

1976 PFWC

Target Upad!

THOSE WHO MUST CARRY ON

A DRAMA IN FOUR SCENES
WITH POETRY, DANCE AND MUSIC

For The Cultural Evening of the 1976 PFWC
(Pilipino People's Far West Convention)
"Pag-isahin Ng Sambayanan"--
Unite The People
Seattle, Washington
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TAGATUPAD

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The Cast

Terri, A Filipina American sister

Manong Benny, a resident at the Jackson Hotel

Andres, a Pilipino immigrant brother

Manong Nicholas, resident at the Jackson Hotel

Auntie, instructor of the Liwayway Dance Troupe

Jimmy, a Pilipino American

Robert, a Pilipino American

Susan, a Pilipina American

Lisa, A Pilipina American

Manong Joe

A city official representing the Redevelopment Agency

A crowd of I.D. supporters from the Filipino, Asian, Third World and
American communities

7-10 Seattle police

A traditional Pilipino folk dance company

A modern interpretive dance company

Musicians for accompaniment to the interpretive dance, poetry and one song

Technical crew for set constructors, props, costumes, make-up, sound and lights.

Scene I, A Friday evening in Manong Benny's room in the Jackson Hotel, the International District, Seattle.

Scene II, The next afternoon, the dress rehearsal of Terri's dance troupe in an auditorium.

Scene III, Two weeks later in Hing Hay Park, International District.

Scene IV, 2 weeks later, the day of evictions at the Jackson Hotel.

SCENE I

(The tiny room of Manong Benny in the Jackson Hotel, a Friday evening. The neat room is typical of manongs here in the International District of Seattle: crowded, with a bed, armchair, shelves and a desk piled with newspapers, magazines, books, photo albums, etc. On the wall: a big picture calendar with landscapes of the Philippines; the traditional "Weapons of Moro Land" wall emblem, a couple of International District posters, a peg on the door with a coat, hat are hanging. A tiny stove, sink and radiator crowd one wall.

At the kitchen table Manong Benny is rapping away and Terri is energetically writing down every word in her notebook.)

TERRI

Whoa, wait a sec' Mang Benny! I can't write as fast as you're talking!

MANG BENNY

O, sige, you finish that one first.

(He goes over to the old, rusty radiator and bangs on it, as if to get it to work)

MANG BENNY

God doggit! I should get rid of this darn radiator. It hasn't worked for 28 years--just crowding up the room!

(He puts on a sweater)

TERRI

That really pisses me off. You and all the other manongs have been paying rent here for most of your lives. Meanwhile, the landlord takes the rent and doesn't put a cent back into the building for repairs. And now he goes and sells it to a big corporation--who care even less! Oh well, where were we...oh, you were in the middle of saying that this housing struggle in the I.D....

MANG BENNY

"I.D."?

TERRI

"International District". Or the Chinatown Manilatown of Seattle. "I.D." for short.

MANG BENNY

Ay, 'yon pala! I.D. for short! (chuckles)

TERRI

So you were saying, Manong Benny, that this struggle for low cost, decent housing should not be seen as something that just concerns the elderly residents in the hotels of the I.D.

MANG BENNY

Yes. The elderly Pinoy, Chinese, black and white residents are of course concerned since we are the ones who are directly effected by the so called "redevelopment agency". We are the ones who must see our homes, our community destroyed before oureyes; and forced to look for cheap housing some place else! But there's no more cheap housing to be found! (pause) But these people who do not live here--why should they care? Why should other Pinoys: students, youth, parents, recent immigrants help us Filipino oldtimers?

TERRI

(responding quickly and emotionally) Because the Filipino people always take care of their elders! It's part of our culture, our heritage! Not like the Americans. Our people respect and take care of our elders!

MANG BENNY

(smiling) yes, yes. (Then teasing) But you are a Filipina "American, Terri, 'di ba?

TERRI

(defensively) Yeah, that's true. But it's the Filipino things that I relate to--like the respect and care for our elders!

MANG BENNY

Yes, that's good. (pause) But are your elders also the Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Black and white residents of the International District, too? Or is it just the Pinoys?

TERRI

(hesitant at first) Well... I guess.. Well, whoever's old enough is an elder. You know that, Mag Benny--that's the Filipino custom!

MANG BENNY

Yes, Terri, yes. But let's take a step back and look more carefully at this thing. You see, the housing issue is not just a question of the Filipino custom respecting elders. It's bigger than that. It goes beyond the Filipino culture.

TERRI

I still don't understand.

MANG BENNY

See, this housing problem is not just an elderly people's problem. It's a case of human rights--justice. (pause) For example...when Pinoys first came to America as young men, we had to slave like animals in the farmlands for the agricultural industry; and in the canneries of Alaska for the salmon industry. Houseboys, busboys, field hands throughout America.

TERRI

Yes. Father and all the manongs have told me stories of those hard times. It was terrible back then.

MANG BENNY

Yes. And even after many long miserable hours at those jobs, we were still treated like animals. We couldn't walk down the street without dirty stares, insults and violence from the racist white people. We had to defend ourselves. We had to keep our dignity and our sanity; to keep alive our hope of security, peace and happiness. We had to struggle hard! And that struggle was not just a concern of young Pinoys, was it? No. We have been exploited as young workers and it continues, now that we are retired.

TERRI:

I think I'm beginning to understand.

MANG BENNY

And now it's the fancy hotel industry--big business. So you see, this is a problem that faces all minority people and whites. And for the Pinoys it's another chapter in our historical struggle in America.

TERRI:

Yes. You know what--Mom told me that when she and dad got married, they wanted to buy a house here in Seattle. But there was lots of racism so they couldn't--even though Daddy fought in World War II and had become a citizen. I guess that since there was no Civil Rights Act like we have today, racists people could have some kind of unwritten law against Pinoys and other minorities ownig property.

MANG BENNY

Yes. And there are still those who take advantage of us!

TERRI

Oh, wow! I should've been taking all this down in my notes! Anyway, what you ~~xx~~ just said is what we should bring out at our forum in two weeks. Oh, I hope we get a lot of people there, Mang Benny. We've just got to! Gees, the Jackson and the other hotels could get evicted any day now. Especially since that corporation just bought it. And where will the

community be when this happens? We're weak right now and if the city's Redevelopment Agency and the corporation know that, they'll come down on us just like that! (snapping fingers)

MANG BENNY

Well, that's why we've got this forum, Terri. To inform the community and build their support; to make them more active. Then we will be better prepared if there's going to be an eviction.

TERRI

And that's why we gotta do good at this forum! Maybe you or Manong Al should give this keynote speech! I bet more people would come. Man, I'm only known around the community as a kid--as Bill and Auring Comacho's daughter; just someone from the Liwayway Dance Troupe--that's all. So who's going to listen to me?! You or Manong Al should be the main speaker. You know more about this housing issue than I do.

MANG BENNY

(chuckling) Ay, Terri! You can't depend too much on manongs, now.

TERRI

But you have much more organizing experience than me!

MANG BENNY

The young and old must work together. But manongs--we don't have the energy we had when we were young. We're very tired now. Many of my compadres have hardly enough energy to take care of themselves. They cook their meals, clean their rooms, wash their own clothes, go to the doctors, get their eget their medicine...and that's all..that's all they can do. But what we have after all these years is our experiences. And for that we can find a little bit more energy to share them with the young. And this is in order to help carry out our people's aspirations. So you see, Terri, you young people are not really kids. Because, it's like this...when we stand together, we the old are like the lingering past, and you the young are the flowering future.

TERRI

You are very wise manong, and I love you. (She hugs him)

(A siren is heard in the distance and grows louder)

MANG BENNY

So right now, I help you all I can on this important speech...then you'll just be the one to give it, OK?

TERRI

Okay! (notices siren)

MANG BENNY

Another siren. In the International District it can only mean two things: a fire because of these run down hotels...or an ambulance taking away one more dying manong.....

(Suddenly a quiet, timid knock is heard on the door; followed right away by a sharper, louder knock.)

MANG BENNY

(opening the door) Oh, young man, what can I do for you?

(In the doorway stands Andres, an immigrant brother of about 17. He appears very nervous as he tries to hide some kind of fear and takes frightened glances down the hallway, as if being followed.)

ANDRES

(taking a timid step into the room) Uh.hh.. Magandang gabi po. Excuse me Manong...pero could I...I mean..can you help me...I..

MANG BENNY

Sonny, are the police after you?

ANDRES

(defensive) But I di'h't do anything!!

MANG BENNY

Never mind. Quick, come inside.

(Andres quickly enters, but hesitates when he sees Terri; then goes to the window and cautiously looks outside).

MANG BENNY

Young man, what's all this trouble?

ANDRES

(trying to ignore his question) Walang ano man, it's nothing manong.

MANG BENNY

Well, if it's nothing ^{why} are you scared, huh? What happened?

ANDRES

Punyetta...those Chinese!

MANG BENNY

What do you mean--you got in a fight with them?

ANDRES:

Well, you know how it is, but they started it! Me, Roland and Dodong were going to the restaurant when we saw this Chinese gang. Dodong had a fight with thone of them before in a party. So, you know, they started to get down with us. (Beginning to brag) Man, who the hell are they trying to scare?! We don't back dwn from any fight! Don't care if they be Filipino, Black, white or Chinese. Lucky, Roland had his chaku! Man, you should have seen Roland with that chaku! Man, he was swingin' ! Then I grabbed one of them and got him good! But the others had Dodong on the ground. Then we heard the siren, and we all started to run. Lucky for them the police came. Shit, we could've really messed them up!

TERRI

You know, you didn't have to fight. You could've avoided it..

ANDRES

WHAT?!! And get our asses kicked?!

TERRI

But you're just givingus Filipinos a bad reputation!

ANDRES

Well, hell! Theyhit us first!

TERRI

Oh, but look at the waysome ofyou guys walk down the street--like you be lookin' for trouble!

ANDRES

Hey, where you comin' from? Eh, you American-born, you think you're smarter than us immigrants, don't you!

MANG BENNY

Ay naku! Stop arguing

ANDRES

I was just saying what it is! Ehy, what does she know. She's just a girl.

TERRI

Hey, man! That's pretty sexist!

ANDRES

Eh.hh...what do you know. You're just a girl....

MANG BENNY

(angry) Sus mariosep! I told you already to stop!

(A moment of tense silence until Mang Benny speaks, very slowly at first)

MANG BENNY

I didn't mean to ^{sound} angry, but it hurts me to see you fight...because I love youyoung people. ...I am old and poor but you are the spark of the flame for a bright tomorrow. That is my hope and dream--which I pass on to you. Though I am old, I can share with you lessons from the past... and like the wind, it wilhelp guide that spark...to burn away all social injustices of man against man and race against race. And that is why I care so much for you; why I open my arms and welcome you into my simple room; why I open my ears to what's going on; and why I open my mouth and speak of our history wihut hesitation! This is all I can do: to learn, to share lessons, towatch the future direction and then to rest peacefully knowing that young people like you can carry out that which my life has failed to fulfill.

(silence)

TERRI

I'm sorry Manong Benny. I guess I just didn't understand. But now you've helped me to.

ANDRES

What you say is true, Manong. I'm sorry, too.

MANG BENNY

Tama na. Sit down and I'll make some tea, okay?

(Suddenly, another knock on the door. Andres jumps up with fear)

ANDRES

Punyetta! The police!

(He tries to crawl under the bed, but there are too many boxes there; next he jumps behind an armchair)

TERRI

Not there! You stick out a mile!

MANG BENNY

Qucik! The closet!

(But by mistake, Andres opens the door to the hallway)

MANG BENNY

No! That's the door to the outside!

(Terri rushes over to slam it shut)

TERRI:

(To the person in the hallway) Uh.hh...just a minute!

(By now Mang Benny has opened and shut the closet door behind Andres)

MANG NICOLAS

(From outside in the hallway) Hoy, Benito! What's going on in there?

MANG BENNY

(roaring with laughter) Pambihiranaman!! It's only Nicolas!

TERRI

(Laughing with relief and opening the door) Manong Nicolas! I'm glad it's you. We thought it was the police!

MANG NICOLAS

Aba! You're almost right because in four more weeks, the police will be at our doors for sure! Look at this! What we hoped and prayed would never happen has now happened. It's our eviction notice, Benito!

(With shaking hands Mang Nicolas hands Mang Benito the eviction notice)

MANG BENNY

Putragis! Those big shots in that corporation! Hoy, Terri, could you bring my glasses, honey?

(Terri gets his glasses and Andres timidly comes out of the closet, listening carefully to the discussion)

MANG NICOLAS

A man from the new owners is going around to all the rooms now, handing out eviction notices to everybody. It seems true that they're going to tear down the hotel and build a fancy one for tourists! They can't do this to us! (pitifully) Where will you go Benito? Where will I go? I'm too old now to move! I've no relatives. This has been my home!

ANDRES

You mean they can kick you out of here just like that?

TERRI

Yes. They've got the courts and they've got the police. Oh, what are we going to do? We're not prepared. It's too soon!

MANG BENNY

Yes, the notice says we only have until the end of this month.

MANG NICOLAS

And if we aren't gone by then the court will order the police to throw us out after 3 days! Ay! (then very defeated) It's too late. We can't be saved! Bahala na. You can't fight City Hall and the big businessmen.

MANG BENNY

(coming out of deep thought, then with determination) Nobody is moving out! Nobody is going anywhere!

MANG NIC

But Benito, look at this paper!

MANG BENNY

I don't care! I'm tired of being pushed around! In my youth, we fought. Now in my old age this has to come. I will stay. Everybody will stay! We will fight!

(Silence as the others react surprised and impressed at Mang Benny's militance)

TERRI

I'm with you Manong Benny! Listen we can call an emergency meeting of the I.D. Housing Alliance. We'll have to change our plans for this community forum--move it up to this weekend...transform it into a fundraiser and an

organizing work session!

TERRI (continued)

And I can help!

ANDRES

(Mang Benny and Terri are surprised and please)

MANG BENNY
(putting his arm around Andres' shoulders)
See Nicolas! Our forces grow and grow!!

TERRI

Right on!

ANDRES

I think I can understand what all this is--from my experiences back in Manila, the housing struggle there in Tondo!

MANG BENNY

Ay yon pala! Tondo!

TERRI

What's Tondo?

ANDRES

A large squatter area in Manila; a terrible, filthy slum where the poorest people end up. But we call it home for there is no other place we can afford. The city government doesn't care for they told us to move so they can whitewash the slums of Manila. They said it was an eyesore for the tourists! But you know what? The people in Tondo organized themselves and are stopping the evictions!

MANG NICOLAS

And we can do the same here! (more optimistic) Sige, we'll stay and fight! Ay, this is just like old times, huh Benito!!

MANG BENNY

Yes, 'Colas--just like old times...But much better for now we have the young with us!

TERRI

(getting ready to leave) I'll go make some phone calls to set up the meeting. (Turns to Andres) Oh, by the way, what's your name? We were so surprised when you came in...and then we argued...but we never even knew your name! I'm Terri (extends her hand). And this is Mang Benny and Mang Nicolas.

ANDRES

I'm Andres.

(They shake hands)

TERRI

Anyway, I'm glad you're helping us, Andres. Well, I better go now, good-bye everybody!

(They say good-bye to Terri)

MANG BENNY

Andres, it's much safer if you stay here tonight.

ANDRES

Dyahe naman, Manong. Too much trouble for you!.

MANG BENNY

Huwag ka nang mahiya! My place is your place!

ANDRES

Thank you, Manong Benito.

MANG BENNY

Sige, sit down both of you. You know, Andres, when I came from the provinces I lived in Tondo, too. It was a slum way back then--since Spanish times. I stayed in Tondo just before I came here to America in 1929...

(fade to blackout)

SCENE II

A dress rehearsal of ^{Liwayway} ~~XXXXXX~~ Dance Troupe--Terri's group with all Fil-Am members. Auntie, the instructor is leading the rehearsal. They are in an auditorium.

AUNTIE

Okay, everybody ready? Girls, remember you're supposed to be happy so smile! Alright, music!

AUNTIE

(The dance finishes, the other troupe members have been relaxing on the side.)

AUNTIE

Okay kids, very good. Don't forget the performance next Saturday night. You tell your Mother and Father to bring you backstage at 6:30 okay? Uy Gloria, be sure to bring your Maria Clara dress for the other dance, okay? All right will the dance, now, get ready and then we'll be finished for the day. Uy, Jimmy has Terri arrived yet?

JIMMY

No, Auntie. She ain't here yet.

AUNTIE

Ay, sus, that girl is so late!!!

(Jimmy and the other older dance troupe members take their time in getting ready)

DENISE

Hey, what 'ja do last night, Lisa?

LISA

Went down to a party down by the U.

DENISE

Oh yeah, how was it?

LISA

Oh, you know -- it's always the same people.

ROBERT

Hey, man, didja here 'bout that fight down in Chinatown last night? Police came and everything!

ALEX

Yeah, it was Filipino immigrants gettin' down with Chinese immigrants.

Again!

JIMMY

~~XXXXXX~~ Man those immigrants always be fightin' and shit.

ROBERT

Yeah, I don't know what their problem is. Haven't they got anything better to do?

ALEX

Well, hey you know man -- it's really rough.. Comin' to a strange new place, don't speak English with an American accent, course they're havin' a hard time. And American people don't necessarily make it easier for them.

ROBERT

Well, how am I supposed to know! Hey, give me some slack!

AUNTIE

Sige, let's go you boys, come on now, huh! Music!

(Dance starts)

AUNTIE

Hoy, Robert, stop the music! Robert, what do you think -- you're dancing at a party!

SUSAN

Come on, man, save it. We wanna get outta here.

ALEX

Yeah, man I wanna go play basketball this afternoon.
(so they get into the dance. Dance finishes, as Terri rushed in; her friends notice and tease her)

OTHERS

Wo-o-o!

SUSAN

You be late again Terri!

ALEX

What's the matter with you, you think this is Pinoy Time?!

AUNTIE

Terésita Camacho, you missed the dress rehearsal! We're already finished! Where have you been?!

TERRI

Well you see Auntie, I was waiting in the I.D. for some leaflets to get run off so I could bring them here.

AUNTIE

Never mind your leflets. This is more important!

TERRI

But Auntie haven't you heard? The Jackson Hotel residents got eviction notices yesterday. The City says they have to be outta there at the end of the month! So it's an emergency! It's real important!

AUNTIE

Never mind! Nothing's more important than this. This is your culture. Your heritage. It's more important.

TERRI

But Auntie, the manongsare part of our culture, our heritage, also.

ALEX

So what's gonna happen down there Terri? Are you gonna fight it?

TERRI

Right on!

ALEX

Yeah, but that means police be comin down and...well I guess we just gotta deal with them!

AUNTIE

Ay, you're going to get in trouble again. You better stay away from that, huh Alex. If Daddy hears you talk like that you better watch it!

ALEX

Aw. But Mom can't you-see--everybody in the community has gotta come down and help!

AUNTIE

(walks away muttering) Ay naku, wait til your daddy hears this!

TERRI

Hey Alex, you wanna come down to Inter*im in the I.D. and help us run off those leaflets?

ALEX

Yeah, sure!

ROBERT

Hey, Alex, I thought we were gonna play basketball, man!

ALEX

Some other time, you guys. Let's go Terri. Hey who all's helpin down here.

terri

(as they exit) Oh, lots of people--mostly regulars but there's these new guys. Andres, this immigrant and some of his barkada. Andres and them have been telling us 'bout this housing struggle in Manila, a place called Tondo.

ALEX

Oh, yeah, I heard a little about that--what'd they have to say?

SUSAN

Wait up you guys, I'm going with you!

ALEX

Right on, Susan!

(as the three exit those remaining discuss the situation like whether they should go down, too, or not.)

DENISE

Man, I hope they don't tear down the Jackson Hotel. My uncle has a small shop next door to it. So that means the City is gonna raise the taxes on his place and all the other property around. My uncle will be forced to close down if that happens.

LISA

Yeah, already quite a few places have closed down. Pretty soon there won't be any small shops or stores.

DENISE

I guess that's why we gotta save the Jackson!

(Lights begin to fade)

ROBERT

Hey man! Let's go and play basketball now!

JIMMY

Yeah, well maybe we should go and see what's happening down in the I.D.

ROBERT

Hey--it's too nice outside!!!

JIMMY

But maybe we can help...

(Blackout)

Scene III Two weeks later in Hing Hay Park, International District

(Various manongs, including Mang Benny, Mang Nicolas and Andres are seated)

Mang Benny
Their dispatching for Ward's Cove today.

Mang Nicolas
Oh yeah, who's the foreman?

Mang Benny
Barbada. Boy these newcomers in his crew -- I was talking to them in Kau Kau restaurant. They're really excited about all the money they're going to make in Alaska.

Mang Joe
(laughing with a sneer) Ha! But wait 'til they get to the canneries! They'll wish they never went there! The working and living conditions haven't improved much. Terrible! Degrading!

MANG NIC
But they always come bakc.

MANG BENNY
They can't help it. They need the money!

MANG JOE
Totoo!

ANDRES
(enters) Magandang hapon po!

MANG BENNY AND NICOLAS
Hello, Andres. Kumusta!

ANDRES
Are the leaflets finished Manong Benny?

MANG BENNY
Not yet but Terri will be bringing some to me when they're finished. Have a seat. It should be soon.

ANDRES
Good, I'm goin to take some, too. There's a Tagalog movie at the Center tonight--lots of Pilipinos will be there.

MANG NIC
Yes, we should leaflet everywhere where there are Pinoys!

MANG BENNY
Not just the Pilipino community--we should include everybody!

ANDRES
Right on!

MANG JOE

And what about our cannery workers' union! We should propose a resolution at the next meeting for the Union to participate with us against the evictions.

MANG BENNY

Good idea! Sige, let's do it.

MANG NIC

"Tama!" Oh, we're getting stronger--we may have a good chance after all. Uy! I feel pretty good!!

ANDRES

Uy Manongs, would you liek to hear the song I just wrote?

MANG BENNY

Oh, you're a writer, huh!

ANDRES

No, not really. Pero I wanted to write this song after I met you, Manong Nic, the other manongs and Terri.

SONG: "Brothers and Sisters"

Manongs, Brothers and Sisters
Live in ghettos, no food, no money,
Nor job for minorities
This is reality

Manongs Brothers and Sisters
Oppression, suppression, liberation
Is the fact of life
We have to deal with it Right now Right now

(chorus) Brothers and Sisters
Bakit tayo Ganyang
Don't be passive, organize
Unite and fight to gain our rights

Brothers and Sisters
Oppressors are the few
Who makes the profits
By exploiting us working people

Brothers and sisters
Wake up, organize
For the People
Are the makers of history

(chorus) Brothers and sisters
Bakit Tayo Ganyang
Don't be passive, organize
Unite and fight to gain our rights

MANG BENNY

Gandang! You should write more songs, Andres!

(enters Terry, Alex and Susan)

MANG BENNY

Oh, there's Terri now!

TERRI

Well, here they are! (indicating the finished leaflets)

TERRI, SUSAN, ALEX

Hey, Andres, what's happening kasama. Oh, Andres, hello kasama

ALEX

Here's the leafletting plan for the week.

ANDRES

Yeah, one more week to go! How were the negotiations with the City officials yesterday?

SUSAN

Oh, man they be givin' us the run around

ANDRES

Oh yea -- like what?

ALEX

Like (mimics City bureaucrat) "Our staff in City Hall have complete sympathy with your situation and believe me, we know exactly how you feel." Ha!

SUSAN

So we said -- "Okay, if you really sympathize with us then don't just say so -- do something! Preserve low income housing for low income people.

ALEX

But all they did was say, (mimics) "We're sorry, but there nothing we can do. But we do have some financial assistance to help out in the relocation..."

MANG BENNY

See, it really shows that the City sympathizes with the tourists industry instead of the people who live here.

ANDRES

Man I wish I could've gone. Tell them a thing or two! Couldn't get off from work. But, I have a lot of Filipino co-workers at my hospital and leafletted all of them'. And then, I have another co-worker who has an uncle in the Jackson Hotel, so he's bringin' his whold family down here on eviction day! And he and his sister are going to stay on for the sit-in, if it comes down to that. And you know what? He's Chinese!

Mang Benny

(chuckles) You act surprised, Andres!

Andres

Yeah, because I never related to them before, except out on the streets. I never really sat down and talked to them before -- pretty interesting!

MANG BETTY

Well, you know Andres? Our first experiences with the Chinese also were not good. You see in the cannerys of Alaska, the Chinese were the cooks in the camps where we stayed. Now, in the mess hall of the white workers, for you see the mess halls were segregated, the Chinese cooks served good food and plenty of it! But in the mess hall for the Pinoys, the Chinese cooks there never served us enough ay, never mind it tasted so bad anyway. We couldn't understand why they served the white workers better food. We thought the Chinese were cheating us! And so we fought. But then we found out that it wasn't they who were cheating us. It was the cannery owners! Because the cannery owners gave the cooks hardly any money for the Pilipino mess hall, But they gave the cooks in the white mess hall more money.

ANDRES

Yeah, it's so easy to get down on each other and not even know why.

MARIO

(Entering with Joel, another immigrant) Uy, Andres!

ANDRES

Hey, there's some of my friends. Mario! Joel! Ano bang happening?

MARIO

Uy, pare, kumusta?

ANDRES:

Mabuti. Uy, tingnan mo itong leaflet -- tungkol sa housing struggle dito sa International District. Kagaya sa nang yayari sa Tondo.

JOEL

Oh, talaga? Kagaya ng Tondo, huh!

ANDRES

Uy, ito si Mang Benito, Mang Nicolas, Mang Joe, si Terri, si Susan at si Alex.

(They all greet each other)

MARIO

(glancing over the leaflet) Oh, it says here that the Jackson Hotel residents and their supporters refuse to move.

JOEL

Aba! The police will force you to move.

MANG BETTY

They'll try but if the whole Pilipino community is standing there with us, we'll be too strong for the police to throw us out. Uy, Terri, tell these young men what we have planned.

TERRY

Sure. Well you see we've been trying to negotiate with the City to consider turnign the Jackson into low-income housing but the City doesn't seem to be open to it. But we're still trying. Meanwhile, we are not putting all of our hopes into that.

ALEX:

Yeah, another important task is to infirm the community and everybody all over Seattle. And not just to inform them of the injustices here but to get them to come down and give us their support.

MARIO

Oh, yeah, what kind of support?

SUSAN

Well for example, this week we're preparing for the possibility of the police coming in on Friday, that's the deadline of the eviction. So we gotta go round to all the windows and dorrs taking measurements so we can board them up for the barricade. Then we have a couple of banners hanging up but we need one more for the North side of the building--you know to let the public know what's happening and to show them that we're really determined to defend the hotel.

JOEL

Man you people are gonna do all that--that sounds pretty exciting!

ANDRES

Right on, man--why don't you come down and help us?

MARIO

(looking at Joel) Well, what do you think?

JOEL

Are you kidding, man. The police are gonna be there. They might recognize us from that fight, Andres.

ANDRES

Look Joel, this thing's too important for me to be thinking about myself.

JOEL

Look, I'm not sayinit isn't important. I can see that it is. But what good is it gonna do if the police recognize me?

TERRI

Well, you could do work inside the hotel where the police won't see you.

JOEL

(laughing) But what if the police get inside, past the barricades.

MANG BENNY

We won't let them get past the barricade.

MARIO

Right on, Mang Benny.

ALEX

Besides, the police can't tell us Pinoys apart!

They all chuckle)

JOEL

Well, let me think about it.

MARIO

Yeah, pare, think about it. You know we gotta stand together with our manongs.

MANG BENNY

You know, Joel, when we and the oldtimers first came to this country we learned that we must rely on each other, we learned that we had to fight together to be strong. Because we were treated like dogs and to be fearful, to be afraid, to be cold. So to stay alive here in America some had to drink, some gamble, but some organized! Yes! We've been organizing ever since we came to this country. Because for us we know that there will be others to follow, like all of you here. And for this we worked and toiled so that the other generations of Polopinos and people of all colors will live and work in peace and security. This is yot a dream. But now I watch you young people like a farmer watching over his plants, watching you tempered through the storms of life yot growing stronger. We need each other to fulfill this dream, into a reality.

JOEL

Yes, manong, we must do thos.

MANG BENNY

O, sigs. OK na, let's get our leaflets and pass them out now.

TERRI

Oh, here. Oh, and I talked to Rev. Ordona and Father Tim about leafletting their churches tomorrow.

SUSAN

Good, and some one should go to Bingo tomorrow night...

(Blackout)

SCENE IV -- Eviction Day

(It is early morning. Andres is just arriving at the Bush Hotel. With him he brings some extra planks of wood, a bag of materials and a thermos of coffee. He stops in front of the window and peers in. Seeing that none of the residents have awoken yet, he sets down the wood, opens up the thermos and pours himself some coffee. He walks around the front of the hotel sipping his coffee, when Terri and Alex enter. Terri is quite spirited.)

TERRI

Hey, Andres. What's happening? Boy, it sure is cold out here. Where's everyone at? Isn't there anyone else here yet?

ANDRES

Not yet kasama. I just arrived here by myself. Hi Alex. Ano bang happening? There's not much going on here yet.

ALEX

(sleepily) Nothing much this early, anyway.

TERRI

Yeah, but I just had to come down.

ANDRES

Well, that's cool. There's a couple more windows to board up. (pointing to the unboarded windows) You want some coffee before we get started? I brought some with me.

TERRI

Sure. We picked up some donuts before we came down.

ANDRES

Right on! Help yourself to the coffee. There's more cups inside the bag. (to Alex, has Alex and Terri pour themselves some coffee) So how many people do we have staying for the sit-in.

ALEX

About half of the people who are going to be at the barricade will be staying.

ANDRES

(excited) Right on! That's good.

(Mang Benny comes out of the hotel)

MANG BENNY

Good morning, good morning. My golly, you kids are up early. It's only 6:30. (he walks to the curb and looks up and down the street, and up to the sky. Turning back) It's going to be a nice day today, 'di ba?

ANDRES

Sure is manong. Is everything set inside?

MANG BENNY

Yes, yes. We've got everything inside. I made a trip to the emergency

center last night and got extra blankets.

ANDRES

What about the rest of the residents?

MANG BENNY

I got Leo up early. He's waking the others. They are going to meet in the lobby in an hour, and prepare. I go check with him now.

(Mang Benny returns into the hotel)

ALEX

Andres. Let's finish up the windows now.

ANDRES

Okay. Hey Terri, come on. Let's start.

TERRI

Sige. Let's go.

(Terri and Alex grab the wood. The three begin to hammer at the windows. Joel and Mario enter carrying a rolled banner)

JOEL

Hoy, kamusta? What's happening? I brought the banner, Andres. You want to see it?

MARIO

Yeah, man it's bad. The whole gang get together yesterday, and finished it just last night. Why don't we put it up now? Come on!

TERRI

Sure. Let me get some tape or something. (get some tape from the bag.)
Here Mario, let's put it up.
(Alex and Mario put the banner up)

ALEX

We got some extra sleeping bags for people to borrow.

ANDRES

Good. Hey, man -- what you be wearin' them glasses this early in the mornin'?

JOEL

Don't wanna be recognized, man!

ALEX

Police ain't here yet, man
(They laugh)
(All back up the curb and admire the banner)

ALEX

Right on! WE WON'T MOVE!!

(They all go back and begin working again. Members of the broader Seattle community enter bringing in food and supplies for the barricade. People greet them. Manong Benny is acting as supervisor.)

ANDRES

Terri, this is really great! Look at the support we're getting!

TERRI

Really! Who ever said the community could never be united should be here to see this!

ALEX

(unbelieving) Wow, even my mom's here. Look Terri. Here she comes.

AUNTIE

Alex, my goodness. Did you eat anything before you left this morning? You should take care now. Here, I brought you something to eat.

ALEX

Mom! What are you doing here? I thought there was going to be another practice today. What happened?

AUNTIE

Well, the kids wanted to come down here instead. Besides, I had a little food to donate.

(Terri, Alex and Andres are astonished to see all the food that she has brought. Auntie and some people take the food inside the hotel. Robert, who was assigned to look-out, comes running over to the hotel. He's very excited)

ROBERT

Andres, Manong Benny. I saw a lot of police coming this way. They're here. The police are here.

ANDRES

It's time now. Manong Benny, come out here and bring Leo and the others. Everyone move closer to the hotel and lock your arms together. Try not to be afraid.

(ad libs "DON'T BE SCARED" etc.)

(Police arrive, line up in formation. The City officials come immediately after the police. Tension grows among the people forces.)

CITY

(with false politeness)

Please now. We don't want any problems here today, so why don't you people just quietly leave these premises. It would be much easier for all concerned here.

TERRI

Do you think you guys can just move us around like a bunch of cattle?

ANDRES

The residents have decided to remain here, and the people here from the community have come to support their decision. We're not moving from here.

CITY

(more angry) Look, this property does not belong to you. You'll have to leave.

MANIONG BENNY

This is our community, our homes. You big shots have no right coming in here and throwinng us out. God doggit, I was living here before you were born.

I have no other place to go, so I'm not moving. So go now, leave us alone.
Get out of here now.

CITY

You leave us no choice. I'm sorry it has to come down to this. Officers,
remove these people.

(people begin to chant)

MANG NICHOLAS

Hindi kami aalis

ANDRES

Yeah, we won't move.

CROWD

Police, Police, Police! Hindi kami aalis (repeat)

(Actors freeze. Music starts, and slides flash on the walls. Slides finish,
music continues, poem begins)

TAGATUPAD (Those Who Must Carry On)

Tagatupad, tagatupad
The fulfillers of broken dreams
Call out the ages
Call out the people
The Pilipino people

Tagatupad, tagatupad
What is this word?
So great, so intense
What is the task?
What is to be done?
What is the road that lies ahead?

Tagatupad, tagatupad
Lift up the shield of a darkened veil
Uphold the cup of glorious history
tossed by the red-baiting storm
Generation lost in a mire

Tagatupad, tagatupad
Inspirers of vision
Leaders of the past
Duyungan, Simon
Bulosan, Mensalvas
Mangaoang, Valdez
Cabuena, Lagunilla
History calls out your names
As we open eyes
Smash the remnants of McCarthy era
To vindicate your lives

Tagatupad, tagatupad
Lessons must be learned
To lead the people
To unite the people
To fight against attacks on our
people

Tagatupad, tagatupad
Bring down the "so called leaders"
who led us astray
Leaders must be tested
We must continue
We are continuing
We are the fulfillers
Tagatupad, tagatupad

(Insert, 6th stanza)

Tagatupad. Tagatupad.
Look! The people's movement
Forces standing in defiance
I see our people there
Arms-linked with the forces
of different race
Nothing can stop us now
The builders of a New World.