Music Theatre Directing for the Vocal Performance Student: A Practical Application of Knowledge and Skills

Samuel Martin Snyder

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Music Theatre Directing for the Vocal Performance Student:

A Practical Application of Knowledge and Skills

An Honors College Project Thesis

Presented to

The Department of Music

Abilene Christian University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for

Honors Scholar

by

Samuel Martin Snyder

December 2015
This Project Thesis, directed and approved by the candidate's committee, has been accepted by the Honors College of Abilene Christian University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the distinction HONORS SCHOLAR

Dr. Jason Morris, Dean of the Honors College

Date

Advisory Committee

Dr. Rick Piersall, Committee Chair

Dr. Julie Pruett, Committee Member

Dawne Meeks, Committee Member

Dr. Matt Roberson, Department Head
Abstract

As an application of skills acquired in the course of a four-year Bachelor of Music program, this thesis constitutes the physical documentation of the creative process for Jeanine Tesori’s *Violet*, the musical production selected for this project. Encompassing in a linear format license contracts, casting, creative development, rehearsal planning and conducting, administrative duties, musical analysis, and artistic instruction, the contents of this document represent in part the steps and components required to realize a full musical production – each one accomplished by the student director. In addition to the physical elements, a full recording of the final performance is available, as well as the digital resources it required – primarily score digitization.
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Acknowledgements

In any endeavor, academic or artistic, we look to those who have gone before us for guidance, wisdom, and support. I could not have asked for better mentors than Dr. Rick Piersall, Dawne Meeks, and Dr. Julie Pruett. Their insights and assistance were most valuable throughout this process. I also extend thanks to Gary Varner for his support and that of his technical students.

Additionally, this production would not have been possible without the dedication of my cast and crew. I am so proud of the work they accomplished, and how much each one grew creatively in such a short time. They took ownership of this production in ways I never imagined when I set out.

Preface

In 2005, students from the ACU Opera joined together to craft a production of Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi. It was the first time in the history of the Department of Music that opera students had taken it upon themselves to create something of their own – direction, technical work, performance, everything needed for a successful show was completed by students. The goal of this project was to once again place creative responsibility solely in the hands of ACU Opera students.

The world of Violet, though straight out of the social upheaval of the 1960s, feels very familiar to a contemporary audience. Explorations of themes like race, sex, and faith – among many others – are at the forefront in this musical, much as they are in the world today. If the goal of the arts is to seek truth, then inasmuch as truth is in this portrayal of human struggle, I have striven for that goal.
Announcement

This was the first public material released after the production was selected. It detailed the performance dates and audition times, and, in keeping with Music Theatre International’s license restrictions, the stock disclaimer, which may be seen at the bottom.

Announcing
The 2014-15 ACU Opera Student Production

VIOLET
April 10-11, 2015

Music by Jeanine Tesori
Lyrics & Book by Brian Crawley
Based on “The Ugliest Pilgrim” by Doris Betts

On a cross-country bus trip in search of a minister to heal her scarred face, one woman discovers the true meaning of beauty, courage, and love

The ACU Opera is pleased to open auditions to all interested students

Audition
Saturday, November 15th @ 1pm
WPAC Recital Hall

For more information, please contact

Sam Snyder
(832) 373.9291
sms10d@acu.edu

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| TELE#: 325-674-2199 FAX: 325-674-2608 | 
| E-MAIL: sms10d@acu.edu | 

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VIOLET

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Provisions: Regular Performance
Seating Limited to 150 per Performance
Tickets @ 10.00

### Security Deposit

$400.00 to be refunded following the safe, timely return of the rented material to us, less handling/shipping/missing materials/brokerage fees, late charges and/or any outstanding account obligations.

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Hello! How can I assist you today?
CONFIRMATION OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Name of Organization: ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OPERA
Name of Show: VIOLET
Name and address of performance space/venue: WILLIAMS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
        RECITAL HALL 1725 ACU DRIVE, ABILENE, TX 79691
Date(s) of performance(s): 04/10/2015 - 04/11/2015
Contract Expires: 10/20/2014

Please list number of performances for each calendar month:

SHIP WITH: □ Partial/Alternate Orchestration □ Full Orchestration □ No Orchestration
(check one)
(If partial, you must mark the required parts on the Checklist/Show License Sheet, and return a copy with your signed contract.)

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RENTAL: $400.00 for a standard set of materials or any part thereof $ 400.00

ADDITIONAL RENTAL (Outside of the standard two (2) month period): $400 per month X ________ months $

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SALES TAX (CA, CT, MN, NJ, NY): CT, MN & NY: Apply to all Materials and Shipping fees. CA & NJ residents apply to Materials only. $

TOTAL: $

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS: $

SHIPPING

Shipment is made by UPS or FEDEX unless otherwise instructed. You will be billed for all shipping charges.

Special Shipping Instructions: (check one) □ RUSH □ SECOND DAY □ GROUND
Shipping Address:

City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip/Postal Code: ___________

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□ CREDIT CARD: □ VISA □ MASTERCARD □ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card Number: ______________________ Exp. Date ________

Name on Card: ______________________

Signature: ______________________

Amount: ______________________

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DAYTIME TELEPHONE __________________________ EMAIL __________________________

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- **Rehearsal Set:**
  - 15 LIBRETTO/VOCAL BOOK
  - 2 PIANO VOCAL SCORE
  - 1 RADIO SFX CD

**Orchestration:** The Standard Rental Set includes the complete standard orchestration parts.

For orchestration details (and/or options) please view the attached ORCHESTRATION sheet(s).

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To order, simply indicate the quantity of each item you would like and add the Grand Total to the Confirmation Page of this Production Contract.

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**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS GRAND TOTAL** (add this total to Contract Confirmation Page) $______

You MUST return this form along with your contract to receive materials.
Below is a detailed list of all orchestra parts available for this title, along with doublings and other instrumentation notes. If you wish to order additional parts, mark the number of additional parts for each instrument, and return this page with your Contract Confirmation page and include the total number of additional parts on the Additional Materials form.

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ACOUSTIC GUITAR, BANJO, ELECTRIC GUITAR, MANDOLIN
VIOLET

Music by Jeanine Tesori  
Lyrics and Book by Brian Crawley

Based on "The Ugliest Pilgrim" by Doris Betts

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7. Address for Return of Materials: All materials must be returned to MTI’s Music Library (Address listed below)

RETURN ALL MATERIALS TO:

Music Theatre International
31A Industrial Park Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
Phone: 860-379-3320

Any materials returned to MTI’s Business Office will be subject to a transfer charge of up to $50.00.

8. Damage/Loss: Any damage to or loss of the materials shall be charged to you; you agree upon demand promptly to reimburse MTI for the full amount of such evaluated damage to or loss of materials. Any materials lost or damaged while in your possession will be assessed fees as set forth in the accompanying Production Contract.

9. Cancellation: The fee for rental of materials is required under any and all conditions, notwithstanding the non-use of said materials. Furthermore, you understand that, even if you do not present the Play, you could be obligated for the fees set forth in this License and the accompanying Production Contract.

10. Permitted Use: You understand that the Play materials cannot be used for any purpose other than as stated in this License and that you and/or anyone connected with your organization may not copy, reproduce, sell or otherwise distribute such materials.
Audition Notices

No musical production is complete without a cast. Although general interest was high, several redundant notices were sent out to music students to ensure that as many students as possible were included.

---

ACU Opera Student Show: Violet
2 messages

Emily Berry <eab13a@acu.edu> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 10:35 AM
To: Jared Agee <jsal2a@acu.edu>, Sarah Alexander <seaj13b@acu.edu>, Joram Louis Alford <jjfj13b@acu.edu>, Jennifer Barosh <jbb13c@acu.edu>, Enrique Barrera III <ebrx12a@acu.edu>, Mikaila Bradberry <mbcb13a@acu.edu>, Julie Brinkman <jeb10c@acu.edu>, Lydia Bumum <lab13b@acu.edu>, Katherine Cotten <kmcl2a@acu.edu>, Ellen Donaldson <ejdl1a@acu.edu>, Courtney Eubanks <ccej13a@acu.edu>, Emilie Garner <egj12b@acu.edu>, Sam Gobert <sga13b@acu.edu>, Khamsie Green <kgd12a@acu.edu>, Marc Gutierrez <mag10e@acu.edu>, Tyler Harris <tah13a@acu.edu>, Elizabeth Hargrove <ejhl1b@acu.edu>, Jacob Hensath <jjh13c@acu.edu>, Ben Hinkle <brhl13c@acu.edu>, Jaclyn Huit <jhh11b@acu.edu>, Phillip Jackson <pjji1a@acu.edu>, Sara Jiang <sah10a@acu.edu>, Brian Kay <bkji1a@acu.edu>, Megan Lewis <mdl11b@acu.edu>, Jennifer Magill <jcm10b@acu.edu>, Colby McDaniel <cem13g@acu.edu>, Alexi Mendez <atml1b@acu.edu>, Teonna Murphy <tjm13g@acu.edu>, Caitlin Norquist <cm12a@acu.edu>, Megan O'Neil <mno10c@acu.edu>, Kayla Ousley <kvo12a@acu.edu>, De'Jha Payne <dpr13b@acu.edu>, Clinton Perdue <cwp10b@acu.edu>, Michelle Perini <mcp12a@acu.edu>, Emily Reader <esrl11a@acu.edu>, Oliver Rodriguez <oav14a@acu.edu>, Kindle Scott <krs13c@acu.edu>, Lauren Selman <lms14a@acu.edu>, Katherine Simmons <kss13c@acu.edu>, Shelby Simms <ssl13d@acu.edu>, Bekah Smith <rms11a@acu.edu>, Daniel Smith <dws12a@acu.edu>, Austin Smith <ahs12a@acu.edu>, Sam Snyder <sms10d@acu.edu>, Amanda Straker <aks12b@acu.edu>, Kendall Stubblefield <kls13e@acu.edu>, Ashley Stucker <als11d@acu.edu>, Victoria Sun <vys10a@acu.edu>, Kaleigh Sutula <kss10c@acu.edu>, Gabrielle Thompson <gnt11a@acu.edu>, Kayla Torp <kdt14a@acu.edu>, Emanuel Tucker <ect13a@acu.edu>, Shane Tucker <scf13a@acu.edu>, Kaitlyn Tucker <kct13a@acu.edu>, Aaron Vaught <avr11a@acu.edu>, Jarrett Ward <jgw09b@acu.edu>, Jasmine Washington <jdw13b@acu.edu>, Missy White <maw14b@acu.edu>, Naomi Worley <ngw10a@acu.edu>
Cc: Rick Piersall <prp00a@acu.edu>

I am pleased to announce the ACU Opera’s second show for next semester: Violet! This is the ACU Opera’s first student-directed show in ten years, and I for one am so, so excited to begin this journey. I hope you'll come along for the ride.

Disfigured by her father in an accident, Violet is no stranger to the ugly side of human nature. When she leaves her small town on a pilgrimage to visit a faith healer, she finds herself healed in ways she never expected.

Violet will perform April 10-11, with rehearsals beginning in early February.

The audition will take place on Saturday, November 15th at 1pm in the WPAC Recital Hall. The signup sheet is available at http://goo.gl/hvo1Pb.

I would love to hear you sing something in post-1960s musical theatre repertoire for your audition (in other words, no Rodgers and Hammerstein, please!). If you can’t prepare that before the audition, no worries! Just sing what you feel most comfortable with. Bring legibly photocopied music for our accompanist, and be prepared to sing an entire piece - no 16-bar cuts.

I look forward to seeing all of your auditions. If you have any questions, please contact me at 832.373.9291 or sms10d@acu.edu. For more information, including character breakdowns, please visit http://goo.gl/lt4eIH.
Hello, friends!

Violet auditions are tomorrow at 1pm in the recital hall! Get excited.

A few reminders before tomorrow:

Double-check your audition time for tomorrow on the Google doc: http://goo.gl/hvo1Fb. There are a few of you who have expressed interest (and a few who I’ve attempted to convince :) ) who don’t yet have a time slot. Please sign up as soon as possible so I can give our accompanist an accurate time estimate for tomorrow.

Don’t forget to bring sheet music for our accompanist! If you have a song but no sheet music, please let me know as soon as possible and I will happily check my library for you.

If you have a resume, please bring it. If not, that’s totally fine; I will have a form available for you to fill out with basic info.

And finally, have fun! Auditions can be pretty nerve-wracking, especially if you’re not used to auditioning. It can be helpful to remember that all they really are is a chance to walk into a room and for a few minutes, do something you love. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you do what you love tomorrow. Break some legs!

Sam Snyder
Vice President & Opera Assistant, ACU Opera
Stage Manager, ACU Department of Music
832.373.9291
Hey everyone!

I wanted to send out one more notice about auditions for Violet, this Saturday at 1pm!

For your audition, bring legibly photocopied music for our accompanist. I would love to hear you sing something in post-1960s musical theatre repertoire for your audition (in other words, no Rodgers and Hammerstein, please!). If you can’t prepare that before the audition, no worries! Just sing a song from your private lesson repertoire. Whatever you choose to sing, prepare the whole piece - no 16-bar cuts.

The signup sheet is available at http://goo.gl/v01Pb. If you have any questions, please contact me at 832.373.9291 or sms10@acu.edu. For more information, including character breakdowns, please visit http:// goo.gl/l4eIh.

[Quoted text hidden]
This poster was displayed across campus in the week prior to auditions. It succeeded in bringing in a handful of interested non-music students.
Cast List

From a pool of eighteen students who auditioned came a cast of eleven. This was expanded to thirteen with two swings – Oliver Rodriguez and Colby McDaniel. After Ms. McDaniel’s passing over the Christmas holiday, Lauren Selman filled the role.

Violet Cast List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Actor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>Kaleigh Sutula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Vi</td>
<td>Caitlin Norquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flick</td>
<td>Shane Tucker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monty</td>
<td>Brian Kay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>Aaron Vaught</td>
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<td>Preacher/Bus Driver/Rufus/Radio Singer/Bus Driver 4</td>
<td>Chad Fontenot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl/Radio Soloist/Walter/Leroy Evans/Mechanic/Bus Driver 3</td>
<td>Austin Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabel/Music Hall Singer/Woman With Fan</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Tucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Lady 1/Hotel Singer/Old Lady 2</td>
<td>Em Reader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil/Radio Singer/Billy Dean/Creepy Guy/Bus Driver 2</td>
<td>Ben Hinkle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gospel Singer/Landlady/Woman Knitting</td>
<td>Teonna Murphy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all who auditioned! Every last one of you sang well, and you made my job as a director very difficult - in this case, that’s a very good thing! All of you are welcome to come talk to me, and I will be happy to address any questions or concerns you may have.

I am so looking forward to working with all of you next semester. In the meantime, keep up the good work and finish the year strong!

Violet Cast

Violet - Kaleigh Sutula (u/s: Kaitlyn Tucker)
Young Vi - Caitlin Norquist (u/s: TBD)
Flick - Shane Tucker (u/s: Emanuel Tucker)
Monty - Brian Kay (u/s: Jacob Hemsath)
Father - Aaron Vaught (u/s: Oliver Rodriguez)
Preacher/Bus Driver/Rufus/Radio Singer/Bus Driver 4 - Chad Fontenot (u/s: Jacob Hemsath)
Earl/Radio Soloist/Walter/Leroy Evans/Mechanic/Bus Driver 3 - Austin Smith (u/s: Emanuel Tucker)
Mabel/Music Hall Singer/Woman With Fan - Kaitlyn Tucker (u/s: Colby McDaniel)
Old Lady 1/Hotel Singer/Old Lady 2 - Em Reader (u/s: Colby McDaniel)
Virgil/Radio Singer/Billy Dean/Creepy Guy/Bus Driver 2 - Ben Hinkle (u/s: Oliver Rodriguez)
Gospel Singer/Landlady/Woman Knitting - Teonna Murphy (u/s: TBD)

Sam Snyder
Vice President & Opera Assistant, ACU Opera
Stage Manager, ACU Department of Music
832.373.9291
Rehearsal Space Request and Schedule

Rehearsal spaces are prized commodities in the spring semester, as student groups prepare for Sing Song. Luckily, all required spaces were available for Violet rehearsals.

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**Violet rehearsal space requests**

Sam <sms10d@acu.edu>  
To: Emily Berry <emily.berry@acu.edu>  

Sun, Jan 11, 2015 at 6:13 PM

I finally have info for you!

Can I have the following days/times? If the choir hall isn't available on a given night, B5 works too. Let me know if any are already booked, or if I can only book a couple weeks at a time.

B5  
Tuesday, February 3, 7-11pm

Choir hall  

Wednesday, February 4, 8-11pm  
Thursday, February 5, 8-11pm

Tuesday, February 10, 8-11pm  
Wednesday, February 11, 8-11pm  
Thursday, February 12, 8-11pm

Tuesday, February 17, 7-11pm  
Wednesday, February 18, 8-11pm  
Thursday, February 19, 7-11pm

Tuesday, March 3, 7-11pm  
Wednesday, March 4, 8-11pm  
Thursday, March 5, 7-11pm

Tuesday-Thursday, March 24-26, 7-11pm  
Friday, March 27, 6-10pm  
Saturday, March 28, 1-5pm

Tuesday-Thursday, March 31-April 2, 7-11pm  
Friday, April 3, 6-10pm  
Saturday, April 4, 1-5pm

Sent from my iPad
Rehearsal Introduction and Information

In addition to the rehearsal schedule, this message was sent to the cast at the beginning of the spring semester. The cast received performance materials in December, and was expected to begin preparations over break due to the expectation of a truncated rehearsal process. Referenced is the Facebook group that was the primary method of communication for the rehearsal process. Call times, rehearsal notes, and other information was provided to the cast through this avenue.

Violet rehearsal info, etc.
1 message

Sam Snyder <sms10d@acu.edu>
To: Sam Snyder <sms10d@acu.edu>
Thu, Jan 22, 2015 at 10:28 PM

Hey all!

I hope everyone had a restful break. I've heard from several of you that you've been learning your music and familiarizing yourself with the show, and I couldn't be more pleased! (If you maybe haven't done that as much - hint hint :)) Before the semester really gets going, I wanted to get in touch with you guys about a few things.

First off! Evening rehearsals will begin Tuesday, February 3rd, after the guest composer concert. Until Magic Flute is over, rehearsals will be limited to three nights a week, in addition to solo and small group work during opera time on Tuesday and Thursday. Most of you will not be called to every rehearsal, and when you are, if you are not currently working, you are more than welcome to socialize, work on homework, or pursue any other good use of your time.

Once the rehearsal schedule is ready (which should be by Saturday, if not before), I will post it to this Facebook group as well as the opera blog. Be prepared to be called Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, though outside of individual scenes, and the biggest numbers like On My Way; almost no one will be called every night of a given week before spring break. The schedule is a rough guide - expect adjustments as we go along, especially as we will use time in opera class working around Magic Flute, which may well let us cut short or cancel some evening rehearsals (!!!). If you have conflicts beyond what you told me last semester, please let me know as soon as possible. We're going to have a packed schedule, but things are still reasonably flexible at this point, so the sooner I know what we need to work around, the better.

Normally, starting in February would mean that we would have a good eight weeks to rehearse before our performances. However, between choir tour, chamber tour, spring break, and Magic Flute, we will really only have about four or five weeks in which to rehearse. Never fear! We can totally create an awesome show in that time. It just means that we're all going to need to put forth our best effort, and I know we are more than up to the task.

A word about accompaniment. We do not have the budget at this point in time to hire a full band for dress rehearsals and two performances. We will be using SmartMusic for rehearsals, and a pianist and one additional musician for dress and performances. This actually works out better for y'all - this means that you will have access to tracks to rehearse with when you're working on your own outside of rehearsal.

As it stands right now, I am not going to set a time to be off book. You are all smart, capable people, and I trust you to manage yourselves and learn your lines and music in a timely manner. However, if it turns out that maybe some extra encouragement is needed, I reserve the right to set a memory check day. Be diligent in your work, and all will be well :)!

Thank you all for coming on this journey with me. I look forward to seeing you in rehearsal. If you have any questions,
Music Rehearsal Notes

These are the compiled notes from the first rehearsals, which focused solely on music. The majority of the notes are purely logistical – clarifying entrances and exits in group songs, and asking actors to pay careful attention to cues for beginnings and endings.

**NOTE 1**: Unless otherwise noted, don’t worry too much about the dialogue in the score yet. We’ll get to that when we have the librettos.

**NOTE 2**: Read over these notes carefully. You may will have entrances and harmonies that aren’t marked in the score.

**#1 Water in the Well (p. 1) – Young Violet**

All as marked

m. 36 – Father, note your spoken line in the score.

**#2 Surprised (p. 5) – Violet**

All as marked

m. 129 – Old Lady, you have a line that is the cue for the song to end.

**#3 On My Way (p. 16) – Company**

m. 9 – Man – Austin Smith, Woman – Teonna Murphy

m. 13 – Same as m. 9, ADD Chad Fontenot (higher harmony)

m. 17 – Woman – Teonna

m. 18 – Woman – Kaitlyn Tucker; Men – Chad Fontenot, Flick

m. 19 – Men – Austin, Ben Hinkle

m. 21 – Men – Bottom up: Ben, Austin, Chad, Flick; Women – Kaitlyn, Teonna

m. 36 – Same as m. 21

m. 51 – Man – Ben; Women – Kaitlyn, Teonna; Man – Austin; Woman – Em

m. 61 – Woman – Kaitlyn; Man – Austin; Bus Driver 1 (Chad) takes top

m. 63 – Man – Ben on bottom with Austin, Flick joins Chad on top

m. 66 – Group 1: Violet, Kaitlyn, Teonna on top, Monty (offstage) and Em on bottom

Group 2: Chad, Austin, Ben, Emanuel

m. 92 – Women – Kaitlyn, Teonna; Men: Austin, Ben
m. 119 – Group 1: Teonna and Kaitlyn on top, Em and Lauren middle, Austin and Emanuel bottom
   Group 2: Monty, Flick, and Chad on top, Father (offstage), Oliver, and Ben bottom

m. 126 – Man: Monty; Woman: Teonna

m. 127 – Woman: Kaitlyn, top; Em bottom

m. 127 – Man: Ben

m. 128 – Bottom up: Ben, Father, Oliver; Austin and Emanuel, Flick; Teonna, Monty; Em, Kaitlyn, Lauren

m. 134 – Bottom up: Ben, Father, Oliver; Austin, Flick, Emanuel; Monty, Chad; Kaitlyn, Em, Teonna, Lauren

mm. 137-138 – Violet, Young Vi take top, all other women take bottom

m. 138 – Men: Bottom up: Ben and Father; Austin and Flick; Monty and Chad

#4 M&Ms (p. 33) – Company minus Violet, Young Violet, Father

mm. 6-16 – Bottom up: Flick, Austin, Ben; Em, Monty; Kaitlyn, Teonna, Lauren

mm. 20-30 – Bottom up: Ben, Oliver; Austin, Flick, Emanuel; Monty, Chad

#5 Luck of the Draw (p. 38) – Father, Young Violet, Violet, Monty, Flick

All as marked.

#5A M&Ms Transition 1 (p. 54) – TACIT

#6 Question 'n Answer (p. 56) – Violet, Monty

All as marked.

#6A Preacher Hymn 1 (p. 61) – Monty

Key and tempo are very, VERY unimportant.

#6B M&Ms Transition 2 (p. 62) – TACIT

#7 All to Pieces (p. 64) – Violet, Monty, Flick, Young Violet

All as marked. Young Vi, observe fermatas at mm. 225 and 227.
#7A Organ Underscoring/Preacher Hymn 2 (p. 80) – Preacher, Young Vi, Violet

All as marked. Preacher, go ahead and learn these lines, and ham it up like you’ve never hammed it up before.

#8 Let It Sing (p. 83) – Flick

Feel free to use as much falsetto as needed toward the end. The Eb should definitely be falsetto.

#8A M&Ms Transition 3 (p. 91) – TACIT

#8B The Fight (p. 93) – TACIT

#9 Anyone Would Do (p. 94) – Hotel Singer, Flick

m. 28 – Sing only on the first repeat

m. 29 – Strict rhythm is not important. Get as close as you can.

#10 Who’ll Be The One (If Not Me) (p. 98) – Radio Singers and Soloist

Austin is solo throughout. In 3-part harmony: Ben bottom, Austin middle, Chad top

#11 You’re Different (p. 104) – Monty

Through m. 15, free recit. Back to strict rhythm at m. 24.

#12 Transition to Trio/Lonely Stranger (p. 113) – Monty, Flick, Music Hall Singer, Hotel Singer

All as marked.

#13 Lay Down Your Head (p. 125) – Violet

m. 81 – Direct segue into #14

#14 Anyone Would Do (Reprise) (p. 130) – Music Hall Singer, Hotel Singer, Landlady

All as marked. I strongly suggest listening to your part on the off-Broadway recording to help you learn this song. It’s much simpler than it looks, but the way it’s notated in the score can be tricky!

Teonna, don’t feel pressured to sing the riffs as they are on the recording. Play around with it and make your own.
#15 Lonely Stranger (Reprise) (p. 132) – Music Hall Singer

All as marked.

#16 Hard to Say Goodbye (p. 135) – Flick, Violet

Flick – whatever you do, don’t learn this one from the soundtrack. There are too many differences from the score.

#17 Promise Me, Violet (p. 143) – Company

m. 60 – Monty: Everything after this point must be a completely different tone from everything prior. This is the most vulnerable Monty has been the entire show. It should stand out.

mm. 117, 121 – Violet: Swing your 8ths

m. 125 – Women: Em, Teonna, Kaitlyn

m. 129 – Men: Chad, Austin, Ben

mm. 135-149 – Women: Teonna, Kaitlyn on top, Em on bottom; Men: Chad, Austin on top, Ben on bottom

m. 150 through end – Men: Chad, Austin; Woman: Kaitlyn

m. 152 through end – Woman (sung): Kaitlyn; Woman (spoken): Em

m. 153 through end – Man (spoken): Ben

#18 Raise Me Up (p. 160) – Gospel Singer, Preacher, Company

Men 3-part: Flick top, Chad middle, Austin & Ben bottom;  
Men 2-part: Chad and Flick top, Austin and Ben bottom;  
Women 3-part: Young Violet and Teonna (when not solo) top, Kaitlyn middle, Em bottom 
Women 2-part: Young Violet and Kaitlyn top, Teonna (when not solo) and Em bottom

#19 Down The Mountain (p. 181) – Young Violet, Father

As marked.

#20 In The Chapel (p. 186) – Violet

Colla voce throughout.

#21 Raise Me Up (Reprise) (p. 188) – Violet
As marked.

#22 **Look At Me** (p. 192) – Violet, Young Violet

Learn every little rhythm in this, Violet. It's gonna be so good.

#22A **You Know What I Think?** (p. 199) – TACIT

#23 **That's What I Could Do** (p. 200) – Father

Make it beautiful.

#24 **Segue from "That's What I Could Do"** (p. 205) – TACIT

#25 **Intro to Surprised (Reprise)** (p. 206) – TACIT

#26 **Surprised (Reprise)** (p.207) – Violet

m. 20 – Bus Driver 4: Get that line in there and cut Violet off or she'll never stop.

#27 **M&Ms (Reprise)** (p. 209) – Mabel, Old Lady 2, Earl, Bus Driver 4, Creepy Guy, Landlady (offstage)

As marked.

#28 **On My Way (Reprise)** (p. 214) – Mabel, Old Lady 2, Earl, Bus Driver, Creepy Guy

As marked.

#29 **Promise Me, Violet (Reprise)** (p. 217) – Violet, Young Violet, Flick

As marked.

#30 **Bring Me To Light** (p. 225) – Company

2-part Women: Violet, Young Violet, Teonna top; Em and Kaitlyn bottom
2-part Men: Monty, Flick, Chad top; Father, Austin, Ben bottom
3-part Women: Violet, Young Violet top; Teonna middle; Em and Kaitlyn bottom
3-part Men: Monty, Flick top; Chad, Father middle; Austin, Ben bottom

m. 47 – 2 Women: Violet and Young Violet; 3 Women: Teonna, Em, Kaitlyn; 3 Men: Father, Austin, Ben

m. 48 – 3 Men: Monty, Flick, Chad
Properties List

This is one draft of the list of props needed for the show. It is incomplete – the full list numbered almost seventy unique items, not including costumes. All items were either drawn from the existing stock owned by the ACU Opera, or provided by creative team or company members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act (Scene)</th>
<th>Prop by appearance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Act 1 (Scene 1)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scene Opens: Curtain – Mountains, Trees, Shudders on Window, Bench for Violet</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wood Chopping Block</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bus Schedule (Violet)</td>
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<td>Luggage (Violet)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kindling (Young VI)</td>
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<td>Dog (Leroy)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ham Bone (Leroy)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baggage (Old Women)</td>
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<td>Lollipop (Violet)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Book (Violet)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bus Tickets (Violet and Old Woman)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Name Card at Front of Bus (Can be incorporated into set)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flask (Flick)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Magazine (Violet and Young VI)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Burlap Seed Bag (Father)</td>
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<td><strong>Change in Scene Setting: In Kingsport, TN station, Violet at a grill with Flick and Monty, a table is needed to fulfill suggested blocking</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Card Deck (Flick)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sandwich with Chips (Waiter to Violet)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Duffel Bag (Flick)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beer (Monty)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sack of Groceries – flour, coffee (Young VI)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Receipt with change (Young VI to Father)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Card Deck (Father)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Catechism (Possibly same book as earlier)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flashlight (Young VI)</td>
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<td>Item</td>
<td>Scene Setting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funny hat (Young Vi)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book (Young Vi)</td>
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<td>Magazine (Old Lady)</td>
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<td>Purse (Old Lady)</td>
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<td>Time Magazine (Violet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chopped Wood/ Kindling (Young Vi)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Scene Setting: Preachers Chapel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Knife (Rufus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crowbar (Mechanic)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Scene Setting: Landlady in Memphis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bed (Violet) with bedside table and Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gun Wrapper (Flick)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$20 (Flick)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glass of Bourbon (Old Lady)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coke (Flick) and Flask</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Scene Setting: Dance Hall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cokes (Flick)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Scene Setting: Memphis to Fort Smith</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bag of Candy (Monty)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Scene Setting: Preachers Chapel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Envelope with paper slips (Violet)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Scene Setting: Tulsa to Fort Smith</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamphlet (Creepy Guy)</td>
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<td>Cigarette (Violet)</td>
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<td>Fan (Mabel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compact (Old Lady 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cracker Jack Ring (Monty)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Revised Rehearsal Schedule

Most productions will find that the time allotted is not quite enough. In the case of *Violet*, one week of rehearsal was cancelled for inclement weather, another for the needs of the mainstage production *Die Zauberflöte*, and yet another week was missed for Spring Break. With that in mind, a revision of the original rehearsal schedule was needed.

Tuesday, March 3 - 8-11pm
STAGE - p. 35-36 - Violet, Young Vi, Preacher
STAGE - p. 36-44 - Violet, Flick, Monty, Bus Driver 2, Mechanic, Rufus, Landlady

Wednesday, March 4 - 8:45-11pm
STAGE - p. 45-49 - Violet, Young Vi, Monty, Flick, Father, Old Lady, Radio Trio
(if time) STAGE p. 52-55 - Violet, Young Vi, Monty, Billy Dean

Thursday, March 5 - 8-11pm
STAGE - p. 52-55 (Lay Down Your Head, Lonely Stranger Reprise) - Violet, Young Vi, Flick, Landlady, Hotel Singer, Music Hall Singer, Billy Dean, Monty

Week of March 9 - Spring Break - No Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 17 - 8-11pm
STAGE - p. 55-64 (Hard to Say Goodbye, Promise Me Violet) - Violet, Flick, Monty, Bus Driver 3
STAGE - p. 64-68 (Raise Me Up) - ALL

Wednesday, March 18 - 8:45-11pm
STAGE/CHOREO - Lonely Stranger p. 49-51 - Violet, Monty, Flick, Music Hall Singer
STAGE - p. 68-72 - Violet, Young Vi, Preacher, Father, Virgil

Thursday, March 19 - 8-11pm
STAGE - p. 72-80 (Raise Me Up Reprise, Look At Me, That's What I Could Do, Surprised Reprise if time) - Violet, Young Vi, Preacher, Father

Week of March 23 - Magic Flute Tech Week - No Rehearsal

Friday, March 27 - 7-10pm (Tentative - subject to cancellation)
STAGE - p. 80-90 (Surprised Reprise, M&Ms Reprise, Promise Me Violet Reprise, Bring Me to Light if time) - ALL

Wednesday, April 1 - 7-11pm
STAGE ANYTHING LEFT OVER
RUN - ALL

AND WE HAVE A SHOW!

Thursday, April 2 - 7-11pm
RUN the whole dang show! - ALL

Tuesday, April 7 - 7-11pm
RUN

Wednesday, April 8 - 7-11pm
RUN

Thursday, April 9 - 1-5pm
DRESS REHEARSAL (you will be excused from music classes for this (ie Opera History); working on other classes)

Friday, April 10 - 7:30pm
OPENING NIGHT
Sample of Rehearsal Notes

Taken during the final dress rehearsal, this is an example of how notes were taken during the rehearsal process. Because later rehearsals and run-throughs of a show do not stop for the sake of giving notes, they must be written short enough to prevent missing portions of the rehearsal.

---

Sample: Rehearsal Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Note</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Thu, Apr 9, 2015 at 11:04 PM | Banjo out of water in the well
|               | Don't enter til after song Austin                                    |
|               | Don't look her in her eye                                              |
|               | Chad good focus                                                        |
|               | Standing no matter what                                               |
|               | Good stand left my troubles                                           |
|               | In character scene change                                             |
|               | Don't leave bus at M&Ms unless in scene                               |
|               | GOOD with colored boy. Emphasize                                       |
|               | Other side of table Aaron                                             |
|               | Figure timing for luck of the draw                                    |
|               | Luck of the draw dialogue                                             |
|               | Sam - q and a timing                                                  |
|               | Vi cover spine                                                        |
|               | Brian good stretch of pretty please if the track doesn't come in on time all to pieces |
|               | If dialogue ends early too early improv to fill it                    |
|               | Piano all to pieces                                                   |
|               | No psychic preacher                                                   |
|               | All I am is a man not is. Important                                   |
|               | Ben missed entrance bus driver - let's figure out exact entrances and exit |
|               | Jack crack was not whack                                               |
|               | Good improv re book Brian                                             |
|               | Bill for flick                                                        |
|               | Banjo start as soon as track ends                                     |
|               | This is interesting and engaging. Good work so far                     |
|               | Hear the children whenever                                            |
If you look at Violet turn out
Shoot Violet?
ACT TWO
No French
Keep click for hard to say goodbye
Flick counter left at getting sick in there
Flick rhythm should I speak up
Choir - enjoy the music
Lula - his name is Jesus awesome do the rest like that
Don't sing like you'd rather be fishing
Preacher faster valley
Violet preacher with librettos
Combine look at me raise me up
Aaron entrance?
I raised you notes
Combine twicd with underscore
Nice disgust with pamphlet
Mabel project with your traffic cop story
Don't break character
Mabel very cute
Bigger God in heaven
Off bus during On my way! Reprise
Add Violet vocal line to promise
Sweet Jesus with feeling
Kiss her at what do you see
If I stagger to stagger
I know (I know)
Watch Rick for tempo changes
Trio check notes I hold inside
Bring me to lie?
Shane a little flat #C#
Program

Below is a scan of the program made available at each performance. The “Director’s Note” section is of particular interest, as it relates the narrative of this production within the context of the history of the ACU Opera. Here one may also find the final cast list, a list of acknowledgements, and a full list of musical numbers.

THE ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
PRESENTS

Violet

Music by Jeanine Tesori
Lyrics and Book by Brian Crawley
Based on “The Ugliest Pilgrim” by Doris Betts

Performed by the
ACU Opera

An ACU Honors College
Project Thesis

Directed by Samuel Snyder

April 10th & 11th
7:30p & 2:30p
WPAC Recital Hall
Director's Note

In 2005, students from the ACU Opera joined together to craft a production of Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi. It was the first time in the history of the Department of Music that opera students had taken it upon themselves to create something of their own — direction, technical work, performance, everything needed for a successful show was completed by students. This weekend, for the first time in ten years, we’re doing it again, this time with Jeanine Tesori’s Violet.

The world of Violet, though straight out of the social upheaval of the 1960s, will feel very familiar to a contemporary audience. Explorations of themes like race, sex, and faith — among many others — are at the forefront in this musical, much as they are in the world today. Let Violet’s story inform and uplift you tonight.

This production would not have been possible without the dedication of my cast and crew. I am so proud of the work they have accomplished, and how much they have all grown as performers in such a short time. They have taken ownership of this production in ways I never imagined when I set out. I hope you will enjoy their work tonight. Thank you for supporting the students of the ACU Opera.

-Samuel Snyder

Special Thanks

Stephanie Bradley and Annie Lawson for their help with set construction.

Dr. Jason Morris and Alison Spencer for their assistance with the initial concept for the project.

Eaton Saylor for his assistance with sound equipment.

Gary Varner for his technical assistance and support.

Naomi Worley for her help with costuming.
Cast and Crew

Violet.................................................................Kaleigh Sutula
Young Vi..............................................................Caitlin Norquist
Flick.................................................................Shane Tucker
Monty.................................................................Brian Kay
Father.................................................................Aaron Vaught
Preacher..............................................................Chad Fontenot
Old Lady 1/Hotel Singer/Old Lady 2.........................Em Reader
Earl/Radio Soloist/Waiter, etc.................................Austin Smith
Mabel/Music Hall Singer/Woman with Fan.................Kaitlyn Tucker
Virgil/Radio Singer/Billy Dean, etc.........................Ben Hinkie
Gospel Singer/Landlady/Woman Knitting..................Teonna Murphy
Ensemble/Swing..................................................Oliver Rodriguez
Ensemble/Swing..................................................Lauren Selman

Director..............................................................Samuel Snyder
Stage Manager....................................................Shelby Simms
Poster Design....................................................Hilary Commer
Banjo.................................................................Ben Hinkie

Project Thesis Faculty Committee
Dr. Rick Piersall*†
Dr. Julie Pruett
Dawne Meeks

*Committee Chair
†Director, ACU Opera

Violet
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShows.com
Musical Numbers

Act One

- Water In The Well ....................................... Violet, Young Vi
- Surprised ..................................................... Violet
- On My Way .................................................. Company
- M&Ms ........................................................... Company
- Luck of the Draw ... Violet, Young Vi, Father, Flick, Monty
- Question ‘n’ Answer ................................. Violet, Monty
- All to Pieces ............................................... Violet, Flick, Monty
- Let It Sing .................................................... Flick
- Who’ll Be The One If Not Me? .................. Radio Trio
- You’re Different .......................................... Monty
- Lonely Stranger ............................................ Music Hall Singer
- Anyone Would Do ...................................... Hotel Singer
- Lay Down Your Head .................................... Violet
- Anyone Would Do (Reprise) ....................... Women’s Trio

Intermission

Act Two

- Hard to Say Goodbye ................................. Flick, Violet
- Promise Me, Violet ...................................... Violet, Flick, Monty
- Raise Me Up ............................................ Preacher, Gospel Singer, Company
- Down the Mountain ................................. Young Vi, Father
- In The Chapel .............................................. Violet
- Raise Me Up (Reprise) ................................. Violet
- Look At Me ............................................... Violet, Young Vi
- That’s What I Could Do ............................... Father
- Surprised (Reprise) ........................................ Violet
- M&Ms (Reprise) .......................................... Company
- On My Way (Reprise) .................................. Company
- Promise Me, Violet (Reprise) ........ Violet, Young Vi, Flick
- Bring Me To Light ........................................ Company
Poster

Commissioned from senior graphic design major Hilary Commer, this poster depicts the principal characters Violet, Monty, and Flick standing in front of the Greyhound bus on which most of the production takes place.
Digital Media List

The following is a list of all the digital resources used in the production. All .aiff files are the audio instrumental tracks created using the full musical score for the show. The .smp files were interactive versions of the tracks, allowing the performers to hear and practice efficiently with the show accompaniment. Created from .mus files in Finale, each song’s files took at least an hour and a half to build, with some larger files taking three hours or more.

Violet performance.mov
Violet digital media.zip:
- Violet Performance Tracks
  - 01 Water In The Well.aiff
  - 01 Water In The Well instrumental.aiff
  - 02 Surprised.aiff
  - 02 Surprised instrumental.aiff
  - 03 On My Way.aiff
  - 03 On My Way instr.aiff
  - 04 M&Ms.aiff
  - 04 M&Ms instr.aiff
  - 05 Luck of the Draw.aiff
  - 05 Luck of the Draw instr.aiff
  - 06 Question n Answer.aiff
  - 06 Question n Answer instr.aiff
  - 07 All to Pieces.aiff
  - 07 All to Pieces instr.aiff
  - 07A Organ US_Preacher Hymn II.aiff
  - 07A Organ US_Preacher Hymn II instr.aiff
  - 08 Let It Sing.aiff
  - 08 Let It Sing instr.aiff
  - 09 Anyone Would Do.aiff
  - 09 Anyone Would Do instr.aiff
  - 11 You’re Different.aiff
  - 11 You’re Different instr.aiff
  - 12 Transition to Trio-Lonely Stranger.aiff
  - 12 Transition to Trio-Lonely Stranger instr.aiff
  - 13 Lay Down Your Head.aiff
  - 13 Lay Down Your Head instr.aiff
  - 14 Anyone Would Do Reprise.aiff
  - 16 Hard To Say Goodbye.aiff
  - 16 Hard To Say Goodbye instr.aiff
  - 17 Promise Me Violet - 18 Raise Me Up.aiff
  - 17 Promise Me Violet - 18 Raise Me Up instr.aiff
  - 19 Down the Mountain.aiff
  - 19 Down the Mountain instr.aiff
  - 20 In the Chapel.aiff
  - 20 In the Chapel instr.aiff
Violet digital media.zip (continued):
   -21 Raise Me Up Reprise.aiff
   -21 Raise Me Up Reprise instr.aiff
   -22 Look At Me.aiff
   -23 That’s What I Could Do.aiff
   -24 TWICD-25 Intro-26 Surprised-27 M&Ms.aiff
   -24 TWICD-25 Intro-26 Surprised-27 M&Ms instr.aiff
   -28 On my way reprise.aiff
   -29 Promise Me Violet Re#20E.aiff

-Violet.jpeg
-Violet SM
   -01 Water In The Well.smp
   -02 Surprised.smp
   -03 On My Way.smp
   -04 M & Ms.smp
   -05 Luck of the Draw.smp
   -06 Question n Answer.smp
   -07 All to Pieces Young Vi.smp
   -07 All to Pieces.smp
   -08 Let It Sing.smp
   -09 Anyone Would Do.smp
   -11 You’re Different.smp
   -12 Transition to Trio-Lonely Stranger.smp
   -13 Lay Down Your Head - 14 Anyone Would Do Reprise.mus
   -13 Lay Down Your Head.smp
   -14 Anyone Would Do Reprise.smp
   -16 Hard To Say Goodbye.smp
   -17 Promise Me Violet - 18 Raise Me Up.smp
   -19 Down the Mountain.smp
   -20 In the Chapel.smp
   -21 Raise Me Up Reprise 22 Look At Me.mus
   -21 Raise Me Up Reprise.smp
   -22 Look At Me.smp
   -23 That’s What I Could Do.smp
   -24 TWICD-25 Intro-26 Surprised-27 M&Ms.smp
   -28 On My Way Reprise.smp
   -29 Promise Me Violet - 30 Bring Me To Light.mus
   -30 29 Promise Me Violet - 30 Bring Me To Light.smp