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Evita  
Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Lyrics: Tim Rice  
Premiere: Wednesday, June 21, 1978

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\* ACT ONE \*

1. A CINEMA IN BUENOS AIRES, 26 JULY 1952

(An audience is watching a less than distinguished movie [in both the original London and New York productions of EVITA a clip from one of Eva Peron's own movies was used]. The soundtrack dialogue is in Spanish, the music melodramatic. Suddenly the film grinds to a halt. The people in the cinema begin to protest but are silenced by an announcement)

THE VOICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE PRESS

(in Spanish) It is the sad duty of the Secretary of the Press... (in English) ...to inform the people of Argentina that Eva Peron, spiritual leader of the nation, entered immortality at 20.25 hours today.

2. REQUIEM FOR EVITA / OH WHAT A CIRCUS

(EVA's funeral. CHE is the only non-participant. He moves through the mourners, apparently unseen.)

CROWD

Requiem aeternum dona Evita  
Requiem Evita  
Evita  
Evita

CHE

Oh what a circus! Oh what a show!  
Argentina has gone to town  
Over the death of an actress called Eva Peron  
We've all gone crazy  
Mourning all day and mourning all night  
Falling over ourselves to get all of the misery right

Oh what an exit! That's how to go!  
When they're ringing your curtain down  
Demand to be buried like Eva Peron  
It's quite a sunset  
And good for the country in a roundabout way  
We've made the front page of all the world's papers today

But who is this Santa Evita?  
Why all this howling hysterical sorrow?  
What kind of goddess has lived among us?  
How will we ever get by without her?

She had her moments--she had some style  
The best show in town was the crowd  
Outside the Casa Rosada crying, "Eva Peron"

But that's all gone now  
As soon as the smoke from the funeral clears  
We're all going to see how she did nothing for years!

CROWD

Salve regina mater misericordiae  
Vita dulcedo et spes nostra  
Salve salve regina  
Ad te clamamus exules filii Eva  
Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes  
O clemens o pia

CHE

You let down your people Evita  
You were supposed to have been immortal  
That's all they wanted  
Not much to ask for  
But in the end you could not deliver

Sing you fools! But you got it wrong  
Enjoy your prayers because you haven't got long  
Your queen is dead, your king is through  
She's not coming back to you

Show business kept us all alive  
Since 17 October 1945  
But the star has gone, the glamour's worn thin  
That's a pretty bad state for a state to be in

Instead of government we had a stage  
Instead of ideas a prima donna's rage  
Instead of help we were given a crowd  
She didn't say much but she said it loud

And who am I who dares to keep  
His head held high while millions weep?  
Why the exception to the rule?  
Opportunist? Traitor? Fool?

Or just a man who grew and saw  
From seventeen to twenty-four  
His country bled, crucified?  
She's not the only one who's died!

Sing you fools? But you got it wrong  
Enjoy your prayers because you haven't got long  
Your queen is dead, your king is through  
She's not coming back to you

CROWD

Salve regina mater misericordiae  
Vita dulcedo et spes nostra  
Salve salve regina Peron  
Ad te clamamus exules filii Eva  
Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes  
O clemens o pia

(A non-descript GIRL moves through the pageantry of the funeral. She sings as the voice of the dead Evita)

GIRL

Don't cry for me Argentina  
For I am ordinary, unimportant  
And undeserving of such attention  
Unless we all are--I think we all are

Ride on my train o my people  
And when it's your turn to die you'll remember  
They fired those cannons, sang lamentations  
Not just for Eva, for Argentina

Not just for Eva, for everybody  
So share my glory, so share my coffin  
So share my glory, so share my coffin

CHE

It's our funeral too

### 3. ON THIS NIGHT OF A THOUSAND STARS / EVA AND MAGALDI / EVA BEWARE OF THE CITY

(Flashback to 1934 and to a nightclub in Junin, EVA's home town. EVA DUARTE is fifteen. The cabaret is nearly over. MAGALDI is singing with great gusto.)

CHE

Now Eva Peron had every disadvantage you need if you're going to succeed. No money, no class, no father, no bright lights--there was nowhere she'd been at the age of fifteen, as this tango singer found out. A tango singer! Agustin Magaldi--who has the distinction of being the first man to be of use to Eva Duarte.

MAGALDI (The final song of his act)

On this night of a thousand stars  
Let me take you to heaven's door  
Where the music of love's guitars  
Plays for evermore!

In the glow of those twinkling lights  
We shall love through eternity  
On this night in a million nights  
Fly away with me!

I never dreamed that a kiss could be as sweet as this  
--now I know that it can  
I used to wander alone without a love of my own  
I was a desperate man  
But all my grief disappeared and all the sorrow I feared  
Wasn't there anymore  
On that magical day when you first came my way  
Mi amor!

On this night  
On this night  
On this night of a thousand stars  
Let me take you to heaven's door  
Where the music of love's guitars

Plays for evermore!

(MAGALDI joins EVA and her family--mother, 3 sisters, brother--at their table. CHE is loitering nearby at the bar.)

EVA

To think that a man, as famous as you are, could love a poor little nothing like me!

MAGALDI

The audience here are sitting on their hands

CHE

Listen chum, face the fact they don't like your act

MAGALDI

But this is Junin! If this were Buenos Aires--I'd have that town at my feet! I never ever meet members of the public --they'd tear me apart!

CHE

I understand their feelings

EVA

I want to be a part of B.A.--Buenos Aires--Big Apple!

EVA and FAMILY

She wants to be a part of B.A.--Buenos Aires--Big Apple!

CHE

Just listen to that! They're onto you Magaldi! I'd get out while you can

EVA

It's happened at last--I'm starting to get started--I'm moving out with my man

MAGALDI

Now Eva don't get carried away-

EVA

Monotony past--suburbia departed--who could ever get kicks in the back of the sticks?

MAGALDI

Don't hear words that I didn't say

EVA's FAMILY

What's that? You'd desert the girl you love?

MAGALDI

The girl I love? What are you talking about?

EVA's FAMILY

She really brightened up your out of town engagement, she gave you all she had--she wasn't in your contract --you must be quite relieved that no-one's told the papers --so far-

EVA

I want to be a part of B.A.--Buenos Aires--Big Apple!  
Would I have done what I did if I hadn't thought, if I  
hadn't known, we would stay together?

CHE

Seems to me there's no point in resisting, she's made up  
her mind, you've no choice. Why don't you be the man  
who discovered her? You'll never be remembered for  
your voice.

MAGALDI

The city can be paradise for those who have the cash, the  
class and the connections--what you need to make a  
splash. The likes of you get swept up in the morning  
with the trash--if you were rich or middle class-

EVA

Screw the middle classes! I will never accept them! And  
they will never deny me anything again! My father's  
other family were middle class and we were kept out of  
sight, hidden from view, at his funeral! If these are the  
people of Buenos Aires I welcome the chance to shine in  
their city!

CHE

Do all your one night stands give you this trouble?

MAGALDI

Eva, beware of the city  
It's hungry and cold, can't be controlled, it is mad  
Those who are fools are swallowed up whole  
And those who are not become  
What they should not become  
Changed--in short they go bad

EVA

Bad is good for me--I'm bored, so clean and so ignored  
I've only been predictable--respectable!  
Birds fly out of here so why oh why oh why the hell  
can't I  
I only want variety--notoriety!  
I want to be a part of B.A.--Buenos Aires--Big Apple!

EVA and FAMILY

She wants to be a part of B.A.--Buenos Aires--Big Apple!

MAGALDI

Five years from now I shall come back  
And finally say, you have your way--come to town  
But you'll look at me with a foreigner's eyes  
The magical city a  
Younger girl's city, a  
Fantasy long since put down

EVA

All you've done to me--was that a young girl's fantasy?  
I played your city games alright--didn't I?

I already know what cooks, how the dirty city feels  
and looks  
I tasted it last night, didn't I?  
I'm going to be a part of B.A.--Buenos Aires--Big Apple!

EVA and FAMILY  
She's going to be a part of B.A.--Buenos Aires--Big Apple!

MAGALDI  
Eva beware your ambition  
It's hungry and cold, can't be controlled, will run wild  
This in a man is a danger enough  
But you are a woman, not  
Even a woman, not  
Very much more than a child and whatever you say  
I'll not steal you away!

#### 4. BUENOS AIRES

(EVA and MAGALDI arrive in Buenos Aires)

EVA  
What's new Buenos Aires?  
I'm new--I want to say I'm just a little stuck on you  
You'll be on me too!

I get out here Buenos Aires  
Stand back--you ought to know what'cha gonna get in me  
Just a little touch of star quality!  
Fill me up with your heat, with your noise, with your  
dirt, overdo me  
Let me dance to your beat, make it loud. let it hurt,  
run it through me  
Don't hold back you are certain to impress  
Tell the driver this is where I'm staying

Hello Buenos Aires!  
Get this--just look at me, dressed up somewhere to go  
We'll put on a show!

Take me in at your flood, give me speed, give me lights,  
set me humming  
Shoot me up with your blood, wine me up with your  
nights, watch me coming  
All I want is a whole lot of excess  
Tell the singer this is where I'm playing

Stand back Buenos Aires!  
Because you ought to know what'cha gonna get in me  
Just a little touch of star quality!

And if ever I go too far  
It's because of the things you are  
Beautiful town--I love you  
And if I need a moment's rest  
Give your lover the very best  
Real eiderdown--and silence

CHE

On the 9th February 1935, in Buenos Aires--a polo match, between a team of leading Argentine players and the touring British side. The British ambassador said he had never seen a social occasion quite like it. Even by the standards of Buenos Aires society the gathering at the polo ground glittered. The Rolls' and the Daimlers, the hampers from Harrod's, the clothes, the diamonds, the crystal, the wines, the procession of nannies from England and France. The result of the match? Oh yes--the home team won, but as the British ambassador pointed out, that did not reflect badly on British horsemanship. Three of the Argentine players were educated at Eton.

EVA

You're a tramp, you're a treat, you will shine to the  
death, you are shoddy  
But you're flesh, you are meat, you shall have every  
breath in my body  
Put me down for a lifetime of success  
Give me credit--I'll find ways of paying

Rio de la Plata! Florida! Corrientes! Nueve de Julio!  
All I want to know!

Stand back Buenos Aires!  
Because you oughta know what'cha gonna get in me  
Just a little touch of  
Just a little touch of  
Just a little touch of star quality!

## 5. GOODNIGHT AND THANK YOU

CHE (To MAGALDI)

Goodnight and thank you Magaldi  
You've completed your task, what more could we ask  
Of you now?  
Please sign the book on your way out the door  
That will be all  
If we need you we'll call  
But I don't think that's likely somehow

EVA

Oh but it's sad when a love affair dies  
The parting, the closing of doors  
But we must be honest, stop fooling ourselves

CHE

Which means--up yours!

CHE and MAGALDI

There is no-one, no-one at all  
Never has been and never will be a lover  
Male or female  
Who hasn't an eye on  
In fact they rely on  
Tricks they can try on  
Their partner  
They're hoping their lover will help them or keep them

Support them, promote them  
Don't blame them  
You're the same

CHE (To EVA's FIRST LOVER)  
Goodnight and thank you whoever  
She's in every magazine, been photographed, seen  
She is known  
We don't like to rush but your case has been packed  
If we've missed anything  
You could give us a ring  
But we don't always answer the phone

EVA  
Oh but it's sad when a love affair dies  
But when we were hot we were hot  
I know you'll look back on the good times we've shared

CHE  
But Eva will not!

CHE, EVA, MAGALDI, EVA's FIRST LOVER  
There is no-one, no-one at all  
Never has been and never will be a lover  
Male or female  
Who hasn't an eye on  
In fact they rely on  
Tricks they can try on  
Their partner  
They're hoping their lover will help them or keep them  
Support them, promote them  
Don't blame them, you're the same

CHE (To EVA's SECOND LOVER)  
Goodnight and thank you whoever  
We are grateful you found her a spot on the sound  
radio  
We'll think of you every time she's on the air  
We'd love you to stay  
But you'd be in the way  
So do up your trousers and go

EVA  
Of but it's sad when a love affair dies  
The decline into silence and doubt  
Our passion was just too intense to survive

CHE  
For God's sake get out!

(By now a fairly long line of EVA's rejected LOVERS  
has formed)

LOVERS  
Oh but this line's an embarrassing sight  
Someone has made us look fools  
Argentine men call the sexual shots  
Someone has altered the rules



## CHE

Fame on the wireless as far as it goes  
Is all very well, but every girl knows  
She needs a man she can monopolize  
With fingers in dozens of different pies-

## LOVERS

Oh but it's sad when a love affair dies

## 6. THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

(Five members of the G.O.U., a right-wing grouping of officers within the military government that seized power in Argentina in 1943, including Colonel Juan PERON, are seen moving slowly back and forth in rocking chairs. During this sequence, every time the music stops, the officers rise and one chair is removed. By the end of the scene there is just one chair left, occupied by PERON.)

## OFFICERS

One has no rules  
Is not precise  
One rarely acts  
The same way twice  
One spurns no device  
Practicing the art of the possible

One always picks  
The easy fight  
One praises fools  
One smothers light  
one shifts left to right  
It's part of the art of the possible

(While the officers continue their game of political musical chairs, EVA appears, script in hand, at a microphone.)

EVA (on the air)

I'm only a radio star with just one weekly show  
But speaking as one of the people I want you to know  
We are tired of the decline of  
Argentina with no sign of  
A government able to give us the things we deserve

## OFFICERS

One always claims  
Mistakes were planned  
When risk is slight  
One takes one's stand  
With much sleight of hand  
Politics--the art of the possible

One has no rules  
Is not precise  
One rarely acts  
The same way twice  
One spurns no device  
Politics--the art of the possible

VOICES

Peron! Peron! Peron!

7. CHARITY CONCERT / I'D BE SURPRISINGLY GOOD FOR YOU

(Backstage at the Luna Park Stadium. EVA by now a successful actress, and PERON, by now one of the most powerful men in the military government, are both present. EVA's old friend MAGALDI is finishing his act on stage.

MAGALDI

On this night...

CHE

Luna Park Stadium, Buenos Aires, January 22, 1944

MAGALDI

On this night...

CHE

A concert in aid of the victims of an earthquake that devastated the town of San Juan, Argentina

MAGALDI

On this night of a thousand stars  
Let me take you to heaven's door  
Where the music of love's guitars  
Plays for evermore!

CHE

Ladies and gentlemen! Agustin Magaldi! Any minute now  
--the man of the hour!

(MAGALDI comes off stage and runs into EVA)

EVA

You're act hasn't changed much

MAGALDI

Neither has yours

(MAGALDI leaves. The crowd begins to call for PERON.  
PERON pushes his way onto the stage.)

PERON

Tonight I'm proud to be the people's spokesman! You've  
given help to those who've lost their homes, but more  
than that conclusively shown that the people should run  
their affairs on their own! Make sure your leaders  
understand their people!

CROWD

Peron! Peron! Peron!

(PERON leaves the stage and finds himself face to face with  
EVA)

EVA

Colonel Peron?

PERON

Eva Duarte?

EVA and PERON

I've heard so much about you!

I'm amazed for I'm only an actress (a soldier)

Nothing to shout about (One of the thousands)

Only a girl on the boards (Defending the country he loves)

EVA

But when you act, the things you do affect us all

PERON

But when you act, you take us away from the squalor of  
the real world--Are you here on your own?

EVA

Yes

PERON

So am I--what a fortunate coincidence. Maybe you're my  
reward for my efforts here tonight

EVA

It seems crazy but you must believe

There's nothing calculated, nothing planned

Please forgive me if I seem naive

I would never want to force your hand

But please understand

I'd be good for you

I don't always rush in like this

Twenty seconds after saying hello

Telling strangers I'm too good to miss

If I'm wrong I hope you'll tell me so

But you really should know

I'd be good for you

I'd be surprisingly good for you

I won't go on if I'm boring you

But do you understand my point of view

Do you like what you hear, what you see, and would  
you be

Good for me too?

I'm not talking of a hurried night

A frantic tumble then a shy goodbye

Creeping home before it gets too light

That's not the reason that I caught your eye

Which has to imply

I'd be good for you

I'd be surprisingly good for you

PERON

Please go on--you enthrall me!

I can understand you perfectly

And I like what I hear, what I see, and knowing me

I would be good for you too

EVA

I'm not talking of a hurried night  
A frantic tumble then a shy goodbye  
Creeping home before it gets too light  
That's not the reason that I caught your eye  
Which has to imply  
I'd be good for you  
I'd be surprisingly good for you

EVA and PERON

(neither seems aware that the other is singing)  
There is no-one, no-one at all  
Never has been and never will be a lover  
Male or female  
Who hasn't an eye on  
In fact they rely on  
Tricks they can try on  
Their partner  
They're hoping their lover will help them or keep them  
Support them, promote them  
Don't blame them, you're the same

#### 8. ANOTHER SUITCASE IN ANOTHER HALL

(EVA and PERON arrive at PERON's apartment.  
PERON's 16 year-old MISTRESS is in bed.)

EVA

Hello and goodbye!  
I've just unemployed you  
You can go back to school--you had a good run  
I'm sure he enjoyed you  
Don't act sad or surprised, let's be friends, civilized  
Come on little one!  
Don't sit there like a dummy!  
The day you knew would arrive is here--you'll survive  
So move, funny face!  
I like your conversation--you've a catchy turn of phrase

(EVA turns PERON's MISTRESS out into the hall.)

MISTRESS

I don't expect my love affairs to last for long  
Never fool myself that my dreams will come true  
Being used to trouble I anticipate it  
But all the same I hate it--wouldn't you?  
So what happens now?

CHE

Another suitcase in another hall

MISTRESS

So what happens now?

CHE

Take your picture off another wall

MISTRESS

Where am I going to?

CHE

You'll get by, you always have before

MISTRESS

Where am I going to?

Time and time again I've said that I don't care  
That I'm immune to gloom, that I'm hard through  
and through  
But every time it matters all my words desert me  
So anyone can hurt me--and they do  
So what happens now?

CHE

Another suitcase in another hall

MISTRESS

So what happens now?

CHE

Take your picture off another wall

MISTRESS

Where am I going to?

CHE

You'll get by you always have before

MISTRESS

Where am I going go?

Call in three months time and I'll be fine I know  
Well maybe not that fine, but I'll survive anyhow  
I won't recall the names and places of this sad occasion  
But that's no consolation--here and now  
So what happens now?

CHE

Another suitcase in another hall

MISTRESS

So what happens now?

CHE

Take your picture off another wall

MISTRESS

Where am I going to?

CHE

You'll get by, you always have before

MISTRESS

Where am I going to?

CHE

Don't ask anymore

## 9. PERON'S LATEST FLAME

CHE

At the watering-holes of the well-to-do  
I detect a resistance to...

ARISTOCRATS

Precisely!

CHE

...our heroine's style

ARISTOCRATS

We're glad you noticed

CHE

The shooting sticks of the upper class

ARISTOCRATS

Give her an inch...

CHE

Aren't supporting a single ass  
That would rise for the girl

ARISTOCRATS

...she'll take a mile

Such a shame she wandered into our enclosure  
How unfortunate this person has forced us to be blunt  
No, we wouldn't mind seeing her in Harrod's  
But behind the jewelry counter--not in front

CHE

Could there be in our fighting corps  
A lack of enthusiasm for...

ARMY

Exactly!

CHE

...Peron's latest flame?

ARMY

You said it brother

CHE

Should you wish to cause great distress  
In the tidiest officer's mess  
Just mention her name

ARMY

That isn't funny!

Peron is a fool, breaking every taboo  
Installing the girl in the army H.Q.  
And she's an actress! The last straw  
Her only good parts are between her thighs

She should stare at the ceiling, not reach for the skies  
Or she could be his last whore  
The evidence suggests  
She has other interests  
If it's her who's using him  
He's exceptionally dim  
Bitch! Dangerous Jade!

#### ARISTOCRATS

We have allowed ourselves to slip  
We have completely lost our grip  
We have declined to an all-time low  
Tarts have become the set to know

#### ARMY

It's no crime for officers to do as they please  
As long as they're discreet and keep clear of disease  
We ignore, we disregard  
But once they allow a bit on the side  
To move to the center where she's not qualified  
We should all be on our guard  
She should get into her head  
She should not get out of bed  
She should know that she's not paid  
To be loud but to be laid  
Slut! Dangerous Jade!

(EVA, the glamorous movie star, enters,  
flanked by HEAVIES.)

#### CHE (in the guise of a reporter)

This has really been your year Miss Duarte  
Tell us where you go from here Miss Duarte  
Which are the roles that you yearn to play  
Whom did you sleep--dine with yesterday?

#### EVA

Is that the extent of your interest in me?  
It shows how futile acting must be

#### CHE

Can we assume then that you'll quit? Is this because of  
your association with Colonel Peron?

#### HEAVIES

Goodnight and thank you

(They push CHE aside and EVA out)

#### ARMY

She won't be kept happy by her nights on the tiles  
She says it's his body but she's after his files  
So get back onto the street!  
She should get into her head  
She should not get out of bed  
She should know that she's not paid  
To be loud but to be laid  
The evidence suggests  
She has other interests

If it's her who's using him  
He's exceptionally dim

#### ARISTOCRATS

Things have reached a pretty pass  
When someone pretty lower class  
Graceless and vulgar, uninspired  
Can be accepted and admired

#### 10. A NEW ARGENTINA

#### PERON

Dice are rolling, the knives are out  
Would be presidents are all around  
I don't say they mean harm, but they'd each give an arm  
To see us six feet under ground

#### EVA

It doesn't matter what those morons say  
Our nation's leaders are a feeble crew  
There's only twenty of them anyway  
What is twenty next to millions who  
Are looking to you?

All you have to do is sit and wait  
Keeping out of everybody's way  
We'll--you'll be handed power on a plate  
When the ones who matter have their say  
And with chaos installed  
You can reluctantly agree to be called

#### PERON

There again we could be foolish  
Not to quit while we're ahead  
For distance lends enchantment  
And that is why  
All exiles are distinguished  
More important they're not dead  
I could find job satisfaction  
In Paraguay

#### EVA

This is crazy defeatist talk  
Why commit political suicide?  
There's no risk, there's no call  
For any action at all  
When you have unions on your side

#### WORKERS' VOICES

Peron! Peron!

#### CHE

A new Argentina!  
The chains of the masses untied!  
A new Argentina!  
The voice of the people cannot be denied!

#### EVA

There is only one man who can lead any workers' regime



He lives for your problems, he shares your ideals  
and your dreams  
He supports you for he loves you, understands you,  
is one of you  
If not--how could he love me?

MOB

A new Argentina!  
The workers' battle song!  
A new Argentina!  
The voice of the people rings out loud and long!

EVA

Now I am a worker I've suffered the way that you do  
I've been unemployed and I've starved and I hated it too  
But I found my salvation in Peron--may the nation  
Let him save them as he saved me

CHE

A new Argentina!  
A new age about to begin!

CHE and SECRET POLICE

A new Argentina!  
We face the world together and no dissent within

(The SECRET POLICE lay into CHE)

INDIVIDUAL WORKERS

Nationalization of the industries that the foreigners  
control  
Participation in the profits that we make  
Shorter hours  
Higher wages  
Votes for women  
Larger dole  
More public spending  
A bigger slice of every cake

PERON

It's annoying that we have to fight elections for our cause  
The inconvenience--having to get a majority  
If normal methods of persuasion fail to win us applause  
There are other ways of establishing authority

SECRET POLICE

We have ways of making you vote for us, or at least of  
making you abstain

EVA

Peron has resigned from the army and this we avow  
The descamisados are those he is marching with now!  
He supports you for he loves you, understands you,  
is one of you  
If not--how could he love me?

ALL

A new Argentina!  
The chains of the masses untied!

A new Argentina!  
The voice of the people cannot be, and will not be,  
and must not be, denied!

PERON

There again we could be foolish  
Not to quit while we're ahead  
I can see me many miles away  
Inactive  
Sipping cocktails on a terrace  
Taking breakfast in bed  
Sleeping easy, doing crosswords  
It's attractive

EVA

Don't think I don't think like you, I often get those  
nightmares too  
They always take some swallowing  
Sometimes it's very difficult to keep momentum if  
It's you that you are following  
Don't close doors  
Keep an escape clause  
Because we might lose  
The Big Apple  
But--would I have done, what I did  
If I hadn't thought, if I hadn't known  
We would take the country?

ALL

A new Argentina!  
The chains of the masses untied!  
A new Argentina!  
The voice of the people cannot be, and will not be,  
and must not be, denied!

END OF ACT ONE

\* ACT TWO \*

#### 11. ON THE BALCONY OF THE CASA ROSADA / DON'T CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA

(PERON has just won a sweeping victory in the 1946  
Presidential Election. This is the first public appearance  
by PERON and EVA since that triumph. Action takes  
place both inside and outside on the balcony of the Casa  
Rosada - the pink Presidential Palace in Buenos Aires.)

CHE

People of Argentina! Your newly elected President--  
Juan Peron!

(The CROWD begins to chant "Peron! Peron!")

PERON

Argentinos! Argentinos! We are all shirtless now!  
Fighting against our common enemies--  
Poverty, social injustice, foreign domination of  
our industries!  
Reaching for our common goals--

Our independence, our dignity, our pride!  
Let the world know that our great nation is awakening  
and that its heart beats in the humble bodies of Juan  
Peron--and his wife, the first lady of Argentina,  
Eva Duarte de Peron!

CHE

As a mere observer of this tasteless phenomenon, one has  
to admire the stage management--

(HEAVIES move in on Che)

There again--perhaps I'm more than a mere observer -  
listen to my enthusiasm, gentleman! Peron! Peron!  
Peron!--Look, if I take off my shirt, will you-

(HEAVIES bundle CHE away)

(The CROWD by now are beginning to chant  
"Evita! Evita!")

EVA

It won't be easy, you'll think it strange  
When I try to explain how I feel  
That I still need your love after all that I've done  
You won't believe me  
All you will see is a girl you once knew  
Although she's dressed up to the nines  
At sixes and sevens with you

I had to let it happen, I had to change  
Couldn't stay all my life down at heel  
Looking out of the window, staying out of the sun  
So I chose freedom  
Running around trying everything new  
But nothing impressed me at all  
I never expected it to

Don't cry for me Argentina  
The truth is I never left you  
All through my wild days  
My mad existence  
I kept my promise  
Don't keep your distance

And as for fortune, and as for fame  
I never invited them in  
Though it seemed to the world they were all I desired  
They are illusions  
They are not the solutions they promised to be  
The answer was here all the time  
I love you and hope you love me

Don't cry for me Argentina...

(EVA breaks down; the CROWD takes up her tune)

EVA

Don't cry for me Argentina

The truth is I never left you  
All through my wild days  
My mad existence  
I kept my promise  
Don't keep your distance

Have I said too much? There's nothing more I can think  
of to say to you  
But all you have to do is look at me to know that every  
word is true

(The CROWD is ecstatically enthusiastic; EVA goes  
inside from the balcony)

Just listen to that! The voice of Argentina! We are  
adored! We are loved!

OFFICER  
Statesmanship is more than entertaining peasants

EVA  
We shall see, little man

CROWD  
Evita Peron! La Santa Peronista!

(EVA goes back onto the balcony)

EVA  
I am only a simple woman who lives to serve Peron in his  
noble crusade to rescue his people! I was once as you are  
now! I have taken these riches from the oligarchs only for  
you--for all of you! One day you will inherit these  
treasures! Descamisados! When they fire those cannons,  
when the crowds sing of glory, it is not just for Peron,  
but for all of us! All of us!

AN ARISTOCRAT (mocking applause)  
Things have reached a pretty pass  
When someone pretty lower class  
Can be accepted and admired-

EVA  
But your despicable class is dead! Look who they are calling  
for now!

## 12. HIGH FLYING, ADORED

CHE  
High flying, adored, so young, the instant queen, a  
Rich beautiful thing of all the talents, a cross between a  
Fantasy of the bedroom and a saint  
And you were just a backstreet girl  
Hustling and fighting  
Scratching and biting  
High flying, adored, did you believe in your wildest  
moments  
All this would be yours, that you'd become the lady  
of them all?

Were there stars in your eyes when you crawled in  
at night  
From the bars, from the sidewalks  
From the gutter theatrical?  
Don't look down, it's a long long way to fall

High flying, adored, what happens now, where do you  
go from here?  
For someone on top of the world, the view's not exactly  
clear  
A shame you did it all at twenty-six  
There are no mysteries now  
Nothing can thrill you  
No-one fulfill you  
High flying, adored, I hope you come to terms with  
boredom  
So famous, so easily, so soon, is not the wisest thing  
to be  
You won't care if they love you, it's been done before  
You'll despair if they hate you  
You'll be drained of all energy  
All the young who've made it would agree

EVA

High flying, adored, I've been called names but they're  
the strangest  
My story's quite usual, local girl makes good,  
weds famous man  
I was slap in the right place at the perfect time  
Filled a gap--I was lucky  
But one thing I'll say for me  
No-one else can fill it like I can

### 13. RAINBOW HIGH

EVA

I don't really think I need  
The reasons why I won't succeed  
I haven't started!  
Let's get this show on the road  
Let's make it obvious  
Peron is off and rolling

EVA's DRESSERS

Eyes! Hair! Mouth! Figure! Dress! Voice! Style!  
Movement! Hands! Magic! Rings! Glamour! Face!  
Diamonds! Excitement! Image!

EVA

I came from the people  
They need to adore me  
So Christian Dior me  
From my head to my toes  
I need to be dazzling  
I want to be Rainbow High!  
They must have excitement  
And so must I

EVA's DRESSERS

Eyes! Hair! Mouth! Figure! Dress! Voice! Style! Movement!

EVA

I'm their product  
It's vital you sell me  
So Machiavell-me  
Make an Argentine Rose!  
I need to be thrilling  
I shall be Rainbow High!  
They need their escape  
And so do I

EVA's DRESSERS

Eyes! Hair! Mouth! Figure! Dress! Voice! Style!  
Movement! Hands! Magic! Rings! Glamour! Face!  
Diamonds! Excitement! Image!

EVA

All my descamisados expect me to outshine the enemy--  
the aristocracy  
I won't disappoint them!

I'm their savior!  
That's what they call me  
So Lauren Bacall me  
Anything goes  
To make me fantastic  
I have to be Rainbow High  
In magical colors--

You're not decorating a girl for a night on the town!  
And I'm not a second-rate queen getting kicks with  
a crown!  
Next stop will be Europe!  
The Rainbow's gonna tour  
Dressed up, somewhere to go  
We'll put on a show!  
Look out, mighty Europe!  
Because you oughta know what'cha gonna get in me  
Just a little touch of  
Just a little touch of  
Argentina's brand of  
Star quality!

#### 14. RAINBOW TOUR

(PERON and some of his OFFICERS reflect on EVA's European progress. CHE takes over many of the OFFICERS' lines during this sequence and also adds various comments of his own.)

PERON

People of Europe! I send you the Rainbow of Argentina!

CHE

Spain has fallen to the charms of Evita  
She can do what she likes--it doesn't matter much  
She's the New World Madonna with the golden touch  
She filled a bull-ring--forty-five thousand seater

But if you're prettier than General Franco  
That's not hard

Franco's reign in Spain should see out the forties  
So you've just acquired an ally who  
Looks as secure in his job as you  
More important, current political thought is  
Your wife's a phenomenal asset  
Your trump card

PERON and OFFICERS  
Let's hear it for the Rainbow Tour  
It's been an incredible success  
We weren't quite sure, we had a few doubts

CHE  
Would Evita win through?

PERON and OFFICERS  
But the answer is yes!

EVA (in Spain)  
There you are, I told you so  
Makes no difference where we go  
The whole world over--just the same  
You should have heard them call our name  
And who would underestimate the actress now?

PERON  
I'm not underestimating you--just do the same thing in  
Italy please

CHE  
Now I don't like to spoil a wonderful story  
But the news from Rome is not so good  
She hasn't gone down like we thought she would  
Italy's unconvinced by Argentine glory  
They equate Peron with Mussolini  
Can't think why

EVA (in Italy)  
Did you here that?  
They called me a whore!  
They actually called me a whore!

AN ITALIAN ADMIRAL (CHE)  
But Signora Peron--  
It's an easy mistake  
I'm still called an admiral  
yet I gave up the sea long ago

CHE / OFFICERS  
Things aren't all that bad she met with the Pope  
She got a Papal decoration and a kindly word  
So even if the crowds gave our lady the bird  
The Argentine/Italy axis does have some hope  
She still made a fabulous impact  
Caught the eye

PERON and OFFICERS

Let's here it for the Rainbow Tour  
It's been an incredible success  
We weren't quite sure, we had a few doubts

CHE

Would Evita win through?

PERON and OFFICERS

But the answer is--

CHE

A qualified--

PERON and OFFICERS

Yes!

CHE

Eva started well, no question, in France  
Shining like the sun through the post-war haze  
A beautiful reminder of the carefree days  
She nearly captured the French, she sure had the chance  
But she suddenly seemed to lose interest  
She looked tired

PERON and OFFICERS

Tired? Eva tired?

CHE

Face the facts, the Rainbow's starting to fade  
I don't think she'll make it to England now

PERON

It wasn't on the schedule anyhow

CHE

You'd better get out the flags and fix a parade  
Some kind of coming home triumph  
Is required

PERON and OFFICERS

Let's here it for the Rainbow Tour  
It's been an incredible success  
We weren't quite sure, we had a few doubts  
Would Evita win through?

CHE

And the answer is--

PERON and OFFICERS

Yes

CHE

And no

PERON and OFFICERS

And yes

CHE



And no

PERON and OFFICERS

And yes... and no

Let's here it for the Rainbow Tour

It's been an incredible success...

EVA (back from Europe)

Who the hell does the King of England think he is?

Tea at some tinpot castle of his--what kind of invitation  
is that?

Argentina's First Lady deserves Buckingham Palace!

If England can do without me

Then Argentina can do without England!

#### 15. THE ACTRESS HASN'T LEARNED (THE LINES YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR)

ARISTOCRACY

Thus all fairy stories end

Only an actress would pretend

Affairs of state are her latest play

Eight shows a week two matinees

My how the worm begins to turn

When will the chorus girl ever learn?

My how the worm begins to turn

When will the chorus girl ever learn?

EVA

The chorus girl hasn't learned the lines you'd like to hear

She won't be scrambling over the backs of the poor to be  
accepted

By making donations--just large enough--to the correct  
charity

She won't be president of your wonderful society of  
philanthropy

Even if you asked her to be

As you should have asked her to be

The actress hasn't learned the lines you'd like to hear

She won't join your clubs, she won't dance in your halls

She won't help the hungry once a month at your tombolas

She'll simply take control as you disappear

CHE

Forgive my intrusion but fine as those sentiments sound

Little has changed for us peasants down here on the  
ground

I hate to seem churlish, ungrateful, I don't like to moan

But do you now represent anyone's cause but your own?

EVA

Everything done will justified by my Foundation

#### 16. AND THE MONEY KEPT ROLLING IN (AND OUT)

CHE (and WORKERS on choruses)

And the money kept rolling in from every side

Eva's pretty hands reached out and they reached wide

Now you may feel it should have been a voluntary cause

But that's not the point my friends  
When the money keeps rolling in you don't ask how  
Think of all the people guaranteed a good time now  
Eva's called the hungry to her--open up the doors!  
Never been a fund like the Foundation Eva Peron!

Rolling rolling rolling  
Rolling on in

Would you like to try a college education?  
Own your landlord's house, take the family on vacation?  
Eva and her blessed Fund can make your dreams come  
true  
Here's all you have to do my friends  
Write your name and your dream on a card or a pad  
or a ticket  
Throw it high in the air and should our lady pick it  
She will change your way of life for a week or even two  
Name me anyone who cares as much as Eva Peron!

Rolling rolling rolling  
Rolling on out

And the money kept rolling out in all directions  
To the poor to the weak to the destitute of all  
complexions  
Now cynics claim a little of the cash has gone astray  
But that's not the point my friends  
When the money keeps rolling out you don't keep books  
You can tell you've done well by the happy grateful looks  
Accountants only slow things down, figures get in  
the way  
Never been a lady loved as much as Eva Peron!

Rolling rolling rolling  
Rolling on out

If the money keeps rolling in what's a girl to do?  
Cream a little off the top for expenses--wouldn't you?  
But where on Earth can people hide their little piece of  
Heaven?  
Thank God for Switzerland  
Where a girl and a guy with a little petty cash between  
them  
Can be sure when they deposit no-one's seen them  
Oh what bliss to sign your checks as  
three-o-one-two-seven  
Never been accounts in the name of Eva Peron!

Rolling rolling rolling  
Rolling on in

## 17. SANTA EVITA

### CHILDREN

Please, gentle Eva, will you bless a little child?  
For I love you--tell Heaven I'm doing my best  
I'm praying for you, even though you're already blessed  
Please, mother Eva, will you look upon me as your own?

Make me special, be my angel, be my everything wonderful  
perfect and true  
And I'll try to be exactly like you  
Please, holy Eva, will you feed a hungry child?  
For I love you--tell Heaven I'm doing my best...

CHE  
Get them while they're young, Evita, get them while they're  
young!

CHILDREN  
...I'm praying for you, even though you're already blessed

WORKERS  
Santa Santa Evita  
Madre de todos los ninos  
De los tiranizados  
De los descamisados  
De los trabajadores  
De la Argentina

CHE  
Why try to govern a country when you can become a saint?

#### 18. WALTZ FOR EVA AND CHE

CHE  
Tell me before I waltz out of your life  
Before turning my back on the past  
Forgive my impertinent behavior  
But how long do you think this pantomime can last?  
Tell me before I ride off in the sunset  
There's one thing I never got clear  
How can you claim you're our savior  
When those who oppose you  
Are stepped on, or cut up, or simply disappear?

EVA  
Tell me before you get onto your bus  
Before joining the forgotten brigade  
How can one person like me, say,  
Alter the time-honored way the game is played?  
Tell me before you get onto your high horse  
Just what you expect me to do  
I don't care what the bourgeoisie say  
I'm not in business for them but to give all my  
descamisados  
A magical moment or two

CHE and EVA  
There is evil, ever around, fundamental  
System of government quite incidental

EVA  
So what are my chances  
Of honest advances?  
I'd say low  
Better to win  
By admitting my sin

Than to lose with a halo

CHE

Tell me before seek worthier pastures  
And thereby restore self-esteem  
How can you be so short-sighted  
To look never further than this week or next week  
To have no impossible dream?

EVA

Allow me to help you slink off to the sidelines  
I'll pay your fare, give three cheers  
But first tell me who'd be delighted  
To witness me tackle  
The world's greatest problems  
From war to pollution?  
No hope of solution  
Even if I lived for one hundred years

CHE and EVA

There is evil, ever around, fundamental  
System of government quite incidental

EVA

So go, if you're able  
To somewhere unstable  
And stay there  
Whip up your hate  
In some tottering state  
But not here, dear  
Is that clear, dear?

Oh what I'd give for a hundred years!  
But the physical interferes  
Every day more--O my Creator!  
What is the good of the strongest heart  
In a body that's falling apart?  
A serious flaw--I hope You know that

## 19. SHE IS A DIAMOND

OFFICERS

It's all very well--to a certain extent  
For the lady at the side of the President  
To show an interest in affairs  
But let's not be blind to the drift of events  
She's eclipsing the strength of the government  
She should return to below stairs  
She will never win our hearts  
She's a woman for a start  
She holds no elected post  
She's an ornament at most

CHE

What's new Buenos Aires? Your nation, which a few years  
ago had the second largest gold reserves in the world, is  
bankrupt! A country which grew up and grew rich on  
beef is rationing it! La Prensa, one of the few newspapers  
which dares to oppose Peronism, has been silenced, and

so have all other reasonable voices! I'll tell you what's  
new Buenos Aires!

PERON (to OFFICERS; CHE has gone)  
But on the other hand--she's all they have  
She's a diamond in their dull gray lives--and that's the  
Hardest kind of stone--it usually survives  
And if you think about it, can you recall  
The last time they loved anyone at all?

She's not a bauble you can brush aside  
She's been out doing what we just talked about--example  
Gave us back our businesses, got the English out  
And when you think about it--well why not do  
One or two of the things we promised to?

But on the other hand she's slowing down  
She's lost a little of that magic drive--but I would  
Not advise her critics present to derive  
Any satisfaction from her fading star  
She's the one who's kept us where we are

OFFICERS  
She's the one who's kept you where you are

## 20. DICE ARE ROLLING

PERON  
Dice are rolling, the knives are out  
I see every bad sign in the book  
And as far as they can--overweight to a man!  
They have that lean and hungry look

EVA  
But we still have the magic we've always had! The  
descamisados still worship me--we arrived thanks to  
them and no-one else; no thanks to your generals--a  
clutch of stuffed cuckoos!

PERON  
It's not a question of a big parade, proving we're big with  
the mobs on the street--

EVA  
You're wrong--the people, my people--

PERON  
The people belong to no-one! They are fickle, can be  
manipulated, they don't matter! However much they love  
you now it matters more that as far as my stuffed  
cuckoos are concerned, you don't politically exist!

EVA  
So I don't exist! So I count for nothing! Try saying that  
on the street when all over the world I am Argentina!

(EVA breaks off for a second--in some pain)

Most of your generals wouldn't be recognized by their

own mothers! But they'll admit I exist when I become vice-president!

PERON

That won't work... we've been through all of this before, they'd fight you tooth and nail--you'd never overcome them with a hundred rallies and even if you did--

EVA

Yes?

PERON

Your little body's slowly breaking down  
You're losing speed, you're losing strength--not style--  
that goes on  
Flourishing forever, but your eyes, your smile  
Do not have the sparkle of their fantastic past  
If you climb one more mountain it could be your last

EVA

I'm not that ill--bad moments come but they go  
Some days are fine, some a little bit harder  
But that doesn't mean  
I should change my routine  
Have you ever seen  
Me defeated?  
Don't you forget what I've been through and yet  
I'm still standing  
And if I am ill--that could even be to your advantage!

PERON

Advantage? I'm trying to point out that you are dying!

This talk of death is chilling--of course you're not going to die!

EVA

Then I must now be vice-president!  
And I shall have my people come to choose  
Two Perons to wear their country's crowns  
In thousands in my squares and avenues  
Emptying their villages and towns  
Where every soul in home or shack or stall  
Knows me as Argentina--that is all

Oh I shall be a great vice-president!

(But EVA collapses in great pain)

PERON

So what happens now?  
So what happens now?

EVA

Where am I going to?

PERON

Don't ask anymore

## 21. EVA'S FINAL BROADCAST

CHE

Forgive my intrusion, Evita, I just have to see  
How you admit you have lost--a brand new experience

We got it set up! We fixed you a broadcast--and you're so  
good on the air!

EVA

The actress hasn't learned the lines you'd like to hear  
She's sad for her country  
Sad to be defeated by her own weak body

(a microphone is switched on--she is now on the air)

I want to tell the people of Argentina  
I've decided I should decline  
All the honors and titles you've pressed me to take  
For I'm contented--let me simply go on  
As the woman who brings her people to the heart of  
Peron!

Don't cry for me Argentina  
The truth is I shall not leave you  
Though it may get harder  
For you to see me  
I'm Argentina  
And always will be

Have I said too much? There's nothing more I can think  
of to say to you  
But all you have to do is look at me to know that every  
word is true

## 22. MONTAGE

(In her last hours, images, people and events from EVA's  
life flow through her mind, while the grief of the nation  
knows no bounds)

CHE

She had her moments--she had some style  
The best show in town was the crowd  
Outside the Casa Rosada crying, "Eva Peron"  
But that's all gone now--

MAGALDI

Eva beware your ambition--

EVA

Screw the middle classes! I will never accept them and  
they will never deny me anything again. My father's  
other family were middle class, and we were kept out of  
sight, hidden from view--

It seems crazy but you must believe  
There's nothing calculated, nothing planned  
Please forgive me if I seem naive

I would never want to force your hand  
But please understand--

CROWD

A new Argentina!  
The chains of the masses untied!  
A new Argentina!  
The voice of the people cannot be and will not be  
and must not be--

PERON

High flying, adored, so young, the instant queen, a  
Rich beautiful thing of all the talents, a cross between a  
Fantasy of the bedroom and a saint--

CROWD

Santa Santa Evita  
Madre de todos los ninos...

CHE

Sing you fools but you got it wrong  
Enjoy your prayers because you haven't got long  
Your queen is dead, your king is through  
She's not coming back to you!

CROWD

...de los tiranizados  
De los descamisados  
De los trabajadores  
De la Argentina

### 23. LAMENT

EVA

The choice was mine and mine completely  
I could have any prize that I desired  
I could burn with the splendor of the brightest fire  
Or else--or else I could choose time  
Remember I was very young then  
And a year was forever and a day  
So what use could fifty, sixty, seventy be?  
I saw the lights and I was on my way

And how I lived! How they shone!  
But how soon the lights were gone!

Oh my daughter! Oh my son!  
Understand what I have done!

(The moment EVA dies, EMBALMERS move in to  
preserve her fragile body)

EMBALMERS

Eyes, hair, face, image  
All must be preserved  
Still life displayed forever  
No less than she deserved

CHE



Money was raised to build a tomb, a monument to Evita. Only the pedestal was completed and Evita's body disappeared for seventeen years.