

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“I Could Get Used To This” from *Borders*

Music and lyrics by Janine McGuire and Arri Lawton Simon

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Borders tells the story of Ashraf, a closeted Palestinian man, who falls in love with Noam, an Israeli soldier, in the early 2000s during the Second Intifada, a time of intensified Israeli-Palestinian violence. After meeting at a border checkpoint, Ashraf risks everything by sneaking into Israel without a permit to live with Noam and his roommates in Tel Aviv. When Ashraf's Palestinian identity is revealed publicly, he flees to his family home in Nablus, Palestine. In Act Two, Noam journeys to Nablus to rekindle their romance, leaving Ashraf torn between his family and the man he loves. Ashraf and Noam try to plan a future together away from the war but are thwarted by an escalating cascade of violent events. The two lovers reach a tragic end, choosing to be together the only place they can be, in death, at the border where they met.

Note: *Borders* is based upon the 2006 film *The Bubble (Ha'Buah)* by Eytan Fox & Gal Uchovsky. The stage adaptation follows the general story but contains significant plot differences.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

When Ashraf arrives at Noam's Tel Aviv doorstep, ostensibly to return Noam's dropped ID (but really to see him again), their attraction is immediate. Noam invites Ashraf to his rooftop, where they kiss and ultimately sleep together, convincing themselves this will only be for one night. Ashraf is well aware of the danger of being a Palestinian in Israel without a permit and plans to return home in the morning. However, as the sun rises over Tel Aviv, Ashraf wakes and sees Noam sleeping beside him. Over the course of the song, he realizes that his feelings for Noam -- and his joy in being his true self -- are so great that he'll risk all the dangers that come with the relationship.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

ASHRAF, 20s, a closeted queer Palestinian man from a prominent family who settled in Nablus, Palestine after being forced out of Jerusalem. Thoughtful, perceptive, and determined. A young, winning leading man with heart. Tenor or Baritenor, E3-G4

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This song is a personal revelation. The gestures are intentionally minimal to allow the actor space to discover and explore this new feeling as it grows throughout the song. Keep the first half simple and introspective -- don't oversing it. Use it to gain the confidence in this new

emotion so the audience can be swept into the joy of the climax at m. 61. Though the character knows in his heart of hearts that this feeling can't last within the realities of the world of the show, it is a moment of hope.