

40th Anniversary



Master of Ceremonies

Music plays softly in background.

Erica introduces the production. Date of production: August 1989. Curtains are closed.



Act I

This scene takes place in the City of Groningen, Province of Groningen, country of The Netherlands on Wednesday, September 21, 1949. The hour is 11:30 a.m.; the soon-to-be bride and groom plus guests are congregated in the Oosterkerk (Eastern Church), mom's families' place of worship.

Curtains open

The minister stands to the side and the bride and groom enter with the flower girl following. The bride and groom, shortly thereafter, are proclaimed husband and wife and the wedding ring is placed on the bride's finger. The bride and groom and flower girl exit.



Curtains close



Act II

This scene takes place in the kitchen of mom and dad's home on Nebo Road, located at the time on the outskirts of Hamilton. After numerous moves—starting in Saskatchewan, relocating to small towns north of Toronto--mom and dad finally settle on Nebo Road once dad acquired a position with Silverwood's Dairy delivering, home-to-home, milk to various locations throughout Hamilton. They lived there from 1952 until 1962.

Curtains open



Mom is in the kitchen; Carol is sitting, cross-legged, on the floor cradling her baby doll. Dad enters the kitchen carrying his milkman's case of six – 1-quart glass bottles of milk. Mom takes one of the bottles and begins to make hot chocolate for her daughters, Dorothy and Carol. Of course, she sets the milk on *high* heat. Dad exits and Dorothy enters with a freshly picked bouquet of dandelions for mom. Mom and her daughters search for a vase to put the dandelions in. Suddenly the milk boils over (mom exclaims, “Oh, daar gaat de melk!”) and shoos her daughters out of the kitchen. Once this catastrophe has quieted down, mom prepares to bake a nice cake. She measures the ingredients out *exactly*. (because this was a play, the ingredients were strips of paper with words such as “love”, “tenderness”, “laughter”, “sorrow”, “discipline” written on them). Mom places these strips and divides them into bowls. The bowls are given to *mom* and *dad* in the audience. (*Dad*, going along with the play, begins stuffing the strips of paper into his mouth whereas *mom*, taking things more seriously, looks skeptically at the strips, looks up, and smiles.)



Curtains close

Act III

This scene takes place at McMaster University in the spring of 1970. Dad was graduating with an Honours B.A. after spending 5 years there studying.

Curtains open

Dad enters and shakes hands with the person giving his diploma; dad accepting the diploma.



Curtains close

Act IV

This scene takes place on dad's first day of teaching at Southmount Secondary School in September, 1970.

Curtains open



His heart sank as his students entered the classroom. They were slovenly dressed, slovenly in their body posture, were chewing gum and worst of all was their attitude and rowdiness. At the end of the period the students left, leaving dad to sadly think of the long years ahead of teaching. (Fortunately these years improved as time went along.)

Curtains close

Act V

This scene takes place in the kitchen of mom and dad's home on East 36th Street (where they lived for 43 years) when dad and mom were both retired. They were the days of "milk and honey" being reaped after dad and mom's long years of working. Mom had, for a number of years, busied herself canning pears and stewing tomatoes prior to dad's retirement. Once dad retired he joined mom stewing tomatoes and making their famous 4 of July jam and Straw-Goose jam. Dad and mom had a gooseberry bush in their backyard. The gooseberries, they found, were not so suited for eating as a fruit. Then dad discovered that the high amount of pectin in the berries were very useful in thickening the jams. Wasn't he proud to have thought of using these gooseberries in their jams! (Good going dad!—I could give him a pat on the back!)

Curtains open

The canning pot stands ready on the counter. Dad comes in with a basket of tomatoes. These tomatoes are *huge* (blown up red balloons), representing dad's *green thumb*. Mom and dad attempt to place the tomatoes in the water bath (they are bouncing all over the place) and a jar of their famous 4 of July jam sits on a nearby table. Their grandchildren, Adrian and Erica, called all of their activities: **G & G Enterprises**.



Curtains close

Act VI

This scene opens with Dorothy, standing in front of the closed curtains, playing a gypsy peering into her crystal ball predicting that dad, in the near future, would form a *rock* band.

Curtains open

The tune of Samantha Fox blares and members of the band all bounce around on the stage! Dad (Adrian) stars on keyboards while Samantha Fox (Erica) belts out her hit song.



Curtains close

Players

Dorothy - bride (mom - The Netherlands), mother (mom – Nebo Road), student (Southmount Secondary School), homemaker (mom – East 36th Street), gypsy, drum player

Carol – minister (The Netherlands), young daughter (Nebo Road), diploma giver (McMaster University), teacher (dad – Southmount Secondary School), guitar player

Adrian - groom (dad – The Netherlands), milkman (dad – Nebo Road), receiving diploma (dad – McMaster University), student (Southmount Secondary School), mom’s helper (dad – East 36th Street), keyboard player (dad)

Erica - Master of Ceremonies (venue of Play – East 36th Street), flower girl (The Netherlands), youngest daughter (Nebo Road), student (Southmount Secondary School), Samantha Fox (vocals)

Dad (audience)

Mom (audience)

Michael (videographer)

The Celebration

This scene takes place in the addition of mom and dad's home on East 36th Street. The addition was added on in 1988-1989.

We are all gathered. Dorothy and Adrian entertain us with their musical talents--a duo; Adrian playing the flute and Dorothy playing the guitar.

Cake and gifts and conversation end this wonderful day!!

