

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Moving (The Lincoln Center Song)” (standalone song)

Music and Lyrics by Mark Sonnenblick

NANDO SAID, “WE’RE MOVING.”
WHEN I ASKED HIM WHY
NANDO SAID THEY’RE BUILDING SOMETHING.

I SAID, “I’M NOT MOVING.”
HE SAID, “YEAH YOU’RE MOVING, EVERYBODY’S
MOVING.
MAYBE BY JULY.
SUMMER COMES THEY’RE BUILDING SOMETHING
BIG.”

“MAMA ARE WE MOVING?”
SHE DID NOT REPLY.
“NANDO SAYS THEY’RE BUILDING SOMETHING.”

MAMA FIN’LLY ANSWERED.
SHE SAID, “YES WE’RE MOVING. EVERYBODY’S
MOVING.
PROMISE NOT TO CRY.
SUMMER COMES THEY’RE BUILDING SOMETHING
GREAT.

THERE’LL BE SHOWS.
JUST YOU WAIT—
WE’LL GO TO THOSE!
YOU CAN’T DIE BEFORE YOU’VE SEEN A
BALLERINA
ON HER TOES!
AND MAYBE YOU’LL BE ON THAT STAGE SOMEDAY.
WHO KNOWS...”

SO I NEVER CRIED
ALTHOUGH NANDO GOT UPSET.
EVEN MA COULDN’T HIDE
THAT HER EYES WERE SOMETIMES WET.

BUT SHE SAID WE’D MAKE DO

AND MY MAMA NEVER LIED...
SO I NEVER CRIED NEVER CRIED NEVER
CRIED...

BY AUGUST WE WERE LEAVING.
DONE WITH LIFE UPTOWN.
FELT LIKE WE WERE LOSING SOMETHING.

NANDO MOVED TO HARLEM.
WE WERE SENT TO BROOKLYN. I WAS LONELY...
MAMA CALMED ME DOWN.
MAMA SAID, "THEY'RE BUILDING SOMETHING
BRIGHT.
SOMETHING FUN.
JUST SIT TIGHT
AND WHEN IT'S DONE
WE'LL BE WATCHING FROM THE GALLERY AS
BALLERINAS SOAR!
THEY SAY NO ONE'S BUILT A PLACE LIKE THIS
BEFORE!"

AND I NEVER CRIED
WHEN WE FOUND OUT WHAT THAT MEANT.
WAS THERE MUSIC INSIDE?
I DON'T KNOW. WE NEVER WENT.

WHAT THEY MEANT WAS A CENTER
WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO ENTER—
WE WERE BUSY MAKING RENT
ON OUR WALK-UP IN FT. GREENE
AND THOUGH MAMA HADN'T SEEN A BALLERINA
WHEN SHE DIED
I NEVER CRIED NEVER CRIED...NEVER.
NEVER.

NOW I WORK CONSTRUCTION.
WELL, SELLING THE MACHINES.
THE KIND THEY USE FOR BUILDING SOMETHING.

LIVE IN TALLAHASSEE
BUT A WEEK AGO THEY FLEW ME TO A
CLIENT OUT IN QUEENS.
CLOSED THE DEAL A DAY BEFORE MY FLIGHT.

I THOUGHT, HELL.
GOT A NIGHT--I MIGHT AS WELL.

SEE THE OPERA OR THE PHIL.
LEARN WHY MOSES OF MANHATTAN
HAD TO FLATTEN
SAN JUAN HILL.
AND AT LEAST NOW I COULD PAY
FOR A PLAY
OR...BALLET.

WELL I DIDN'T SMILE
FROM MY SEAT WAY IN THE REAR.
FELL ASLEEP FOR A WHILE,
WISHED I'D HAD ANOTHER BEER.

BUT THEN RIGHT NEAR THE END—
I MEAN RIGHT BEFORE WE CLAPPED—
I FELT SOMETHING VERY HARD WITHIN ME BEND
UNTIL IT SNAPPED...

AND I AM TRAPPED
FOR A MOMENT
WITH THE MUSIC
AND THE DANCERS
AND WITH NANDO
AND WITH MAMA
AND I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT IF I TRIED...

BUT I'M AT THE BALLET FEELING SOMETHING
FILLED WITH JOY I CAN'T DENY—

THEY RUINED US FOR BEAUTY
AND I CRY AND I CRY
AND I CRY...