

The Kennedys

Book, music, and lyrics by Daniel Wolf

Orchestration and additional music by Nathan Loften

Cast of Characters

John F. Kennedy (JFK)	Larry O'Brien
Jackie Bouvier/Kennedy	Arthur Schlesinger
Robert F. Kennedy (Bobby)	Debate moderator
Joseph P. Kennedy (Joe)	Leonard Hall (Nixon's manager)
Edward M. Kennedy (Teddy)	Dallas businessman
Pat Kennedy/Lawford	Kennedy/Nixon supporters
Eunice Kennedy/Shiver	Newspaper reporter
Peter Lawford	Wedding guests
Rose Kennedy	Woman interviewed on street
Hubert Humphrey	Man interviewed on street
Richard M. Nixon	Janet (Jackie's assistant)
Lyndon Johnson	Evelyn Lincoln (JFK's secretary)
Stuart Symington	Television voiceover
Adlai Stevenson	Kennedy household servant
George Scott (campaign manager)	Master of Ceremonies
Frank Waldrop (newspaper editor)	Earl Warren (Chief Justice)
Ted Sorensen	Audience plant

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Suggested Roles

With the doubling and tripling of parts, *The Kennedys* can be performed with a cast of 13.

1. John F. Kennedy
2. Jackie Bouvier/Kennedy
3. Robert F. Kennedy
4. Joseph P. Kennedy, man interviewed on street, George Scott
5. Edward M. Kennedy, reporter, voiceover
6. Pat Kennedy/Lawford, woman interviewed on street
7. Eunice Kennedy/Shriver, Janet
8. Rose Kennedy, Evelyn Lincoln
9. Peter Lawford, debate moderator, Dallas businessman
10. Hubert Humphrey, Frank Waldrop, Earl Warren, Kennedy servant
11. Ted Sorenson, Nixon, Stuart Symington
12. Larry O'Brien, Lyndon Johnson, Leonard Hall
13. Arthur Schlesinger, man interviewed on street, Adlai Stevenson

Various players can also serve as pedestrians, wedding guests, and Kennedy/ Nixon supporters.

1. Overture

Act I

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

Jackie Bouvier, 23 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 near the sidewalk. Cherry blossoms are in full bloom. A woman stands alone, checking her watch, waiting for someone.

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

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 try a man this time.

A businessman enters and 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: Sorry, I only read the Post.

Jackie: That's quite alright. 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 (25), enter. Sorensen wears his iconic dark frame glasses. JFK stops to look at Jackie.

Sorensen: Senator, we must hurry.

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 on the bench.

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?

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 in Paris. But I turned it down.

Janet: Why'd 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.

2. 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.

Jackie: (*sings*) And awake
I fill up each day
Hoping fate will shine
And light the way
And let me know
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. Newspapers are scattered on the desk. A few chairs are in front of the desk. Jackie knocks on the door.

Waldrop: *(looking down)* Come in.

Jackie opens the door and enters.

Jackie: You sent for me, Mr. Waldrop?

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

She sits.

You know, all Washington is going crazy for the Inquiring Camera Girl. To tell 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, is that what you thought?

Jackie: Well, I...

Waldrop: No, see 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 people doing that. 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: *(deflated)* I get it.

Waldrop: Good. *(sits)* So tomorrow we have you scheduled to meet a young senator. *(fumbles through papers on his desk)* I have the name here somewhere. Oh, here it is. *(reads)* 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 visits him in his office.

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

Jackie: Mr. Waldrop? (*pause*) 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!

3. What a Joy to be (John F. Kennedy)

Scene 3: Senator Kennedy's Office

J.F.K. sits at his desk. He pulls out a hand held mirror and admires himself as he combs his hair. There is a sofa across from his desk and a mirror behind his desk. He wears a long sleeve white shirt and tie. A sports jacket lies over the desk chair. There is an open window. The sun shines through it. Evelyn Lincoln, his secretary, sits typing in the reception area. A door separates the reception area from JFK's office.

JFK: (*looks in mirror, 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)* Thank you, Mrs. Lincoln. Tell her I'll be right out.

He stands up, puts on his jacket, and looks into the mirror behind his desk where-upon he straightens his tie and jacket. 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.

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: 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. May I sit down?

JFK: Please.

Jackie sits on the sofa and looks through her notepad while JFK leans against his desk.

Let's start with this one. Who do you most admire?

JFK: Without a doubt- Eleanor Roosevelt.

Jackie: Why is that?

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's 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 now my last question. In your opinion, what do women desire most?

JFK: *(laughs)* Well, that's easy. Me!

Jackie: *(looks up at the ceiling, exasperated. Stands up)* 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.

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, high voice)* I can see it fine from here.

4. 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

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?

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 Mccaulay Culkin in the Home Alone poster.

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. There are a few steps leading up to the front door with potted plants around the entrance. All are dressed for sports: sweatshirts, loose fitting pants, shorts, sneakers. A round table and chairs are on the side. On the table is a bowl of fruit, some snacks, and drinks.

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 step. She wears a skirt, blouse, and casual shoes.

Jackie: Jack, I'm here!

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

Jackie: Hello? Hello?

Bobby, Eunice, Teddy cheer for Pat.

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.

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

Bobby looks 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. Come on, let me introduce you *(takes her hand, leads her to the others)*.

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.

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 (64) and Rose (60) 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.

Rose exits.

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

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

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 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 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?

JFK, Bobby, Ted, Pat, and Eunice 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.

Servant exits.

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.

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 with English.

Servant enters. Puts drinks on the table.

Servant: Would that be all?

Joe: That's fine, thank you.

Servant exits.

Jackie: Well, you've certainly come a long way from the back streets of Boston. First Chairman 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 a success 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: For President? *(pause)* Did I ever mention you have drive? *(thinking)* 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.

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; 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.

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. His clothes are dirty from playing football.

JFK: Jackie, are you alright?

Jackie: I'm 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.

Holds her shoulders.

JFK: Look at me. I love you. I love you very, very much. Now I have to go change for dinner. *(walks to the entrance steps and turns around)* Oh, you should have seen me. I scored two touchdowns.

Jackie: Jack?

JFK: What?

Jackie: What's a touchdown?

JFK laughs then goes inside. Lights dim to early evening.

5. 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 and stand behind Jackie.

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 to love someone 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 3-4 round tables with space reserved for the dance floor. Up center is a standing mic. At one table sit JFK's parents, Bobby, Teddy, and 2 ornate seats reserved for JFK and Jackie. Other 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. The master of ceremonies (MC) receives a signal and speaks into a standing microphone.

MC: 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 while an abridged "Here Comes the Bride" is played. Both are dressed similarly to what they wore at their actual wedding. JFK shakes hands while Jackie kisses and hugs family and guests.

MC: Will everyone please be seated as I introduce our special guest.

All take their seats. Two seats are reserved for JFK and Jackie near the bandstand.

Ladies and gentleman, it gives me great pleasure to introduce, direct from Hollywood, Mr. Peter Lawford!

All cheer and applaud as Lawford rises and walks towards the space in the middle. He shakes JFK's hand and kisses Jackie on the cheek before speaking into the standing mic.

Lawford: Wait, Wait. Where are my backup singers? Come on up, girls.

Pat and Eunice rise amidst applause and cheers and stand behind Lawford.

(to JFK) Didn't know you had such a talented family did you, Jack?

JFK smiles and shakes his head "No".

This song is specifically dedicated to you. May you have a long and wonderful life together.

6. 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. It's time to go
We hesitate and hope the train is slow

Lawford, Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)

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

Lawford: (*sings*)

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.

Lawford, Pat, Eunice: (*sing*)

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

Lawford (*sings*)

And every day's the same in this crazy world
Fighting for a dime

Lawford, Pat, and Eunice: (*sing*)

and the time to be with you

All cheer and applaud.

Lawford: Thank you.

Lawford, Pat, and Eunice descend bandstand, trade some pleasantries with JFK and Jackie, then return to their seats. JFK and Jackie begin walking toward their seats. Bobby clings his glass.

Bobby: Speech! Speech!

All: Speech! Speech!

JFK and Jackie stop, say a few words to each other, turn back, and ascend bandstand amid cheers and applause.

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. MC hands her a tissue.

Jackie: *(to MC)* Thank you.

7. A Wedding Vow

Throughout the song Jackie is the typical blushing bride, alternating between laughing and crying. She holds the tissue to wipe away an occasional tear.

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.

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 dance. Guests clap and cheer.

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 to wild cheers and applause.

Scene 6: JFK's Living Room. Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. October 28, 1959

JFK, Joe, and Bobby stand and converse among themselves. Three advisers are also present: Ted Sorensen, Larry O'Brien (42) and Arthur Schlesinger Jr. (42). They also stand and talk among themselves. There are two sofas and some chairs, end tables and lamps around the room. On the back wall are bookshelves and a fireplace. There is a coffee table between the sofas on which are glasses and ashtrays. Some hold drinks. All are dressed casually except for Schlesinger who wears a long sleeve white shirt and his signature bowtie. There are stairs leading 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)*

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 Party's nomination for President. Bobby's agreed to be my campaign manager.

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

Sorensen: When do you intend to do this?

JFK: Next year, 1960.

Sorensen: Jack, excuse me, but 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.

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 a lot of 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.

8. 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
 They told me

with upper class affectation

“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
Kennedys can win
So I decided

with strong Irish accent

(*speaks*) 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

Sung like an old Irish drinking song, glasses raised, arms around each other.

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!
(speaks)

JFK, Bobby, Joe: *(sing)*

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

Sung like an old Irish drinking song, glasses raised.

So let's get started

JFK, Bobby and Joe converse inaudibly while Sorensen, O'Brien, and Schlesinger 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.

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 problem. Now let's think of a solution.

Tick tock music plays as advisers continue their discussion inaudibly. Conversation is heard when 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'll deal with it.

Sorensen: As you wish. (to *JFK*) Senator, I think we're ready.

All rise.

JFK: Let's hear it.

Schlesinger: Alright, I'll tell you. (*pause*) Do I have to sing?

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

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. First Sorensen, then O'Brien, and finally Schlesinger hum the note 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: (*sings reluctantly*) 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 reacts star-struck.

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

O'Brien: (*sings*) Take them on in every town

Schlesinger: (*with much drama, sings*)

Let the word go forth from here.

JFK: "Let the word go forth." I kinda like that.

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!

Scene 7: Hubert Humphrey's Campaign Headquarters in West Virginia.

Senator Hubert Humphrey (49) of Minnesota enters his campaign headquarters followed by his campaign manager, George Scott (51). Humphrey, though gregarious, is a plain looking man. He has thinning hair on top. Around the office are "Humphrey for President" and "West Virginia for Humphrey" signs. There are tables and chairs. On one table is a telephone and a photograph within a frame showing a man and a woman.

Humphrey: West Virginia. How could I lose West Virginia? 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 gonna 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.

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.

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 but 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...

9. 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

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: Are you done?

Scott: Done? I didn't even start!

Humphrey: Oy, my life.

Scott: 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: Oh, yeah? I can't beat Kennedy? Watch this, baby!

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

Humphrey walks across stage towards a table on which is a photograph. On the way he hits his leg on a chair.

(speaks): Will somebody move this!

(sings) And my friends
I've got friends

He holds up the photograph showing a man and a woman.

Here's Phil and Mabel Johnson
From Duluth

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

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

Music continues.

Humphrey: *(speaks)* Just watch as I make a few phone calls to some of my most ardent supporters. *(sits at the table 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 as you know. *(pause)* What? 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)* You're what? *(pause)* 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!

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 8: Kennedy Suite at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, July 13, 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, Lawford, Sorensen, O'Brien, and Schlesinger. There is an adjacent bedroom. Jackie sits at the edge of a sofa looking pensive while the rest are cheerful and celebratory. All are watching the television.

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 is about to enter the suite but is confronted by a reporter.

Reporter: Senator! Senator!

JFK: Yes.

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.

JFK 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 win. 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 just walk into that hall and get 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: What's that?

Bobby: Take a look.

JFK looks closely at the television.

JFK: Is that Teddy?

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 is proud to cast all 15 of its delegates for the next President

All in room begin to cheer except Jackie.

of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy!

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.

Sorensen: 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 arms, almost in tears)* You did it! I'm so proud of you, son. You can't imagine.

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

Joe: Me? What I do? Pulled a few strings, 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. *(to everyone)* Go on. Go on.

All continue celebrating. JFK calls out "Jackie! Jackie!"

JFK: Jackie! Jackie! *(to Bobby)* Where is she?

Bobby: I think something's wrong. She's 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, all Hollywood is behind you.

JFK: I appreciate it.

Schlesinger holds up a glass.

Schlesinger: 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.

JFK 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.

-

10. 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 has many 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

JFK leads Jackie, sing:

We live our lives
From day to day.

They 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.

Scene 9: The next day in the Kennedy suite.

JFK is interviewing Senator Stuart Symington (59) of Missouri as a possible running mate. JFK sits on one sofa holding a pen and a briefing book while Symington sits on a smaller sofa. There is a coffee table between the sofas upon which are papers, a telephone, and an intercom.

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

Symington: Challenge them where-ever they attempt to advance communism. Still, we should not be afraid to negotiate but *only* from a position of strength.

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. Therefore, (*stands*) I would be honored

Symington stands.

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 the 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?

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

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

Bobby: But 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 sits head in hand, dreading his meeting with Johnson. There are three booming knocks on the door. JFK stands.

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?

JFK: *(angry)* Pal? What 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 "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, hand over his heart)* 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. *(hand over heart)* I speak to their heart-give them poor 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 three piece(guitar, fiddler, bass) bluegrass band enters. They set up and tune 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.

JFK sits.

Johnson: Hit it!

11. 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 coffee table. 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. Finally, unable to control himself any longer, he rises 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
Everything will turn our right

Sometimes in the winter, when you
Miss her and the sun won't shine, well
Everything will turn out right
Everything will turn out right.

How often when you're walkin'
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

Band: (*sing*)

Everything will turn out right

Johnson: (*sings*) Everything will turn out right

Band: (*sings*) All right!

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

Band: (*sing*)

Everything will turn out right.

Johnson: (*sings*) Everything will turn out right

Band: (*sings*) All 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

Johnson, band: (*sing*)

Everything will turn out right.
Everything will turn out right

Johnson (*sings*) All right!

Johnson, band: (*sing*) 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."

JFK rises from chair and joins Johnson.

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'
Then along comes a sailor
Who reminds you winds will gather

They stare long and hard at each other.

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 10: The Democratic National Convention. July 15, 1960.

On a platform 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 moves to the podium. Johnson, Symington, Humphrey, and Stevenson take seats behind JFK. The noise dims.

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.

12. 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
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
It's time 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
So rare has there been such a choice
Between greatness
And national decline

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

JFK, Johnson, Stevenson, Symington and Humphrey descend platform and move downstage center. They are joined by the Kennedy family (Jackie, Bobby, Joe, Rose, Teddy, Peter and Pat Lawford, Sargent and Eunice Shriver) who enter from the wings. Delegates stand behind principal players.

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

ACT II

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

A television studio. JFK stands at a podium stage right. Bobby sits going over some notes. In the center sits the moderator. Stage left is a podium for Nixon who has not arrived yet. Leonard Hall, Nixon's campaign manager, paces nervously near Nixon's podium.

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 walks to 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.

Nixon: 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: Style. The American people have got to know that when it comes to style 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 a distinguished panel of journalists. 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 and half free. I think it will depend in great measure on what we do here in the United States. If we do well then I think freedom will be secure around the world. If we fail freedom fails. Therefore, I think the question is: are we doing as much as we can? I should make it very clear that I do not think we are doing enough. 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! So tonight I'd like to present another side of Richard Nixon. A side, I think, you will all come to enjoy. *(talks deeply into the microphone)* I hope you like it.

Nixon moves center stage.

13. 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?" Bobby from his chair looks equally perplexed.

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

Hall: *(speaks)*

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

Scene 2: On the Campaign Trail.

JFK stands on a platform stage right. Nixon stands on another platform stage left. 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. Both candidates speak into hand held microphones.

14. On the Campaign Trail

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.

JFK: Now in 1960 the cause of all mankind is the cause of America. 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 table waiting for JFK to enter. He reads memos, writes notes, and tries to organize some papers. There is a coffee table on which are ashtrays, glasses, a telephone, and a small football. There is an adjacent bedroom. JFK enters but is besieged by a reporter.

Reporter: Senator! Senator!

JFK: Last question.

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.

JFK shuts the door and falls into a sofa. Bobby remains standing.

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 due to his bad back. Bobby offers his hand)*. It's OK. *(stands)* What I mean is, I've learned something more valuable.

Bobby: What's that, Jack?

15. 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
JFK (*sings*) My brother

Bobby: (*sings*) And when skies are grey
 And when skies are grey

JFK: (*sings*) And I'm feeling low
 Bobby: (*sings*) And I'm feeling low

JFK: (*sings*) It's good to know you are there beside me
 Bobby: (*sings*) Beside me

JFK: (*sings*) Should there come a time
 Bobby: (*sings*) Should there come a time

JFK: (*sings*) When you're not there
 The thought of you will stay within me

Bobby: (*sings*) You kid me
 JFK: (*sings*) Precisely

 I often read in the press
 With everything you make a mess
 Bobby: (*sings*) Of course, I learned from the best
 You're my brother

JFK: (*sings*) No matter if we win or lose
 At least I found someone who
 I'm proud to say, this part is true
 You're my brother

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

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

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

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

Bobby, Teddy, Joe, Rose, Eunice, Pat, Peter Lawford, Sorensen, Schlesinger, and O'Brien sit, stand, mull around watching the election returns on television. Jackie is not present. Audience sees back of TV. Bobby stands arms crossed while Sorensen and O'Brien talk 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.

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.

JFK walks up the stairs, enters the bedroom, and closes the door while all continue to watch television.

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 seated 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: No, you tell him. You're his advisor.

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.

16. Mr. President

Sorensen walks slowly to the landing and then up the stairs to the bedroom door. He pauses halfway up and looks down at Schlesinger and O'Brien. 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.

17. The Inauguration (A New Frontier finale)

Scene 5: Inauguration Day, January 20, 1961

"A New Frontier" is played as dignitaries enter and ascend to the East Portico of the Capitol Building. They are JFK, Jackie, Johnson, Nixon, Humphrey, Symington, and Chief Justice Earl Warren. Spectators watch the proceedings from below. Dignitaries remain standing as 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 (inaudible).

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 his swearing in, Johnson shakes hands with the Chief Justice, JFK, Jackie, Eisenhower, and Nixon. 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, and Nixon, as

spectators continue singing. JFK steps to the podium as dignitaries sit in the historic order. From stage right: Jackie, Eisenhower (JFK standing), Johnson, Nixon, and Warren.

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

JFK: (*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.

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18. 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

Together: *(to audience, sing)*

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

Jackie: *(sings)* We will try to be
Exemplary
JFK: *(sings)* 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.

Attendant enters stage left. She helps Jackie put on a jacket and hat 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 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 empty space. JFK and Jackie hold hands and walk. Three chords will be played. After the first chord a businessman enters.

Businessman: Welcome to Dallas, Mr. President.

Second chord is played.

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. 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 JFK, Jackie (wearing her iconic sunglasses), Johnson, and Nixon.

19. 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

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

Jackie: (*sings*) Back to New York
 Worked in publishing
Holds her chest area.
 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.

Nixon raises his arms and gives the V sign with his fingers

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

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

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 smile, hug, and embrace each other.

Nixon: How you doin', Jack? Great to see you again.

JFK: I'm good. And you?

Nixon: Getting by.

Johnson: (*to Nixon*) Will you get outta the way? Let me say hello.

Nixon steps aside.

 How ya doin', buddy? Sure had some good times, didn't we?

JFK: We sure did.

Johnson: Well, gotta be goin'. Now you take care of yourself. (*to Nixon*)
 Come on, Dick.

Nixon: See you again, Jack.

JFK: Bye.

Johnson and Nixon exit. JFK stands downstage some distance from Jackie. He looks despondent. Jackie removes her glasses.

Jackie: Jack.

JFK looks at Jackie.

 Let's go.

JFK joins Jackie. They exit.

End of Play

20. Bows

Supporting cast members bow then sing. Parenthetically, Schlesinger enters wearing sunglasses as he's still star-struck.

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

Principal players bow and join in singing refrain.

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.

Singing stops. Audience waits for JFK to give signal. JFK gives signal.

All: *(sing)*

Of unlimited dreams

21. Exit Music