The Department of Music &
Musical Theatre Workshop

Present

Working

From the Book by STUDS TERKEL

Adapted by STEPHEN SCHWARTZ and NINA FASO

Songs by
CRAIG CARNELIA
MICKI GRANT
MARY RODGERS and SUSAN BIRKENHEAD
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
JAMES TAYLOR

Dance Music by MICHELE BROURMAN
Original production directed by STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
PROGRAM

The Department of Music & Musical Theatre Workshop
Present

Working

Directed by Dr. Darrell Mullins
Musical Director Dr. William Folger

From The Book By Studs Terkel
Adapted By Stephen Schwartz & Nina Faso

Songs By
Craig Carnelia
Micki Grant
Mary Rodgers & Susan Birkenhead
Stephen Schwartz
James Taylor

Dance Music By Michele Brourman

The characters in Working are non-fictional characters. Their names have been changed, but their words have not. Even in the case of song lyrics, the writers have tried to remain as faithful as possible to the character’s original words.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Directed by Dr. Darrell Mullins
Musical Direction by Dr. William Folger
Choreography by Leigh Usilton
Lighting Design by Dr. Darrell Mullins
CAST

ACT I

Voice Sharda Pinder
Mike Dillard, ironworker Cedrick Hardnett
Al Calinda, parking lot attendant Terron Quailes
Amanda McKenny, project manager Courtney Stratemeyer
Corporate executive Stephanie Little
Rose Hoffman, schoolteacher Christie Stone
Babe Secoli, supermarket checker Kimberly Barnhill
Checker Michele Haile
Roberto Nunez, boxboy Jonathan Thiel
& migrant worker
Soloist Catherine Depperschmidt
Conrad Swibel, UPS delivery man Cedrick Hardnett
Kate Rushton, housewife Allison Bewley
Roberta Victor, hooker Emily Matthews
Candy Cottingham, political fundraiser Christen Fields-Carr
Grace Clements, millworker Stephanie Little
Soloist Alyssa Mullins
“If I Could’ve Been” Voices Kaycie Goddard
Rhonda Woolford
ACT II

Anthony Coelho, stone mason
Frank Decker, interstate trucker
Heather Lamb, telephone operator
Sharon Atkins, receptionist
Enid Dubois, telephone solicitor
Delores Dante, waitress
Joe Zutty, retired
Maggie Holmes, cleaning woman
Ralph Werner, salesman
Charlie Blossom, ex-copy boy
Dr. William Folger
Terron Quailes
Laura Murphy
Kimberly Palenchar
Sarah Nikolic
Rebecca Norris
Dr. Darrell Mullins
Christen Fields-Carr
Cedrick Hardnett
Jonathan Thiel

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Opening (Tape)
All the Livelong Day Solo, Men, Women
Hey, Somebody Reprise No. 1 All
Traffic Jam All
Lovin’ Al Al and backup trio
Nobody Tells Me How Rose
I’m Just Movin’ Babe, other Checkers
Un Mejor Dia Vendora Roberto, Spanish Workers
Just a Housewife Kate, Housewives
Millwork Singer
If I Could’ve Been All
ACT II

Hey, Somebody Reprise No. 2
Mason - Singer
Brother Trucker - Frank, Dave, Singers
It’s An Art (The Waitress) - Delores, Customers
Joe - Joe
Cleaning Women - Maggie, Cleaning Women
Fathers and Sons - Mike
Something to Point To - All

ORCHESTRA

Keyboards - Susan Zimmer
Bass - Johnny Kearse
Percussion - Marc Fernandez
Our country is facing difficult times, especially from the perspective of the unemployed, many of whom were forced out of jobs because of the shrinking economy, the stock market free-fall and the demise of the housing market. Many of us take our jobs for granted until we are laid off. Jobs are the life-blood of society. The myriad of vocations are symbiotic in function as the mechanism of modern culture. Individual occupations, regardless of how insignificant they may seem, contribute to the welfare of the entire community. When we shop in the grocery store, how many of us think about the hard-working and underpaid migrant workers who pick the lettuce and carrots? As we shop online for electronics or books and click three-five business-day service, do we consider the truckers who will drive the goods from California to New York? Do we think of the thousands of construction workers who built the skyscrapers in which we ascend each day to our offices?

*Working* is a collection of stories of a group of individual Americans who sing or speak about their occupations within a 24-hour work-day cycle. The monologues and musical numbers closely reflect the interviews recorded by Studs Terkel who traveled the country speaking with workers in a variety of fields. An eclectic group of songs by a star-studded list of composers helps to tell the American worker’s story of “workin’ at a livin’ the whole day long.” Each musical number incorporates a different style—rock-n’-roll, country, funk and folk—to depict the individual stories. A second theme, “what you do is what you are,” weaves its way through the exhortations of pride, exasperation, fulfillment, regret, assuredness, stability and insecurity that permeate the lyrics and monologues.

Unlike book musicals *Working* is unified only by its themes and carefully crafted juxtaposition of song and monologue texts that provide a smooth segue between scenes and musical numbers. Three pillars: the opening number, closing number of Act I and the final number of Act II support the overall structure much like the iron I-beams in buildings. “America singing” opens the show introducing many of the jobs that keep the country thriving “all the live-long day!” Act I ends with a less-than optimistic view in “If I Could’ve Been.” If only I “swam a few rivers, climbed a few hills, I could’ve done big things.” Now only dreams remain of “where I could have gone.” Workers realize they need to be in charge of their destiny and in control of the story of their lives. “Something to Point To” ends the show optimistically with an expression of pride of accomplishment in the product of work, the material evidence of a job well-done. “Everyone should have something to point to, some way to be tall in the crowd.”

William M. Folger
Music Director
Sound and Lighting  Mid-South Audio

WORKING

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