

British Musicals on Broadway

Class 9 • Andrew Lloyd Webber V: *Sunset Boulevard* (1993)

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber • Lyrics by Don Black & Christopher Hampton

Sunset Boulevard

(London: 1993; Broadway:1994)

“Surrender” (Norma’s Lullaby)

NORMA:

No more wars to fight
White flags fly tonight
You are out of danger now
Battlefield is still
Wild poppies on the hill
Peace can only come when you surrender

Here the tracers fly
Lighting up the sky
But I'll fight on to the end
Let them send their armies
I will never bend
I won't see you now 'til I surrender
I'll see you again when I surrender.

JOE [spoken]:

Haven't I seen you somewhere before?

NORMA [spoken]: Or shall I call my servant?

JOE: Aren't you Norma Desmond? You used to be in pictures. You used to be big.

NORMA: I am big. It's the pictures that got small.

[sings]

Once upon a time
Not long ago
The head of any studio
Knew how and when to play his aces
Now they put some
Talentless unknown
Beneath their sacred microphone
We didn't need words, we had faces.

Yes, they took all the idols and smashed them.

The Fairbanks, the Gilberts, the Valentinos
They trampled on what was divine
They threw away the gold of silence
When all they needed was this face of mine.

JOE: Hey! Don't blame me, I'm just a writer.

“With One Look”

NORMA:

With one look
I can break your heart
With one look
I play every part
I can make your sad heart sing
With one look you'll know
All you need to know

With one smile
I'm the girl next door
Or the love that you've hungered for
When I speak it's with my soul
I can play any role

No words can tell
The stories my eyes tell
Watch me when I frown
You can't write that down
You know I'm right
It's there in black and white
When I look your way
You'll hear what I say

Yes, with one look
I put words to shame
Just one look
Sets the screen aflame
Silent music starts to play
One tear in my eye
Makes the whole world cry.
With one look
They'll forgive the past
They'll rejoice I've returned at last
To my people in the dark
Still out there in the dark . . .

Silent music starts to play
With one look you'll know
All you need to know

With one look
I'll ignite a blaze
I'll return to my glory days
They'll say Norma's back at last.

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This time I am staying,
I'm staying for good
I'll be back
To where I was born to be
With one look
I'll be me.

“The Greatest Start of All”

MAX:
Once,
You won't remember,
If you said Hollywood, hers was the face
you'd think of.
Her face on every billboard.
In just a single week, she's get ten thousand
letters.

Men would offer
Fortunes for a bloom from her corsage
Or a few strands of her hair

Today
She's half-forgotten,
But it's the pictures that got small.
She is the greatest star of all.

Then,
You can't imagine,
How fans would sacrifice themselves to
touch her shadow.

There was
A maharajah
Who hanged himself with one of her
discarded stockings.

She's immortal
Caught inside that flickering light beam
Is a youth which cannot fade.

Madame's a living legend;
I've seen so many idols fall.
She is the greatest star of all.

“New Ways to Dream”

NORMA:
This was dawn
There were no rules,
We were so young,
Movies were born;
So many songs
Yet to be sung.
So many roads
Still unexplored;
We gave the world
New ways to dream.
Somehow we found
New ways to dream .

Joan of Arc:
Look at my face,
Isn't it strong?
There in the dark.
Up on the screen,
Where I belong.

We'll show them all
Nothing has changed.
We'll give the world
New ways to dream.
Everyone needs
New ways to dream.

JOE:
I didn't argue,
Why hurt her?
You don't yell at a sleepwalker
Or she could fall and break her neck.
She smelled of faded roses.
It made me sad to watch her
As she relived her glory.
Poor Norma,
So happy,
Lost in her silver heaven.

NORMA:
Nothing has changed
We'll give the world
New ways to dream.
Everyone needs
New ways to dream.

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“New Ways to Dream” (Act 2 Reprise)

MAX:

When we met
She was a child
Barely sixteen;
Awkward and yet
She had an air
I've never seen.
I knew I'd found
My perfect face.
Deep in her eyes,
New ways to dream,
And we inspired
New ways to dream.

Talkies came;
I stayed with her,
Took up this life,
Threw away fame.

Please understand
She was my wife.

We had achieved
Far more than most:
We gave the world
New ways to dream.
Everyone needs
New ways to dream.

So I play this game
Keeper of the flame
Sharing with her one last dream.
Don't you think I knew
It never could come true?
She'll be the very last one to surrender.
I will not allow her to surrender.

“The Perfect Year”

NORMA:

Ring out the old
Ring in the new,
A midnight wish
To share with you.
Your lips are warm
My head is light;
Were we alive
Before tonight?

I don't need a crowded ballroom
Everything I want is here
If you're with me
Next year will be
The perfect year

JOE:

Before we play
Some dangerous game;
Before we fan
Some harmless flame,
We have to ask
If this is wise
And if the game
Is worth the prize .

With this wine and with this music,
How can anything be clear?
Let's wait and see
It may just be
The perfect year.

NORMA:

It's New Year's Eve
And hopes are high,
Dance one year in,
Kiss one goodbye.
Another chance,
Another start,
So many dreams
To tease the heart.

We don't need a crowded ballroom
Everything we want is here.
And face to face
We will embrace
The perfect year.

We don't need a crowded ballroom
Everything we want is here
And face to face
We will embrace
The perfect year.

“Sunset Boulevard”

JOE:

Sure, I came out here
To make my name
Wanted my pool, my dose of fame
Wanted my parking space at Warners'.

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But, after a year,
A one-room hell
A murphy bed,
A rancid smell
Wallpaper peeling at the corners

Sunset Boulevard
Twisting boulevard
Secretive and rich, a little scary.

Sunset Boulevard,
Tempting boulevard
Waiting there to swallow the unwary.

Dreams are not enough
To win a war
Out here they're always keeping score
Beneath the tan the battle rages.

Smile a rented smile,
Fill someone's glass
Kiss someone's wife,
Kiss someone's ass
We do whatever pays the wages.

Sunset Boulevard
Headline boulevard
Getting here is only the beginning.

Sunset Boulevard
Jackpot boulevard
Once you've won you have to go on winning.

You think I've sold out?
Dead right I've sold out.
I just keep waiting
For the right offer:
Comfortable quarters,
Regular rations,
24-hour
Five Star room service.

And if I'm honest
I like the lady
I can't help being
Touched by her folly
I'm treading water,
Taking the money,
Watching her sun set . . .
Well, I'm a writer.

L.A.'s changed a lot
Over the years
Since those brave gold rush pioneers
Came in their creaky covered wagons.

Far as they could go
End of the line.
Their dreams were yours
Their dreams were mine
But in those dreams
Were hidden dragons.

Sunset Boulevard
Frenzied boulevard
Swamped with every kind of false emotion.

Sunset Boulevard
Brutal boulevard
Just like you, we'll wind up in the ocean.

She was sinking fast
I threw a rope
Now I have suits
And she has hope
It seemed an elegant solution.

One day this must end,
It isn't real
Still, I'll enjoy
A hearty meal
Before tomorrow's execution.

Sunset Boulevard
Ruthless boulevard
Destination for the stony-hearted.

Sunset Boulevard
Lethal boulevard
Everyone's forgotten how they started
Here on Sunset Boulevard.

“As If We Never Said Goodbye”

NORMA:
I don't know why I'm frightened,
I know my way around here
The cardboard trees,
The painted seas,
The sound here.
Yes, a world to rediscover
But I'm not in any hurry

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And I need a moment.

The whispered conversations
In overcrowded hallways,
The atmosphere
As thrilling here
As always.
Feel the early morning madness
Feel the magic in the making
Why, everything's as if we never said
goodbye

I've spent so many mornings
Just trying to resist you
I'm trembling now
You can't know how
I've missed you,
Missed the fairy-tale adventures
In this ever-spinning playground,
We were young together.

I'm coming out of make-up
The lights already burning
Not long until
The cameras will
Start turning.
And the early morning madness
And the magic in the making
Yes, everything's as if we never said
goodbye.

I don't want to be alone
That's all in the past
This world's waited long enough
I've come home at last.
And this time will be bigger
And brighter than we knew it
So watch me fly
We all know I
Can do it.
Could I stop my hand from shaking?
Has there ever been a moment
With so much to live for?

The whispered conversations
In overcrowded hallways,
So much to say
Not just today
But always
We'll have early morning madness
We'll have magic in the making

Yes, everything's as if we never said
goodbye.

Yes, everything's as if we never said
goodbye.

We taught the world new ways to dream.

“Too Much in Love to Care”

BETTY:

When I was a kid,
I played on this street,
I always loved illusion.
I thought make-believe
Was truer than life
But now it's all confusion.
Please, can you tell me what's happening?
I just don't know anymore.
If this is real,
How should I feel?
What should I look for?

JOE:

If you were smart,
You would keep on walking
Out of my life
As fast as you can.
I'm not the one
You should pin your hopes on.
You're falling for
The wrong kind of man.
This is crazy.
You know we should call it a day.
Sound advice, great advice,
Let's throw it away.

I can't control
All the things I'm feeling.
I haven't got a prayer
If I'm a fool, well, I'm too much in love to
care.

I knew where I was,
I'd given up hope,
Made friends with disillusion.
No one in my life,
But I look at you
And now it's all confusion.

BETTY:

Please, can you tell me what's happening?

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I just don't know any more.
If this is real,
How should I feel?
What should I look for?

I thought I had
Everything I needed.
My life was set,
My dreams were in place.
My heart could see
Way into the future.
All of that goes
When I see your face.

I should hate you.
There I was, the world in my hand
Can one kiss kiss away
Everything I planned?

I can't control
All the things I'm feeling,
I'm floating in mid-air.
I know it's wrong, but I'm too much in love to
care.

BOTH:
I thought I had
Everything I needed.
My life was set,
My dreams were in place
My heart could see
Way into the future.
All of that goes
When I see your face.
This is crazy.
You know we should call it a day.

JOE: Sound advice,

BETTY: Great advice

BOTH: Let's throw it away.

I can't control
All the things I'm feeling.
We're floating in mid-air.
If we are fools, well, We're too much in love
to care.
If we are fools, well, We're too much in love
to care.

ADDITIONAL SONGS

***Aspects of Love* (UK: 1989; NY: 1990)**
Lyrics by Don Black & Charles Hart

“Love Changes Everything”

ALEX:
Love,
Love changes everything:
Hands and faces,
Earth and sky.
Love,
Love changes everything:
How you live and
How you die.
Love
Can make the summer fly,
Or a night
Seem like a lifetime.

Yes, love,
Love changes everything:
Now I tremble
At your name.
Nothing in the
World will ever
Be the same.

Love,
Love changes everything:
Days are longer,
Words mean more.
Love,
Love changes everything:
Pain is deeper
Than before.

Love
Will turn your world around,
And that world
Will last for ever.

Yes, Love,
Love changes everything,
Brings you glory,
Brings you shame.

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Nothing in the
World will ever
Be the same.
Why did I go back to see her...?

Off
Into the world we go,
Planning futures,
Shaping years.
Love,
Bursts in, and suddenly
All our wisdom
Disappears.

Love
Makes fools of everyone:
All the rules
We make are broken.

Yes, Love,
Love changes everyone.
Live or perish
In its flame.
Love will never,
Never let you
Be the same.

School of Rock (NY: 2015; UK: 2016)
Lyrics by Glenn Slater

“You’re in the Band”

DEWEY:
Take a hold of your axe
And try to pluck out this riff.
Let your shoulders relax,
You don't wanna be so stiff.
Keep on goin', don't stop—
Take it over the top—
Make each note really pop—
Squeeze out every last drop—
Give it one final whop!
And yes! You're in the band.

Turn a cello this way,
It's practically like a bass.
Pop the strings when the play—
And watch how you shred my face.
Keep on rockin' each note—

Grab it right by the throat—
Keep the rhythm afloat—
Don't forget to emote!
And that's all that she wrote—
Baby, you're in the band!

If you play the piano,
You can play the keys.
So just loosen it up,
And strut your expertise.
Take a look at this music,
And let your mind expand . . .
You're in the band!

Sit your butt at the skins,
And try to whack out a beat.
Feel the groove in your pins,
Then slowly turn up the heat.
And now rat-a-tat-tat—
Hit the bass and high hat!
Make it juicy and fat!
Yeah, exactly like that!
And now shut it down flat—
You're in the band!

I need a couple of roadies,
I need someone on tech.
Who wants to be security?

Well how about being manager?
Is that something you could swing?
It means I'm putting you in charge
Of the whole damn thing!
We've got our band!

Now repeat after me—
“I pledge allegiance to the band!”
 (“I pledge allegiance to the band!”)
“And I promise to give
Mr. Schneebley full command!”
 (“And I promise to give
Mr. Schneebley full command!”)

And with me in control
Of the band as a whole,
We will rock and we'll roll,
With our heart and our soul
If you're in raise your hand!
 (“I'm in the band!” x 6)
Yes! You're in the Band!
 (“We're in the band!”)