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Jackie:           *(like an aside)* Me too. Ready for your close-up?

*Janet gives Jackie the camera.*

Woman:          I'm ready!

Jackie:          *(focuses)* OK, smile! *(takes picture)* Thanks again.

Woman:          Thank you.

*A man enters and leaves with the woman.*

Janet:            That was good. Let's find a man this time.

*A businessman walks toward them.*

Here comes one.

Jackie:          Excuse me, sir?

*He passes them.*

Sir?

Man:            *(turns back to look)* Did you call me?

Jackie:          Yes, my name's Jackie Bouvier. I work for the Times-Herald... the Inquiring Camera Girl?

Man:            I'm sorry, I only read the Post.

Jackie:          That's quite alright. But would you mind if I ask you a question?

Man:            So long as it's not about that SOB Truman.

Jackie:          No, nothing like that. Let's see... *(looks though her notepad, to herself)*  
No, not this one. No...

*JFK (35) and his assistant, Ted Sorensen (24), enter. Sorensen wears his iconic dark frame glasses. JFK stops to look at Jackie.*

Sorensen:        Senator, we must hurry.



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JFK: I'm coming.

*They exit.*

Jackie: Let's try this. Who's braver in a dentist chair: men or women?

Man: Hmm. That's a tough one. Let me chew on that for a moment.

Jackie: Oh, very good! Now just stand there while I take your picture.

Man: I didn't answer the question.

Jackie: You were wonderful. (*takes camera from Janet and focuses.*) Smile! (*man smiles weakly, thoroughly confused*) Thank you so much.

Man: But I...

Jackie: Enjoy your day.

*Pedestrians exit. Jackie and Janet sit down on the bench exhausted.*

Janet: You know something? You're very good at this. People really like you. I can see it.

Jackie: If I'm so good how come I'm only getting 43 dollars and 50 cents a week?

Janet: But you just started.

Jackie: I know. Mr. Waldrop wants to see me in his office tomorrow. I hope it's about a raise.

Janet: I'm sure it is. I think you have a great future in journalism.

Jackie: Maybe. But it's not exactly what I want. (*pause*) Did you ever hear of the Prix de Paris?

Janet: No, what's that?



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- Jackie: It's a writing contest sponsored by Vogue. Over twelve hundred women entered and I won first prize. The prize was six months working for Vogue in New York and six months working at their office in Paris. But I turned it down.
- Janet: Why would you do that?
- Jackie: My parents made me. I had already been to France with my sister, and my father felt if I went again I would never come back. And he was probably right. So here I am – Jackie Bouvier, the Inquiring Camera Girl - For 43 dollar and 50 cents a week.
- Janet: Wow! You were in France? Bet you met a lot of Frenchmen. I hear they're very romantic.
- Jackie: Oh that they are. But it was all play, nothing serious. No, I still haven't met the man I'm looking for.
- Janet: You know what you're looking for?
- Jackie: Sure. Doesn't everyone? Don't you?
- Janet: Jackie, give me a man with all his teeth, most of his hair and a few years younger than pop and I'm a happy lady.
- Jackie: Not me. In fact, there are times I can almost see him when I sleep.

## Where Is My Love

- Jackie: (*sings*)            In a dream  
                                  He is next to me  
                                  But I turn to look  
                                  And cannot see  
                                  Do you know  
                                  Where is my love?
- Janet: (*speaks*)            Sorry, Jackie, can't help you with that one.



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Jackie: (*sings*)      And awake  
I fill up each day  
Hoping fate will shine  
And light the way  
In question to:  
Where is my love?

In a desert  
Flying to the moon  
Did I pass him  
Just this afternoon?  
Oh, oh  
How long before I know?

And I'm sure  
He's in search of me  
In spite of all his gallantry  
A lonely soul  
I'm here, my love

Janet: (*speaks*)      Jackie, you know what you are? You're a dreamer. Sometimes you just can't get everything you want in life.

Jackie: (*speaks*)      I know that. But I will.

Jackie: (*sings*)      All my life  
I will search for him  
I will fight and strive  
And not give in  
Till at last  
I'm in his arms  
Where is my love?

## Scene 2: Washington Times-Herald Office

*Frank Waldrop, editor of the newspaper, sits at his desk making corrections on a manuscript. Jackie knocks on the door.*

Waldrop:      (*looking down*) Come in.



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*Jackie opens the door and enters the office.*

Jackie: You sent for me, Mr. Waldrop?

Waldrop: *(looks up)* Jackie, come in! *(he stands up)* Please sit down.

*She sits.*

You know, all Washington is going crazy for the Inquiring Camera Girl. To tell you the truth, I had my doubts about you, but you're turning out to be a first-rate journalist.

Jackie: So, I'm getting a raise?

Waldrop: Raise? What raise? No, no, no. I've decided to change your job a little bit. Instead of interviewing people on the street, I would like you to interview some of our newest congressmen and senators. And I don't mean about politics. God knows we have enough reporters doing that. No, what I mean is the human interest side. Ask them things the general public cares about like *(thinks)* "What would you like your son or daughter to be?" or "Should a married man wear a wedding ring?" Get it?

Jackie: *(somewhat deflated)* I get it.

Waldrop: Good. *(he sits)* So tomorrow we have you scheduled to meet a young senator. *(looks through his papers)* I have the name here somewhere. Oh, here it is. John Kennedy from Massachusetts. You know he just pulled a big upset. Beat a real pedigree – Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. His father fought Wilson on the League of Nations.

Jackie: You want me to interview John Kennedy? Me and what army?

Waldrop: What do you mean?

Jackie: What do I mean? John Kennedy is the biggest playboy in Washington, that's what I mean. You didn't hear the latest rumor?

Waldrop: No, what is it?

Jackie: They say Audrey Hepburn sometimes visits him in his office.



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Waldrop: Audrey Hepburn? I just saw her in Roman Holiday with Gregory Peck. What a beauty! Audrey Hepburn. (*daydreams*)

Jackie: Mr. Waldrop. Mr. Waldrop!

Waldrop: (*returns to reality*) I'm sorry Jackie, but it's already been arranged. (*reads the paper*) Senate Office Building, Room 478 at 3 p.m. (*hands paper to Jackie*) Oh, and one more thing. Tomorrow is Janet's day off. You'll have to go alone.

Jackie: Mr. Waldrop. Mr. Waldrop!

## Scene 3: Senator Kennedy's Office

*J.F.K. sits at a desk admiring himself in a mirror. He wears a long sleeve white shirt and tie. There is an open window. The sun shines through it. A secretary sits typing in the reception area. A door separates the reception area from JFK's office.*

JFK: (*sings*) What a joy to be, John F. Kennedy!

*Jackie enters the reception area. She carries the camera.*

Secretary: May I help you?

Jackie: I'm here to meet the senator. I have an appointment at three o'clock.

Secretary: Who should I say is calling?

Jackie: Jacqueline Bouvier from the Times-Herald newspaper.

Secretary: Just a moment. (*speaks into an intercom*) Senator, there's a Miss Bouvier to see you.

JFK: (*speaking into an intercom*) Tell her I'll be right out.

*He looks into a full-length mirror, puts on his jacket, straightens his tie, and combs his hair. At the same time Jackie hangs up her jacket and sits waiting.*

JFK: (*sings*) Can't believe that's me, J.F. Kennedy.

*He opens the door, sees Jackie sitting.*



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JFK: Miss Bouvier, please come in.

*Jackie rises from the chair.*

Jackie: Thank you.

*She enters JFK's office holding the camera. JFK shuts door behind her.*

JFK: You know I've always wanted to meet the Inquiring Camera Girl. I don't think you know this, but I passed you on the street a few days ago.

Jackie: Really? Well, I'm glad you passed me.

JFK: *(laughs)* Very funny. I like a girl with a quick wit.

Jackie: To be honest, that's not my line. That's from Oscar Wilde. You do know Oscar Wilde, don't you?

JFK: Of course I know Oscar Wilde. He's the man who makes the hot dogs.

Jackie: That's Oscar Meyer.

JFK: *(slightly embarrassed)* Oh yes, of course.

Jackie: So, why don't we get started? As you know I've been sent to ask you a few questions. Nothing political, more in the way of human interest, things the general public thinks about. Understand?

JFK: I understand.

Jackie: Then when we're done, I take your picture and you can see yourself next Wednesday in the Times. So, are you ready?

JFK: I'm ready.

Jackie: Good. *(looks through her notepad)* Let's start with this one. Who do you admire most?

JFK: Without a doubt- Eleanor Roosevelt.

Jackie: Why is that?



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JFK: She's very kind, compassionate, understanding, and most importantly – a Democrat! I've actually had the honor of meeting her a few times.

Jackie: *(under her breath)* I hope she had a bodyguard with her.

JFK: What was that?

Jackie: Uh, nothing. Next question. *(reads from her notepad)* Should a woman let a man think he's smarter than she is?

JFK: Oh, you mean on those rare occasions when he's not?

*Jackie looks annoyed.*

I'm kidding, just kidding. Of course not. Women should never have to hide their intelligence...

*Jackie looks skeptical.*

really.

Jackie: And my last question. In your opinion, what do women desire most?

JFK: *(laughs)* That's easy. Me!

Jackie: *(looks up at the ceiling, exasperated)* That's it. Interview's over. Well, it was very nice meeting you senator, *(shakes his hand)* but I have to get back to the office. Deadlines you know. That's the name of the game in the newspaper business. Not a minute to waste.

*She starts to leave.*

JFK: But Miss Bouvier.

*Turns to face him.*

Jackie: Yes?

JFK: Didn't you forget something?

Jackie: I don't think so.



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JFK: My picture?

Jackie: Oh, why don't you send something over to the Times?

JFK: Now why do all that? I'm right here. It will just take a minute.

Jackie: *(relents)* Alright, stand by the window.

*JFK walks to the window. Jackie focuses camera.*

That's good. Smile!

*JFK smiles. She takes picture.*

Got it.

*JFK remains standing by the window. Jackie again prepares to leave.*

JFK: Really, must you leave so soon? Come over here. Look at this view. You can see the cherry blossoms.

Jackie: *(straining her neck)* I can see them fine from here.

## **Without A Warning**

JFK: *(sings)* What a beautiful day  
Can't you stay, Miss Bouvier?  
For just another hour or two  
Till I get acquainted with you  
You know  
All the rumors you hear  
Are just political smear  
There's no basis in fact  
I'm just your typical Jack

Jackie: *(sings)* Do you think I'm naive, Mister Kennedy?  
Of all the things I've heard about you  
If even half of them were untrue  
I'd be happy to be  
In the KGB



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*He tries to hold her waist.*

Do you know I studied in France?

*She pushes him away.*

Did you ever hear of romance?

*Their eyes meet and lock lovingly.*

Together: *(sing)*      But then without a warning  
I looked into your eyes  
And there I saw before me  
All I searched for far and wide  
And if you don't mind my asking  
Won't you spend a lifetime  
With me?

*JFK moves some furniture aside to make room for them to dance. They dance.*

JFK: *(sings)*      Let's go up to the cape

Jackie: *(sings)*      A good place to escape  
We'll be alone just you and me

JFK: *(sings)*      Well, not exactly  
You see, there's some people to meet  
About a hundred and three

Jackie: *(sings)*      Do you have so many friends?

JFK: *(sings)*      Not friends,  
My family

*Jackie appears stunned. She holds her cheeks like Macaulay Culkin in the movie poster for "Home Alone".*



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## Scene 4: The Kennedy Compound. Hyannis Port, Massachusetts

*JFK and his siblings Bobby (27), Teddy (20), Pat (28), and Eunice (31) are throwing a football around in front of the main building. All are dressed for sports: sweatshirts, loose fitting pants, shorts, sneakers. A round table and chairs are placed stage left. On the table are some snacks and a bowl of fruit.*

JFK:           *(holds the football)* Bobby, go long...

*Bobby goes out for a pass.*

Longer!

*Bobby goes out a little more.*

Teddy, here.

*JFK throws a short pass to Teddy.*

Bobby:       Will you stop that! It's not funny.

JFK:           To me it is. Here, Pat. *(gives the ball to Pat)* Try to get by me.

*Pat tries to run by JFK. At the same time Jackie comes out the front door and stands waiting on the front steps. She wears a skirt, blouse, and heels.*

Jackie:       Jack, I'm here!

*She waves to get his attention. No-one notices her.*

Jackie:       Hello? Hello?

Bobby, Eunice, Teddy: Go, Pat, go! Go, Pat, go! Go, Pat, go!

*Pat tries to run around JFK. He lunges and touches her with both hands.*

JFK:           Gotcha!

*Pat gives the football back to JFK.*

Bobby:       Let me try.



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JFK: Here, Teddy. (*gives the ball to Teddy*) You try.

*Bobby looks both amused and annoyed at the deliberate slight.*

Jackie: Jack. (*louder*) Jack!

*All suddenly stop and notice Jackie on the steps.*

JFK: (*to Jackie*) Oh, I'm sorry (*walks to her*). Football's a kind of passion around here. (*takes her hand, leads her to the others*) Let me introduce you.

JFK: Everyone, I'd like you all to meet Miss Jacqueline Bouvier.

Jackie: *Jackie*, please. Call me Jackie.

JFK: I mean *Jackie*. Well, this here's my brother, Bobby. He'd like us to call him *Robert* but not until he's old enough to shave.

Bobby: I hope he doesn't treat you this way. It's very nice to meet you.

Jackie: Me too.

*They shake hands.*

JFK: My other brother, Teddy.

Teddy: Nice to meet you.

Jackie: The pleasure's mind.

JFK: My sister, Pat.

Pat: Welcome to our home. Jack has told us so much about you.

Jackie: Only the good parts I hope, though the bad does make for better conversation.

Pat: Only the good, I'm afraid.

JFK: And my sister, Eunice.



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Eunice: I understand you work for the Times-Herald.

Jackie: Yes. I'm Jackie Bouvier, the Inquiring Camera Girl! For 43 dollars and 50 cents a week. That's how I met Jack.

Eunice: You met my brother for 43 dollars and 50 cents a week? *(to JFK)* Jack, I'd say that's quite a bargain.

*All except Jackie laugh.*

Jackie: No, I interviewed him.

Eunice: I know. We like to kid around here. Welcome to our home.

*She gives Jackie a hug. Joe and Rose enter.*

Joe: So, who do we have here?

JFK: Dad, I'd like you to meet Miss Jackie Bouvier.

Joe: So nice to meet you.

Jackie: An honor to meet you, sir.

JFK: And this is my mother.

Jackie: A pleasure to meet you, Mrs. Kennedy. Thank you so much for inviting me. Let me know if there's anything I can do.

Rose: You just make yourself at home. We're having baked chicken tonight. Is that alright?

Jackie: My favorite.

Rose: Well, let me get back to the kitchen. Can't leave the servants unattended for too long. *(she exits)*

Joe: So, what do you kids have planned today?

JFK: We thought we'd include Jackie in a game of touch football.



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Joe:            Hmm, why don't you let Jackie stay here? She doesn't look much the football type. I'd like to talk with her a little bit...if you don't mind that is.

JFK:            Jackie?

Jackie:         Your father's right. You wouldn't want me on your team. Good conversation, a glass of wine and I'm a happy lady.

JFK:            Alright, but call me if you need me.

Jackie:         Why would I need to do that? Talking to your father shouldn't be a problem.

*The siblings look at each other as if to say "Oh yeah? Just wait. You'll see."*

JFK:            *(to his siblings)* Everyone ready? Let's go! Bobby, go long...longer!  
*(throws a short pass to Teddy and laughs)*

Bobby:         I told you to stop that. You know, you're lucky you're my brother.

JFK:            You call that luck?

*They exit.*

Joe:            Those boys are always bickering. Why don't we sit over there?

*They go to the round table and sit down. A servant enters.*

Servants:      Can I get you anything, miss?

Jackie:         A glass of white wine please.

Servant:        Certainly. And for you, sir?

Joe:            Just a coke.

Servant:        Be right back.

Jackie:         Thank you. I'm not very good at sports. *(looks out, waves, and shouts to JFK)* Hello! *(to Joe)* Just curious, what do you do with that ball anyway?

Joe:            *(laughs)* I understand you speak French.



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Jackie: Yes, and Spanish too. Parlez-vous francais? Habla usted espanol?

Joe: Sorry, I'm just a poor kid from the back streets of Boston. I had enough trouble being understood in English.

*Servant enters. Puts drinks on the table.*

Servant: Would that be all?

Joe: That's fine, thank you.

*Servant exits.*

Jackie: You've certainly come a long way from the back streets of Boston. Head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ambassador to Great Britain. You must be a very intelligent man.

Joe: Intelligent? Well, I suppose, though Wall Street is littered with the bodies of intelligent men. No, I like to think it takes more than intelligence to be successful in this country.

Jackie: What would that be?

Joe: In a word? Drive. Drive to win. Drive to succeed no matter what the costs. That's what really separates the winners from the losers. And that's what I've instilled in all my children. Don't you see that in Jack?

Jackie: I'm sure he has it. To be a senator at such an early age.

Joe: And you think he's done? He's reached his goal? To be one of 96 senators?

Jackie: I'm sorry, I'm not following you.

Joe: I have big plans for Jack. I plan to run him for President someday.

Jackie: Did I ever mention that you have drive? (*thinking*) For President. Well, let me think. He does two terms in the senate...that takes us to...1964. Hmm, you're right. He could be ready by then.

Joe: But I'm not talking about '64. I'm talking about 1960.



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- Jackie: 1960? Jack will only be 43 years old. Don't you think that's a little young to run for President?
- Joe: So, Teddy Roosevelt was 42 when he became President.
- Jackie: Only because McKinley was assassinated.
- Joe: I see you know your history. That's right. Only because McKinley was assassinated. So that would make Jack the youngest man ever *elected* President and the first Catholic. Show those sons of bitches who's in charge now. Oh, excuse my language.
- Jackie: That's alright. (*pause*) May I ask you a question?
- Joe: Sure.
- Jackie: How long have you had this plan for Jack?
- Joe: To be honest, I had my plans set on Jack's older brother Joe, but he was killed in the war.
- Jackie: I'm so sorry. Jack loved him very much.
- Joe: So now it's Jack's turn. And that's where you come in.
- Jackie: Me? What have I got to do with it?
- Joe: Well, in case you didn't notice, Jack's single. He needs a wife and I think you would be perfect. You can give him what he needs: grace, style, charm, manners; help smooth out some of his rough edges, give him, what's that phrase they use these days? Ah yes," public appeal". (*gravel voice*) So wadda ya say, kid?
- Jackie: Mr. Kennedy, if I marry your son I do so because I love him, not to promote his political career.



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Joe: I understand that. But I still see you as a great asset. We're about to enter a new era in politics. From now on style trumps substance. And I think the two of you would make an unbeatable combination. *(looks at his watch)* Well, I must get going. Rose probably needs me in the kitchen. *(stands up, suddenly formal)* It was very nice speaking with you, Jackie. See you in a little bit. *(starts to leave then turns back)* Oh, and to answer your question, *(deadly serious)* you run with the ball. You hold it as tightly as you can and you run with it. Run as fast and as far as possible. Good day.

*Joe exits. Jackie remains seated. She is stunned. JFK enters.*

JFK: Jackie, are you alright?

Jackie: I am stunned. The things your father said to me.

JFK: Don't let it get to you. He does that with everyone he meets. It's just an act. Likes to show who's boss. That's all.

Jackie: No, this was no act. He meant every word. *(pause)* Jack, I need to ask you something.

JFK: What?

Jackie: Do you love me?

JFK: Why do you keep asking me that? Of course, I love you.

Jackie: I just need to hear it sometimes.

JFK: Look at me. I love you. I love you very, very much. Now I have to go change for dinner. Oh, you should have seen me. I scored two touchdowns.

Jackie: Jack?

JFK: What?

Jackie: What's a touchdown?

*JFK laughs then goes inside.*



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## If You Want My Love

Jackie: (*sings*)      You say you love me so, I wonder  
I've heard those words before many times  
But if you love me so then show me this time.  
I've heard those words before from others  
Their eyes are opened wide but they lie  
You say you want me now to trust you  
And try.

*Pat and Eunice enter.*

Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)      But if you say that you love me

Jackie: (*sings*)      Well I guess that time will tell

Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)      And if you say you really need me

Jackie: (*sings*)      Then look into my eyes,  
Look into my eyes,  
And show me now.

Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)      And if you want my love and shelter

Jackie: (*sings*)      Then shelter me from all disguises  
I want to love someone who will never hide.

Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)      But if you say that you love me

Jackie: (*sings*)      Well I guess that time will tell

Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)      And if you say you really need me

Jackie: (*sings*)      Then look into my eyes  
Look into my eyes  
And show me now

Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)      And if you want my love and shelter

Jackie: (*sings*)      Then shelter me from all disguises  
I want someone to love



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Who will never hide

Jackie, Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)

If you want my love

If you want my love

*Jackie, Pat, and Eunice hug each other.*

## Scene 5. The Wedding Reception. September 12, 1953

*Scene opens as guests and the Kennedy family sit waiting for Jack and Jackie to arrive. There are 4 round tables: 2 stage right and 2 stage left. In the center towards the back is a slightly elevated bandstand for bandleader Myer Davis and His Orchestra. At one table stage left sit Jackie's parents and JFK's parents separated by 2 ornate seats reserved for JFK and Jackie. Kennedy family members are scattered among guests. Eunice sits with husband, Sargent Shriver (37) while Pat sits next to Peter Lawford (30), her future husband. All tables are draped with white tablecloths and are indicative of a wedding party: plates, glasses, cups, cutlery, and flowers. Men and women are dressed in formal attire. There is much chatter. Davis receives a signal and speaks into a standing microphone.*

Davis: Ladies and gentlemen, will everyone please rise and welcome for the first time Senator and Mrs. Kennedy!

*All rise and cheer as JFK and Jackie enter stage right as band plays an abridged version of "Here Comes the Bride". JFK shakes hands while Jackie kisses and hugs family and guests. JFK and Jackie remain standing as most take their seats.*

And now as our newlyweds take their first dance; it gives me great pleasure to introduce, direct from Hollywood, Mr. Peter Lawford!

*All cheer and applaud as Lawford rises from chair and walks to bandstand.*

Lawford: Jack, Jackie, this is for you.

*JFK and Jackie dance as Lawford sings.*



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## Like a Star

Lawford: (*sings*)

And when the morning comes I look in your eyes  
And there you are like a star you shine

But it's getting late and it's time to go  
We hesitate and hope the train is slow

*Lawford gestures for everyone to get up and dance. Most do including Jackie's parents, Joe and Rose, Eunice and her husband and Pat with a guest.*

Into another day I rush to telephone  
"Just can't get away. I have to hang around  
I'll see ya home."

And when the evening comes, we sit in the dark  
Not much to say, "Oh, by the way.  
Oh never mind."

But when it's getting late, I look in your eyes  
And there you are like a star  
You shine

Into another day I rush to telephone  
"Just can't get away. I have to hang around  
I'll see ya home."

And everyday's the same in this crazy world  
Fighting for a dime and the time  
To be with you.

*All applaud Lawford.*

Lawford: Thank you.

Davis: Will everyone please take your seats.

*Lawford shakes hands with JFK and kisses Jackie on the cheek then walks to his seat. JFK and Jackie begin walking to their seats.*

Bobby: Speech! Speech!

All: "Speech! Speech!"



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

*JFK and Jackie stop, say a few words to each other, turn back, and walk to bandstand as all cheer and applaud.*

JFK: First, I want to thank Peter for that lovely song. In case you didn't know, Peter and my sister Pat plan to wed sometime next year.

*All cheer and applaud. Pat and Lawford rise briefly from their seats to wave.*

. Now many of you keep asking why a confirmed bachelor like me would decide to marry Jackie. Well, the answer is simple. I wanted to remove her as a member of the press.

*All laugh.*

Jackie: Finally, I understand.

*All laugh.*

JFK: But of course the real reason is *(pauses, looks at Jackie)* I love you.

*All say "Ah." Jackie's eyes well up. Davis hands her a tissue.*

Jackie: *(to Davis)* Thank you.

JFK: Mr. Davis?

*Davis cues band. Throughout the song Jackie is the typical blushing bride, alternating between laughing and crying. She holds a tissue to wipe away the occasional tear.*

## **A Wedding Vow**

JFK: *(sings)* I'm in love with you  
Until the very end of time

First male guest: *(speaks)*  
Jack, is that you?

JFK: *(sings)* And because it's true  
On this day  
I make you part of mine.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Second male guest: (*stands up, speaks*)

Oh, Jack, you're *so* romantic.

*He sits.*

JFK: (*sings*)

Oh, my love  
I know our life's just begun  
But my love  
Each moment's a precious one  
A cherished one.

Jackie (*sings*):

How was I to know  
That this man would come into my life  
Wanted to say "No"  
When he asked for me to be his wife.

Oh, my love  
I couldn't resist your charms  
How could I pull away  
From your tender arms?  
They felt so warm.

Together (*sing*):

Let us vow today  
To remain  
And help each other through  
As each evening ends  
Say again  
"I'm still in love with you."

*They move to the center and dance. All stand, cheer and clap.*

Let us vow today  
To remain  
And help each other through  
As each evening ends  
Say again  
I'm still in love with you  
I'm still in love with you

*JFK and Jackie hug and kiss.*



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

## ACT II

Scene 1: October 28, 1959. JFK's Living Room. Hyannis Port, Massachusetts

*JFK, Joe, and Bobby stand and converse with each other. Three advisers are also present: Ted Sorensen, Larry O'Brien and Arthur Schlesinger. They also stand and talk with each other apart from the other three. Some hold drinks and some smoke. All are dressed casually except for Schlesinger who wears a long sleeve white shirt and his signature bowtie. Stairs lead up to a bedroom.*

JFK: Everyone, please sit down.

*All sit except JFK.*

I think we all know each other. Ted Sorensen, my speech writer,

*Sorensen raises his hand.*

Larry O'Brien, my political advisor,

*O'Brien raises his hand.*

and I invited a special guest today. Arthur, could you stand up please?

*Schlesinger stands up.*

This is the noted historian, Arthur Schlesinger, from Harvard University.

Joe: A pleasure to meet you, professor.

Arthur: Thanks so much for inviting me. *(sits down)*

JFK: And of course you all know my brother Bobby, and my father.

O'Brien: How do you do, Mr. Ambassador?

Joe: Fine, thank you.

JFK: So, let's get down to business. Gentlemen, I've called you here to make an important announcement. *(pause)* I have decided to seek the Democratic nomination for President. Bobby's agreed to be my campaign manager.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

*Sorensen, O'Brien, and Schlesinger appear taken aback.*

Sorensen: When do you intend to do this?

JFK: Next year, 1960.

Sorensen: Jack, you'll only be 43 years old. People might think you're too young to run for President.

JFK: I know.

O'Brien: Another thing is you're Catholic. This country has never had a Catholic President. Remember what happened to Al Smith in '28.

JFK: I know that too.

Arthur: And if I may speak...

JFK: Go ahead, professor.

Schlesinger: Well, if history serves me right,

*Small laughter among attendees*

no senator has ever been elected in this century.

JFK: Yes, I'm aware of that.

Sorensen: And what about the South, Jack? People there might think you're too liberal. And you can't win without the South.

JFK: I know.

O'Brien: And let's not forget Hubert Humphrey. You'll probably have to face him in the primaries, and he has very deep roots with labor and the Negro community.

JFK: I know that too.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Arthur: You can probably beat Humphrey in Wisconsin, but then you'll have to face him in West Virginia. That will be tough. West Virginia's only 5% percent Catholic.

JFK: Yes, I know.

Sorensen: And then there's Lyndon Johnson. He may also decide to run. He's the Senate Majority Leader – a lot of power there.

JFK: I'm aware of that.

O'Brien: And what about money? You need money to run for President.

*Joe clears his throat.*

Well, maybe money's not such a big problem.

Schlesinger: Then what if you do get the nomination? You'll have to face Nixon. He may be an SOB, but Eisenhower's still a very popular President.

JFK: I know that too. And I'm sure I can list ten more reasons why I shouldn't run. But you're all forgetting one thing.

## **I'm A Kennedy!**

JFK: (*sings*) I didn't bring you here today  
To learn what I can't do  
I heard this all before you know  
In 1952

*with upper class affectation*  
They told me  
"Henry Cabot Lodge"  
Was such a pedigree  
I turned around  
And stared them down  
Said, "I'm a Kennedy!"

Oh, Kennedy's are not afraid to fight  
Kennedys have victory in sight  
Kennedys are never satisfied



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Kennedys can win  
So I decided

*(with strong Irish accent)*

To take on Henry Cabot Lodge  
And swim against the tide  
And I became a senator  
At age of thirty-five  
Bobby!

JFK, Bobby: *(sing)*

Kennedys are not afraid to fight  
Kennedys have victory in sight  
Kennedys are never satisfied  
Kennedys can win  
So we decided

JFK: *(sings)*

To bring you to my house today  
But not to hear dissent  
Just tell me what I need to do  
To be the President

I know the road is surely laid  
With much impediment  
But, with your help  
I'm sure to be  
Your next President  
Dad!

JFK, Bobby, Joe: *(sing)*

Kennedy's are not afraid to fight  
Kennedys have victory in sight  
Kennedys are never satisfied  
Kennedys can win  
So let's get started

*JFK, Bobby and Joe converse with each other inaudibly. The advisors huddle together.*

O'Brien: The Catholic issue scares me.

Sorensen: Wait, that's nothing. What if Stevenson runs again? Or maybe Symington-very close ties to Truman.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Schlesinger: I'm not worried about Stevenson or Symington. It's Humphrey that concerns me.

O'Brien: And Jack's so young.

Schlesinger: Not so young. Nixon's only four years older.

O'Brien: But Nixon has executive experience.

Sorensen: OK, we know the problems. Now let's think of a solution.

*Music plays as advisers continue their discussion inaudibly. Conversation is heard once music stops.*

Sorensen: So, we're all in agreement? Larry?

O'Brien: It's a good plan.

Sorensen: Arthur?

Schlesinger: I'm fine with it.

Sorensen: Arthur, is anything wrong? Something seems to be bothering you.

Schlesinger: I'm alright.

Sorensen: No, really. You seem troubled by something. Is there anything I can do?

Schlesinger: Ted, I *said* I'm alright. I will deal with it.

Sorensen: As you wish. Senator, I think we're ready.

JFK: Let's hear it.

Schlesinger: Alright, I'll tell you.

*All look at Schlesinger.*

Do I have to sing?

Sorensen: Yes, you have to sing. It's a musical!



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Schlesinger: But I don't like to sing.

Sorensen: Arthur, I have no time for this. Larry, give me the first note.

*O'Brien takes out a pitch pipe and blows a note. Sorensen, O'Brien and Schlesinger hum the note though Schlesinger does so reluctantly.*

Sorensen: *(sings)* There's not a magic formula but think we have a plan.

O'Brien: *(sings)* Let's stress your youth and energy all across the land.

Schlesinger: *(pauses then sings)*

And counter that a Catholic's as good as any man.

*A plant in the audience applauds when Schlesinger finishes. This should entice the audience to applaud too. Schlesinger, stunned at the response, reacts like he's a star.*

Sorensen *(sings)*: Let's take them on in every state

Obrien *(sings)*: Take them on in every town

Schlesinger: *(with much drama, sings)*

Let the word go forth from here

*All look at Schlesinger in stunned disbelief.*

Sorensen, O'Brien, and Schlesinger: *(sing)*

He's a Kennedy!

JFK: *(sings)* I'm a Kennedy!

All: *(sing)* We are Kennedys! *(raise fists and shout)* Yeah!

*All exit except Schlesinger who remains on stage soaking up the applause. Sorensen re-enters.*

Sorensen: Arthur, get off! Get off the stage!



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

*Sorensen walks over to Schlesinger and pulls him off stage. Schlesinger continues to revel in the applause as he exits.*

## Scene 2: Hubert Humphrey's Campaign Headquarters in West Virginia

*Humphrey (49) enters his campaign headquarters followed by his campaign manager, George Scott (51). Scott slams door to time with the music's last note. Humphrey, though gregarious, is a rather plain looking man. He has thinning hair on top. Around the office are "Hubert Humphrey for President" and "West Virginia for Humphrey" signs. There are desks, tables, and chairs with papers strewn about. A telephone sits on a table.*

Humphrey: West Virginia. How could I lose West Virginia? And I'm not talking about the Catholic vote or the religious thing. I mean these are my people: decent, hardworking, patriotic Americans. So how the hell could I lose West Virginia?

Scott: Hubert, I know you're angry and you're right. These are your people. Very much like the kind you've known all your life in Minnesota.

Humphrey: So...why did I lose?

Scott: You don't know?

Humphrey: No, I don't know. You're my campaign manager. Tell me.

Scott: You want me to tell you.

Humphrey: Yes, George! I want you to tell me.

Scott: Why you lost.

Humphrey: *(becoming exasperated)* Yes, why I lost.

Scott: Fine, Hubert. I'm going to tell you, though I don't think you're going to like it. Now you and I go back a long time. What? Thirty years? And in all that time I've always been honest with you. Am I right?

Humphrey: You're right.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Scott: And there were times I told you things you didn't want to hear. But I told you anyway, right?

Humphrey: That's right.

Scott: Well, Hubert, this is one of those times.

Humphrey: Go on. I can take it.

Scott: I hope so. *(pause)* Hubert, you're just not, you're not...

Humphrey: What? I'm just not what?

Scott: You're just not a very good looking man. OK? There, I said it. You're not a good looking man.

Humphrey: Oh, so that's it. I'm not good-looking enough. And Kennedy is?

Scott: And Kennedy is? Are you blind? The man's an Adonis for God's sakes. *(to himself)* And Kennedy is *(laughs)*. Hubert, it's 1960, not 1860. Do you think Lincoln with his looks could be elected President today? Don't you get it? This is the age of television. It's not politics we're selling anymore. It's show business and frankly speaking, you come off as a two-bit actor.

Humphrey: Is that right?

Scott: Now, Hubert...

Humphrey: No George, don't "Now Hubert" me. Now it's my turn to talk. You call me a two-bit actor? Fine. Well, let me tell you something. Let me tell you what this two-bit actor has done with his life.

Scott: Hubert, I know the story.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Humphrey: No, you don't. Or maybe you forgot, so let me refresh your memory. In 1945, (*Scott mouths "I was elected mayor" away from Humphrey*) I was elected mayor of Minneapolis. Do you remember what Minneapolis was called in those days? It was the anti-Semitic capital of the United States. Well, I fought against that, and I fought against racism and all forms of prejudice. Then, in '48, I was elected to the United States Senate where everyday I fight for civil rights, arms control, foreign aid, while I can't think of one, not even one piece of important legislation Kennedy has ever sponsored. Hell, he even backed away from voting to censure Joe McCarthy in '54.

Scott: He was in the hospital at the time.

Humphrey: I know he was in the hospital, but he still could have voted and didn't. Hey, what's the name of that book? You know, the one he got the Pulitzer Prize for?

Scott: Profiles in Courage.

Humphrey: Right, Profiles in Courage. Well where was his courage then? (*laughs derisively*) He even tried to water down the Civil Rights Act of 1957.

Scott: Hubert, I'm not denying any of this. You are a very great man and have done many great things. And I agree – Kennedy's legislative accomplishments are few...

## You Can't Beat Kennedy

Scott: (*sings*) But that face  
What a face!  
Did you ever see  
Such a handsome face?

And that smile  
What a smile!  
I can see those teeth  
For a mile



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

And that walk  
What a walk!  
How he glides and strides  
Across a room  
Oh, a great man you may be  
But you can't beat a Kennedy.

Humphrey: (*speaks*) Are you done?

Scott: (*speaks*) Done? I didn't even start!

Humphrey: (*speaks*) Oy, my life.

Scott: (*speaks*) You're Jewish?

*Humphrey shrugs.*

Scott: (*sings*) And those friends  
What great friends  
Sinatra, Davis, and Bacall  
And that wife  
What a wife!

*Holds up McCalls magazine with Jackie on the cover.*

Here she is on the cover  
Of McCalls

And that hair  
What great hair  
Not a strand out of place  
Anywhere

Oh what a great man you may be  
But you can't beat Kennedy

Humphrey: (*speaks*) Oh, yeah? I can't beat Kennedy? Watch this, baby!



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Humphrey: *(sings)* Look at me!  
I can walk  
Watch me glide and stride  
Across a room

*Humphrey hits his knee on a table as he walks across the room.*

*(speaks):* Will somebody move this!

*(sings)* And my friends  
I've got friends

*He fumbles through papers on a desk. He finds a photograph and holds it up. It's a picture of a man and a woman.*

Here's Phil and Mabel Johnson  
From Duluth

And my hair?  
*(defiantly)* I don't care  
I'm sure I got a strand  
Up there somewhere *(voice almost cracks on "where")*

So don't tell me what can't be  
I can still beat Kennedy

Humphrey: *(speaks)* Just watch as I make a few phone calls to some of my most ardent supporters. *(sits and dials a telephone)* Hello, Max? I know...I know I got beat. Well I'm not giving up. I hope I can still count on your support. Politics is very expensive these days. *(pause)* What's that? You're going with Kennedy? Well, thanks a lot! *(hangs up, dials another number)* Charlie, Hubert here. Charlie, I need your help. I'm sure I can beat him in the western states. *(pause)* What? You're backing Kennedy? Charlie! Charlie! *(hangs up)*

Scott: *(sings)* Oh a great man you may be,  
But tomorrow...

Humphrey: *(speaks)* Oh, the hell I will!



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Scott: (*sings*) Tomorrow...

Humphrey: (*speaks*) You got the wrong guy, buster.

Scott: (*sings*) Tomorrow...

Humphrey: (*speaks, softening*):  
Well...maybe.

Scott: (*speaks*) Hubert.

*There is a long pause as Humphrey is forced to make a painful decision.*

Humphrey: (*speaks*) I know.

Humphrey: (*sings*) Tomorrow I'll concede.

*Humphrey sits looking sad. George puts his arm around Humphrey's shoulder to provide emotional support.*

## Scene 3: Kennedy Suite at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, 1960

*The Kennedy family is watching the roll call of states on television (back of TV faces audience) during the Democratic National Convention. In attendance are Jackie, Bobby, Joe, sisters Pat and Eunice and their husbands Peter Lawford and Sargent Shriver respectively. Also in attendance are Ted Sorensen, Larry O'Brien and Arthur Schlesinger. There is an adjacent bedroom stage left. Jackie sits at the edge of a sofa looking pensive while the rest are cheerful and celebratory.*

Chairman: West Virginia, how do you vote?

Delegate: Mr. Chairman, West Virginia casts all 15 delegates for Senator Kennedy.

*All in the room cheer except Jackie.*

Chairman: Wisconsin! Can we get the vote for Wisconsin?

*JFK enters the suite halfway but is confronted by two reporters on the way in.*

Reporters: Senator! Senator!



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

JFK: David.

Reporter: What do you think of your chances tonight? Do you think you can win on the first ballot?

Delegate: Mr. Chairman, Wisconsin casts all 23 delegates for Senator John F. Kennedy!

*All in room cheer except Jackie.*

JFK: Let me just say it's looking good, but I don't want to seem overly confident. So if you'll excuse me I'd like to watch the roll call with my family.

Reporters: Senator! Senator!

*JFK enters the room. Closes door. He is met by Bobby.*

JFK: How's it looking?

Bobby: We're almost there. You have 750 delegates. You need 761 to nominate. Wyoming is next with 15. This could be it.

TV voiceover: And so as it stands now Kennedy is leading with 750 delegates, Lyndon Johnson 405 delegates, Stuart Symington 86, and former governor Adlai Stevenson at 79.

JFK: Can you believe that bastard Johnson? I declare early, enter the primaries and he thinks he can walk in that hall and be nominated?

Bobby: We'll deal with that later. Now we need Wyoming. Oh, I didn't tell you. We have a secret weapon down there.

JFK: Who's that?

Bobby: Take a look.

*JFK looks closely at the television.*

JFK: Is that Teddy?



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Bobby: It sure is. He's been working the Wyoming delegation all day.  
Let's watch.

Chairman: Wyoming! Can we get the vote for Wyoming?

Bobby: Here it is.

Delegate: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. Wyoming casts all 15 of its votes  
for the next President

*All in room begin to cheer except Jackie.*

of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy!

*"Happy Days are Here Again" is heard on the convention floor. All in room crowd  
around JFK to celebrate: hugging, kissing, handshakes. Jackie stands aloof, still pensive.  
She and Bobby's eyes meet. She then enters the adjacent bedroom. Joe stands aside  
waiting his turn to congratulate his son. Shriver notices Joe waiting.*

Shriver: Everybody.

*All notice Joe waiting and stand aside. Joe and JFK look at each other. All are silent.*

Joe: Jack. Jack, you did it! (*grabs JFK's shoulders, almost in tears*) You did it!  
I'm so proud of you, son. You cannot imagine.

JFK: This is your celebration too, Dad. I owe it all to you.

Joe: Me? What did I do? Pulled a few strings here and there, that's all.

*Bobby joins them.*

No, you boys did it.

Bobby: And Teddy too.

Joe: Yes, and Teddy too. Now you go ahead and celebrate.

JFK: Let me get Jackie. (*calls out*) Jackie! Jackie! (*looks around the room, to  
Bobby*) Where is she?



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Bobby:           Something's wrong. I saw her go in the bedroom.

JFK:             I'll get her.

*Many congratulate JFK as he makes his way to the bedroom.*

Lawford:        Great work, Jack.

JFK:             Thank you, Peter.

Lawford:        Don't forget, you have Hollywood behind you.

JFK:             I appreciate it.

Schlesinger: *(holds up a glass)*

On to November!

JFK:             You know, Arthur, everyday you look more and more like a film critic.

*Schlesinger manages a small, slightly embarrassed smile.*

*Excuse me. (enters the bedroom and finds Jackie pacing nervously)*

JFK:             Jackie, what's wrong? This is a night to celebrate. I am the Democratic nominee to be the next President of the United States!

Jackie:         Why, Jack? Why? Why do you need to be President? In all the time we've been together not once did you tell me why you want to be President. Well, I need to know because I'm in this as much as you are. They'll observe me as much as you. Even more. And you know me. I'm not cut out for political life.

JFK:             What are you talking about? I've had my sights set on this for a very long time, long before I even met you. You know that. And I know this is not easy. But you need to know me too. I am a politician and to be the President is the dream of every politician. That's where the power is and the exercise of that power is what I want! *(softening)* Jackie, listen to me. *(takes her hand)* It's a wonderful thing to be President. Just think of all the good we can do.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

## I Want To Be The President

JFK: (*sings*)      I want to be the President  
I want to make a difference  
For you and me  
And ev'ryone  
For black and white  
For old and young

I want to have an influence  
And so I run for President  
On generations still to come  
And with your help  
It can be done  
I need your help  
To get it done

Jackie: (*sings*)      We have a daughter, Caroline  
I want to keep her  
From the light  
The press records  
Her ev'ry move  
Don't they know  
She's only two?

JFK: (*sings*)      This world is full of Carolines  
We sacrifice to make their lives  
A little better than before.

Jackie: (*sings*)      I need to say a little more  
I have to say a little more  
I think about you as well  
Many wish you...

JFK: (*sings*)      Say no more!  
We must not ever think that way  
Let's live our lives  
From day to day

Together: (*JFK leads Jackie, sing*)  
We live our lives



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

From day to day. (*look deeply into each other's eyes*)

JFK: (*sings*)           And when this all has come to end  
You'll be my wife

Jackie: (*sings*)           You'll be my friend  
And then at last  
We'll safely say

Together: (*sing*)        We did our best  
And walk away  
We did our best  
And walked away.

JFK:                    We have to get back.

Jackie:                I know. Just a moment. (*fixes herself in the mirror*)

JFK:                    Ready?

Jackie:                Ready.

*JFK and Jackie enter the room where everyone is still celebrating. JFK steps aside and all applaud Jackie. Joe approaches her.*

Joe:                    We love you, Jackie. We always have and we always will.

*Jackie smiles weakly.*

Scene 4: The next day in the Kennedy suite.

*JFK is interviewing Senator Stuart Symington (59) of Missouri as a possible running mate. JFK sits behind a desk, Symington sits in front facing JFK.*

JFK:                    What should our position be with respect to the Soviet Union?

Symington:          Challenge them whenever they attempt to advance communism. Still, there are areas where we can negotiate but only then from a position of strength.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

JFK: My thoughts exactly, senator. One last question: Can you assure me that there's nothing in your past that would cause any embarrassment to the campaign?

Symington: I assure you there's nothing there. I've lived a life of complete moral rectitude. Of course you're welcome to check anything you like.

JFK: I don't need to check. Any man who's had the trust of Harry Truman and the good people of Missouri is good enough for me. (*comes out from behind the desk*) Senator, I would be honored if you would agree to run as my Vice-President.

Symington: Jack, the honor's mine. I cannot thank you enough.

*They shake hands.*

JFK: Great! Let me get Bobby in here. (*speaks into an intercom*) Bobby, would you come in please?

*Bobby enters.*

We have our man. Symington's agreed to take the number two position.

Bobby: Jack, can I talk to you for a minute?

JFK: Sure, what is it?

Bobby: In private?

JFK: Senator, would you excuse me? My boss needs to tell me something.

Symington: Go right ahead.

JFK: Be right back.

*JFK and Bobby go into the adjacent bedroom.*

Bobby: Lyndon wants to see you.

JFK: About what?



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Bobby: I think he's interested in Vice President.

JFK: Well tell him it's too late. I'm going with Symington.

Bobby: But can you at least talk to him? He's the Senate Majority Leader. You're gonna have to deal with him one way or another.

JFK: *(thinking)* Alright.

Bobby: I'll get him.

*Bobby and JFK return to the living room. Bobby exits.*

Symington: Anything wrong?

JFK: Nothing at all. Bobby's always worried about something or other. Why don't you go and write your acceptance speech. Remember the theme of the campaign: A New Frontier-a frontier of unfulfilled hopes and unlimited dreams.

Symington: Got it, *(salutes JFK)* Mr. President.

JFK: *(laughs)* Not yet, senator, but I'm sure with your help we can't lose. I'll have Bobby issue a statement to the press.

Symington: Thanks again, Jack. I'll do everything I can to bring us victory in the fall.

JFK: I know you will.

*Symington leaves. JFK returns to his desk and sits down dreading his meeting with Johnson. There are three booming knocks on the door.*

JFK: Come in.

*Johnson (52) enters. He is a tall, imposing figure. He wears a sport jacket, cowboy hat, cowboy boots and a western string tie.*

JFK: No use, Lyndon. I'm going with Symington.

Johnson: Symington? Without even listenin' to your ol' pal Lyndon?



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

JFK: Pal? You're no pal. I declare early, enter the primaries and you think you can just show up and get nominated? So please, I don't need (*with Southern accent*) "your ol' pal Lyndon" bullshit.

Johnson: I just don't like being ignored, that's all. Come on, Jack. We've known each other a long time. No hard feelings, OK?

*He extends his hand to shake. Though reluctant, JFK shakes his hand.*

JFK: OK.

Johnson: So you're going with Symington (*like an announcer, loud*) from the great state of Missouri!

JFK: That's right. I trust him. More than that, I like him.

Johnson: So why don't the two of you go and buy furniture together? Jack, come on. You know or at least I *hope* you know that politics is not about liking or not liking. It's about winning and if you go with Symington you will lose and lose badly no matter how many strings your father pulls.

JFK: What makes you so sure I'd lose?

Johnson: How many electoral votes does Missouri have?

JFK: 13.

Johnson: How many does Texas have?

JFK: 24.

Johnson: Now I know you and your brother never cared much for me and I sure as hell never cared much for the two of you, but if you want to be President you need Texas and if you want Texas you need me. It's as clear as day, Jack. Even a Harvard man can do simple arithmetic.

JFK: I know I need Texas but I'm running a 50-state campaign. There are places in this country that can't understand a word you're saying.

Johnson: They don't have to understand what I'm sayin'. That's your job. You talk to their mind. I do somethin' better. I speak to their heart-give them poor



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

suckers a feeling of hope. I mean if you think about it, that's all what politics is really about-hope. Hell, I bet someday a Jew or even a nig, uh, uh, I mean *neeegro* could be elected President if he said the word *hope* enough times. So what do you say, Jack? Am I in?

JFK: I'm still not sure.

Johnson: I'll tell you what. Why don't you just sit there and relax. (*opens the door and a bluegrass band enters. They set up their instruments*) I don't think you know this, but we in Texas would much rather sing than talk, as hard as that is for you to believe. (*turns to band*) Ready, boys?

Band member: Ready, Mr. Johnson.

Johnson: Hit it!

## Everything Will Turn Out Right

*Little by little JFK's body reacts to the beat of the song. First, he begins tapping his pencil on the desk. Then his feet start tapping. After that his head and shoulders move, followed by his arms, hands, and entire torso while at the same time his legs dance frantically under the desk. Finally, unable to control himself any longer, he gets up from his chair and joins Johnson in song.*

Johnson: (*sings*) Sometimes in the morning, in the evening  
When the sun goes down, well  
Everything will turn out right

Johnson and Band: (*sing*)  
Everything will turn our right

Johnson: (*sings*) Sometimes in the winter, when you  
Miss her and the sun won't shine, well  
Everything will turn out right

Johnson and Band: (*sing*)  
Everything will turn out right.

Johnson: (*sings*) How often when you're walkin'  
And you're lonesome and broken  
Then along comes an angel  
Who's decided you're special

Well, sometimes there's a season  
When you're feelin' there's no reason.  
Everything will turn out right



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Johnson and Band: (*sing*)

Everything will turn out right

Johnson: (*sings*)

Sometimes when you're achin'  
And complainin' what you're makin'  
Everything will turn out right

Johnson and Band: (*sing*)

Everything will turn out right.

Johnson: (*sings*)

How often when you're walkin'  
And you're talkin' about somethin'  
Then along comes a stranger  
From behind you there's some danger  
Well, everything will turn out right

Johnson and Band: (*sing*)

Everything will turn out right.

Johnson: (*sings*)

Sometimes when you're standin'  
Across the great divide  
It's time for plannin'  
To reach the other side.

And while you're plannin'  
Look behind and tell your brother  
"Come along, friend, for the ride."

Johnson and JFK: (*sing*)

Sometimes when you're feelin'  
About stealin' a few million  
Everything will turn out right  
Everything will turn out right

Sometimes when you're waitin'  
For the bacon to start bakin'  
Everything will turn out right  
Everything will turn out right.

How often when you're talkin'  
To someone who's balkin'



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Then along comes a sailor  
Who reminds you winds will gather  
Well, everything will turn out right  
Everything will turn out right.

*As music continues, JFK and Johnson dance together ecstatically. Bobby enters, witnesses scene and stands stunned, mouth agape.*

## Scene 5: July 15, 1960. The Democratic National Convention

*On a stage above the delegates stand JFK, Johnson, Symington, Humphrey, and Adlai Stevenson (60). All wave to the delegates. JFK and Johnson raise arms together. People hold signs in support of Kennedy or the Kennedy/Johnson ticket. The delegates chant “J-F-K” 4 times then change to “We like Jack” 3 times. Stevenson walks to the podium and quiets the delegates.*

Stevenson: So let me introduce to you a man who can lead us to a fruitful America, to a peaceful world for all mankind, the great senator from the state of Massachusetts and the next President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy!

*Delegates cheer. JFK waves, the noise dims, Johnson and fellow dignitaries take their seats. JFK stands at the podium.*

JFK: *(speaks)* Governor Stevenson, Senator Johnson, Senator Symington, Senator Humphrey, fellow Democrats: I accept without reservation the nomination of this party with only one obligation in mind – to lead our party back to victory and our nation to greatness.

*Delegates cheer then fall silent.*

## A New Frontier

JFK: *(sings)* As I stand before you today  
So much work is left to be done  
Won't you give me your hand and your heart?  
We're Americans  
And there's nothing we can't do

Some say the battles are won



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Nothing left for us to explore  
But the times require of us  
Not complacency  
But the courage to lead

And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unlimited dreams

*Delegates cheer then fall silent.*

Now I know what Nixon will say  
Everything is fine as they are  
But still the world is not free  
There's more weaponry  
And it's coming into use

And at home the people demand  
Put an end to the racial divide  
Time has come to take a firm stand  
Mediocrity  
Will simply not do

And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unlimited dreams

*Delegates cheer then fall silent.*

Won't you give me your hand and your voice?  
If we're strong then we cannot fail



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

So rare has there been such a choice  
Between greatness  
And national decline

The world looks to see how we act  
Stand for progress or look to the past  
But let us continue to be pioneers  
And do what we must do

*JFK, Johnson, and fellow dignitaries descend stage and join the delegates while the Kennedy family enters from both sides.*

All: (*sing*)                      And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unlimited dreams

And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
A new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unlimited dreams



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

## ACT III

### Scene 1: September 26, 1960. The First Kennedy-Nixon Televised Debate

*A television studio. JFK stands at a podium stage left. A make-up assistant is applying make-up on his face. In the middle sits the moderator. Stage right is a podium for Nixon who has not arrived yet. Near Nixon's podium is a table where the two questioners, Helen Thomas and Sander Vanocur are seated. There is much confusion as sound technicians check various sound levels and light technicians test various intensities of light on each podium. Leonard Hall, Nixon's campaign manager, is standing at Nixon's podium waiting nervously.*

Voiceover: Five minutes to broadcast.

Hall: Where is he? Where is he?

Voiceover: He's on his way, Mr. Hall. He just left the dressing room.

*Bobby approaches JFK.*

Bobby: Now don't forget. Say America is a great country, but can still be a greater country, that you're not satisfied with the progress we're making both at home and around the world.

JFK: Got it.

*Nixon (47) enters the studio and stands behind his podium.*

Hall: Finally! Where were you so long?

Nixon: Never mind.

Hall: Now don't forget. Say the United States has made great progress in all areas-education, health care, family income, so now is not the time to switch to someone who's untested and inexperienced.

*Make-up assistant leaves JFK and walks across to Nixon.*

Make-up assistant: Mr. Vice-President. *(attempts to apply make-up)*

Nixon: *(to make-up assistant)* Uh, that won't be necessary.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

*Assistant walks off studio floor.*

(to Hall) I understand what you're saying, but I still feel I need to confront Kennedy on an issue of equal importance.

Hall: What's that?

Nixon: Class. The American people have got to know that when it comes to class, Richard Nixon can compete with the best of 'em.

Hall: Dick, drop it.

Nixon: No, I will not drop it. In fact, I have a secret plan.

Hall: What?

Nixon: You'll see.

Hall: Dick...

Voiceover: Ten seconds.

Hall: Dick...

Technician: Mr. Hall!

Voiceover: 5-4-3-2-1

*Hall and Bobby take seats just off studio floor.*

Moderator: Good evening and welcome to the first in a series of televised debates between the Democratic nominee Senator John F. Kennedy from Massachusetts and the Republican challenger, Vice-President Richard M. Nixon. According to rules agreed upon by the candidates, each man shall make an opening statement followed by questions from our distinguished pair of journalists. They are:

*Vanocur stands up.*

Vanocur: Sander Vanocur, NBC News.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

*Thomas stands up.*

Thomas: Helen Thomas, United Press International.

*They sit.*

Moderator: We shall now begin. Senator Kennedy has agreed to go first. Senator?

JFK: Thank you. In the election of 1960 we must decide whether the world will continue to exist half slave or half free or whether it will move in the direction of freedom. I think it will depend in great measure on what we do here in the United States. If we do well here then I think freedom will be secure around the world. If we fail then freedom fails. Therefore, I think the question is: are we doing as much as we can do? Are we as strong as we should be? I should make it very clear that I do not think we are doing enough, that I am not satisfied with the progress we are making. This is a great country but I think it could be a greater country. And it is for this reason that I seek the Presidency of the United States.

Moderator: Thank you. And now Vice President Nixon.

Nixon: Thank you. It's a great honor to speak to the American people tonight. Now throughout this campaign we've all heard about the so-called Kennedy style, the Kennedy mystique. Well, I'm here to tell you that he's not the only one in this race with style. Now I realize many of you think of me as a kind of stuffed shirt, a man who can't joke around, a man who can't have a good time. But you would be wrong. Dick Nixon *can* joke around and Dick Nixon *can* have a good time! In fact, just the other day my daughter Trish said, "Daddy, I like when you're home. You're so much fun to be with." So tonight (*he slowly reverses his suit jacket to reveal a loud and sparkly one, most often associated with that of a Las Vegas lounge singer*) I'd like to present a softer, gentler side of Richard Nixon. A side, I think, you will all come to enjoy. (*talks deeply into the microphone*) I hope you like it.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

## Trust Me

*Throughout the song JFK remains at his podium looking every which way as if to say "What the hell is going on here?"*

Nixon: (*sings*)

I have always dreamed  
Of being President  
Just to have free rent  
Would be heaven sent

Now I have a chance  
To make my dream come true  
I know some of you  
Not sure who to choose

But until then  
Let me just say this  
On me you cannot miss

I got pelted in Caracas  
Heard Castro on maracas  
And even caused a ruckus with Khrushchev

And for these indignities  
Can't I get some sympathy?  
Choose me  
Trust me

They say that I fight dirty  
A word that is not worthy  
For the office of the President

Some even can foresee  
A third rate burglary  
Who me? (*laughs*)  
Trust me

And when in 1952  
Eisenhower had to choose  
Who to be his running mate  
He wanted to deliberate



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Then he made a call to me  
And I was plucked from obscurity

*Thomas turns to Vanocur and mouths "Did he say 'fuck'?"*

Nixon: *(speaks)* Stop. Stop the music.

*Music stops.*

Helen. Helen, excuse me, that's not  
what I said. I said I was plucked, plucked.

Thomas: *(loud voice)* No, I thought you said you were fucked.

Nixon: No, Helen, you're wrong. I said I was plucked. Eisenhower plucked  
me. *(shocked at what he said)* Music!

Hall: *(head buried in hands)* Oh, my God!

Nixon: *(sings)* I made a tough decision  
I got a circumcision  
The Jewish vote  
Cannot be denied

For the Catholics I'll convert  
For the gays I'll wear a skirt  
Choose me  
Select me  
Elect me  
Pick me

*speaks:* I mean who you gonna pick?  
*(points to JFK)* Him? *(laughs)*  
*sings:* Trust me  
Oh yeah



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

## Scene 2: On the Campaign Trail.

*JFK stands on a platform stage left. Nixon does likewise stage right. Supporters hold signs with a different message on each side. As JFK speaks supporters gather around his platform and hold up signs supporting him. When Nixon speaks supporters move to Nixon's area and flip their signs displaying pro-Nixon messages.*

### On the Campaign Trail (instrumental)

JFK: I want us to build a strong, vital and progressive society that will serve as an inspiration to all those people who decide to follow the road that we have taken.

Nixon: So, my friends, the reason why the American people are going to reject our opponents and are going to elect us is that we fight for the truth and the people know the truth, because the people live the truth.

JFK: Now in 1960 the cause of all mankind is the cause of America. We defend freedom. If we succeed here, then the cause of freedom is strengthened. If we fail here, we will have betrayed not only ourselves and our destiny but all those who desire to be free and are not.

Nixon: And there's one more thing I want to set straight. I'm getting sick and tired of hearing this constant whimpering with regard to the poor United States. Well, listen my friends, I have been to Russia and I've seen it; I have been to the United States and I've seen it and there is no reason for second rate psychology on the part of any American.

## Scene 3: Hotel suite

*Bobby stands over a desk in the living room area waiting for JFK to enter. He reads memos, writes notes, and tries to organize some papers on a desk. Also on the desk is a small football. There is an adjacent bedroom. JFK opens the door halfway. Two reporters besiege him.*

Reporters: Senator! Senator!

JFK: Last question.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Reporter: How do you respond to Vice-President Nixon's charge that you lack experience to be President and that the office is too important for on-the-job training?

JFK: I'd say he's right. But history shows that the American people choose a President not solely on experience but on someone they can trust. That's what this election's really about-which man can be trusted with the fate of the country. As for Nixon let me simply ask this: Would you buy a used car from that man? I certainly wouldn't and I don't think the American people would either. Goodnight.

Reporters: Senator! Senator!

*JFK shuts the door and falls into a chair.*

JFK: *(to Bobby)* I'm exhausted.

Bobby: I know. But it's almost over. Just two more weeks.

JFK: I wish it were tomorrow. It's hard selling yourself everyday out there.

Bobby: Jack, did you see the size of that crowd this morning? And some states are starting to move in our direction. Just give it a little more then you can rest. Well, at least until you take office.

JFK: Amazing, isn't it, how far we've come from that meeting in my home last year. I've learned a lot.

Bobby: That's for sure. Running for President is certainly a learning experience.

JFK: That's not what I mean *(struggles to get up from the chair. Bobby offers his hand)*. It's OK. *(stands up)* What I mean is, I've learned something very valuable.

Bobby: What's that, Jack?



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

## You're My Brother

JFK: (*sings*)            You're always there  
To save the day  
When I'm lost  
You show the way  
Tell me what I  
Need to say  
You're my brother

Bobby: (*sings*)            You pick me up  
When I am down  
Just to know  
That you're around  
Is all I need  
To get me through  
You're my brother

Together: (*sing*)            You're my brother  
You're my brother  
My brother

JFK: (*sings*)            We never liked each other much  
Bobby: (*sings*)            You bullied me  
JFK: (*sings*)            You little runt  
Together: (*sing*)            But now it's there  
For all to see  
You're my brother

JFK (*sings*)            You inspire me  
To be my best  
With you there  
I'll pass each test

Bobby: (*sings*)            Though long denied  
I now confess  
JFK: (*speaks*)            Get outta here!

Bobby (*sings*)            You're my brother  
JFK: (*sings*)            You're my brother  
Bobby: (*sings*)            You're my brother



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

JFK (*sings*)                    My brother  
Together (*sing*)                My brother

JFK: (*picks up the football, speaks*) Bobby, go long...longer

*Bobby runs to the other side of the room. JFK keeps the ball, goes into the bedroom, and shuts the door. Bobby, standing alone, laughs.*

Scene 4: November 2, 1960. Election night. JFK's Living Room. Hyannis Port, Massachusetts

*The Kennedy family, (minus Jackie) sit, stand, mull around watching the election returns on television. Audience sees back of TV. Bobby stands arms on waist while Sorensen and O'Brien are talking on telephones (inaudible). Schlesinger stands and takes notes. Stairs lead up to a bedroom.*

TV voiceover: We are now able to project that South Carolina, with eight electoral votes will go to Senator Kennedy.

*All cheer. JFK enters.*

JFK:                    (*to Bobby*) How we doing?

Bobby:                You now have 241 electoral votes. You need 269 to elect.

JFK:                    That shouldn't be too difficult, right?

*Bobby is silent.*

Right?

Bobby:                Jack, you did great in the East. New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, all heavy majorities.

JFK:                    But?

Bobby:                We're getting reports from the Midwest.

JFK:                    Iowa?

Bobby:                Nixon.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

JFK: Indiana?

Bobby: Nixon.

JFK: Wisconsin?

Bobby: Nixon.

JFK: Kentucky?

Bobby: Nixon.

JFK: Ohio?

Bobby: Nixon.

JFK: So where we gonna get 28 more votes?

Bobby: Four states are still in play.

JFK: They are?

Bobby: Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, and California. You need to win two of them.

JFK: And if I don't?

Bobby: Then according to the Constitution, the election would be thrown to the House of Representatives.

JFK: What time is it?

Bobby: Eleven-twenty.

JFK: I'm going to bed.

Bobby: Don't you want to know?

JFK: I'll find out with the rest of the country. *(walks up the stairs, enters the bedroom, and closes the door while all continue to watch television)*



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

TV voiceover: I believe we can now report on Georgia. We go to our affiliate station in Atlanta.

TV voiceover: That's correct. With 60% of the vote in we are now able to project that Georgia with 12 electoral votes will go to...

*Set goes dark. Lights go up to reveal that only Sorensen, O'Brien, and Schlesinger remain watching television.*

TV voiceover: And with that we come to the end of our election coverage. So for all of us here at election headquarters we wish you all a very pleasant good night, or should I say good morning, and thank you for watching.

O'Brien: *(shuts off television)* So, what do we do – tell him now or wait till he gets up?

Schlesinger: I think we should tell him now. He'd want to know.

O'Brien: Fine. Who should tell him?

Schlesinger: I think you should tell him. You've known him the longest.

O'Brien: You're his trusted adviser. You should tell him.

Schlesinger: You've been with him since he ran for Congress.

O'Brien: He depends on your advice more than mine.

Sorensen: You two can never agree on anything. I'll tell him!

O'Brien: Good idea. You tell him.

*They all stand. Sorensen looks up at the bedroom door with some trepidation realizing the enormity of the moment.*

Schlesinger: *(like a friend, reassuringly)* Go.



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

## Mr. President (*instrumental*)

*Sorensen walks slowly to the landing and then up the stairs to the bedroom door. He pauses halfway up to look at Schlesinger and O'Brien who remain standing and watching from the living room area. He stops at the bedroom door, pauses, then knocks three times.*

Sorensen: Mr. President. Mr. President. (*knocks three more times*) Time to get up, Mr. President.

## Scene 5: Inauguration Day, January 20, 1961

*Dignitaries proceed to the East Portico of the Capitol Building. They are JFK, Eisenhower (70), Johnson, Nixon, Humphrey, Symington, Stevenson, Chief Justice Earl Warren (69), Jackie, Joe, Rose, and Bobby. Spectators watch the proceedings from below. Johnson steps forward to take the oath of office for Vice-President from the Chief Justice. He places his hand on a bible. Spectators turn to audience as Johnson takes oath.*

## A New Frontier (Reprise)

Spectators: (*sing*) And we stand on the edge of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes, we stand on the edge of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unlimited dreams

*Following the swearing in, Johnson shakes hands with the Chief Justice, JFK, Nixon, and Eisenhower. JFK steps forward to take the oath of office for President. He places his hand on the bible, takes the oath (inaudible) and shakes hands with the Chief Justice. He then turns to kiss Jackie and shakes hands with Johnson, Nixon, and Eisenhower as spectators continue singing.*

And we stand on the edge of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes we stand on the edge of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
A new frontier  
A new frontier



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

JFK: *(steps to the podium, speaks)*

And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.

Spectators: *(sing)* Of unlimited dreams.

## Scene 6: In Front of the White House

*JFK and Jackie stand together in front of a façade of the White House. They are wearing the same clothes they wore on November 22, 1963 minus Jackie's hat and jacket.*

JFK: Such a beautiful house, isn't it?

Jackie: Jack, I hate to stay this. Mamie Eisenhower may be a very nice woman, but she didn't have very good taste. This house needs a lot of work.

JFK: Well that's your job – make the White House a place all Americans can be proud of.

Jackie: I'll do my best, though you may have to repeal the twenty-third amendment; you know, the one that limits a President to two terms. I think I'm going to need more than eight years to get this place in shape.

JFK: *(laughs)* I'll see what I can do.

## First Family

Jackie: *(sings)* What a joy to be  
First Family  
Meeting heads of state  
And make this house  
A wond'rous place

JFK: *(sings)* Can't believe that we  
First Family  
Making policy  
And help promote  
Democracy



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Together: *(to audience, sing)*

We hope we won't disappoint you  
We hope we'll make you proud  
To tell everyone around you  
"I'm an American!"  
And say it loud

Jackie: *(sings)*  
JFK: *(sings)*

We will try to be  
Exemplary  
Invite Casals to play  
And Frost to read  
His poetry

Together: *(sing)*

Whether four or eight  
Let's make history  
Of youthful dreams come true  
For us *(extend arms to audience)*  
And all of you

JFK: *(speaks)* Are you ready?

Jackie: It seems a little cool today. Maybe I ought to put something else on.  
Be right back.

*Jackie walks to the side of the stage where an attendant helps Jackie put on a hat and jacket identical to what she wore in Dallas on November 22, 1963. As she's getting ready, JFK speaks to audience words similar to what he said that morning.*

JFK: It takes Jackie a little longer to get ready, but of course she looks better than *(arms outstretched to include audience)* we do when she does it.

*Jackie returns to JFK.*

Jackie: I'm ready!

JFK: Let's go.

*The façade of the White House is pulled away leaving just empty space. Three separate chords are played. After the first chord they begin walking together, holding hands, back to audience. After the second chord a businessman enters.*



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Businessman: Welcome to Dallas, Mr. President.

JFK: Thank you. It's great to be here.

*JFK and Jackie walk a little more, hands no longer touching. The third chord is played. JFK and Jackie stop and look at each other. Jackie continues to look at JFK while he looks forward again. He then clutches his throat with both hands, elbows outstretched as he did during the assassination. He falls to his knees. Jackie bends down to comfort him. Set goes dark.*

Voiceover: Ladies and Gentlemen. For your entertainment pleasure may we present Jack Kennedy and the Immortals!

*Four figures emerge from the dark. They are from stage left: JFK, Jackie (wearing her iconic sunglasses), Johnson, and Nixon.*

## And So It Happened

JFK: *(sings)* And so it happened  
On that day in Dallas  
Someone callous  
Stole my dream

Jackie, Johnson, Nixon: *(sing)*  
Stole his dream

JFK: *(sings)* Got my bills passed  
Sorry not to be there  
*(holds up a Kennedy half dollar)*  
Hey, isn't that me there?

Jackie, Johnson, Nixon: *(sing)*  
No one can call him small change

JFK: *(sings)* Hey, what happened  
To that guy Vaughn Meader?

Jackie: *(sings)* After you left  
Never was I happy  
Met a guy named Ari  
Married him in Greece



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Johnson, Nixon: (*to JFK, sing*)  
She had him fleeced

Jackie: (*sings*)           Back to New York  
Worked in publishing  
Found something trouble-ling

Johnson, Nixon: (*to JFK, sing*)  
Now she's next to you.

Jackie: (*to JFK, sings*) I hope you don't mind  
Marilyn's in L.A.

Johnson: (*sings*)       With a heavy heart  
I took over  
Then sent soldiers to Vietnam

JFK, Jackie, Nixon: (*sing*)  
Vietnam

Johnson (*sings*)        Couldn't win it

JFK, Jackie, Nixon: (*sing*)  
Hell, he couldn't spell it

Johnson: (*sings*)       So I said, "Fuck it"

JFK, Jackie, Nixon: (*sing*)  
That's when he 'cided to quit

Johnson: (*sings*)       I let Hubert  
Talk until his nose bled

*They dance.*

Nixon: (*sings*)         Can you believe it  
Got myself elected  
As your President in '68

JFK, Jackie, Johnson: (*sing*)  
'68



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Nixon: (*sings*)            But some burglars  
                                      Couldn't keep their mouths shut  
                                      Can't anyone tell me

All: (*sing*)                    Where is this place called Watergate?

Nixon: (*sings*)            But at least I  
                                      Made it on the Dean's list.

*They dance. Upon completion the four embrace and laugh together as old friends. Johnson and Nixon exit. JFK stands some distance from Jackie. His laughter changes to a look of despondency.*

Jackie:                        Jack.

*JFK looks at Jackie.*

Jackie:                        Let's go.

*They exit together.*

## End of play

*Supporting cast members take their bow to "A New Frontier". Before the principal players take their bow, the supporting cast sings the refrain.*

Supporting cast: (*sings*)

And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unlimited dreams

*The principal players take their bow.*



# KENNEDY

by Daniel A. Wolf

Full cast: *(sings)*

And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
Yes we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unlimited dreams

JFK: *(speaks)*      Everybody!

Full cast and audience: *(sing)*

And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
Of unfulfilled hopes  
And we stand on the edge  
Of a new frontier  
A new frontier  
A new frontier  
A new frontier

JFK: *(speaks)*      Wait.

*Audience waits for JFK to give signal to continue. JFK gives signal.*

All: *(sing)*      Of unlimited dreams