

#1

1952 - DR. LEW (see '30s/40s Archiveography - Part 1) **IS NOW A SEMI-RETIRED EYE DOCTOR.** Dr. Lew must know - teen age David don't really need glasses. David wants glasses for strategic moments - like actors on tv'n inna movies. Well - I'll tell you he says - glasses off - pause - I don't think so - glasses on. Dr. Lew's own old eyes are magnified behind thick lenses. Double magnified behind a 2nd setta lenses. On silver rods. Holt yaw hant on yaw left eye ant reat ze - gulp - lettas. David has 20/20 vision. Too bad. Clever Dr. Lew says - zo, you haf headache ven you reat - gulp - yess? He gulps air midsentence. Dr. Lew prescribes rose color lenses. David loves the idea of rose-colored lenses - but - he's persuaded - ordered - to choose blue-grey metallic frames. Good color - fashion maven aunt Yetta says - for teenage boys. Rose agrees. Fannie agrees. David hates those frames. Wantsa sit on 'em or lose 'em.

#2

Inna '70s David startsta really need glasses to read'n then to see.

He's angry - as he is about most things - about really needing eyeglasses.

#1

← **1950 - David sees *Sunset Boulevard* - a movie about movies -** about movies at a time he don't know about - never thinks about - about the history of movies - about screenwriter or directors - about Billy Wilder - David don't think about movie makers - only movie stars - David says - but he never hearda Gloria Swanson - or Erich Von Stroheim - never saw actors who act like that - don't know what that is - or who to ask.



#2

I beginta hang out - David says - in dusty book shops on 4th Avenue - ↑ - smell of another world - of old photographs'n yellowed paper - old books'n magazines - dust'n mildew - I spend hours'n saved up dollars - begin to buy - affordable bits'n pieces - begin a scrapbook - don't show it to nobody. Gloria Swanson scrapbook. Feel foolish. Don't tell nobody what I'm doing.

Till the late '50s - David never hears a music concert - sees a play in a theater - or a painting in a museum - but he spendsa lotta time in old book stores on 4th Avenue.

#1



David – **in the early '50s** – borrows 8 library books a week - that's the most ya can take outta Seward Park Library -
 ← listens to Bob and Ray - **onna radio** - or *The Shadow* -

#2



← or Agnes Moorehead - in *Sorry Wrong Number* -
 or sits huddled with the Gordon family inna darkened living room -
 n'sees Milton Berle **on TV** - dressed as Carmen Miranda
 or watches - Gorgeous George wrestling -
onna 1st black n'white 7 inch ↓ TeleTone TV.



1948 Tele-Tone TV-149 7" (USA)



#1

1955 - The CBS logo - **THE EYE** -
 David finds out in Brooklyn College -
 ← is designed by his Art department teacher -
 Jimmy Ernst - son of artist Max Ernst .

#2

Also inna '50s - '30s'n 40s Hollywood movie stars -
 get less film work - move to the TV screen - present weekly series - or star in TV theater presentations - which kids like David watch - if they ain't watching -
Your Show of Shows with Sid Caesar'n Imogene Coca or - Ralph Edwards' *This Is Your Life* - or who knows what?





#1

Same time - **Senator McCarthy's RED SCARE'N BLACK LIST** - disappears other Hollywood movie actors - and if ya teenage eyes ain't wide open - David Gordon's teenage eyes fa sure ain't - he don't know till he startsta to look at old movies - **inna '60s'n '70s** - n'he startsta say - wait a minute - whatever happened to GALE SONDERGAARD - or JOHN GARFIELD - or - ZERO MOSTEL - or - BURGESS MEREDITH - or - SAM JAFFE - or - PAUL ROBESON - or - MARSHA HUNT - or - EDWARD G. ROBINSON - or - CANADA LEE - or - LEE GRANT - or - LIONEL STANDER - or who knows who?



etcetera.



#2

And - what about all the writers - n'producers and directors - who mighta written - produced'n directed - all the kindsa movies - that mighta made - a difference to the young David - and all the other young Davids - and why did it take old David - 25 years - till he sees Woody Allen - in *The Front* - in 1976 - to figure out - who knows what?



#1

Inna 1950s - David meets Helen Lee Seitelman at Seward Park High School.

↪ 350 Grand Street between Ludlow'n Essex - on the site of the old Ludlow Street Jail.
 Mr. Seitelman - Solomon Seitelman - Helen's father is David's teacher in junior high - David says.
 Helen lives in Knickerbocker Village on Grand Street - past the Henry Street Settlement.
 Closer to East River Drive - where the fancier kids live.
 Helen's shorter'n smarter than me - David says - and gets better grades.
 She really wears real glasses to see - not like the rose-colored fakes I wear for the effect.
 If I knew anything about love in high school - he says - I'd hafta think'n say - we loved each other.
 Fa sure nobody liked us - at that time - as much as we liked each other.

#2

How does the David I remember - know howta ask for a date? And how much a date costs?
 And where to go? Dunno. He asks Rose fa money. She gives him a dollar.
 Ah ma, where can ya take a girl with a dollar? You're too young to date - Rosie says.
 Before bed - David takes a pencil inna toilet. Writes tiny on a piece of toilet paper.
 Dear daddy - need money to go to movie on date with Helen.
 Folds it very small. Wraps it around Sam's toothbrush. So Rosie can't see.
 Sam wakes for work inna Post Office at 4:30 in the morning.
 Gone when David wakes - but there's \$5. Under the bedroom dresser cover.
 David takes Helen uptown onna subway to see ↓ *Quo Vadis*.

#1

Helen wears her aunt's hand-me-down - black flower-print dress - and - the same aunts slightly too big high heel black suede pumps.
 David wears 1 of Sam's old white on white shirts and 1 of his ties.
 They don't say so - neither of 'em - onna 1st date.

#2

Rosie's up - reading at the kitchen table - when David gets home.
 Hadda good time? Yeah. Wheredya go?
 Grand Street Settlement square dance. 50 cents.
 David lies and lies. Hasta remember he went square dancing.
 And no - he never saw *Quo Vadis*.
 Rose says - what did ya do after? Shared an egg cream.
 He hasta never mention *Quo Vadis*.
 Or his favorite part - Peter Ustinov as Nero.
 Remember - David says - I lie about everything.

#1

Sam comes home from work'n wrinkles his nose. It's a signal.
 Did David find the money?
 Was it enough?
 David never asks if Sam has the money to give.
 Sam never asks what David does with it.
 They never talk about it.
 Or anything else - till David's 30 something and Sam almost dies.



#2

1951 - NAT KING COLE sings **TOO YOUNG** -

***They try to tell us we're too young - too young to really be in love -
they say that love's a word - a word we've only heard - and can't begin to know the meaning of...***

Teenage Helen and David have more dates - inna Loew's Delancey movie balcony

David slides his arm backa Helen's seat. Arm slides slow around her shoulder. Don't move.

What's happening is like a movie - while he's watching a movie.

He leans over'n kisses her neck. She turns her head'n he kisses her lips.

Slides his hand slow into her blouse'n into her brassiere. Holds his breath.

**Useta hold his breath'n slide a hand in a job lot carton - David says -
inna living room of father Sam's pushcart peddler father - grandpa Louie.**

Hold ya breath'n see what ya find. Take something outta the box. Look at it without moving.

Grandpa sees'n says - in Yiddish - ya wannit - take it. David looks at Sam - Sam's fierce eyes say no.

Later - Sam says - ya grandpa hasta sell what's inna box to make money - to make a living.

#1

Helen's warm breast is in David's hand. He feels her nipple'n she don't stop him.

She is so generous. He is so grateful.

#2

After the movie - back in Knickerbocker Village.

Helen's mother - father'n kid brother Leon are asleep.

We don't turn on any light in the living room. David and Helen "neck" on the couch.

Is David excited to be in the living room of Mr. Seitelman - the teacher?

Footsteps. Light. Mr. Seitelman enters in boxer shorts. Helen - he says - time for bed.

I'm surprised at his shorts. My father's shy to wear shorts. Even at home. Even in summer.

Mr. Seitelman don't worry I see his legs.

David's almost a high school senior when Helen startsta outgrow him.

Helen'n her girl friends starta date college freshmen.

They're gonna take the new boyfriends - they say - to Seward Park's high school prom.

#2

Okay - I won't go - David says. Okay - I WILL go - but who'll I go with?

Gotta make a dramatic prom entrance - like in a movie. With a girl nobody knows.

Fa sure it gotta be a girl Helen don't know. David meets Reva Wachtel.➔

Perfect - perfect pretty girl from another school!

A real and total stranger - in a white tulle dress - decorated with red pussy willows.

David rents a tux and buys a wrist corsage of red roses - dances close with Reva close to Helen.

Helen pays her - and him - no attention.

Before prom night Sam takes David to the Latin Quarter nightclub.

He holds \$20 in his hand - and shakes the headwaiter's hand.

This - he says - passing the dollars - is my son - he says - David Gordon.

He'll be coming from his prom with a party of his friends. I hope he gets a good table.

David arrives with Reva and 2 other couples.

Good evening, Mr. Gordon. The headwaiter bows. Follow me please. Thanks Sam

The prom's the enda high school and the beginning of college. David ain't prepared for either.





#1

1953 - David don't know what he wantsa do in college - or - after he gets out.

None of grandma Fannie's 5 daughters and 1 son -

all abandoned by philandering father Morris - go past high school -

← except David's mother Rose - who graduates from Hunter College.

Immigrant illiterate Fannie has ambitions for her 1st daughter - but Rose disappoints.

Rose Sylvia marries Samuel - In **1934** (see '30s/40s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1)

Sam - the handsome Marine - with a high IQ - leaves school at 11 or 12 to get a job.

it's David's job - Dudie's job ya know - 1st sonna Sam'n Rose - to prove something to Fannie - for Rosie's sake - for Sammie's sake.

#2

In high school David ain't a great student - gets B's n'C's in math and science - in physical education - **but he gets A's in Art'n English** - writes'n illustrates his own stories - n'poems - for the school magazine.

David loves high school English teacher Augusta Irving -

she firmly "un-recommends" books. Ain't allowed to suggest books - not inna school syllabus.

Do not dare read *Catcher in The Rye* by J.D. Salinger - she says. David races to the library.

He's accepted at Hunter College - switches to City -

Manhattan peers - including Helen go to Brooklyn College.

So David does too. He wins the high school Art Medal at graduation.

#1

Majors in English - minors in Education. Gonna switch to Art n'drop Education but he don't know it yet.

1st daya college - Art medal winner Gordon discovers he's red/green colorblind.

What number do you see? Where? →

Inna colored circle onna page inna booka colored circles - teacher says.

He don't see no number. Oh - wait a minute.

#2

Uh oh - he's color blind'n he tawks like a Noo Yawk Jew. Sez dis n'dat - gawna'n hafta.

Hasta go to Speech Clinic - they say. He shuts up - stops talking n'listens ta strangers inna street.

Ta actors inna movies'n on TV. Practices secretly tawkin in his head. In bed. Or inna toilet.

Gotta start ova so he's gonna choose howta sound. He has goals.

Abandon English major'n Education minor. Recognize color blue.

Get ridda braces on his teeth. Wear clothes some one else don't wear 1st.

Stop being Dudie?

Figure out who the hell David is away from Wunderlich/Gordon "shtetl". David sees a discount shrink -

don't tell Rose or Sam. Shrink says after 1 visit - **you think you're the only person in the world.**

Ah - that's my problem - David says - sees the shrink twice more'n stops.

#1

1953 - Doris Day sings - **Secret Love** - *Once I had a secret love that lived within the heart of me - all too soon that secret love - became impatient to be free...*

At Brooklyn College Helen'n me sorta get back together. I ain't any better at it 2nd time around.





#2

1955 - AD REINHARDT is an artist and teacher in Brooklyn College -

✎ He arrives at class - at the last minute - dressed always in black - like Italian widows. Wears black jackets - and black skinny ties - and dark gray workshirts.

His "black" paintings are extra mysterious - to the newly diagnosed - color blind David.

Reinhardt's final exam - a life changing event - begins with 3 questions -

I remember - David says - the back of Ad Reinhardt's black jacket -

and the motion of his black sleeved arm - against the blackboard -

and the white chalk in the fingers of his hand - as he printed on the blackboard -

What is Art?

What is is?

What is what?

I ask those questions - I ask myself those questions and I teach - when I hafta teach - David says - the asking of those questions - still.

✎ David takes pictures of Helen - in Central Park - with his new photography class camera ↓ .



David does try to get outta taking the photography class - inna Art Department at Brooklyn College. He can't.

✎ Professor Harry Holtzman insists. Holtzman's a frienda artist Piet Mondrian - he says so and no kidding - he is.

#2

For photography class - David hasta have a camera - and Sam buys a great camera - for David - in a fancy leather case.

Okay - yes - Sam ain't happy - about son David the "artist" -

#1

but he buys that damn camera - and - David uses that camera -

for the next 15 years - until it dies. Thanks Sam.

#2

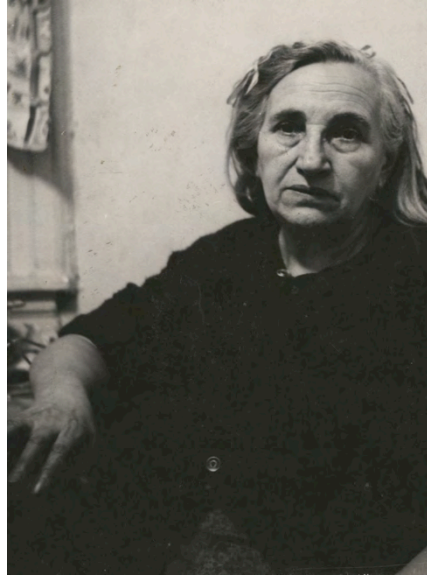
So - David takes pictures - inna kitchen'n the living room - and inna streets - everywhere.

David develops and prints in the art lab - and startsta understand how to frame images - inna camera - and howta reframe - or edit in the lab.

David's happiest hours - in Brooklyn College - if he admits to being "happy" - ever happy - are inna damn photography lab.

So - thanks to Sam for the camera - and thanks to Harry Holtzman - for insisting I take the bloody class - David says - it matters to everything ever after - howta look at a movie - howta look at a proscenium stage -

the store windows - everything David ever does - including 1950s Brooklyn College Art Department photos - of ✎ aunt Ruth - ↓ brother Barry and ↘ grandma Fannie.



#1

1953 - Helen keeps growing up faster than me - David says - knows who she is - or wantsa be. Then - Helen's gonna marry an accountant - she says - invites David to her wedding. David buys teakwood salt and pepper shakers - in Greenwich Village - he says to Helen - real teak. From the Village - he says. Gotta go now - he says.

#2

1 year? 2? Helen is divorced. Gets an apartment alone - on Clinton Street - where Dudie - the kid - useta buy Rosie's Mother's Day fancy blouses.

#1



1953 - Gordons move - from Manhattan - lower east side where David is born - to 2 family house - Fannie buys - in Coney Island. David subways - Delancey station - to Brooklyn College - and - subways "home" - to new Coney Island house - next door to cousin Dottie - who's cousin is Dottie? Across from Fannie's brother Sam Wasserman - on 30th Street between Mermaid'n Surf Avenues.

#2

1953 - David's 1st funeral - David's 17.

← Sam's mother Anna - the gramma David hardly knows - dies. Wake up to smella camphor. Everyone's in special dark clothes - n'hats - uh oh.. 1st time David sees Sam cry - and in public. Sam asks me to help carry the coffin. I back off - beg off - sorry. Not the 1st time David disappoints Sam.

#1

Everyone comes home from the cemetery with a headache. Don't light another cigarette Sammie - Rosie says - siddown. I'll make ya something to eat.

#2

1954 - Brooklyn College -

David begins to talk again in public - to try out his post speech clinic - invented speech pattern - strangers ask - where were you born?

Sucha interesting accent - they say.

David begins to meet people who change his life.

They don't intend to - n'he don't notice.



#1

1955 - David becomes a Visual Arts major.

Meets visual art - n'science student - Barbara Kastle.

↙ Kastle has breasts'n hips'n Bette Davis eyes.

She wears fishbowl earrings with fresh flowers - or guppies swimming - in water.

She arks - pivots'n swivels - swoops'n slashes - fills 10 - 18 X 24 pages - of her newsprint pad - to David's 1 page of erased'n re-drawn constipated doodles.

David calls Barbara Kastle - Kastle - she begins to introduce herself as Kastle. She still does.

Kastle's mother Peggy's a science teacher.

Accountant father's another Sam.

David trails Kastle - like a puppy - or a stalker -

to the Modern Dance Club - Kastle is also a dancer - inna women's physical education department.

Norma's there too. Also a dancer. →

#2

1955 Norma Fire's also an actor - a singer - n'sociology student.

Brooklyn College has classical n'popular lounges.

Norma sits - shoes off - shapely legs crossed - inna classical lounge - Norma wears black tights.

David don't know about black tights - classical music - or music. He thinks Ravel's *Bolero* is the *Rose Bolero*.

Auntie Ruthie runs from Fannie's kitchen across the hall -to Rose's kitchen.

Rosie - she yells - put on the radio.

It's the *Rose Bolero* - he thinks she yells.

David imitates Ruthie - and Norma laughs. She thinks David's funny.

Norma Fire's funny with a surprising deep voice - also scoliosis and 1 wandering eye.

Norma's mother Miriam is a housewife -

and father - another Sam - sews ladies lingerie.

Norma takes David home - her mother vacuums behind David's feet - from foyer to living room.

David is invited to sit onna clear plastic covered couch.

David never saw or sat on plastic before.

Norma - Kastle - and David - write text for *People* - a movement trio.

#1

May 1957 - *People* is performed twice at the Dance Club's concert - in the campus Gershwin Theater. Norma narrates - and Kastle and David dance - in homemade burlap costumes and hats - machine sewn in Kastle's Brooklyn family basement - where her unmarried aunt - Sarah - lives.

David don't tell Rose or Sam he's an art major - don't tell 'em he joins the modern dance club - don't tell 'em he designs'n sews costumes'n draws'n paints - or sculpts in art labs - don't say he hasta learn to not tawk like the Wunderlich/Gordons. **Wunderlich/Gordon credo - nobody gotta know ya business.**

Okay. He don't tell 'em anything. Don't tell nobody nothing.



#2

1950s - David getsta be a dancing troll inna college theater department production of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* - meets actor - singer - lyric writer -



↙ Judy Weinberg - who plays Anitra - and - she Invites David to join the theater crowd - her friends - at the cafeteria lunch table. They all act'n joke'n perform for each other'n David listens n'keeps his mouth shut.



David practices sounding like student actors

← Jordan Charney'n Michael Lombard - when he's alone.

Practices sounding like Sanford Beresofsky - who - grows up to be comedian Sandy Baron - Stage Deli narrator - in Woody Allen's **1984** film *Broadway Danny Rose*.

Judy takes David to watch final audition -

between 2 student actors - for the lead role of a Witch Boy.

David stands inna doorway of the rehearsal room -

the directing professor calls out - **you there** - me? Yes - Judy says - he means you -

read this - the professor says'n hands David a script.

David reads the script - dunno why - with a sorta movie hillbilly accent.

Like inna movies he gets the part.

1956 - he acts'n dances the lead in *Dark of the Moon*. ↘

#1

Opening night David climbs a chicken wire n'paper-mache mountain n'he hasta hang - at the backa the mountain till he hears curtain rise.

If he lives through this show - he promises Fannie's God - he'll never walk or talk onna stage again. David lies.

#2

Climbs over the mountain top singing -

A witch boy from the mountain came - a-pinin' to be human - fer he had seen the fairest gal... a gal named Barbara Allen.

My sister Lois says she saw me - in tights - with Rose n'Sam - as the Witch Boy. David don't remember.

Enda the '50s - David moves from free or cheap sublet to sublet.

Norma'n Kastle - an unlikely paira roommates - move in together in Greenwich Village.

Ancient elevator and an ancient doorman on 8th St between 5th n 6th avenues.

David moves in part time. I meet Michael Malce - David says - hires me to work part time - in his store - downstairs on 8th street - Papier Malce - accent over the final "e".

We go - together - to wholesale showrooms - to choose new merchandise - for shelves'n windows. I use my "visual arts" college training - to put stuff inna store window - to get customers to buy candles - greeting cards'n tchotchkas.

I don't know I'm gonna put stuff in store windows to earn a living - David says - for my 1st 20 married years.

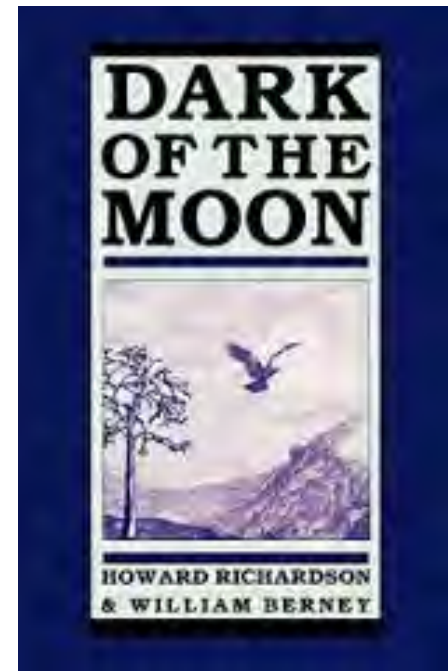
Don't know yet it's a job - called "display" - and don't actually know yet I'm gonna marry.

#1

Kastle has 4 finches - 2 cats'n a German Shepherd named Natasha. I think finches are named Finch - Other Finch - etcetera - can't remember cat names.

She has a short white boyfriend'n a tall black boyfriend'n a fling with Robbie - a blonde lesbian. Kastle draws and paints but don't get work shown. Teaches for money. High school biology - like mother Peggy. David asks Kastle - **in 1962**, to design his costume for *Mannequin* - for 1st Judson performance.

She gives him her old bloody biology lab coat. (see '60s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1)



#2

Norma auditions for roles she don't get.

David helps invent her "act" for the Showplace - a nightclub.

She sings'n does a kinda standup. She keeps being a social worker for money.

#1

Buys rubber soled oxfords n'tailored clothes - to play the social worker role seriously.

Norma's 8th Street boyfriends include young novelist - alcoholic middle-aged sailor -

1 married medical employment agency director -

1 married community settlement house director.

#2

David photographs'n designs Norma Fire's 1st "professional" composite. ➔

#1

The 8th Street trio give 1 party together - before everybody goes where they go next.

#2

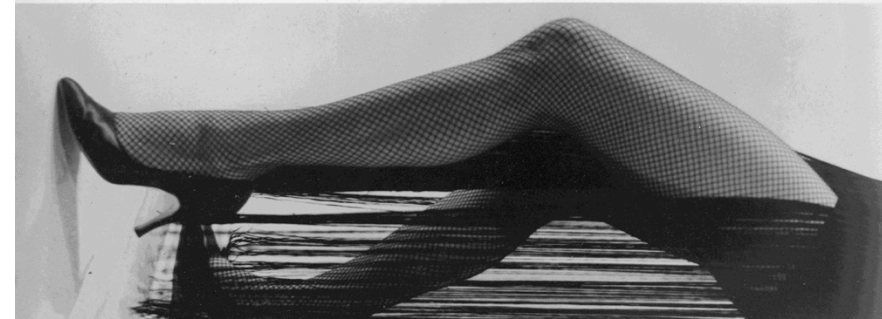
Guests bring drink - BYOB -

but Kastle'n Norma and David steal all the food from local supermarkets.

They buy a coupla items for cover'n - David holds what he steals -

tinned ham - kosher salami - smoked oysters and packaged fancy foods -
under his coat in his arm pits. They don't get caught. They never do it again.

NORMA FIRE
GR-7-5364



#1

Norma heads for San Francisco -
to find a good job - and her 1st husband.

Last date with David -

his parent's 25th anniversary party.

Grandma Fannie loves Norma.

She's a college graduate and a Jew.

Fannie tells Norma -

if ya can get David to marry you -

I'll buy ya a car - mammelah

← Fannie dances with her husband - my grandpa -

David says - at Rose'n Sam's 25th anniversary -

don't it look like she still loves him?

#2

Inna **1950s** David dances - but he ain't a dancer.

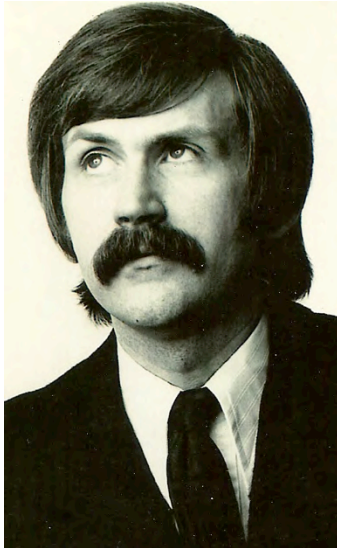
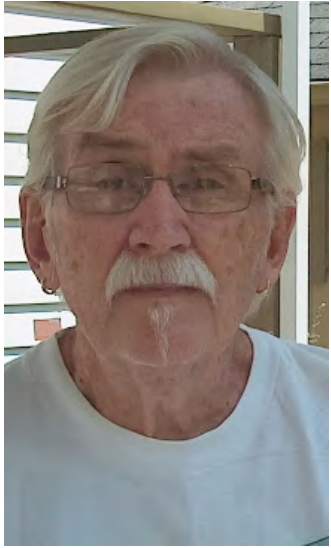
Learns social dance as a teen - inna kitchen between the sink'n the stove. Rosie shows'm howta rhumba. And to foxtrot.

Rosie'n her sisters love ta foxtrot. They dance together if their husbands don't. Mosta the men don't. Rosie's and Yettie's Sammies don't.

Embrace self-consciously n'sorta move in place. Irene fancy foxtrots with hubby Morris'n with sister Ruthie. Girls don't foxtrot no more -

David tells Rose. Girls slow dance with boys they like - girls cha-cha. That's the truth.

Truth ain't everyone's cuppa tea. David innocently tells his truth to family'n peers.**Until he sees reaction'n learns to never - or nearly never - tell the whole truth to anyone - anymore -****n'works to keep track of his lies - n'who he tells 'em to.**



#1

Spring of 1956 -

David meets design student -
 ← Christopher McKenna
 (Chris at 75 - and Chris at 25 -
 Chris with Valda n'David - Venice→)
 Chris lives with family -
 in Douglaston, Long Island -
 wants a sublet apartment -
summer of 1956 - in Manhattan -
 from theater student - Michael Kahn.

#2

**Chris asks David - wanna share?
 Houston Street - inna Village?**

David 1st says no - but what happens
 - if he says yes - so - he says yes.

**What happens is - David - relocated with family - from Manhattan to Coney Island summer rental -
 tells Rose who tells Sam - n'Rose wakes David inna morning n'says Sam says - if ya gonna go to Greenwich Village ya betta go now - n'never come back.
 Rose wipes her eyes. David says oh - okay - n'packs shopping bags'n F trains to Manhattan - stops at Ludlow Street - tears up his drawings n'poems -
 scrapbooks - every story he ever wrote. If he's gonna be a gypsy - he says dramatically - to himself - he betta travel with less baggage.**



#1

Summer of '56 - 1st time on his own - David wonders - how can they afford to pay rent?
 Chris buys new LP of new Broadway show *Candide* - music by Leonard Bernstein -
but all he eats for supper is a bowl Campbell's tomato soup. Bowl soup'n crackers. Oh okay.
 David who don't know about Gilbert and Sullivan - or Offenbach - listens to *Candide* in awe -
 learns lyrics n'still knows 'em - **eats a bowl Campbell's tomato soup - fa supper - uh oh -
 crackers or no crackers - gonna be hungry all summer.** Interviews'n gets summer office boy job
 - and - enrolls in summer school - studies'n day dreams on a bench in Washington Square Park.

#2

Marilyn Kratka says hello in Washington Square Park. They went to school together.
 (see '30s/40s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 2) He wants to impress her - living inna Village he says.
 She already lives inna Village. Turns out - she already did most of what he's gonna do next.
 She says - wanna see *My Fair Lady* on Broadway at Mark Hellinger Theater on 51st Street?
 Oh okay - David says - like he knows what she's talking about - they sell standing room -
 she says - 1st thing inna morning - so we wait outside all night - buy tickets - go home -
 have a nap - dress up n'see the show inna evening - okay? Oh okay - David says.
Summer of 1956 - stand inna street all night - wear black bermuda shorts'n knee socks -
 his dress-up clothes - to see *My Fair Lady* - Marilyn appears in a Claire McCardell dress -
 he says ya look great - from Lord & Taylor she says. Oh okay - David says. He asks Chris -
 ever heard a Claire McCardell? Designer roommate says yes - like I'm a fool - David says.
 For the next 50 years - David sends performance fliers to Marilyn - n'holiday greetings -
 bump into each other downtown n'kibbitz - not exactly best friends - not exactly not.



#1

March 1 of 2002 - David don't run into Marilyn - he writes - Dear MK - would I know you if I saw you? Sometimes - now - if I see someone on the street who I remember and I think they saw me - he writes - I acknowledge them with a nod or a smile - and sometimes - now they look utterly confused and I have to say - it's me - it's David - you know - David Gordon? And they say - oh David - oh - I didn't recognize you - n'sometimes - now - when I look inna mirror - inna morning I don't recognize me. So - would I know you if I saw you?

#2

March 5, 2002 - excerpt form Marilyn's response - - *Hello David - you not only would not know me -*
 ← *you've already looked quite through me - as though I were invisible - which I am to many - not just you. It is the reason I haven't tried to speak to you at a performance. I've been to Pick UP performances over the years. I'd know you anywhere. Even if you'd physically changed drastically - you haven't you know - your voice would be unmistakable. I love you DG because we were children in the same school before all this.*



#1

Summer of 1957 -

← **Choreographer James Waring says hello in Washington Square Park** - you must be a dancer - he says. David 1st says no - he says yes next. David meets Waring - after all - because he says yes to McKenna. Waring invites me to audition for his company - he shares rehearsal space - he says - with Paul Taylor. Studio - at 50 something street and 9th Avenue is also storage space for a used furniture store onna street level. New old furniture is delivered once a month. Used chests drawers - kitchen tables - armchairs'n couches. Dance space shrinks till bureau or couch sells. If business is good'n furniture sells fast - dancing gets bigger. Jimmy Introduces me to Paul Taylor - called Pete - who's inna Broadway musical - *L'il Abner*.

#2

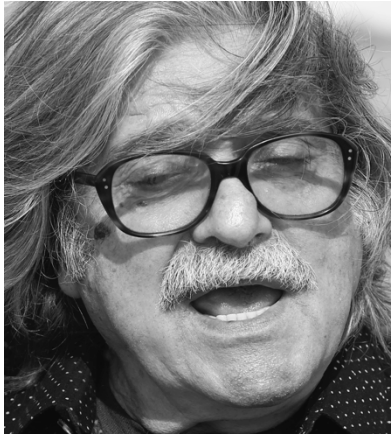
October 1957 - 1st full concert of Paul Taylor choreography - which David sees with Jimmy - is at 92nd Street Y. Major modern dance cliques commandeer lobby position - protect geographic territory as well as aesthetic turf. **92nd Street Y attendees cheer and bravo - David says - or boo and hiss in unison. Terrific noise - this Taylor concert is evidently controversial - David notes - folks storm out noisily during - and after - and David refers to it - after - as a 1st Post Modern experience. His 1st?**

#1

Curtain rises at conventional 92nd Street Y - on a stationary couple.

← Pete - trained dancer - ex-soloist with Martha Graham - is dressed in conventional suit with shirt'n tie - electric fan blows dancer Toby Armour's flower print dress. Pete makes minimal position changes - to phone announcements. The time is: 8 o'clock. 8 o'clock and 10 seconds. 8 o'clock and 20 seconds. Boos and hisses. David compares brouhaha to auntie Irene's wedding to Morris Reichback. **1944? 45?** David - Dudie the kid - is ring bearer - everything's okay till uncle Moishe - Irene's almost husband - steps onna ritual shot glass - the same moment - David finds out lotsa years later - 1 of Moishe's family - says something about 1 of Irene's family - or the other way around - and everybody jumps up - and shouts - and triesta kill somebody - and scares the shit outta Dudie till the police arrive - n'we all gotta go home?





#1

February 29, 2016 - David writes to Marilyn -

Dear Marilyn - do i understand that you are going to Zurich for assisted suicide?

I think you are brave and I will miss you - old secret friend. I am old - and working on my archives -

which I work on daily in a race against time - not as obvious a race as yours -

and the archives will be buried at Lincoln Center performing arts library - and I am including names - and stories -

about people i have known - and how knowing people is a part of the work i have done.

I would appreciate - if you have the energy - and if you don't mind - some particulars from you - before you go -

your date of birth - and any photo of you at any time in your life -

particularly a photo of you i might recognize - from when we were younger together.

I tell the story of taking the role of George - in *OUR TOWN* in junior high - because you are playing Emily -

and the teacher - don't remember her name - decides to do the last act only - and George has no lines with you -

so I ask to play your father - so i can be in 1 scene with you - but you forget to say the line that brings me onstage - so i never go on - ha ha.

I always know you are ahead of me - you do life - earlier and faster -

I will think about you in March and for as long as i can - dg

#2

February 29, 2016 - excerpt from Marilyn response -*Dear David and Valda -- How great to get this sweet message from you.**My friend of more than 60 years -- George Bixby asked for photos too - taken 1966 -**he will be delighted to share these with you - he accompanied me to performances- and **knows who you are** -**a dance aficionado of sorts - took me to see Coppelia when I was 20.***My DOB - December 25, 1936.***Do not kid yourself- this is not bravery - DIGNITAS will assist me in Zurich -**to drink a nasty potion and reach for the stars.**My nephew - 60 + and my niece - also 60 + will accompany me - FIRST CLASS -**we will stay at the HOTEL BAUR au lac - you may google it to see how well I spend proceeds of the sale of my pad.***My** memory of *OUR TOWN* is that my life was never the same - after I goofed that up. **BUT** I've had a **GREAT** life -happy to have visited and **so proud of you**. One of my fondest memories is staying up to see *MY FAIR LADY* with you -*then I got a job as an usher - and saw it and many other great plays - THE THREEPENNY OPERA - CANDIDE etc etc -**for free **and** over and over again.**Yes - March 9th is doomsday - light a yahrzeit candle for me - LOVE LOVE LOVE - marilyn**and scares the shit outta Dudie till the police come.*

#1

Fall 1957 - Jimmy asks artist friends to design costumes for his concert at Masters Institute on 108th Street -David's 1st performance - with the company.

Paul Taylor designs David Gordon's costume.

Paul - Pete - places cardboard half spheres - size of half cantaloupes -

on David's shoulders'n his chest - and on his head?

Pete paints the crotch - of David's black cotton tights green - with David in 'em.

David wears the tights 1 night - 1 performance in those days - he's green fa weeks.



#2

Jimmy Waring also Introduces David to John Cage'n Morton Feldman. And Fanny Brice songs -



Gustav Mahler music live at Carnegie Hall. Art of Alphonse Mucha - pronounced - Jimmy says like sounda throat clearing Moocha. Work of Philip Guston - Robert Rauschenberg - Kurt Schwitters - Jasper Johns - n'Ray Johnson. Laurel and Hardy movies - movies of Jean Cocteau - Jean Renoir - Busby Berkeley - Luis Bunuel - Ernst Lubitsch movies. Films - Jimmy corrects. Dances of George Balanchine - Merle Marsicano - Merce Cunningham and Katherine Litz. Dancing of Maria Tallchief and Tanaquil Le Clercq.

Jimmy bravos. Andre Eglevsky -Jimmy boos. And Harriet Hocter - Lyda Roberti - Groucho Marx - Fred Astaire.

#1

1958 - David says he only dances because he meets Jimmy - and Jimmy introduces David -
← to Valda Setterfield - newly arrived British dancer.

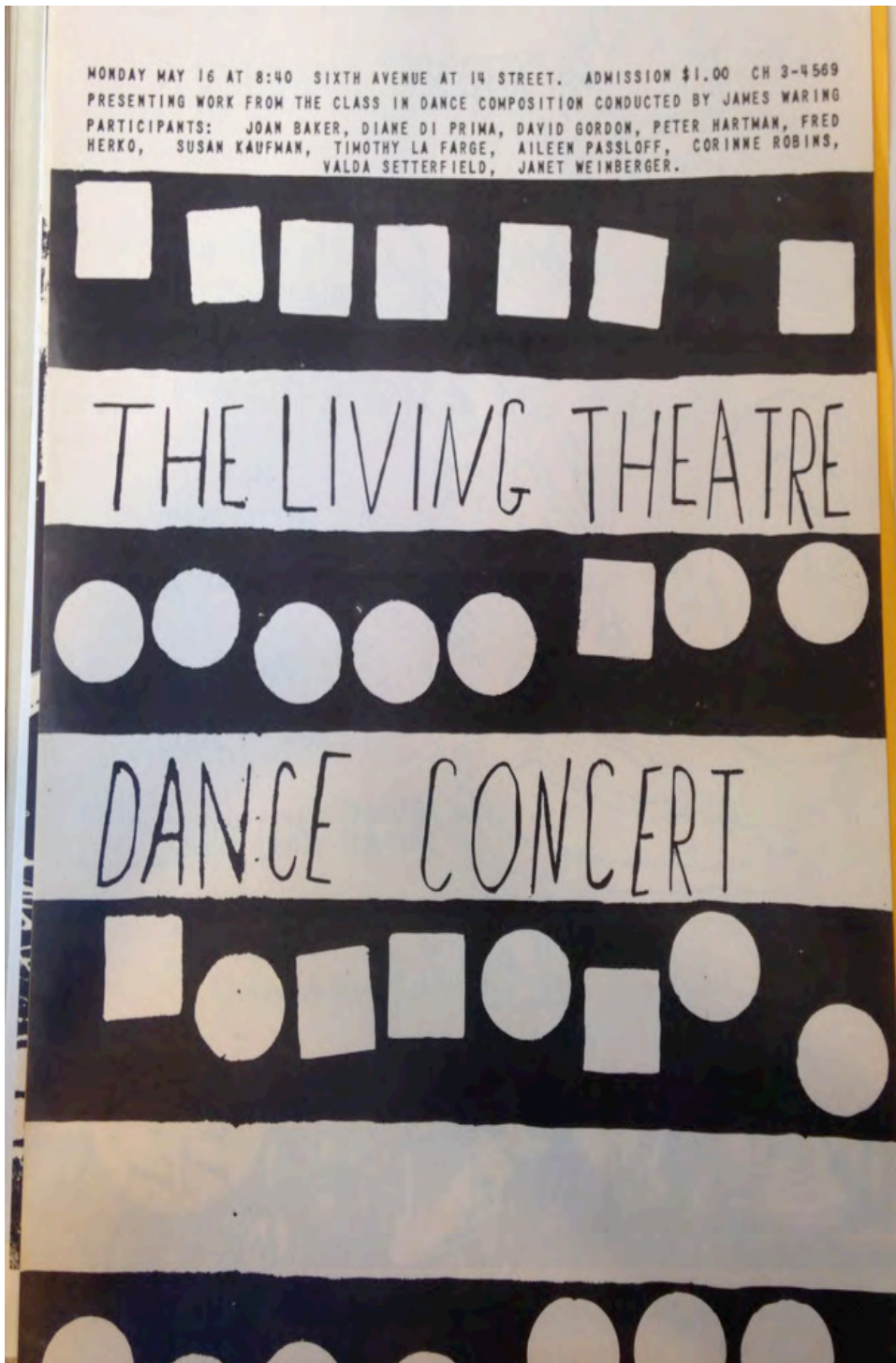
#2

You 2 look good together - he says - let's make a duet. David says she's too heavy. Valda says - he don't know howta lift. She's right. He don't. He takes Cunningham class because Jimmy says to - n'his 1st "professional" New York experience - is in Jimmy's company. Dancers rehearse all year. To do 1 or 2 shows but nobody gets paid - so -sooner or later - someone hasta go make some money. Hasta dance with who can pay 'em - or wait tables - or tend bar. Or teach other kids to be dancers. Who won't get paid.

#1

We work on a dance'n - Valda says - if someone leaves someone learns their part. If the one who left comes back - he or she - maybe - learns a new part - but some dancers go - and go for good. Toby Armour starts a company in Boston. Vincent Warren joins a ballet company - in Canada. Timothy LaFarge becomes a forest ranger. Freddie Herko - more unhappy than we know - dances outta the top floor window - of a Greenwich Village tenement.





#2

1959 - Jimmy teaches composition workshop on 14th Street and 6th Avenue - inna Living Theater. Sits in a chair - wears too big sweaters. Sniffs. A pile of magazines'n newspapers at his feet. Books to read - he says - and what's on in NY. Art exhibits - film. Sniff. Off'n on Broadway. Sniff. Live concerts. What to see or avoid - he says - sniff sniff. Avoid recordings - he says. Unless there's no other way to hear the music - he says.

#1

Jimmy wantsa convince David everything changes.
Your coat - hanging in your closet - changes.
Even if ya never wear it - Jimmy Waring says.
Jimmy says - **If ya make something ya gotta keep it.**
If ya don't like it - he says - maybe you'll get to like it.
If ya don't get ta like it - who says ya hafta like it?

#2

1960 - David makes 1st Valda and David duet -

Mama Goes Where Papa Goes -

← for the dance concert produced by Jimmy -
at The Living Theater - after workshop.

#1

The song - **Mama Goes Where Papa Goes** -
Or Papa Don't Go Out Tonight -

by Milton Ager'n Jack Yellen - is recorded in **1923** -
by Jane Green - and by - Vernon Dalhart.

#2

Recorded in **1924** - in Yiddish - by Sophie Tucker.
Recorded by Ida Cox'n the Coleman Hawkins Quintet in **1961**.

#1

Also recorded - inna '60s by Kay Starr - and by Nancy Sinatra?

David finds all this info - on YouTube - in 2016 -

#2

Valda'n David don't remember -
hearing any of these recordings -
in **1960** -
or dancing to this song inna duet -
program says music is by Jimmy - dunno -
and they don't remember any of the duet either -
or how it got made or - got named -

Mama Goes Where Papa Goes.

The Living Theatre, Monday, May 16, 1960
 program of work from class in experimental dance composition conducted
 by James Waring, followed by discussion

1. QUARTET: Choreography, Joan Baker
 music, Alban Berg
 danced by Fred Herko, Beatrice Lamb, Gerard Martin, Aileen Passloff
2. SPY-FLY: Choreography, Timothy LaFarge
 accompaniment, choral poem, "Schonheit," by Jackson MacLow
 danced by Joan Baker, Fred Herko
3. STRUCTURES: Choreographed and danced by Aileen Passloff,
 with Martha Charney
 music, Morton Feldman
4. DANCE FOR THREE PEOPLE: Choreography and music by Peter ~~MacLow~~ ^{HARTMAN}
 danced by Joan Baker, Fred Herko, Susan Kaufman
5. MOON HONEY: Choreographed and danced by Valda Setterfield
 music, James Waring
6. PAIDEUMA: play by Diane Di Prima
 read by Nicola Cernovich, Diane Di Prima, Fred Herko, Aileen Passloff,
 Valda Setterfield, James Waring

i n t e r m i s s i o n

7. "CE N'EST PAS UNE SOTTISE": Choreography, Susan Kaufman
 music, Peter Hartman, clarinetist, Nicolas Roussakis
 danced by Fred Herko, Jerry King, Aileen Passloff, Joysanne Sidimus
8. BUT LO: Choreography, Corinne Robins
 music, Karlheinz Stockhausen
 danced by Jerry King, Beatrice Lamb
9. ESSENCE OF ROPE: Choreography, Fred Herko
 music, vocal pieces composed and performed by class members
 danced by Joan Baker, Gene Foote, Fred Herko
10. TINTINTABULATION: Choreographed and danced by Janet Weinberger
 music, John Herbert McDowell
11. MAMA GOES WHERE PAPA GOES: Choreography, David Gordon
 music, James Waring
 danced by David Gordon, Valda Setterfield

Lighting by Nicola Cernovich

#1

So - or but - there definitely was a duet -
 called *Mama Goes Where Papa Goes* - David says -
 and Valda says so too -
 so curtain opens - and - either - Valda is discovered on stage -
 with crutches - or - she enters with crutches - and -
 then David enters -

#2

or if Valda's on stage when curtain opens - then -
 David stands behind her - and - he removes the crutches - ta da -
 and Valda dances. Sexist magic. Sounds like his kinda '60s joke.

#1

But - also - or instead? Valda ain't on stage at all - David says -
 curtain opens - and - he is discovered on stage -
 his arms fulla rubber balls -
 red rubber balls?

#2

He opens his arms - balls fall and bounce and roll - David exits.
 Or - both openings happen - but how?
 Or in what order do they happen?

#1

← And then what happens?

The Living Theatre, Monday, May 16, 1960
 program of work from class in experimental dance composition conducted
 by James Waring, followed by discussion

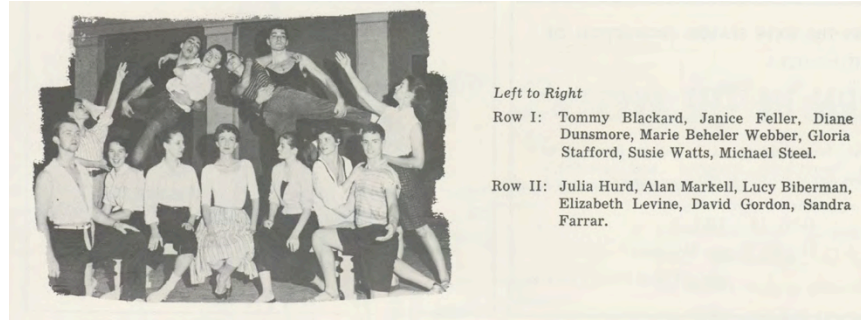
11. MAMA GOES WHERE PAPA GOES: Choreography, David Gordon
 music, James Waring
 danced by David Gordon, Valda Setterfield



#1

1957 - Last year college -

← Paula Levine - ex-Brooklyn College dancer'n - Hollins College dance department dean - auditions dance club kids - for *Thy Kingdom Come* - "1st religious outdoor drama of the south" - and lucky David gets his 1st professional dance job - from choreographer Paula - n'Sam puts him onna train. Be careful in Virginia - my father says - they still think we have horns. By "they" - it turns out - he means southerners. By "we" he means Jews.



Howell Hardie Sparkplug Of 'Thy Kingdom Come'

The soft-voiced and charming sparkplug of the production of Kermit Hunter's new outdoor religious drama, "Thy Kingdom Come," is 23-year-old southern miss who thought she had given up the theater two years ago.

HOWELL HARDIE, assistant director of the play, which is performed daily at 8:15 p.m. except Mondays through Labor Day at Sherwood Amphitheatre, said

to return to her hometown of Tampa, Fla., and engage in social work this constitutes return to a first love.



Howell Hardie - blond blue-eyed Tampa Florida debutante - plays the lead. Howell thinks she loves me for a minute with her charming southern accent. So - I love her back for a minute - with new speech patterns - I cultivate - since college speech clinic.

July 14, **1957** - Sam'n Rose drive south - fa my birthday to see me dance - in an outdoor arena - facing a crematorium - that issues smoke nightly - to ½ empty houses. Only full night - "ladies get in free."

#2

Thy Kingdom Come uses *Thus Spake Zarathustra* for overture - I hear it 1st time nightly - David says - not again - till Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*.



Carol Wallace - dance director - suggests we do a dance concert. David "choreographs" a trio - ↑ - for Julia Hurd - Carol Wallace - and himself.

The dance is a sorta rip-off of a duet called *Phrases* - choreographed by Jimmy Waring - for Tim LaFarge and Toby Armour - and when Tim goes - David partners Toby - n'when Toby goes and Valda Setterfield arrives - I do it with her - he says.

There's family'n history you inherit - David says - n'family'n history - you may be lucky to create for yourself - n'there's intense passionate love affairs - with temporary show biz families - called theater companies - that - for a time - are like nothing else exists.

I imagine I'll know dancers'n actors in *Thy Kingdom Come* - my 1st theater company - forever.

Enda the summer mosta us go to Washington DC - to see - outta town tryout of *West Side Story* - n'we cry'n say g'bye - n'never see each other again.