ACT II

Scene 4

BROAD STREET STATION, PHILADELPHIA. PEGGY sitting on suitcase on platform with two staircases leading down from main hall above. A moment, then JULIAN appears at the top of the stairs.

JULIAN

Sawyer!

(MUSIC out)

You're angry at me, and I can't blame you. It's not easy being fired.

PEGGY

You did me a favor, Mr. Marsh. It may not have been easy but I got the message loud and clear. Go back where you came from, Miss Peggy Sawyer! And that's just what I'm going to do.

JULIAN

Miss Sawyer, I'm here to apologize for what happened and to ask you to come back....

PEGGY

I have a train to catch, Mr. Marsh.

JULIAN

And take over Dorothy Brock's role in "Pretty Lady!" Her ankle's broken, she's out of the show. If you can do it, the part's yours.

PEGGY

I'm sorry, Mr. Marsh. Show business isn't for me. I'm going back to Allentown.

JULIAN

What was that word you just said? Allentown? I'm offering you the chance to star in the biggest musical Broadway's seen in twenty years and you say Allentown? Now listen, Sawyer, and listen good. Even if you don't give a damn about me, think of all those kids you'll be throwing out of work if you don't do this! Think of the songs that will wither and die if you don't get up there and sing them!

(MUSIC: cue to start under for next number)

Think of the scenery that will never be seen, the costumes never worn, the orchestrations never heard! Think of "Pretty Lady" and the thrill and pleasure it could give to millions! Think of musical comedy, the most glorious words in the English language! Sawyer, think of Broadway, dammit!

ACT II

Scene 5

BACKSTAGE, FORTY-SECOND STREET THEATRE, New York. JULIAN alone.

JULIAN
Sawyer! You're two minutes late!

PEGGY
(Rushing On)
I'm sorry, Mr. Marsh. I was looking for my good luck scarf.

JULIAN
Sawyer, "Pretty Lady" opens on this stage in exactly thirty-six hours. You've got twenty-five pages, six songs, and ten dance routines to learn by eight-thirty tomorrow night. Do you think you can do it?

PEGGY
I....I....

JULIAN
Do you think you can do it, Sawyer?

PEGGY
Yes, Mr. Marsh, I can.

JULIAN
Then we begin. Oscar, Mac! Where the hell's the piano?
(MAC and OSCAR roll piano into place as ANDY and DANCERS enter)
Andy, let's go! Now I want to start with the opening number, then work through all the songs and dances, then go back and do the scenes. There'll be a five minute break every hour for food or coffee and a full fifteen minutes every four hours for rest. And no one else on this stage until I call them!

MAC
All right, clear the stage!

JULIAN
By tomorrow night I'll either have a live leading lady or a dead chorus girl. Well, what are you waiting for? Let's go!

/16/ MONTAGE

(OSCAR starts pounding the piano and we have a collage of the next thirty-four hours. Bits and pieces of "YOUNG AND HEALTHY," "SHADOW WALTZ," etc. involving PEGGY and various DANCERS. JULIAN and ANDY'S comments through this are constant but not necessarily audible)

ANDY
(As "YOUNG AND HEALTHY" begins)
All right, Peggy, slaps on the right foot and....

JULIAN
(Simultaneous)
And....

ANDY
(Counting out)
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

JULIAN
(Overlaps ANDY'S "six")
C'mon! Sharp, sharp! Show her how.

ANDY
Two, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

PEGGY
Do I turn now?

ANDY
Yes, now.

JULIAN
Smile, Allentown! You're not in the back row now.

ANDY
(Continuing the count)
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

JULIAN
Pick 'em up! Pick 'em up!

ANDY
Step, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

JULIAN
That's it! Show moxie!

ANDY
(As "SHADOW WALTZ" begins)
Good work, Peggy. Alright, down the back.

PEGGY

Okay.

JULIAN

Lyrical, elegant!

ANDY

One, two, three. One, two three. Good, Peggy.

JULIAN

Make every man fall in love.

ANDY

Alright, stay close to Robin! Close to Robin!

JULIAN

(Overlaps second "Close to Robin")

Hold it. Hold it! She went too wide, Andy. She's late.

ANDY

Alright, Boss, I'll fix it.

PEGGY

I'm sorry.

ANDY

Don't worry about it. Oscar, from the balancé, please. Girls. One, two, three, four, five, move, bop! Bop! Alright, Peggy, now remember, stay close to Robin.

JULIAN

Very pretty. Now, stay tight.

ANDY

That-a-girl. Right knee up sharp. Here we go. And....

JULIAN

And. Right knee....yes!

(PEGGY goes Upstage as Music segues into "HABIT")

Alright, where the hell is she! Andy!

ANDY

She's right here, Boss. Hold your horses. Turn left, Peggy.

PEGGY

Left?

ANDY

Yes.

JULIAN

Left, right, just do it like you mean it.

ANDY

Move. One, two, three. One, two, three. Turn.

JULIAN

Keep it up, keep it up!

ANDY

Turn. Sharp.

JULIAN

That's it. Single step going back. And....

ANDY

And, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, go!

JULIAN

(As ANDY continues the count)

Very nice, very nice. Hats together, boys. And crisscross and out. Right! Alright, Andy, give the rest of them a break. I want to run the love scene.

(MUSIC continues with quiet clarinet under dialogue)

PEGGY

(As ANDY and DANCERS start off)

Please, Mr. Marsh, I'm exhausted. Can't we stop for a minute?

JULIAN

It's six-thirty, Sawyer, that curtain goes up in exactly two hours. It's now or never. Take it from Jim's entrance. Well, what are you waiting for? From Jim's entrance!

PEGGY

(Wearily)

"Jim, they didn't tell me you were here. It was grand of you to come."

JULIAN

No, no, that's impossible! You're greeting the man you love! Make it mean something. Like this...."Ji-im! They didn't tell me you were here! It was grand of you to come!" Try it again.

PEGGY

(Imitating him precisely)

"Jim, they didn't tell me you were here. It was grand of you to come."

JULIAN

No, it won't do! Look, have you ever been in love?

(HE seizes her)

Have you ever had a man take you in his arms and crush you to him and kiss you?

(HE kisses her)

Now say the line.

PEGGY

(A bit stunned)

"Jim, they didn't tell me you were here! It was grand of you to come."

JULIAN (Kisses her again)
Again!
(MUSIC fades out)

PEGGY
(Reacting to second kiss)
"Jim, they didn't tell me you were here. It was grand of you to come."

JULIAN (Another kiss)
Once more!

PEGGY
"Jim, darling! They didn't tell me you were here!! It was grand, grand, grand of you to come!!"

JULIAN
(As HE gives her a shove Upstage and OTHER KIDS start on)
All right, that's it! Now places for the end of the finale.

MAC
Places for the finale, please!

ANDY
(By now ALL DANCERS are on)
Finale, everyone!

PEGGY
Mr. Marsh, please....Mr. Marsh....

JULIAN
Oscar!

/17/ PLAYOFF

ANDY
Ready? Moving left, and one, two, three four....

PEGGY
(Breaking down)
I can't, I can't, I can't!
(MUSIC out)

ANDY
Peggy!

MAGGIE
Now you've done it, Marsh!

BERT
You pushed her too far!