This play is dedicated to
Wanda Fusillo Garcia and Cecilia Garcia Akers
and to everyone who keeps a promise to their mother
Production Notes: This hip-hop musical has been written for one sole purpose: to tell the story of the life and legacy and significant contributions Hector P. Garcia made to history. All creatives that have been involved in this project since its inception agree that the power in this play exists in Hector P. Garcia’s passionate service to his people and to his country. As of 2018, the creatives associated with this play feel that his story has not received the attention that his service deserves. His commitment to service should be an inspiration for all people, regardless of race, age, religious background, gender, identification or political party affiliation. By creating a hip-hop musical, the creatives hope to introduce his story – that a man from humble beginnings can change the world through service – to a new generation.

With that said, the stage production of this play is designed to be minimalistic. His story should be accessible to all people and should not require lavish set designs or production elements. The stage should be bare with unit set pieces moving in to represent different scenes. This is a deliberate choice by the creatives behind this work: audience members should be able to focus on the words that this musical presents.

Lights and sound are the only two production elements that should take precedence, if the budget allows.

This play was written to serve it’s ultimate goal: to be easily performed at schools, at fundraisers and any event that seeks to inspire young people through Dr. Hector’s lifetime of service to his country and his people.
ACT I
SCENE 1

SETTING: Winter 1946, Corpus Christi, Texas in a public space.

AT RISE: HECTOR is arriving to Corpus Christi, Texas fresh off the bus with fellow WWII veterans, MIGUEL, PETE and VETERANS. In one section of the stage there is a bar with a BARTENDER SAM and PATRON BETTY. One Hispanic patron sits off to the side away from the white patrons. There is a prominent sign that reads “No Mexicans, No Negroes, No Dogs” hanging on the bar. This sign is a replica of signs that were commonly placed in businesses across the Southwestern United States. There is a convivial spirit at the bar, with indistinguishable stories and jokes told amongst the white patrons and white barkeep. On the other side of the stage stand JA and CLEO, brother and sister to HECTOR, awaiting his arrival. All the veterans are dressed in period casual dress Army uniforms.
ALL VETERANS

Fresh off of the bus
With our bags in our hand
4 years active duty
Serving Uncle Sam
2nd World War when Hitler tested our hand
Went over to Europe and helped them defend their land.

MIGUEL

Hey Hec how’s it going?
Yo, what’s the plan?
Just came off tour
I'm ready to kick a jam
Haven't seen my kids I wonder
how big are their hands
Can't wait to hug my daughter
Can you really understand?

HECTOR

Oh! you have no idea
How you can see a picture so clear
Daisy in the States
is what I hold dear, but
she's in Italy with my wife so day and night,
I work to ensure that my people are alright.

MIGUEL

But the war is over,
You already paid your dues
DAVID
But we’re pushing boulders
This country doesn’t have a clue
To die for people that don’t see you as
a citizen, thinking censor him.

MIGUEL
Him and his next of kin.
No time taken to think about
what he’s facin'
Workin extra hard
so they can bring home the bacon.

HECTOR
Sending mad applications
To be a member of this nation
The situation is cause for frustration
Ranked as a Major, but I’m seeking validation
That one piece piece of paper keeps me from my destination.

PETE
Woah, settle down
Ya’ll got it all distorted
We’re all American heroes from the Armed Forces
And Miguel, you really need to start thinking straight.
We were both born in the States.
I know we’re taken care of as soon as the driver opens the gate.
You’ll see.
HECTOR

Alright fellas, I’ll see you in later days.
Hit me up for some penicillin to help keep the rash away.

(VETERAN CHORUS laughs and they high have or tap and handshake)

But for real ya’ll my brothers
I got your back and whatever you need.
But my blood brother and sister are anxious to see me.

Peace

(HECTOR goes to JA and CLEO and they exchange a warm embrace and exit. PETE and VETERANS begin to cross to the white bar.)

PETE

Yo Rios
Let's go grab a beer
There's a spot that's got em nice and cold right over here

MIGUEL

Man, I don't know
I might dip to the side
I'm not sure that the front of this spot is serving my kind

PETE

I think it'll be alright
You just served your country
Least they could do is help get your mind right
MIGUEL

Whatever you say
Go and show the way
I'm right behind you ready to get turned away

PETE

Man stop playing
Today the guns are silent

(PETE stands at the bar with CHORUS VETERANS hanging back, hesitant.)

Yo bar keep
A round for my brothers
To cope with the violence

BARTENDER SAM

Hello boys
First off thank you for your service
But some of your brothers
Need to go around the corner for their service
Peep the signs
There up clear as day
No Mexicans
No Negroes
No dogs
That's just our way

PETE

So what are you trying to say
They're not good enough to get drink in your bar today
BARTENDER SAM

Not at all
The lot of you can stay
But this isn't where the Mexicans are able to pay

DAVID

Fresh off of the bus
With our bags in our hands
4 years active duty
Serving Uncle Sam
2nd World War when Hitler tested our hand
Went over to Europe and helped them defend their land.

PETE

Now the guns are silent
The tragedy has ended
I fought enough in the war
To get a beer with soldiers I befriended

MIGUEL

Yo what did I say
I knew what they would do as soon as they saw my face

BARTENDER SAM

Hey!
This is just our way.
Did you expect to come back and have everything change?
That sign's been up before your first breath
And long after your last
You knew what you signed up before you crossed the map!
Your freedom only extends as far as we allow it
So go around the corner and drink your beer in silence

PATRON FRED

No Mexicans
No Dogs
Go around the corner
You know where you belong

MIGUEL

I'm Mexican
No Dog
Fought for your freedom
I know that I belong

PATRON BETTY

JOSE

No Mexicans
I'm Mexican
No Dogs
No Dog
Go around the corner
Fought for your freedom
You know where you belong
I know that I belong

PATRON FRED

RENE

No Mexicans
I'm Mexican
No Dogs
No Dog
Go around the corner
Fought for your freedom
You know where you belong
I know that I belong

(MIGUEL and the Hispanic VETERANS begin to leave the white bar. PETE tries to hold them back, encouraging them to stay. He doesn’t want to leave them behind.)
PETE

I'm sorry
I wasn't aware
I should've been prepared for the hate when you spilled in my ear
But it's cool
I ain't gotta drink in the front
We shared the front lines
So the side is good enough to sip from a mug

RENE

Yo
Kill that noise
I know a spot where we can get beer with the boys
No signs
No problems
Nothing but vibes
Mexicans or whites
Follow me
Let's have a good time

(MIGUEL, PETE and HISPANIC VETERANS leave the white bar and cross to the other side of the stage. The white bar fades to black while the following exchange happens and converts to a Hispanic bar, with HISPANIC BARTENDER and HISPANIC PATRONS at this bar.)

MIGUEL

Yo Pedro
Let's go have this beer
This is the spot that's got em nice and cold over here

PETE

Man, I don't know
I might just stay outside
I'm not sure that this spot is welcoming to my kind

MIGUEL

I think it'll be alright
You just served your country
Least they could do is help get your mind right

PETE

Whatever you say
Go and show the way
I'm right behind you ready to get turned away

MIGUEL

Man stop playing
Today the guns are silent

(MIGUEL stands at the bar with PETE and the other Hispanic VETERANS. Much like the first bar scene, MIGUEL has his hand on PETE’s shoulder.)

Oye amiga
Cervezas por todos mis hermanos
Acabamos de regresar de la guerra y tenemos que relajarnos
BARTENDER ERICA

Hello boys
First off thank you for your service
But are you sure your brother's comfortable with receiving our service
Peep the times
The rules are clear as day
Mexicans drink here
And the whites drink
Around the way

MIGUEL

So what are you trying to say
He's not good enough to get a drink in your bar today

BARTENDER ERICA

Not at all
All of you can stay
But this is typically where Mexicans drink and pay.

MIGUEL

Now the guns are silent
The tragedy has ended
I fought enough in the war
To get a beer with soldiers I befriended

PETE

Yo what can I say
I didn't know what they would do as soon as they saw my face
BARTENDER DIANA

Hey!
That’s just their way.
Did you expect to come back and have everything change?
Those signs have been up before our first breath
And long after our last.
We knew what you all signed up for when you crossed the map
Who are we not to let you drink
along with the rest of us cats?
Sit back, relax and let me pour you a glass.

PETE, MIGUEL, HISPANIC VETERANS

(all raise their glasses)
Salud!

PETE

Huh?

MIGUEL

(laughing)
Cheers

PETE

Oh, ok.

MIGUEL

I’ve really been looking forward to this day
Sitting here, relaxing back in the States
No worries about being blown away.
Guard down, tensions escaped.
Surrounded by my brothers
and completely safe.
RENE

Kind of feeling the same
Hard to explain
Emotions rolling around in my brain.
Getting so hard to keep em all tamed.
Losing my mind.
Hopped on the plane.
Now I’m back home.
Cheers to the pain!

MIGUEL

What do you mean?
We’re away from the war
You need to get excited about what’s in store.

DAVID

Like what?
Living out dreams?
It ain’t all cracked up to what it’s supposed to be.

MIGUEL

Man, please.
I mean the little things you missed
when we were overseas.
See, for me:
My mom’s arroz con pollo with a side of beans
Yo Jose, tell him what I mean...
JOSE

Hmmm
Dejame ver
mis abuelas menudo
If I took a bottle to bed
Classic hangover cure for sure
Might actually need a bowl
In the morning if I drink anymore

MIGUEL

Aight Pedro
Let me know what you’re fighting for
What’s the one thing you want when you walk in that door?

PETE

That’s easy
Mom’s liver loaf for sure
Mashed potatoes
Buttered spinach
That’s all I adore.

RENE

Oh no! Please tell us that that isn’t it!

MIGUEL

To be honest
If had to choose anything else to eat
I’d probably go with a brick.
DAVID

It would definitely have more flavor to it

(HISPANIC VETERANS, HISPANIC BARTENDER and MIGUEL laugh. PETE feels sheepish.)

PETE

Ya’l1l are tripping
That’s a A-1 meal.
Wouldn’t have said a thing
If this is how ya’ll are gonna make me feel.

MIGUEL

Come on Pedro
I promise it’s all jokes.
Let me buy us another beer
To get us out of the mopes!

(HISPANIC VETERANS, HISPANIC PATRONS, PETE and
HISPANIC BARTENDER cheer in agreement as the lights fade to black.)

ACT I
SCENE 2

SETTING: HECTOR’S office, several months later, Corpus Christi, Texas.
AT RISE: HECTOR stands alone on blank stage, with only a table and three chairs.

HECTOR

Saw war
Saw death
And everything in between
For the American Dream.
Sun rays through my window
Reflecting on all on my people
The way we shine through the struggle
Without being treated as an equal
Over coming
Out gunning
When Hitler had Europe running
We hopped on the team
To put end to his schemes

Saw war
Saw death
And everything in between
Came home and it seems
We're still not fit
to live the American Dream
After everything we fought for
Everything we saw
Still couldn't get my citizenship after all
Put a lot of plans on hold
You see?
In Naples, Italy
Wanda's patiently raising
Baby Daisy
Waiting for me to bring them to the country
that didn't make me or break me
I could've stayed in Naples and my life would've been
amazing
Because my status in the US is still a little hazy
So should I give up what I have going here
For a life with hardship and future that’s unclear?
Or just step aside watch my people go nowhere?

(SECRETARY enters with JA and CLEO enter with mail and
sack lunches. They embrace HECTOR and join him at the
table.)

SECRETARY MARY

Dr. Garcia
Your brother and sister
JA and Cleo
Are here to see you

JA

Que paso, hermano?
Are you still at war?

CLEO

You got time for lunch?
Or are you doing another tour?
SECRETARY MARY
I’ll leave you three alone to talk and eat
I’ll be at my desk having lunch if you need anything.

HECTOR
No please, have a seat. Join us for lunch, we’d love the company.

SECRETARY MARY
That would be great,
of course I’ll have a seat.
I’d love to sit and speak especially with you three.
I’ve always wanted to know how it used to be in schools for people like you and me.

HECTOR
You know
I woke up the other day Reminiscing about the past And fighting to get an A Remember?
My English teacher had this to say

JA and CLEO
(teasingly, as if they’ve heard this story before)
Best any Mexican kid could get is a B
HECTOR
(smiles along with them, accepting their teasing)
It was never enough to ever discourage me
From being the best that I could be

JA
You mean WE
The bare minimum is not what we choose to see
The struggle's how we're shaped
When our future was at stake
Came to this country to escape
Blood on the ground
From revolution taking place

HECTOR
In 1917 we dipped to the States
Any prior education my parents had was misplaced
Pops was a teacher, moms was too
For Jose and Faustina
Teaching was everything that they ever really wanted to do

CLEO
The credentials that they had
Weren't valid where they had happened to land
Mercedes, TX
Land of free
With a pass to the lower class instantly
Back two steps in life
Struggling to make it right
Plenty of mouths to feed
Keeping the money tight
Luckily there was hope in sight

SECRETARY MARY

How could there be hope?
When your family was forced from their home?
Came to a country where the future was completely unknown
How do you start over, somewhere new
All alone?

HECTOR

Actually our family opened the doors to a store
Prior to the war
Extended an invitation to our Pops
But he always wanted more
Translated to my core
30 mile walk to college was something that I had to endure
What was for sure?
It would make the pay off mean so much more

JA

Thank god we got pointed in the right direction
Told us knowledge is power
No matter our complexion
So we kept jumping hurdles in rapid succession
Took all the negative and turned them into lessons

CLEO

It’s all they ever wanted
HECTOR
It’s who they wanted us to be

JA
We’re their living resurrection

CLEO
They just wanted us to be free

SECRETARY MARY
We all know that freedom isn’t free
Took parents like yours to open your eyes to see
Where I’m from the community is blinded by society
Stuck in the same place because
Ignorance is like gravity
Holding them down, not able to see how
High they can reach
There’s a whole world of possibilities.

HECTOR
Could you imagine
If the system worked in our favor?
The places we could go
Lawyers, Doctors, Mayors and Governors in control

JA
If they didn’t have to jump through hoops
As much as us and you
It all starts with these schools
Segregated
Shameful for everyone who’s participated
Merely on the basis
Of ancestry and the color of their faces

CLEO

Face it
These pseudo-leaders
Took our liberty and misplaced it
The stubborn and bigoted
Keep us on the hamster wheel of ignorance
Just to hold us back and treat us like a lower class citizen.

JA

But we made it
We had something to prove
And parents to push us too
A lot of these kids’ parents
Just don’t have time to

CLEO

It’s apparent
Working 9-5
And another job on the side
Whites roll their eyes
Wonder why these kids start falling behind

HECTOR

Now it’s our time to start guiding these young minds
Showing them a better route
Taking all of their potential and bringing it all out
JA
We’re with you 100%
No need for the back and forth
Not anymore

CLEO
We’ve been off the fence
Taking a stance for our people
We’ll represent
Like they’re family or friends
We’re willing to fight until the end!

NURSE
I’m proud to be by your side
I’m grateful that you all let me sit in and pick your minds
But it’s two o’clock and you have patients waiting outside.

(JA and CLEO hug goodbye and follow NURSE as she exits. HECTOR stands centerstage, contemplating)

HECTOR
Saw war
Saw death
And everything in between
Came home and it seems
We're still not fit
to live the American Dream

NURSE
(Entering from and interrupting HECTOR’S thoughts, MIGUEL right behind her.)
You have a patient waiting anxiously.

HECTOR

Well let's take a look, who could this be?

(HECTOR rushes to MIGUEL to embrace him, but MIGUEL seems off - weak, despondent, angry.)

Is that Miguel Rios! I'm shook!
Brother I'm happy to see...

(HECTOR notices the bad state of MIGUEL)
...you but not how you seem. What's wrong? Tell me your condition, I'll listen. You have my utmost attention.

MIGUEL

Well I'm glad, cause I pray for your state of mind. Mine is immersed in those bloody times. Being confined to trenches, dug ditches, my mind screams to be alright. I haven't had a solid night's rest, though I did attest to the promise blessed but our government seemed to only give us civil unrest.

HECTOR

No question that war could take it's toll, most of our actions were brave and bold, service has made you nervous of silence guns and familiar ghosts. And with all that mounted it's only fair that you counted on your country not to fold. But I've yet to become a citizen.
Even though commanding officers mentioned it now when I speak I feel censorship.

MIGUEL
Why are we not cleared of this, we've shown fearlessness, in the face of terror for a country who doesn't give a shit!

HECTOR
Miguel please take a seat. there's no reason for your anger to sweep you off your feet, rather let this give us motivation to push past the streets through the phones to Congress’s feet.

MIGUEL
Congress? How does that help me? At the VA trying to see a doctor that would rather see a white vet be ok? They treat me like a second class citizen Like they better than me even though I was in the same war that they were in.

HECTOR
You’re a citizen! You have the rights to push back to them! You were born on this soil. Who do they think they’re better than?
MIGUEL
You!
The color of our skin is proof!
How can I find peace
if a doctor can barely find it too?

HECTOR
Brother, sit with me.
Let’s talk about this journey
The destination isn’t clear
But the road is sure to be rocky.

MIGUEL
Let’s commit to always stand side by side
And the passions of our nation to be taken in stride

HECTOR
If you make us sad, we cry
If you prick us, we bleed
If you hurt us, we remember
We’re human beings

MIGUEL
We’re human beings

(MIGUEL and HECTOR embrace and part ways. HECTOR sits at the table to continue writing his letter to WANDA.)
Dear Wanda,

It's been such a long day
I've seen so many patients who can barely pay their way
And by the way they're living there is no kind of
position that can give them hope of another way.
I certainly did not fight for this
I know my brothers didn't die for this
But it seems America is thinking of a completely
different play.

(WANDA enters the stage and sits at a chair with pen
and paper in hand and writes a letter to HECTOR)

WANDA

Dear Hector,
I hope this letter reaches you well
Me and baby Daisy
Are patiently waiting
Until the day
That we can see your face again
Time stands still
The longer that you're away
The only indication is the baby
Growing day by day
I know the plan you formulated
Is important
I believe in everything you say
Everything you stand for
And everyday I pray
So do what you gotta do
We'll be here patiently waiting for
You to bring us back to you
Reconnect the bond
Planning out a future where all of us can belong
I know that you can stay strong.

I know you gotta go
But find your way back home
You got something to fight for
Just know you’re not alone
I wish you woulda stayed
But I know that’s wrong
Wanda gonna miss you but
Just know you’re not alone

HECTOR
(continuing his letter)
I’m glad you got my back
And I’m glad that you understand.
The fact that they make us feel
unwanted on this land…
Let us fight their wars but won’t risk
Losing their upper hand.
Won’t acknowledge our struggles
when we gave all that we can
Is all the reason I needed to take a stand
But in the same vein
What rattles around my brain
Is my choices
Reflect all the sacrifices you made
It really mirrors my parents
And all that they had to give
It couldn’t have been easy
Traveling with all us kids
In order to keep our family together
In any weather
Whether by carriage or train
Moving across plains
Towards the unknown
Where it would never be the same

WANDA

(not writing, thinking of HECTOR and what he has to do)
I know you gotta go
But find your way back home
You got something to fight for
Just know you’re not alone
I wish you woulda stayed
But I know that’s wrong
Wanda gonna miss you but
Just know you’re not alone

(Lights fade to black as WANDA exits the stage.)

ACT I

SCENE 3

SETTING: HECTOR stands alone on a blank stage in no particular location.

HECTOR

If you make us sad, we cry
If you prick us, we bleed
If you hurt us, we remember
We’re human beings

One bad apple, ruins the lot
Bruised by the sin of bigotry
If nobody grapples, we all rot
Used, by a nation no symmetry
No, I can’t stop till the next crop
Express your views explicitly
This just in, we’re not backing down
Kicking and clawing, you hear that sound?

CHORUS
You hear us now.
You hear that sound
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.

HECTOR
No matter the pigment in our flesh
We want equality and respect
Loosen the noose around our neck
So we can push forward
Elevate the next step
At last
Smuggle ideas no
Way of the past
Can’t bring it back
Say it out loud
Vocal outcast
Didn’t think we’d have to argue whether or not
My people should stop being harassed
You do the math
Didn’t realize being other was the same as being second-class
being second-class

One bad apple, ruins the lot
Bruised by the sin of bigotry
If nobody grapples, we all rot
Used, by a nation no symmetry
No, I can’t stop till the next crop
Express your views explicitly
This just in, we’re not backing down
Kicking and clawing, you hear that sound?

CHORUS
You hear us now.
You hear that sound
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
HECTOR
No matter the hate you got for my people
We’ll earn our respect and get treated as equals
We’re killing with kindness
We’re kings
We’re not blinded
We’re queens
We’re shining like diamonds
Our future isn’t dictated by what’s behind us
Acknowledge our past
Got a new path
Whether or not you accept us
Karma’s keeping it’s tabs
Peace to these humans I see
on the just side of history
It’s nice to know not everyone’s lacking in empathy
Don’t need your sympathy
We’ll get to the place that we need to be
Whether it’s hard or easily
Making tomorrow evenly
We’re not asking for more, just equally

One bad apple, ruins the lot
Bruised by the sin of bigotry
If nobody grapples, we all rot
Used, by a nation no symmetry
No, I can’t stop till the next crop
Express your views explicitly
This just in, we’re not backing down
Kicking and clawing, you hear that sound?
CHORUS
You hear us now.
You hear that sound
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.

Look at these beautiful brown faces
adding flavor to communities
There’s nothing like waking to unity
Maybe tomorrow will be the day
We know it could be
So we can be free
Be exactly who we wanted to be
Look in the mirror and tell yourself
no one can take that from me

One bad apple, ruins the lot
Bruised by the sin of bigotry
If nobody grapples, we all rot
Used, by a nation no symmetry
No, I can’t stop till the next crop
Express your views explicitly
This just in, we’re not backing down
Kicking and clawing, you hear that sound?
CHORUS

You hear us now.
You hear that sound
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.
You hear us now.
You hear that sound.

If you make us sad, we cry
If you prick us, we bleed
If you hurt us, we remember
We’re human beings
Human beings
Human beings
ACT II
SCENE 1

SETTING: March 1948, Corpus Christi, Texas.

AT RISE: HISPANIC VETERANS enter a bare stage with stacks of papers in their hands. After a few years of struggling to receive the benefits promised from the American GI Bill, HECTOR has inspired this brothers to act and they are calling the initial meeting set for March 26, 1948.

ALL HISPANIC VETERANS

We were fresh off the bus
With our bags in our hands
4 years active duty serving for Uncle Sam
2nd world war
When Hitler tested our hand
Two years later: they still haven’t kept up their end

MIGUEL

Still wasn’t enough (still wasn’t enough)
Ended one war and picked another one up
Came home to our families
It really got rough
Problems deeper than the Grand Canyon
And I’ve had enough
DAVID
I came home to my son
Been away so long
He learned to walk, talk and run
Didn’t recognize who I was
From day one
Now I can’t even get a job
To keep him from going hungry
I’m crumbling
It feels like it was all for nothing!

RENE
Trust me, I know how exactly how you feel
Ever since I came back the struggle’s been real
My back’s been aching
Been patiently waiting as a patient
Staring at the nurse’s station
Hoping to get my medication
Frustration is a nice way to describe my situation
Pacing back and forth between
Depression and alienation

JOSE
We were fresh off the bus
With our bags in our hands
4 years active duty serving for Uncle Sam
2nd world war
When Hitler tested our hand
Two years later and they still haven’t kept up their end
(The HISPANIC VETERANS move into the audience and distribute the flyers to the audience members leaving the stage bare. WANDA enters the stage with HECTOR)

WANDA
I know you gotta go
But find your way back home
You got something to fight for
Just know you’re not alone
I wish you woulda stayed
But I know that’s wrong
Wanda gonna miss you but
Just know you’re not alone

HECTOR
I'm glad you got my back
I'm glad that you understand
I'm glad that we’re finally reunited again
I just got my citizenship, unlike some of them
Now gotta hit the podium
And talk to these men
My brothers in arms
Address the issues causing them harm
The way that we're being treated it's time to ring the alarm
Laying it all out during this forum

WANDA
I know you gotta go
But find your way back home
You got something to fight for
Just know you’re not alone
I wish you woulda stayed
But I know that’s wrong
Wanda gonna miss you but
Just know you’re not alone

I love you to the moon and back
I'm here to keep your life on track
I got the baby
Now go and give everything that you have
Towards the vision
Even though it isn't the path of least resistance
I know that this is what justifies your existence

HECTOR
Okay, here I go
It's time to get some control
Let me finish this mission
Then we can get back home

Then we can get back home.

WANDA
I know you gotta go
But find your way back home
You got something to fight for
Just know you’re not alone
I wish you woulda stayed
But I know that’s wrong
Wanda gonna miss you but
Just know you’re not alone
(WANDA and HECTOR embrace and WANDA exits the stage. The HISPANIC VETERANS return to the stage and continue their rally. It’s the March 26, 1948 meeting)

HECTOR
We fought for our nation
But there doesn’t seem to be any type of reciprocation
Let’s face it
Our demands are basic
Health care, education and job placement
For this country’s veterans
Does it really need any explanation?

MIGUEL
I can feel their hesitation
We got the motivation
To mobilize vets all across the nation
To fight this discrimination
We risked our lives against the Third Reich
Now I’m up all night, wishing it would be alright

JOSE
Out of sight
Out of mind
Trying to find time
Between kids, work and my wife
I'm lost in the times
So it's the blind leading the blind
I can’t even get my check from the VA on time
RENE

Realign, redesign
Working within the system
To benefit yours and mine
Power to all the people
Never more, just equal
It's plain and simple
Never the same
Push forward
Time to reclaim our country's namesake
United, building our own lane

DAVID

We were fresh off the bus
With our bags in our hands
4 years active duty serving for Uncle Sam
2nd world war
When Hitler tested our hand
Two years later and they still haven’t kept up their end

MIGUEL

Plenty of us are feeling the same
That's exactly why we’re gathered today

HECTOR

Good evening brothers and sisters
I speak to you today as a fellow enlister
We’re all one in the same
but it seems like they dismissed us
Came back from the war
They played niceness
Left us to our own devices
Made it as a Major with plenty of sacrifices
My advice is
Just as valid as yours on this crisis

JA
Didn’t think they would be this indecisive
Decided all they had to do was wish us luck on the outcome
Then left us all behind them

DAVID
We line the walls of hospitals
When Mexican wards are filled up
Room in Anglo wards
that they don’t wanna give us

MIGUEL
I don’t understand it
but damn it
We’re gonna change it for the better
We need to get clever
They think that we don’t know any better
They think that we’re wild
We’ve been intelligent and versatile for awhile

HECTOR
Now it’s our time
To get our names on the ballots
Prove our struggles are valid
That we’re up for the challenge
We have to fix our wings
Before we can fly
Some of us don’t know our rights
So the goal is to bring the knowledge to light

   JOSE
They treat us all like sheep

   RENE
And don’t want us to achieve

   HECTOR
But it’s our time to start living the American Dream

   JA
Es tiempo de vivir el sueño americano

   DAVID
It’s our time to start living the American Dream

   RENE
It’s our time to start living the American Dream

   MIGUEL
It’s our time to start living the American Dream.

   JOSE
It’s our time to start living the American Dream.

   JOSE AND DAVID
We were fresh off the bus
With our bags in our hands
4 years active duty serving for Uncle Sam
2nd world war
When Hitler tested our hand
Hand to God, they'll keep up their end

MIGUEL AND RENE
We were fresh off the bus
With our bags in our hands
4 years active duty serving for Uncle Sam
2nd world war
When Hitler tested our hand
Hand to God, they'll keep up their end

HECTOR AND JA
We were fresh off the bus
With our bags in our hands
4 years active duty serving for Uncle Sam
2nd world war
When Hitler tested our hand
Hand to God, they'll keep up their end

(HISPANIC VETERANS leave the stage with exclamations
and excitement, leaving HECTOR alone on the stage.)

ACT II
SCENE 2

SETTING Winter, 1948, HECTOR’S office in
Corpus Christi, Texas
AT RISE: HECTOR stands alone on the stage at the beginning of the scene while his office is being set. His desk is covered with papers, letters, posters. A flyer for the American GI Forum hangs from his desk. As he approaches his desk he’s carrying a suitcase, just coming in from a road trip where he’s organized new American GI Forum chapters.)

HECTOR

Days on the road and nights of discussion
Coupled with spread of passion so sudden
Preaching the word, looking for a better future
Parents were the teacher but I am the tutor
Leading my horse to water because of this thirst
The quest for equality will always come first
From Albuquerque to Odessa and Chicago!
People feel their enlistment masked the embargo
Being tossed aside with no precedence
Hoping this struggle is not the inheritance
When the world’s horizon is similar to a hearse
I want sighs of relief when I drop a verse
Because this isn’t easy, please believe me
Let all the sweat, blood and tears flow freely
Let all your actions be unapologetic
Then victory will have an enemy it’s just you who did it.

(HECTOR sits at his desk, feeling tired, yet
energized. His NURSE enters the stage with BEATRICE )

NURSE
Dr. Garcia, there’s a Beatrice Longoria here to see you
From my point of view
She looks like she’s in a bad way
Tears seem to be on the verge of rolling down her face
Do you have time to touch base?

HECTOR
Please send her in. I’m curious about the issue.

(NURSE exits as BEATRICE sits at HECTOR’s desk)

BEATRICE
Hello Dr. Garcia, it’s an honor to meet you.
You’ve helped out my sister and what she had been through.
I’m riddle with grief, I pray you’re ready for a sequel.
I’ve never thought this world could be so evil.
My late husband Felix served in the infantry.
His sense of duty was infused with his infancy.
Working for our family so we can live pleasantly.
His presence in my life made things so heavenly.
In 1945, he was killed in the Philippines
In 1948, the government reached out to me
Titled the messenger for the rest of the family
Would be buried in Three Rivers if it wasn’t for Kennedy.
Mr. Tom wasn’t bothered at all
to deciding his wake was a “racial call.”
Worried about stirring up the community
Ironically shredding this country’s sense of unity
Providing a service to respect the dead
but denying my husband a home to rest his head.

(BEATRICE breaks down in tears and looks off, as if
she’s speaking to Felix directly.)

BEATRICE
I know you had to go
I'll find your way back home
You had something fight for
How will you get back home?
I wish you would've stay
But I know that's wrong
I'm gonna miss you so
I'll help you get back home

(HECTOR kneels at BEATRICE feet, holds her hand and
comforts her.)

HECTOR
I’m so sorry for your loss, no doubt of his decoration.
I admire your will and your determination
The fact that they denied you with no hesitation
Shows we must react with lawful accusation.
How is a man to serve, only to be tossed by his nation?
A veteran’s death is nothing to take light.
When the weight of his passing grieves you every night.
The actions from Three Rivers just isn't right.
BEATRICE
What should we do?? I’ve reached no compromise.

HECTOR
You've compromised enough, it’s time for them to recognize
I’ll talk with Tom Kennedy.
understand his industry
We'll have to settle this bigotry
with no sense of leniency.

(HECTOR rises and crosses to his desk and picks up the
phone. No Mexicans, No Dogs leitmotif plays in the
background.)

HECTOR
Operator, please connect me to the Rice Funeral Home in
Three Rivers, Texas.

Yes, I'll hold.

(TOM KENNEDY enters the stage, sitting at a table
working on paperwork. His desk has a phone and he
answers.)

HECTOR
Hello
Can I speak
to Mr. Tom Kennedy
I’m calling today
because it seems
That I need some clarity.

TOM KENNEDY
This is he.
Can I ask who’s calling,
What’s this about?

HECTOR

This is Dr. Hector P.
Not sure if you heard of me
But you see
I'm calling on behalf of
Mrs. Beatrice

TOM KENNEDY

Aww yes
Private Felix’s wife

HECTOR

That's right
She says you denied her
Chapel services for her husband
After he died
Passed in the Philippines
After serving his country
As you can imagine
The anger is kinda bubbling
I'm calling for the reason

TOM KENNEDY

That's correct and the reason is clear
"The whites won't like it."
At all around here
HECTOR

Are you serious?

TOM KENNEDY

Absolutely
No need be mysterious
Out here in Three Rivers
That's just the way it goes
I gotta look out for the
Rice Funeral Home
As of now we're only serving our own
It's outta of my control

HECTOR

Well just so you know
We're gonna fight this
So get ready to dig your foxhole
This time tomorrow
Every news outlet's
Gonna hear his story over the phone

TOM KENNEDY

Hey!
This is just our way
Did you expect to come back and have everything change?
The rules have been the same before your first breath
And long after your last
Felix knew what he signed up for before he crossed the map
His freedom only extends as far as we allow it
So tell her to find another place and bury her husband in silence

Page 50 of 93
HECTOR

Well, Mr. Kennedy,
I can see you’re stuck in your ways.
I’ll leave with something General Patton would say,
May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won’t.
Okay?
Get ready for the war tomorrow, today.

(Lights jump to a hard black.)

ACT II

SCENE 3

SETTING: Corpus Christi, Texas.

AT RISE: HECTOR has called a press conference to draw attention to The Longoria Affair in Three Rivers, Texas. He is flanked with AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS wearing their signature hats.

AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but willing to dig our grave
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it isn’t just another day.
JOSE

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but willing to dig our grave
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it isn’t just another day.

RENE

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but willing to dig our grave
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it isn’t just another day.

(HECTOR enters the stage as the AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS return to the stage from distributing the original flyers in their office.)

MIGUEL

Ladies and gentlemen
We're here today to discuss why
Mr. and Mrs. Longoria are being treated this way

JA

It's sad to see that an American soldier
Can't have the dignity of being buried at home
Turned away by Tom Kennedy
All because of ethnicity

HECTOR
Mrs. Longoria came to me
To handle this matter civilly
I felt the need to treat this issue critically
This is what we see
For my people
It's day to day
We have two choices
Let it go
Or make them change their ways

REPORTER #1 (GEORGE GROH)

Dr. Garcia
Tom K. had this to say
That the "Whites wouldn't like it"
Let me make sure this quote is right
"Mexicans got drunk and got into fights"

HECTOR
Well that seems overly generalized
Tell me why
Someone would characterize
An entire group of people within those offensive lines
That's like saying all whites
Hate me because of my brown skin and brown eyes

REPORTER #2

Dr. Garcia
Don't mean to sound caustic
But what is it that you hope to accomplish?

HECTOR
It's simple
Give a grieving wife
Peace of mind
Knowing that her husband is put to rest
Not just put to the side
He did his part for this country
And ended up giving his life
So I'm determined to give him a proper burial site

REPORTER #3

Dr. Garcia
People say you're a trouble maker.
How do you respond to this perception of your character's nature?

HECTOR
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but willing to dig our grave
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it isn’t just another day.

(REPORTERS exit the stage with AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS as HECTOR crosses to his desk and begins typing letters to various heads of the US Government.)
President Truman
I'm writing on behalf
Of a widow who lost her husband
Mrs. Beatrice Longoria
Wife to Private Felix and
Felix followed his orders
Left his home to cross waters
to fight in a war that brought an end to the 3rd Reich's disorder
Could've opted out
Turned around and headed south
But the option that he chose was the noble route
You must know how
The sacrifice that came about
Slowly breaking the family down
Private Longoria passed away in 1945
While he was in the Phillipines
Missing his daughter and his wife
But life is life
And for her husband
She wants to do right
When she found out her husband's body was coming stateside
So she tried to arrange a funeral at Rice
Funeral Home, where they reside
In Three Rivers
They turned them away on sight
I called Tom Kennedy as to why
Basically he said it was something the whites wouldn't like
So I'm reaching out to you
To help me out with this fight

(to himself)
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

(AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS enter the stage with a banner, marching together)

MIGUEL
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

RENE
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

JOSE
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

JA
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it
DAVID
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS
We're not the trouble maker
Our society is
We're working within the system to fix the problems with it

HECTOR
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

(AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS exit the stage as HECTOR
begins the next letter)

HECTOR
Senator Lyndon Johnson
Let me explain what I'm doing
I'm writing on behalf
Of a widow who lost her husband
Mrs. Beatrice Longoria
Wife to Private Felix and
Felix followed his orders
Left his home to cross waters
to fight in a war that brought an end to the 3rd Reich’s disorder.
Could've opted out
Turned around and headed south
But the option that he chose was the noble route
You must know how
The sacrifice that came about
Slowly breaking the family down
Private Longoria passed away in 1945
While he was in the Phillipines
Missing his daughter and his wife
But life is life
And for her husband
She wants to do right
When she found out her husband’s body was coming stateside
So she tried to arrange a funeral at Rice
Funeral Home, where they reside
In Three Rivers
They turned them away on sight
I called Tom Kennedy as to why
Basically he said it was something the whites wouldn't like
So I'm reaching out to you
To help me out with this fight

(to himself)
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

(AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS enter the stage with a banner, marching together)
MIGUEL
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

RENE
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

JOSE
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

JA
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

DAVID
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it

AMERICAN GI FORUMS MEMBERS
I'm not the trouble maker
Our society is
I'm working within the system to fix the problems with it
(AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS exit the stage. HECTOR has exited during the AMERICAN GI FORUM chorus and SENATOR LYNDON B. JOHNSON enters the stage, dictating a letter to a LBJ STAFFER.)

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Dr. Hector P Garcia
I deeply regret to hear about
This prejudice knows no bounds
And the fact that it extends
Even beyond this life now
Now, I have no authority
Over funeral homes
This matter is too important for me
To leave alone
So I've made arrangements
New placement
Hopefully Mrs. Longoria is okay with
Arlington National Cemetery
Full honors from the military
Private Felix will be buried
Where the honored dead of our nations wars rest at.
This injustice and prejudice will not stand.
I am proud to have part in it
Laying to rest a hero
That happens to have darker skin
This country's a melting pot and that man is our next of kin
No sense to deem his life worthless
Simply because he's Mexican
(AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS enter the stage with a banner, marching together)

MIGUEL

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but willing to dig our grave
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it isn’t just another day.

JOSE

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but willing to dig our grave
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it isn’t just another day.

RENE

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but willing to dig our grave
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it isn’t just another day.

(HECTOR and BEATRICE enter and are flanked by the AMERICAN GI FORUM MEMBERS. HECTOR holds the letter from LYNDON B. JOHNSON in his hand.)

HECTOR

Hello Mrs. Longoria thank you for coming
The hustle and bustle of late is surely something
We’ve been busy getting attention, rushing
the many that have reached out is truly touching
I have sent news of this current affair
There is one response that requires your care

BEATRICE
I’ll entertain the idea as long as its fair
Our families are hopin’ for the best in prayer

HECTOR
Well, it seems Senator Johnson has a proposal
One that leaves the government at your disposal
One that may leave you hopeful
But it is a few steps away from being local

BEATRICE
Please Dr. Garcia, I know your energy is ample
But tell me, what is the swing of the gavel?

HECTOR
He offered Arlington National Cemetery
It’s no Three Rivers but ya’ll can call it home
Being recognized through all of his misery
Treated equally despite a different chromosome

BEATRICE (to herself)
I know you had to go
I'll find your way back home
You had something fight for
And now you're coming home.
I wish you would've stay
But I know that's wrong
I'm gonna miss you so
So glad you're coming home

(to HECTOR)

I know he would be honored,
To push our people farther
I find relief in accepting his offer
For our daughter.
Yes.

JA AND JOSE

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but we found another way
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it is just another day.

RENE AND MIGUEL

Another day
Another one of us being betrayed
Won’t let us in your Chapel but we found another way
We’ll never settle being forced into the old ways
Fighting until it is just another day.

(BEATRICE embraces HECTOR as lights fade to black. In the dark, BEATRICE continues her song. HECTOR exits the stage.)
BEATRICE

I know you had to go
I'll find your way back home
You had something fight for
And now you're coming home.
I wish you would've stay
But I know that's wrong
I'm gonna miss you so
So glad you're coming home

I know you had to go
I'll find your way back home
You had something fight for
And now you're coming home.
I wish you would've stay
But I know that's wrong
I'm gonna miss you so
So glad you're coming home

(Lights up on the Arlington National Cemetery, with graves placed on stage in their replica. Beatrice stands alone on the stage at Felix’s marker, holding a folded flag in her hand with Lyndon B. Johnson looking on from the side of the stage. She sings the song one last time and then “Taps” plays with a 21 gun salute.)

I know you had to go
Find your way back home
You had something fight for
Will you get back home?
Wish you would've stay though
But I know that's wrong
I'm gonna miss you so
I'll help you get back home

(Lights fade to black.)

ACT III
SCENE 1

SETTING: June 1968, an American GI Forum meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas.

AT RISE: HECTOR, MIGUEL, and JAMES DEANDA sit together in HECTOR’S office, reflecting on the past several years of accomplishments. Their mood is somber; many things to celebrate but they are still so far from where they hoped to be.

MIGUEL
Gave aggression
Saw progression
And everything in between
Working harder so we can reach the finer things

JA
A sense of duty
Getting down and dirty
Such a scene
Propping up foundations so we can hear our children sing.

HECTOR
The spark and ignition
Sudden jolt of attention
Gives people purpose to the dreams that they’ve been wishing.

JAMES
No reason to give in; no silent position
The past twenty years they couldn’t censor our ascension

MIGUEL
Clubs of Viva Kennedy; Johnson’s president, see?
Both of them nurtured a vision of equality
When we were labeled worthless
They stood ground and value surfaced
Giving people faith while having meetings inside churches

JA
But we knocked persistently
It never came easily
If we left it to the rest
We’d be lost in complacency

JAMES
I can list you many cases on behalf of many races
The gavel didn’t care ‘bout the color of people’s faces.
But the gavel doesn’t govern the hearts of the people
They’d rather stay in the dark than deal with the upheaval.
HECTOR
Led by misdirection
Left no thoughts of correction
Convinced this “normal” life isn’t linked to oppression.
Don’t need a book to mow a lawn.
Don’t need to make moves when you’re a pawn.
Why get a degree when my family worked this hard?

MIGUEL
Product of conditioning when you’re rewarded for listening
Don’t extend yourself, just stick to your positioning
Taught to be lesser, not to measure, no Spanish in the lecture
Shape a vision where certain humans are better.

JA
But the color of blood and the weight of tears
Is a comment struggle of humanity facing its fears

JAMES
Voting was the first step and helped pave the way
Goal lines keep shifting and we’re calling foul play

HECTOR
Hispanics in office give us what we crave
Laying down blueprints to help us be brave

MIGUEL
Seize the day - now is the hour
Our people are finally in positions of power.
Holding desks in the tower
No longer will we cower
Been loud, but it’s time to get louder

JA
Been 20 years now, steady on the prowl
Since Felix Longoria’s resting place was found

JAMES
But rumbling on the streets are making the rounds.
Suggesting where we’ll find our next battleground

MIGUEL
My daughter’s been complaining about her kids’s school
How they’re working hard but not given the tools
No sense of structure when foundation breaks the rules.
Out of date text books turn our kids to fools.

JA
We could talk about a transfer but it really doesn’t matter
Schools for our kids are in a state of disaster.

HECTOR
Leaks in the plumbing, ceilings falling in
The cost of repairs will cost in the millions
Looking at priorities set by Dana Williams
Shows he’s not interested in equilibrium.

(from offstage a group of parents with pickets
beginning shouting and take over the conversation).
We’re losing all patience
Our children lack education
Voices growing for civil rights
They’re out killing communication
With everything we’re facing
Sacrifices for our nation
Why is equality still up for consideration?

We’re losing all patience
Our children lack education
Voices growing for civil rights
They’re out killing communication
With everything we’re facing
Sacrifices for our nation
Why is equality still up for consideration?

We’re losing all patience
Our children lack education
Voices growing for civil rights
They’re out killing communication
With everything we’re facing
Sacrifices for our nation
Why is equality still up for consideration?

Why is equality still up for consideration?

Why is equality still up for consideration?

Why is equality still up for consideration?
OLGA

Dr. Garcia
I see you and everything you’ve done for our people
Fighting for us to be seen as equals
From educating our brothers
Medically treating others
Uplifting us all: not being seen as different colors
Our numbers speak for themselves

GUILLERMO

We’re decorated in honors
We’ve been crossing waters to fight in wars
From a time beyond us.
But we always answer the call

MARIO

And we’re still not being treated like our nation’s sons at all
So I am coming off my tour
From the Vietnam War
My children’s education has left me appalled
While I was gone
My wife was left with this burden and all she can do is bawl
I’ll let her come up and speak with ya’ll

MARIA

Dr. Garcia
Again, thank you for hearing our words
As you heard
My husband’s explained some of the issues touching my nerves
I see all of this because of where I work
I’m a lunch lady and my kids is who I serve
I’ve observed
The conditions getting worse
Anything new to the district
White schools get it first
We have the same meals every other day being dispersed

OLGA
Could you imagine if the roles reversed?
Immersed in the struggle we’re dealing with since birth
The way they treat our children
I can see what our lives are worth
We’ve come so far but we’re nowhere near what we deserve
Is there anything you can do to subserve?

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

Why is equality still up for consideration?

Why is equality still up for consideration?

Why is equality still up for consideration?

Why is equality still up for consideration?
HECTOR

Thank you for expressing yourselves
Every word spoken
I’ve heard and felt
It’s time to reshuffle the cards dealt
This bigotry is affecting the children’s health
Poor conditions
They don’t listen
Either our skin or where we’re living
Is the reasoning behind the constant dismissing
They’re missing the point
Toying with the future of these little girls and boys
Never handled an issue quiet, let’s some noise

MIGUEL

We’re way past coy
If our lives our good enough to deploy
Then they should be good enough to educate and employ
Through with the ploy
They can keep playing annoyed

JA

We’re gonna keep knocking on the door
Until they hear our voice
Now I’d like to bring up
James DeAnda
An attorney serving Hernandez and Chapa
He’ll explain further
JAMES

Good evening
My name is James Deanda
Let’s break down in what’s going on with this legal drama
They believe our complexion is as fluid as water
It’s the cottar to their cases
They think we have no basis
For equal protection like other races

HECTOR

They have their own priorities
CCISD
Doesn’t think that we’re minorities
On paper they consider us white
Let that sit on your mind.

MARIA

If that’s that case
They’ve taken advantage of blurred lines

JAMES

Here’s the rationale behind
If Hispanics attend school alongside
African-American children, then it’s fine

SARAH

Then there is no segregation in sight?!
So now they’re assuming that we’re not willing to fight?
JA
If they didn’t see this coming
Then they are really blind.
All the problems we’re facing
Is because they don’t believe
We’re protected under
Brown vs. Board of Education

MIGUEL
Basically, fathers are voicing their frustration.
Jose Cisneros called out the school’s poor maintenance
In further investigations
There’s way more problems the district
Wants to go get away with

JAMES
So we’re filing a lawsuit
To get to these better days.
We all need to prepare for tomorrow’s war, today.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS
Why is equality still up for consideration?
Why is equality still up for consideration?
Why is equality still up for consideration?
Why is equality still up for consideration?

(Lights fade to black.)
ACT III
SCENE 2

SETTING: June 4, 1970, THE GARCIA home, late at night

AT RISE: WANDA sits on the side of the stage in a dressing gown, waiting up for HECTOR.

WANDA

I know you had to go
You've been away from home
You had something fight for
While we wait at home
I wish you would stay
But I know that's wrong
You know that we miss you
But I feel alone

I know you had to go
You've been away from home
You had something fight for
While we wait at home
I wish you would stay
But I know that's wrong
You know that we miss you
But I feel alone

(HECTOR enters from the opposite side of the stage where Wanda sits in her own pool of light. He enters...
with mail in his hand, sorts through it and pulls up a postcard, briefly reads it and crumbles it up. WANDA continues to sing her song during his entrance).

I know you had to go
You've been away from home
You had something fight for
While we wait at home
I wish you would stay
But I know that's wrong
You know that we miss you
But I feel alone

(HECTORS sits on a chair.)

HECTOR
Another day another death threat
After everything I've done, I wouldn't expect less.

(throws crumbled postcard across the stage).

From office to office and years of my service
Can't help but to think, when are the curtains?
When work has no progress, start feeling worthless
Trying to find strength even when I'm nauseous.
Worried sick about this: Is this enough?
Taking your pick of another man's bluff
Labeled a "Spic" my people's honor scuffed
Need to act quick before my passion's snuffed.
(SOUND CUE – phone rings as HECTOR rises and CLEO enters the stage for a phone conversation. She's wearing a medical coat, as if she's just getting home from work.)

CLEO

Brother, I knew you'd be awake
How many times do we tell you to take a break?

HECTOR

Oh Cleo! Que Paso?
It’s late for the phone.
As for taking a break, you're my clone!
(teasingly)
So take your own advice cabron!

CLEO

Coming home from rounds and there's no time for rest
For all the wins we've accomplished, I feel blessed
But I just needed to get something off my chest
These children admitted left thoughts of duress
Stress of a life that these residents’ obsess
Hearing tales from parents on how schools are a mess.

HECTOR

I just came back from a similar meeting...
25 years in and it’s all so defeating.

CLEO

Imagine what these children are left thinking
If this is the standard what’s the point in dreaming?
At every brown school the plumbing’s been leaking
While slipping on the floors they’ll never reach the ceiling.
Yet Anglo schools have no problem with maintenance
And the fact they have eleven white schools is heinous
All of our people say that The Super is brainless.
But **WE** have to be careful cuz these words are dangerous!?

**HECTOR**
All I can imagine is him drifting into sleep
While families are up thinking about their week
Love is swept under the rug cuz of this creep
Cause of his state of mind, my people are weak
Adjacent to the complacent, he doesn’t see the line
With effect to actions he still crossed it fine.
I am fed up. I think that it is due time
That Dana Williams gets the full piece of my mind.

**CLEO**
Ah brother, another call to action
I know that you can make this happen.
But you know what would give me satisfaction?
To see you and Dana's heated interactions.

**HECTOR**
You just might get what you wish.
But please try to get some sleep, sis.

(During the above exchange, WANDA rises from her spot and watches HECTOR'S conversation with CLEO. As he
turns from his conversation with CLEO, WANDA steps forward.)

WANDA
Hello, my love, another late night?
You look like you’re still fighting The Third Reich.

HECTOR
People still fight for a country with a cause
But left to suffer with tight-clenched jaws.

WANDA
But here you are looking as if you see defeat?
Remember the countless nights when we would weep.
Saying goodnight as you would lose sleep
Still making time to eat with us every week.

HECTOR
I’ve done what I had to for justice for my people
Minorities facing struggle is a never-ending sequel.
You can say you recognize all of this evil
And yet still complain for a life that’s more simple!

WANDA
Simple?
Like getting calls on the phone saying to go home?
Threatening OUR lives and that you’re accident prone?
Despite all this hate I’ve always known
That you’ll die for what you’re fighting for
WE have all made this compromise.
To put aside this family’s strife.
So your people can lead a better life.  
So don’t forget us next time you speak, alright?

I know you had to go  
You've been away from home  
You had something fight for  
While we wait at home  
I wish you would stay  
But I know that's wrong  
You know that we miss you  
But I feel alone

HECTOR
Wanda, my love, thank you for struggling with me  
I’m aware that being married to me isn’t easy.  
Our family fills a spot that I thought was empty.  
Cuz you share my visions past this city.  
Seen injustice after injustice  
Heard the hate and how its destructive  
Know that it limits all of whom it encompasses  
And that our equality will be adjusted.

WANDA
I look forward to a time when the struggle is ended  
And we can pick on our love so dutifully tended.  
Grandchildren on our laps and laughter in the halls.  
No more barriers, no more walls.

HECTOR
The battle is almost over, I feel it in my heart.  
The Federal Court once again has done its part -  
Just got the word that Judge Seals settles the deal
June 4, 1970 knew how the kids could feel
He killed the dual system - Dana Williams' gist -
So separate but equal will no longer exist.
Bliss.
The dream of equal opportunity is rearing its head.
Soon they'll be no more tears to shed.

WANDA

I know you had to go
You found your way back home
You got something to fight for
You've never been alone
I wish you woulda stayed
But I know that’s wrong
Can't wait to stop missing you
Just know you’re not alone

No you're not alone
You're not alone
You're not alone

(Lights fade to black)

ACT III

SCENE 3

SETTING: Multiple dates and times, spanning from 1970 to 1975
AT RISE: Lights come up on HECTOR on the stage with MIGUEL and JAMES DEANDA. The scene that will unfold is a rap battle between CCISD Superintendent DANA WILLIAMS and HECTOR. This rap battle takes place over several years and the passage of time is indicated with JAMES DEANDA denoting the several court cases that passed during the years to fight to desegregate CCISD.

JAMES
A year and a half into the court system
Segregation's still alive and kicking.
A plan is submitted but with an extension
July Seventy One with no end in vision

MIGUEL
Oh look, it's the Fuhrer himself!
Why don't you fix the schools with all of your wealth?
You just got a raise, I wonder how that felt?
When you're treating our kids like cattle in hell!

HECTOR
The true and great leaders of our country must heed
The cries and suffering of their minorities!
Since you're doing neither, you better just leave!
You're 'bout a century late if you're trying to secede!

Dr. Dana Williams
Superintendent
I guess the people assumed
that you were fit to run the district
But I’m finding no evidence to that fact
Why you molding minds when you're slow to react?

DANA
Interesting how you’d question my credibility
Especially how your name carries some infamy
Socialist, trouble-maker, acting shady.
Involving yourself with events that benefit you greatly
Do you really care about these kids’ well-being?
Or is this an effort for your ego to hit the ceiling?

HECTOR
Said the man who's always prim and proper
Preparing all your words when appearing in the Caller
Just practice speaking from the heart.
If you'd start, our kids world would be less dark.
Or is this a force of habit?
How can you sleep when you're causing so much havoc?

DANA
What havoc do I create?
I think my plan is great!
Keeping people separate doesn't equal hate.
There's money to be found for schools black and brown
Just as long as they stay on their side of town.
When everything is up to standard, what is there really to lose?
Nothing you can do, my school board approves.
HECTOR
Whether it’s you or your pinche school board
You’ve made it a point to entirely ignore
Needs of the minority schools! What for?
We’re definitely not putting up with this anymore!
All attention paid to the schools doing great
When really OUR kids’ futures are at stake!
No matter what you throw at us
We’ll never fold or break!

MIGUEL
Your board can't comply, it's obviously a lie
That you don't care at all that our kids will rise

JAMES
It takes the Supreme Court of the Great United States
To force you to desist all of the hate.
8-71 won on the merits of this case
You absolutely must desegregate.

DANA
We can give them equality with another building!
A teacher with understanding to provide better teaching!
In due time you can see the reasoning.
How else can I tell you when seeing is believing?

HECTOR
Why would I believe you and the lies that you spew?
You just want that clout from headlines in the news.
These kids can’t learn, read or play in peace
Feel my aggression cuz the overall impression’s
The building has the atmosphere of dirt and depression.
Please answer the question
Your bias is more like obsession!

DANA
As if you could do better!
Your agenda: get members
It’s all been fine as long as I can remember
You're a little pup - all bark, no bite.
You're loyal to nothing, just a stray in the night.
Look at your Caddie, your pockets aren't tight.
Seems to me that your doin' pretty alright.

HECTOR
I'll be alright when my people have the same
When we have a President that shares our last name.
President of country, CEO of banks
Free to cross the country, no worry of our rank.
I care about our future, you just care about the game
A notch on your belt, another slave in the chain.

MIGUEL
Another year passed and nothing is resolved
Throwing money at buildings hoping they dissolve.

JAMES
Dana spends summer breaks trying to put on the brakes
The Federal Court ain't playing that give and take
August Seven-Two, the courts insist a new plan must exist
Stop delaying and accept the shift.
HECTOR

It's truly humiliating and absurdly painful
minorities must sue to receive something gainful.
Education from the school we trusted
to get on board even though they're disgusted
Peep the order, it's plain as day
The Mexican-Americans are here to stay
With white kids they'll play
With white they'll pray
With all the kids together. we are above the fray
It's a new world. It's a new day.

DANA

All you're doing is setting the kids up for failure
Forcing them to be in a place unfamiliar
Sending them far away from their neighborhoods
Setting them up to be misunderstood.
I've been in the school game for many years
I’m familiar with all these parents fears
Go back to the hospital and brood with all your peers
The experts have got this - no reason to come near.

HECTOR

If I recall, I helped you find money
From my connections in Washington, buddy.
Using the cash as something to lean on.
You're out of jurisdiction, if only you'd listen
You’d be seen as a leader and not as a fraud.
Scurry off you rabid dog.
Attacking things any shape at all
DANA
When you don’t see a problem, how can you fix it?
Everyone chiming in out of their element
When making a decision aimed to represent
No one has the credentials, but opinions are laminate!
But I can no longer deny, despite your lies,
It’ll all be easier with someone like you by my side.
It seems our interests slightly align.
No matter the amount of frustration, no more hesitation
Will let this subside.

HECTOR
Oh, you mad?
I think I know what that’s about
The fact that a Mexican has more political clout.
You know how many presidents elected we helped out?
JFK, LBJ Without a doubt
We’ll never stop this path we’re on
Could’ve helped you too
If you didn’t represent what was wrong!
Been dragging feet from 1970 and beyond.

JAMES
Now it’s 1975, the courts have finally decided
You're out of time, you're not the pilot
This jet is taking off with a plan to fully desegregate
Busing kids is no longer up for debate.
HECTOR
Years robbing education from these kids.
You left me with no option but to say yes and help you fix
all of this.
But listen when I tell you these words:
It’s not for you, it’s not for them;
Or anyone with you.
It’s strictly for the justice of my people.

(REPORTERS rush to the stage to interview DANA
WILLIAMS)

REPORTER #1
Dr. Williams, now that the judgement has come down
How will you bring peace back into the town?

DANA
It's my pleasure to serve my entire community.
So glad that we were able to find the unity.
And just to prove that I have no venom
I'm committed to making sure all feel welcome.

(REPORTERS and DANA continue a mimed conversation with
answers back and forth as HECTOR looks on.)

HECTOR
Despite all of the time and the amount that you've whined
You've conceded your position and you seem just fine
But you understand the defeated
cause now you're greeted
by the same people that you've pushed to the side
You've made it hard, can't pretend
Spoke your mind and you'd offend
causing trouble for a people
who are just trying to live

(Lights go to black except on HECTOR who stands
centerstage)

I am no troublemaker, society is
I worked inside the system to solve the problems within

Now I take a breath, I feel a sense of ease
When we're all educated, we can do as we please
So please take this lesson,
and use it for correction
so we can further down the line
of progression

I'm Mexican
No Dog
We've fought for our freedom
I know we belong

I'm Mexican
No Dog
We've fought for our freedom
I know we belong

I'm American
after all
We’ve fought for our freedom
I know we belong.

I'm American
after all
We’ve fought for our freedom
I know we belong.

(Lights fade to black. HECTOR exits the stage and
the actors who portrayed different roles in the

MONICA
Dr. Hector P. Garcia accomplished so much with his life.

He was a man of service.

He was a man of action.

He lived his life with purpose and relentlessly pursued the
only resolution for that purpose: eradicating racism and
bigotry so that his brothers and sisters of Latino
ethnicities might achieve the full and equal status
guaranteed in the United States Constitution. He believed
that education was the great equalizer and would never rest
until the opportunities and access would be available to
the children of the Latino people.

ERICA
His life’s work resulted in Latino children receiving the
necessary educational opportunities that paved the way for
those children to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, scientists. No longer did Latino children

DIANA
His life’s work resulted in Latino’s affecting the outcome of elections. His life’s work resulted in having Hispanic Americans put in positions of power in important federal appointments. His life’s work resulted in the voices of his people being heard in the halls of Washington DC.

SARAH
His life’s work resulted in providing Latinos – who were previously denied access to the ballot alongside other minorities – an equal opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice. His life’s work resulted in more Latino’s winning elections in city halls, county commissions and state and federal offices across the United States.

LAKEITA
Throughout his life, he served on federal and state commissions, spoke to the US Congress on all types of issues facing the Latino citizens. He was a trusted advisor to presidents, governors and many leaders in the United States.

MONICA
Dr. Hector served as the United States Ambassador at the United Nations, appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson specifically to improve relations between the United States and Latin America. He was the first member of the US delegation to address the UN General Assembly in a language
other than English. The Russian Delegation experienced firsthand the power of the Spanish language with his speech before the assembly on nuclear proliferation and Latin America. They could not believe an American could speak so eloquently in a language other than English.

ERICA
Dr. Hector used his political clout and connections to save the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi when it was planned for closure. He impressed the brass in Washington by reciting the service of the veterans who worked at the base and how its closure would affect the lives of the men and women who served their country through military service. In doing so, he saved the city of Corpus Christi from losing one of its economic engines and one of its largest employers.

DIANA
Dr. Hector received the highest honor given to a citizen: in 1984, President Ronald Reagan granted him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, saying “Over the years, he has faithfully represented our government on numerous occasions overseas and domestically. Dr. Hector Garcia was a credit to his family and community and to all Americans. Through his efforts, based on a deep belief in traditional American ideals, he has made this a better country.”

SARAH
When the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized in 2006, it was named in honor of many civil rights leaders. Texas Senator John Cornyn made sure that Dr. Hector P. Garcia’s name was
added to the name of that bill, stating “Dr. Garcia led the way in fighting for civil rights and equality for Hispanic Americans. He answered the call of duty at every opportunity, serving his country in the military and making immense contributions in the medical field.”

LAKEITA
Dr. Hector’s life should be an inspiration to us all. His passion for his people, his dedication for the betterment of the United States lives on through each and every one of us. May his accomplishments be a reminder that an immigrant from humble beginnings can change the lives of so many people. And literally change the world.

(Reprise of “Bleed”).