

## China Passport to Broadway Show Synopsis

This is an original book and story combining unique arrangements of 35 to 40 contemporary and classical Broadway Shows that connect cultural and social themes and issues young Chinese students are facing with the best of Broadway show material, songs and choreography. The story premise is based on the fact that even though the youth of China experience similar values, challenges, struggles and hopes as young people all over the world, some of the characters involved in this story want to leave their country to pursue their dreams in the USA and some want to stay and find happiness in their own country's homeland. The main character, Kim, the protagonist of our story, is a narrator, speaking to the audience from the future where she is 30 years old (2030), and also plays herself in the present as a teenager (2016 to 2019). She left China to go to NYC to pursue her dreams but experienced some failures and heartaches along the way. When she returned to China, she found that things had changed and the relationships she counted on had also changed. She questioned all of her decisions. Through the exploration of both of these sides of the aisle from each character's point of view, we eventually learn that happiness and one's home really only exist in our minds and hearts, not in any one place.

**Note:** Each character will wear their respective color T-shirt representing their allegiance. Yellow will always wear yellow T-shirts. Green and Blue Cast Members will wear their T-Shirts only when they are representing their teenage characters. They will not wear their T-Shirts when they are playing various other parts as noted in the character descriptions in the script and at the top of each scene.

**Prologue:** These monologues will discuss topical issues that mask the teenager's ability to discover his or her own identity as relates to either their desire to stay in China (the GREEN group members and NELL, PETER, CHRIS and DIANA) or leave China to find their dreams in the USA (the Blue group members and MARGARET, AMANDA, LEE, ROSE and SAM)

### **ACT I:**

**Scene 1:** Starts in the present in the streets and marketplace in China. As KIM is close to nearing the end of her monologue, the noise of the streets of China arise through "Cacophony of Sound" and "Chick Chick" and the scene begins to shift and we see the streets of Guangzhou, China begin to come to life. It is the end of the school/work day on a Friday afternoon and a full weekend lies ahead. As the scene shifts, KIM changes into her present self to watch the action unfold. In this scene the GREEN and BLUE cast members do not represent their different point of views. They simply represent the environment and its hectic and chaotic character (i.e. Business People, Police Men and Women, Teachers, Artists, Tourists, etc...). The YELLOW characters always stay in character, as one character, here, and throughout the entire show, representing their different points of view.

**Scene 2:** All on stage, except for KIM, continue as citizens of Guangzhou representing a common thread in a fantasy, open space in the song "One." In this scene GREEN, BLUE and YELLOW characters play their different points of view as Chinese teenagers, but ironically realize what makes us different is also what makes us the same.

**Scene 3:** In Central Plaza/Grand View Plaza in China, SAM, LEE, AMANDA, MARGARET, KIM and ROSE begin to experience the energy and excitement of wanting to go to New York City. DIANA, PETER, NELL and CHRIS express their reluctance. In this scene the GREEN and BLUE cast members do not represent their different point of views. They once again play Guangzhou citizens, and represent the environment and its hectic and chaotic character. At the end of "One," GREEN and BLUE CHORUS become tourists, pedestrians, etc., traveling the stage. SAM expresses his desire to "become an American" and the excitement he and his friends feel about going to New York in "Some People." DIANA, PETER, NELL, and CHRIS stop entirely when KIM, MARGARET, AMANDA, LEE, and ROSE start to point out their New York dreams. DIANA, PETER, NELL and CHRIS pull away from everyone when SAM, KIM, MARGARET, AMANDA, and LEE start to sing "Some People" and "NYC" and watch in judgment from the side.

**Scene 4:** We fast forward to one year ahead from the present and see the journey KIM took to New York. It is the end of 2016 as we find KIM at an audition in New York City. The mood in this scene is one of hopefulness and determination through "I Hope I Get It" and "The Music and the Mirror." GREEN AND BLUE cast members do not

represent their different point of views but instead, portray other aspiring actors and actresses from all over the world, auditioning with KIM in New York.

Scene 5: In an open space in 2016 present China, a competitive battle between philosophies and values between the two sides. In this scene GREEN and BLUE characters play their different points of view as Chinese teenagers. The scene begins in “I Want It All.” AMANDA, LEE, MARGARET, ROSE and SAM and the BLUES will take the stage to insist that their dreams of going to New York should be fulfilled. CHRIS, DIANA, NELL and PETER and the GREENS insist that their beliefs and loyalty to China will make them better and happier people. There is a wide disparity between achieving their dreams and finding happiness. KIM steps into the future as the Narrator to watch the clash of beliefs. KIM will be singing with all on stage from the narrator’s perspective.

Scene 6: KIM, SAM, LEE, AMANDA and ROSE and the BLUE group convey the feeling of hope and passion for life in “Save the People”/ “Heart and Music”/ “Razzle Dazzle.” PETER, CHRIS, DIANA and NELL and the GREEN group convey skepticism, negativity and insecurity. KIM and PETER have their own personal story due to their previous, broken relationship as a result of KIM’S decision to leave for America. KIM floats back and forth between the future and the present. All other characters remain in the present (2016).

Scene 7: On a street in China, KIM and PETER’S relationship problems reveal themselves in “Defying Gravity”. This is post KIM’S return from NYC to China. KIM is aware that PETER has been unfaithful to her. PETER expresses his frustration over KIM’S leaving him for the first time.

Scene 8: In a park in China, LEE and ROSE enter (although ROSE does not immediately sing) having seen KIM leave China to follow her dreams, they are more frustrated that they have not acted on their beliefs and come together to make a pact that they are going to leave just as KIM did in “I’m Not Afraid”. They will not let anything stand in their way. They seem oblivious to the consequences of KIM and PETER’s relationship and are very singular in their desires. The BLUE group follows their lead. In “Rose’s Turn”, GREEN will enter and start fighting with BLUE with ROSE caught in the middle. KIM stays in the Future watching the entire battle from the side. The song starts as two groups battle against each other and as ROSE begins to find her voice, their feelings and support for ROSE override their differences. As they reach the final line in “Defying Gravity”, there is a beat, a change in the mood. LEE sings to ROSE and PETER and KIM sing to each other. LEE and ROSE have come to the conclusion that their choice to leave is a good one and PETER and KIM come to the conclusion that KIM’s choice to leave hurt the other. Act I ends in conflict with each diverse group standing firmly in their belief that their specific desires and hopes will only be realized if they follow their own singular point of view and do not let anyone or anything stand in their way.

## **ACT II:**

Scene 1: In this scene GREEN and BLUE characters play their different points of view as Chinese teenagers. The Act begins with feelings of friendship growing into feelings of desire and love, going deeper into the personal relationships of the characters and causing them to feel the way they do in the song “Tonight”. Each song in Scene 1 explores another level of the complexity in relationships, whether romantic or friendly. KIM has come back to China from NYC at this point and PETER, having been hurt that she left in the first place, has hooked up with DIANA. He also seeks revenge for KIM having hurt him by flirting with various girls in The Club. KIM is greatly disturbed by PETER’S behavior and hangs out with MARGARET for comfort during this scene until she can confront PETER. The GREEN and the BLUE division continues to play out, but is represented in more detailed and specific individual relationships, than in groups. In “Hey There”, the SL GROUP who know that SAM is attracted to DIANA tease him to go after his girl. AMANDA sings the same lyrics to SAM with a different intention hoping that he will be attracted to her. The same thing happens to the SR GROUP singing to PETER. SAM, DIANA, LEE and NELL also join in encouraging him to go after AMANDA. There is a playful sense of hooking up with everyone except for KIM who is devastated and hurt by PETER’s indifference and betrayal. In “Big Spender,” teasing almost to the point of cruelty; the girls involved in singing this song direct their animosity towards PETER and any other lost boy who has hurt their significant other. In “The Last Night of the World”, the realization that it is a hard world to maintain honest feelings set in. This song transitions us into more reflection on how hard it is to maintain honest and loyal relationships. In “Light My Candle,” more teasing –PETER has a real need to hurt KIM by flirting with as many girls as he can. In “Take Me or Leave Me,” people can be selfish in their own desires and KIM loses her temper at the fact that PETER is punishing her for following her dreams. Her best friend MARGARET joins in to support her. PETER responds throughout this song in fear and shock and when he sings he sings timidly and in a questioning fashion, not confidently.

In “The Word of Your Body” and “They Say It’s Wonderful,” we find out relationships are painful – everyone gets hurt. ROSE has been watching all the action unfold in The Club. As she sings, she is referring not only to herself, but to everything she has observed. In “Who Loves You,” the BLUE and the GREEN Boys take over to sing to KIM that

things can be all right if you just relax and stay cool. At a certain point in the song she becomes emotionally distraught and runs off as the Boys continue to sing to all the hurt women in the audience/world. The BLUE and GREEN girls return and follow the BLUE and GREEN boys lead.

Scene 2: On a street in front of The Club, the mood shifts now to pain, sorrow, hurt, heartbreak, and loneliness. KIM returns to reflect on the pain she is experiencing. Throughout this quintet (“I Dreamed A Dream”, “On My Own”, “Time Heals Everything”, “Who Can I Turn To”, and “Losing My Mind”) all of the individual characters have their own stories as they begin to express their own unique pain, hope and struggles. When one is feeling at one’s lowest and most alone, the community can help one see the bigger picture and heal the sorrow. In “Seasons of Love,” the barriers and differences have broken down for the first time and the entire group comes together as a unified force of love. Love heals everything. This scene will begin to bring BLUE and GREEN together. As this realization of potential healing occurs, NELL, CHRIS, PETER and DIANA decide they do not want to be a part of this feeling of peace and community, and separate from the rest of the characters. They start to plan a way to keep their “power,” and continue to persuade the rest of the group to follow their lead.

Scene 3: Set in Peter’s neighborhood, the characters become more mature and aware of the greater world around them. They are developing a sense of satire and irony, providing themselves with protection from the injustices of the world. PETER, CHRIS, NELL and DIANA start to manipulate in “Poem” through a sense of satire, irony and dark humor, trying to prove that the United States is a very bad place full of social injustice and racial divides. The GREEN chorus becomes PETER’s friends in the neighborhood. The BLUE chorus, ROSE and MARGARET stand off to either side, watching and beginning to lose their perspective. PETER, CHRIS, DIANA and NELL are pleased with the impact that they are having. The BLUE group begins to echo PETER’s cynical and sardonic sentiments. The GREEN group quietly joins in to egg them on in “Everyone’s a Little Bit Racist.” The GREENS enjoy the fact that the BLUES have become more aligned with their values, and take it one step further, answering in kind; all YELLOW watch and listen in “If You Could See Her.” At this point in “America”, PETER, CHRIS, DIANA and NELL have brainwashed all GREENS and BLUES and YELLOWS into believing America is a dangerous place. The sarcasm and irony reflect a degree of divisiveness in the community, in “Do You Hear the People Sing,” which is led by PETER, CHRIS, DIANA and NELL. Choreography here is classic LES MIZ “marching” triangle, complete with waving the Chinese flag. ALL on stage transition to the park, led by PETER and CHRIS who are thrilled with the divisiveness the characters are expressing. They build on that feeling to promote anger and war and to fulfill their own desire for power and control.

Scene 4: Now in a park in China in the present (2016), PETER and CHRIS take it one step further, building the energy into a feeling of fascism, anger, and propaganda in “Tomorrow Belongs to Me.” NELL and DIANA join in on the last line. In “Glory,” ALL dance except PETER, CHRIS, DIANA and NELL, who “conduct” the mesmerized crowd as if they are Generals at war. As the dance ends, the “American” characters slowly break through the haze as they see the start of a violent riot that is about to occur. They come to their senses and begin to counteract the “militarism” and warmongering of PETER and CHRIS. When the dance ends, ALL freeze in war like poses. KIM has had enough and breaks through her reflection by stepping into the present asking the question in the following song, not only of her friends, but of herself. During “21 Guns,” KIM convinces her friends that war and violence are not an option, and that standing up for what one believes in also requires letting go. KIM is moving through all on stage, connecting with individuals through her solo in various positions ending with PETER on “One Twenty-One Guns, Lay Down Your Arms, Give Up The Fight.” As the group comes together in “Lady’s Maid,” realizing peace is the answer, KIM remembers the purpose and value of her dream and how important it is to never give up. The soloists have the same realization one by one. The GREEN characters and PETER, DIANA, CHRIS and NELL react to the soloists and BLUE’s longing for a better life.

Scene 5: Finale: The entire cast ends their story with a joyful expression of love, personal resolution, confidence and awareness about accepting each other’s differences in order to move ahead. This glorious celebration is sung and danced by all in the beautiful anthem of hope, “I Am Ready.”