

INSURRECTION

ACT I

We open on the Carson's house, where Eleanor supervises while a young Sandy is cutting Buck's hair in the living room. Junior and Jake are there, and after Buck talks about wanting to be a chef, Eleanor asks them all what they're planning to do with their lives, Sandy says she wants to be a hairdresser and Jake talks about his plan to apply to Engineering at UCLA. Eleanor heads offstage to look for a cookbook she wants to give Buck, leaving Junior to enthuse about working with his dad at the union. The others try to get him to admit he'd like to be rich, but he's off to the union office to help his dad as the three remaining young people sing *American Dream*, which Junior stays long enough to sign off with a verse of.

It's now years later, and over at Kitty's, Junior the bartender serves Bill (Sandy and Jake's dad) and Clint (Buck's dad) another drink and we learn that Junior's working there to help cover his dad's medical bills. After Bill and Clint talk about their sons' progress, Clint complains about the hospital where his wife Trixie died of Covid, and how they wouldn't let him in to say goodbye to her. Bill tries to explain why the hospital did that, and he and Clint exchange some choice words about Fox News, President Trump and politics in general, culminating in them singing *I Ain't Puttin' You Down*.

At the Carsons' house, Buck is back getting his hair cut by Sandy, (everyone years older than at the last haircut) while Eleanor remembers Trixie fondly. Buck makes an almost incoherent speech about those damn leftists, and how they're responsible for his mother's death, and Eleanor is quite concerned about him, and sings *What Would Your Momma Say?* with Sandy providing harmony.

At Kitty's, Clint and Junior are talking, and we learn that Jake is expected to return that day from a year away at UCLA, trapped in California by Covid restrictions. Buck and Lizzie join them and Buck tells them Jake and the Carsons are on their way over now. Buck sings *Welcome Home* to Jake as he and his family come through the door, and as the song carries on, they make their way to Buck and Clint's table. Buck and Jake catch up a bit, eventually Jake starts talking about his California girlfriend, Ryler, and Buck and Clint sing *Good New Boy* and laugh. Jake gets annoyed, but Sandy pulls Buck away from the table to scold him, and once they're away from the crowd, Sandy sings *Grown Up*, (with vocal help from Lizzy and Midge) which leads to Buck and Sandy singing *Easy*, and on the final chord they kiss and the lights go down.

ACT II

It's Christmas season, and Buck and Sandy are at the Carsons' house, trying to find time for a dinner date, but both their schedules are impossible with all the work they're doing, since restaurants and hair salons have just reopened and they're slammed. They're a little short with each other, but Sandy stops in the middle and reminds Buck that they're just stressed from work, and they sing *Luxury*, during which they agree on the following Sunday as a suitable date,

At Kitty's, Junior serves Bill and Clint, who rambles about the upcoming rally to protest the stolen election and various other conspiracy theories to a very uncomfortable Bill. Bill asks Clint where he gets all his information from, and he responds singing *Tell The Truth*.

At the Carsons' house, Bill reports on Clint's rising radicalization just before Buck arrives to pick Sandy up for the night out at Kitty's they finally scheduled at the beginning of Act 2. Eleanor, Bill, Jake and Buck talk about Buck's planned barbecue business, then they discuss Buck's plan to go to Washington for January 6th. Sandy comes in, overhears the plan, and makes Buck promise not to go. Reluctantly, he agrees and then Sandy kisses her parents and off they go. Eleanor thinks that Sandy has pulled Buck back from the craziness, but Bill sings *You Can't Tell Her Nothin'* with Jake providing harmony.

At Kitty's, Buck joins in the January 6th planning with Clint and Lizzie, but Sandy announces that he isn't going, which leads to a spirited conversation about the election, with Clint, Lizzie and Buck claiming it was stolen, and Sandy becoming more and more frustrated as she counters them. The argument continues, and then Sandy tells Buck he should cool it with the drinking. Buck snaps and sings *Don't Tell Me What To Do* which causes Sandy to storm out. When the song ends, Buck knocks back yet another drink and even though Midge suggests he go after Sandy, he just settles back with another drink.

At the Carsons' house, it's the morning of Jan.6, and Sandy is on edge, sure that Buck has broken his promise and has gone to D.C. anyway. Bill and Eleanor try to talk her out of it but she's determined to go to Kitty's and see if Buck is there, and off she goes. Jake runs in and says "Turn on the TV!" and they see that the Capitol is under attack. Eleanor quickly realizes that Kitty's will be a political battleground, and goes after Sandy to keep her safe.

At Kitty's, everyone's glued to the TV where the Capitol attack is on the news. When Sandy arrives, she sees Clint and asks him where Buck is, but gets sidetracked because Clint is enthusiastically endorsing the attack. The conversation escalates and turns into *Insurrection* which is sung by the whole restaurant led by Sandy on the Democrat side, and by Clint on the Republican side, although Eleanor arrives to sing part of the second verse. When the song ends with Sandy and Clint nose to nose, Sandy demands to know where Buck is, and Clint tells her that Buck is there, pointing at the TV, and says, "Oh, I see him! Look that's him right there with Rusty and Lizzie!" Sandy bursts into tears, "I knew it!" Clint goes on a rant with blather about woke Democrats, and Junior steps in to calm things down, until Clint pulls out his gun and everyone stops. Clint talks himself into a frenzy, and when Junior takes a step towards him to try once again to calm him down, Clint fires, misses Junior and hits Eleanor. Sandy screams, and the lights go down.

ACT III

Buck comes back to Kitty's on the first day open after the police investigation, and fills Junior in on the situation, which is that Eleanor is in a coma with a brain injury, and Clint would be out on

bail, except Buck just learned that Clint had spent all the money he'd been saving for the bakery business on donations to Trump. Buck is upset that his dad has caused all this trouble. He asks Junior if he knows how this happened, and Junior tells him it's the fault of rich people like Trump pulling the strings. Buck doesn't understand this, and Junior sings *Golden Rule* (with help from the restaurant regulars) to explain it, and Buck starts to get it. Then Junior clarifies that it's still Buck's fault that he went to Washington in direct defiance of his promise to Sandy. "That ain't politics, Buck, that's just dealin' with your relationship."

Back at the Carsons' house, Bill tells Sandy and Jake that the doctor wasn't very optimistic, but he had said that if Eleanor wakes up from the coma, she'll most likely recover. As they worry about Eleanor, they hear a noise in the shed, and then hear Buck singing *Drinkin' In The Dark* out there. Towards the end of the song, Sandy and Jake pick him up and guide him unsteadily into the house. Sandy asks him tearfully why he broke his promise, and Buck explains that he got caught up in it before, but he has realized now that Clint was wrong. He sings *Make It Great* to explain it, and as the song builds and progresses, he moves across the stage to Kitty's, (the divider is moved during the song) enlisting the crowd to join in the song. Even Lizzie eventually joins in.

Both sets remain dark, and a spotlight illuminates a hospital bed downstage left where Eleanor lies unconscious, with Bill standing over her with a guitar. He sings *Still In Love* and when the song ends, Eleanor surprises him by waking up and telling him it's a nice song. Bill is overjoyed, and the lights go down on him hugging her in her bed.

At Kitty's, Jake and Sandy are celebrating Eleanor's recovery, and then Bill comes in and tells Jake and Sandy that Eleanor will be home in just a couple of weeks. Jake brings Bill (and us) up to date by telling us that Buck pleaded guilty to entering a restricted building and had gone to jail for one month, and now he's on his way to Kitty's after being released today. The crowd is waiting as Buck comes to the door, then Jake leads the finale of *Welcome Home*, which features a different lyric and loops through the ending repeatedly as the cast come out and bow.

THE END