

# 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. GREEN  
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...