

"Adore Us! Line"  
The 2020 Political Parody of "A Chorus Line"  
Conceived & Written by Robert John Ford

*This script is current as of September 15, 2019 and is subject to change at any time.*

Current cast of characters:

JOE BIDEN  
CORY BOOKER  
PETE BUTTIGIEG  
KAMALA HARRIS  
AMY KLOBUCHAR  
BETO O'ROURKE  
BERNIE SANDERS  
ELIZABETH WARREN  
UTILITY ACTOR 1 (RINGMASTER\*, ANDREW YANG\*, JULIAN CASTRO\* & OTHERS\*)  
UTILITY ACTOR 2 (TOM STEYER\*, TULSI GABBARD\*, MARIANNE WILLIAMSON\* & OTHERS\*)  
IOWA VOTER – non-singing  
\*Candidate assignments are subject to change and will be dependent on the actors cast as UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2.

Current song assignments (with original song titles) by character:

1. (I Hope I Get It) – Ringmaster, All Candidates
2. (I Can Do That) – O'Rourke
3. (At The Ballet) – Harris, Klobuchar, and Gabbard(?) or Warren
4. (Sing) – Sanders, All Candidates
5. (Montage, Part 1 – Hello Twelve) – Small Group
6. (Nothing) – Castro, Harris, O'Rourke, Buttigieg.
7. (Montage, Part 2 – Mother) – Small Group
8. (Montage, Part 3 – Give Me The Ball) – Booker, All Candidates
9. (Dance: Ten; Looks: Three) – Warren
10. (The Music And The Mirror) – Biden
11. (One) – All Candidates
12. (What I Did For Love) – Buttigieg, All Candidates
13. (Finale) – All Candidates

Music & script notes:

- Measure numbers correspond with the measure numbers in the piano/vocal score from the original 1975 production, published by Edwin H. Morris & Company.
- Music does not always correspond with the Broadway original cast album, as substantial parts of some songs were cut or rearranged for the recording.
- Script is based on the 1975 production prompt book, property of Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

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*The time: Present day*  
*The place: Iowa*

*The stage is completely bare. The house lights go to half, then to black. A rehearsal piano plays a two-measure intro, over which the voice of THE RINGMASTER\* (played by UTILITY ACTOR 1) is heard.*

**Song: "I Hope I Win It"**  
**(as sung to No. 1 - "I Hope I Get It")**

THE RINGMASTER\*

Again!

**No. 1 – measures 1-28**

*Lights up full. We see THE RINGMASTER\*, upstage and facing the audience, possibly wearing a circus ringmaster costume, teaching a campaign rally routine to a group of nine 2020 Democratic presidential CANDIDATES – JOE BIDEN, CORY BOOKER, PETE BUTTIGIEG, KAMALA HARRIS, AMY KLOBUCHAR, BETO O'ROURKE, BERNIE SANDERS, ELIZABETH WARREN, and one composite of all others (played by UTILITY ACTOR 2). The CANDIDATES, in various states of business attire, are in a straight line facing THE RINGMASTER\* (and possibly dance mirrors) upstage. They attempt to do as instructed, some having more success than others.*

SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – AGAIN!  
SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – AGAIN!  
SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – AGAIN!  
SHAKE, SMILE, WAVE, POINT, THUMBS UP! – RIGHT!

That connects with...

TALK, TALK, PEP, PEP,  
WALK, WALK, SIDESTEP,  
HEAD NOD, YEP, YEP.

Got it? Going on. And...

MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.

*Some of the candidates – possibly BIDEN, BUTTIGIEG, and KLOBUCHAR – are hesitant to move too far left, while others – possibly SANDERS and WARREN – venture so far left that they are almost off the stage.*

FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT,  
MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.  
FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT,  
MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.  
PIVOT STEP, NOW MOVE RIGHT.

*After being pushed further to the left that they wish to be, some of the candidates – possibly BIDEN, BUTTIGIEG, and KLOBUCHAR – take the opportunity to return to a more comfortable position to the center right of the others.*

THE RINGMASTER\* (cont.)

The last part is...

PIVOT STEP, NOW MOVE RIGHT.

Reviewing from the last turn...

FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT,  
MOVE LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, MORE LEFT.  
PIVOT STEP, NOW MOVE RIGHT.

Right! Let's do the whole combination facing out to the Iowa voters. From the top...a-five, six, seven, eight!

**No. 1 – measures 29-38**

*The music builds as the CANDIDATES face downstage and do the campaign rally routine with THE RINGMASTER\* in front. At the end of this section, THE RINGMASTER\* directly addresses the audience*

**No. 1 – measures 39-43 (vamp)**

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls of all voting ages, welcome to this three-ring circus we call The Iowa Caucuses!

**No. 1 – measures 44-59**

**NOTE: lyrics added to this section**

*Now THE RINGMASTER\* weaves among audience members and the CANDIDATES, who are standing in various states of showmanship.*

STEP RIGHT UP, COME ONE, COME ALL!  
SEE THEM AUDITION AT THIS CASTING CALL.  
EACH ONE BATTLING TO PROVE THEIR WORTH  
FOR THE GREATEST ROLE ON EARTH.

**No. 1 – measures 60-80 (vamp)**

Yes, as you can see, we have dozens of the rare beasts known as "Democratic Wannabes," all fighting for their own survival in an undersized state that has an oversized say in determining who lives to see another day. Will it be the Wannabe from Texas, or the Wannabe from California, or the Wannabe from Indiana, or the Wannabe from...

*The lights change to "internal thought" lighting as THE RINGMASTER\* goes into pantomime. (S)he continues to move among the CANDIDATES, who begin to sing their internal thoughts.*

**No. 1 – measures 81-100**

## ALL CANDIDATES

GOD, I HOPE I WIN IT,  
 I HOPE I WIN IT,  
 I WANNA BE THE NOMINEE.  
 (I WANNA BE THE NOMINEE.)

GOD, I HOPE I WIN IT,  
 I HOPE I WIN IT,  
 OR PLACE AT LEAST IN THE TOP THREE.  
 ('CUZ IF I DON'T I WILL NOT...)

LIVE TO SEE NEW HAMPSHIRE.

## O'ROURKE

FUCKIN' NEW HAMPSHIRE!

## ALL CANDIDATES

WHAT MATTERS MOST IS IOWA.  
 I BET THE FARM ON IOWA.  
 MY FATE DEPENDS ON IO...

## KLOBUCHAR

I MUST WIN IOWA.  
 MY NEIGHBOR, (YES, HAWKEYE) IOWA.  
 GOD, GIVE ME IOWA!

**No. 1 – measures 101-106 (vamp)**

*The lights change back to reality. THE RINGMASTER\* comes out of pantomime.*

## THE RINGMASTER\*

Now, as is mandated in the bylaws of the Democratic Party for reasons that have remained a mystery for decades, all registered Iowa Democratic voters are guaranteed a total of ninety minutes of personal, private, one-on-one question-and-answer time with the Wannabes, whether they like it or not. Tonight, they will all face the six-hundred, fifty-four thousand, three hundred and twenty first and final registered Iowa Democratic voter, Mr. Eldon Wise\*, an Iowa farmer who, in past election years and past election year musicals, has been deemed "the typical Iowa caucus-goer" by the national press. Mr. Wise, where are you?

*IOWA VOTER sheepishly rises from a seat in the audience and acknowledges THE RINGMASTER\* and CANDIDATES with a brief wave.*

Okay, Wannabes, who will be the charmer of this farmer, the born seducer of this corn producer, the lean-and-mean vote sower of this bean-and-green oat grower. Time to show him what you've got. Let's do the climate change combination. Ready? One, two, three, four, five, six...

**No. 1 – measures 107-122**

*While IOWA VOTER watches and THE RINGMASTER\* directs and comments from the side, the CANDIDATES each do their own well-rehearsed interpretive song-and-dance on this particular issue.*

THE RINGMASTER\* (cont.)

(Ad libbing as needed, subject to change) O'Rourke, you're gesticulating too much.

O'ROURKE

Shit.

*THE RINGMASTER\* retrieves a previously unseen jar full of dollar bills that is crudely labeled "Beto's Swear Jar."*

THE RINGMASTER\*

That's another dollar, Beto.

*O'ROURKE reluctantly takes a dollar out of his wallet and puts it in the swear jar.*

Okay, now let's do the health care reform combination.

**No. 1 – CUT measures 123-138**

**No. 1 – measures 139-154**

*Again, the CANDIDATES each do their own well-rehearsed interpretive song-and-dance on this particular issue. But IOWA VOTER starts to fidget and look around, not giving them his full attention. THE RINGMASTER\* takes note of this.*

THE RINGMASTER\*

Wannabes, you're losing him. C'mon – sell it!

*The CANDIDATES become more frantic and desperate to convey their message. It gets very messy, as conveyed by the look of frustration on the CANDIDATES' faces. The lights change to "internal thought" lighting. While THE RINGMASTER\* goes into pantomime and beckons IOWA VOTER to join him for a conversation at the side of the stage, the CANDIDATES again sing their internal thoughts, which this time are full of self doubt and more defeatist in nature.*

**No. 1 – CUT measures 155-202**

**No. 1 – measures 203-211**

ALL CANDIDATES

GOD, I BLEW THAT ANSWER!

I BLEW THAT ANSWER!

BIDEN, KLOBUCHAR, O'ROURKE, UTILITY ACTOR 1  
HE HATES MY SINGLE-PAYER PLAN.

BOOKER, BUTTIGIEG, HARRIS, SANDERS, WARREN  
HE HATES MY MEDICARE-FOR-ALL.

ALL CANDIDATES

NOW THE DREAM IS OVER.

O'ROURKE

IT'S FUCKIN' OVER.

ALL CANDIDATES  
 HE'S MADE HIS CHOICE AND I'M NOT IT,  
 HE'LL NEVER NOTICE IF I QUIT,  
 I'M JUST A WORTHLESS PIECE OF...

**No. 1 – CUT measures 212-307**  
**No. 1 – measures 312e-315**

*The lights change back to reality.*

THE RINGMASTER\*  
 Wannabes, I've just learned a secret about Eldon Wise that will be of great interest to you. For most of his adult life, he self-identified as one thing, until he acknowledged he was something else entirely.

*The other CANDIDATES, trying not to be too conspicuous,  
 slowly glance at BUTTIGIEG, who feels their eyes on him.*

BUTTIGIEG  
 Why is everyone looking at me?

THE RINGMASTER\*  
 What I mean is, Eldon was a lifelong Republican until earlier this year, when he realized the party no longer reflects his own values. He is a newly-registered Democrat, and an undecided one at that.

ALL CANDIDATES  
 (*Perking up, suddenly reborn*) Undecided?

THE RINGMASTER\*  
 Yes, and he says that all twenty (*note: update number at time of production*) of you are still in the running, and he's going to make his decision based on how you perform tonight. So...

**No. 1 – measures 316-322**

*The lights change to "internal thought" lighting. While  
 THE RINGMASTER\* and IOWA VOTER go into pantomime, the  
 CANDIDATES again sing their internal thoughts, which this  
 time are full of hope and renewed optimism.*

BIDEN, BOOKER, HARRIS  
 BARACK WON IOWA.

KLOBUCHAR, WARREN, UTILITY ACTOR 1  
 HC WON IOWA.

ALL CANDIDATES  
 I CAN WIN IOWA!

**No. 1 – measures 323-343**

THE RINGMASTER\*  
 Okay, at this time, I hand it over to Mr. Wise. Wannabes, your ninety minutes begin...now.

*THE RINGMASTER\* exits and does a quick change into another one of the candidates, to be determined. From the front of the stage, IOWA VOTER addresses the CANDIDATES who are now clumped in small groups along the back wall (or mirrors).*

IOWA VOTER

*(Almost shyly)* Um, hi. Nice to meet you. Because there are so many of you, I thought I'd start by talking with eight of you and then invite more in as we go along. Okay? So, when I call out your name, would you please form a line up front?

*As each name is called out, the CANDIDATE steps forward and joins the line, one on the right end, one of the left end, and filling in toward the center.*

*(Slowly and deliberately)* Beto O'Rourke...Kamala Harris...Amy Klobuchar...Bernie Sanders...Cory Booker...Elizabeth Warren...Joe Biden...and Pete Buttigieg.

*At this point, the IOWA VOTER acknowledges the only two other people on stage – UTILITY ACTOR 2, and UTILITY ACTOR 1 who has re-entered and blended in as another candidate.*

The rest of you, I promise I'll get to you shortly. I thank you for your patience and understanding, and I look forward...

*As IOWA VOTER continues to talk to UTILITY ACTOR 2 and UTILITY ACTOR 1 in pantomime, the lights change to "internal thought" lighting on the row of the other eight CANDIDATES.*

**No. 1 – measures 344-367**

ALL CANDIDATES (8)

GOD, I THINK HE LIKES ME,  
HE REALLY LIKES ME,  
I'M CLEARLY IN HIS HIGHEST TIER.

STILL, THERE'S COMPETITION,  
THERE'S COMPETITION.  
WHICH ONE OF US PULLS UP THE REAR?  
(WHICH ONE OF US WILL DISAPPEAR?)

GOD, THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE,  
THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE.  
MY LIFE, MY DESTINY, MY FATE  
COMES DOWN TO THIS GUY IN THIS STATE  
AND JUST ONE NINETY-MINUTE DATE...

I NEED THIS IOWAN.  
THIS OLD, WHITE IOWAN  
I'VE GOT TO GET HIS VOTE.

**No. 1 – measures 368-370 (vamp 370)**

*While holding the last chord on "vote," the eight CANDIDATES walk downstage as the lights dim to black. Mirror panels then rotate to black. The lights bump up on the first chord (vamp 370) revealing the CANDIDATES – on each of the four chords, two of them hold up their headshots in front of their faces. After a few seconds, there is a full blackout, and the CANDIDATES step upstage.*

**No. 1 – measures 371-372  
(after a brief delay/applause break)**

*A single spotlight comes up downstage center, into which UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 step and begin to sing.*

**No. 1 – measures 373-394**

UTILITY ACTOR 1, UTILITY ACTOR 2  
AND WHO ARE WE, YOU ASK,  
WE HAVE THE THANKLESS TASK  
TO PLAY THE OTHERS,  
ALL THE NAMES YOU BARELY KNOW.

*At this point, UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 alternate holding up headshots of the additional candidates that they are naming.*

UTILITY ACTOR 1  
YANG,

UTILITY ACTOR 2  
RYAN,

UTILITY ACTOR 1  
DE-LA-NEY.

UTILITY ACTOR 2  
It's pronounced Delaney.

UTILITY ACTOR 1  
SESTAK,

UTILITY ACTOR 2  
MESSAM,

UTILITY ACTOR 1  
INSLEE.

UTILITY ACTOR 2  
AND HICKENLOOPER,

UTILITY ACTOR 1  
WILLIAMSON,

UTILITY ACTOR 2  
FIDEL CASTRO,

UTILITY ACTOR 1  
That's Julian Castro.



**No. 1 - repeating measure 389 as needed**

	UTILITY ACTOR 2
AND BULLOCK,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 1
AND BENNET,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 2
AND SWALWELL,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 1
AND STEYER,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 2
AND GRAVEL,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 1
AND GABBARD,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 2
AND MOULTON,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 1
AND OPRAH,	
	UTILITY ACTOR 2
AND BILL DEBLASIO.	

**No. 1 - END.**

*The spotlight fades to black. UTILITY ACTOR 1 and UTILITY ACTOR 2 exit in the blackout. Gradually the lights come back up, revealing IOWA VOTER addressing the eight CANDIDATES.*

## IOWA VOTER

Now, as much as I enjoyed watching your little song and dance and your expertise at "sidestepping" the issues, that's not what I want to see. And I don't want to hear your finely-tuned stump speech. I don't want to hear what I already know. Tell me something about yourselves I don't know. Tell me about your fears, your shortcomings, your regrets, the obstacles that you've had to overcome. Tell me how you became the person you are today.

*Transition into scene two and song two...*