

inclusIVitY

- the Ivy Bottini Story -

by

Al Schnupp

A play/musical written in a poetic format that celebrates the life and legacy of Ivy Bottini, artist and activist.

CAST

	Ivy Bottini
Female 1	Ivy's Father, Marty, Mary Carol, Dor, Ensemble
Female 2	Anita Bryant, Eddie, Edna, Lisa, Dottie, Ensemble
Female 3	Myrtle, Rosie Robinson, Laura, Helen, Ensemble
Female 4	Phil 1, Phil 2, Nancy, Psychiatrist, Lyndon LaRouche, Robin Tyler, Ensemble
Female 5	Ivy's Mother, Drag Queen, Betty Friedan, John Briggs, Dr. Gottlieb, Ensemble

Supporting roles may be redistributed to include male actors

SONGS/POEMS

Family Tree

Dad and Me and the World

Miss Robinson

Dad and Me and the World – Reprise

Girls

Eddie – Hello

Therapy

When Good isn't Enough

Locust Valley Bar

Eddie – Goodbye

Lady Liberty

Betty Goes Beserk

Dottie and Me and the Road

It's a Gay Life

Proposition 6

Proposition 64

AIDS Quilt

World Tree

The text/lyrics may be spoken, rapped or sung. Performers may alternate between styles. There is no score; it is left to the director, actors and musicians to improvise and set the music. When dialogue is spoken, actors should hide the rhymes. Avoid focusing on the last word of the first line of a couplet, but, instead, roll over and highlight the key word/s *within* the second line.

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- 2-EDNA Edna. My name is Edna. We each have our niche
It's true. I'll own it. I'm the family bitch.
- IVY Nuts, nice and nasty – sisters, really? I swear
There's no evidence of the blood they share
Papa says
- 1-DAD We're all part of a splendid tree,
Whose leaves and branches are our family.
- IVY Though Papa's words are meant to comfort me
There are days I don't believe his analogy.
- 4-PHIL 1 I married Edna. My name is Phil.
That Edna turned out to be a whopping pill.
- IVY Edna loves to paint her lips in garish pink
Throw on her pearls and a stole of mink
- 3-MYRTLE With eyebrows freshly plucked and redrawn
She summons Phil, who becomes her pawn.
- 1-DAD In their Packard, Edna sprawls in the back
Phil takes the wheel, dressed in stately black.
- 5-MOM They cruise about, a royal Gothic pair
Decked to the nines, with attitude to spare
- 3-MYRTLE On occasion, they stoop to spare a dime
But charity, to them, is a crime.
- 4-PHIL 2 I married Myrtle. My name is Phil
That broad - such a sweetheart – and...I love her still
- 3-MYRTLE In Jersey, we opened up a little store
We sold all styles of radios – nothing more.
- 4-PHIL 2 A decade later, our business turned the page
When television became all the rage.
- IVY Two Ivy's. Two Phil's. What a wacky family tree.
How we got entwined is something of a mystery.
Papa says
- 1-DAD Some twigs are buds, grafted to the tree
Others sprout from broken limbs and grow free.

IVY I dwell among its branches, oh so wide
Does my family think of me with pride?

5-MOM My daughter.

2-EDNA That child.

3-MYRTLE Our niece.

5-MOM So wild.

3-MYRTLE So rambunctious.

2-EDNA She needs a leash.
She acts like a feral, delinquent punk

3-MYRTLE I would call it a healthy dose of sass and spunk.

5-MOM God help us! Why is my child such a jock?

1-DAD Just look at her. She's from hardy stock!
My folks were working class, they were poor -
A fact my wife would come to abhor.

IVY Dad lost his job. We moved from Edward Street
Slowly, I saw Papa step away...in defeat

5-MOM Archie, this is not the life I imagined as your bride.
I fear my love for you has died.

IVY Mother choose her words, shaper than a dart
Using them as barbs to pierce Father's heart

5-MOM When I said, "For better or for worse,"
I considered you a blessing, but you're a curse.

IVY Mom would crack the oven door, stick her head inside
Turn on the gas and threaten suicide

3-MYRTLE Sadly, Archie was driven to the brink.
More and more, he took to drink

IVY Less and less we were a family
My secret tears couldn't revive our blighted tree
Papa says

1-DAD My roots go to a place far away.
To Ireland, where I hope to go some day.

IVY Of all the names that make up our tree,
It's clear who means the most to me.

DAD AND ME AND THE WORLD

1-DAD Ivy, it seems you have an artist's eye
I see the way you study patterns on the sly
Sensing colors. Tracing lines. Asking why.

IVY Papa kneels on the floor where I lay
I'm reading, but he takes my books away
He gives me paper and asks about my day.

1-DAD Here's a pencil, give me a clue
We all have a point of view.
Draw the pictures of your heart so I can see them too
It could be you and I both agree
About this crazy world we see.
Go on, Ivy, draw a scene for me.

IVY and DAD-M1 There's a whole lot of darkness, a whole lot of light
There's devils wanting to pick a fight
There's angels to set things right.

DAD-M1 I'm telling you, pal, what every father knows
There's thugs who punch good guys in the nose,
I say, return their bloody blows.

IVY Dad comes home, doesn't make a sound
With a rope he makes a square on the ground
He hands Mom a bell to mark each round

DAD-M1 Girl, you need to learn to box
To land a hit that knocks
A bully off his dirty socks
Begin with an uppercut
Follow through with a jab to the gut
Knock that nasty punk on his butt.

IVY and 1-DAD There's a whole lot of goodness, a whole lot of bad
There's no way to outrun the sad
But there's always someone to make you glad.

1-DAD You know what every kid should see?
The work a father does to support his family.
So, come on, girl, give your old man company.

IVY Dad drives around the countryside
Looking for places where mosquitos thrive
Then sprays the sites with insecticide.

1-DAD As a general rule
Mosquito larvae live in a stagnant pool
There, they multiply, like a breeding school.
Sometimes in an old, hollow tree
It's possible to find a hidden cavity
That's home to a thriving colony.

IVY and 1-DAD There's a whole bunch of highs, a whole lot of lows
There's no way to sidestep hurtful blows.
Hold on, the tide will change, as the saying goes.

IVY With Dad, fishing on Long Island bay
Catching crabs by the quay
Makes for a glorious day.
Remember my first ferris wheel ride?

1-DAD Halfway up, you hid inside my coat and cried.

IVY You stood up, leaned over the side
"Stop this wheel or I'll have your hide!"

1-DAD It worked. Aren't you glad I tried?

IVY Father absolutely beamed with pride.
He wiped my tears then bought me a BB gun

DADM-1 Soon Ivy gave all the boys cause to run.

IVY My shot was next to none!
One-day Dad went to the butcher shop in town

1-DAD The owner had some pups he swore he'd drown

IVY But Papa wouldn't let those pups be put down.
He found a home for each and every one

1-DAD Ivy, pick a name for your little son-of-a-gun

IVY
 Lindy-up-in-the-air. Isn't that fun?
 Then, like a boxing match, came a round of blows
 There is talk of war, factories close
 In our home, a whole lot of lows
 Mom is mad, always mad
 Drink claims Dad
 A whole lot of sad
 As things get dire
 I looked around for someone to admire.
 Someone to walk me through the fire.

IVY and 1-DAD
 There's a whole lot of goodness, a whole lot of bad
 There's no way to outrun the sad
 But there's always someone to make you glad.

1-DAD
 Someone to make you glad.

MISS ROBINSON

3-ROSIE
 Hello, my name is Miss Robinson
 This is typing class, level one.

IVY
 There, standing at the front of the room
 A vision of loveliness, an Irish bloom.

3-ROSIE
 Typing is an essential skill, keep that in mind
 Otherwise a gainful job will be hard to find.

IVY
 Skin so pale, eyes of blue
 Glorious amber hair. Can this be true?
 I think this will be my favorite class
 I'm so distracted. I hope I pass!

3-ROSIE
 Hello, Miss Robinson is my name. Quiet, please.
 Typing, level two. Fingers on the keys.

IVY
 Before and after class, there's always talk of boys
 To me, such girl-talk is simply noise.
 I think, instead, what will Miss Robinson wear today?
 Will her dress brush against me if she walks this way?

3-ROSIE
 My name is Miss Robinson. Typing, level three.
 This year, formatting will be our specialty.

IVY
 She invites me to her house, to share a meal

Soon dinner together becomes a nightly deal.
 On her quest for recipes exotic and mundane
 We savor French and try the foods of Spain.
 She scours every book and magazine
 But finds *Ladies Home Journal* quite obscene.

3-ROSIE Notice how the women are all portrayed -
 As a doting wife or a ditsy maid?
 I'll not consent to be a wife,
 I prefer a more unconventional life.
 My name is Miss Robinson. Typing, level four.
 Our goal? Eighty words per minute – or more.

IVY I walk her home, after school, every day.
 I think of Dad and Mom along the way.

3-ROSIE Let's dispense with formalities

IVY She says,

3-ROSIE Call me Rosie, please.

IVY Though we don't compare in age or size
 I'm Miss – Rosie's - guardian, I surmise.
 Four years of friendship pass
 Four years of walking lightly, as if on glass
 I graduate. I have my degree.
 The time is right. We now are free.
 One day at her home, Rosie can't be found
 I call out, looking all around.

3-ROSIE I'm in the bedroom

IVY she says,

3-ROSIE Come in.

IVY I enter, the curtains drawn, the lighting dim.
 She wears an open robe, her breasts on display
 I look. I turn. I walk away.

3-ROSIE Ivy, I offered us the opportunity
 But, it seems, you rejected me.
 Nothing lost, nothing won,
 My name, once again, is Miss Robinson.

DAD AND ME AND THE WORLD – REPRISE

IVY Late one night, some drunken floozie leaves the bar
She and a bunch of sailors get in her car.

IVY and 1-DAD There's a whole lot of goodness, a whole lot of bad
There's no way to outrun the sad

IVY Dad is driving a cab, working his beat
This girl comes careening down the street

IVY and 1-DAD There's a whole bunch of highs, a whole lot of lows
There's no way to sidestep the hurtful blows

IVY A whole lot of sad...sad...sad
How does a child say goodbye to her Dad?

GIRLS

5 Life moves on...

1 chapters close

4 Pages turn...

2 hiding dreams no one knows.

4 Ivy rounds up a gang of girls in the fall
To coach us in the tricks of basketball

1 We compete in the county tournament
Every game a wild and raucous event

5 After the game we unwind in an all-night diner
Our teams of girls.

4 Nothing could be finer.

IVY Joan, you have the sweetest lips.
Fran, I like the way you cock your hips.
Schultz, has a wicked sense of fun
Sharpie, oh so tough and tender, all in one.
Of all the girls on the team
Sharpie is the one of whom I dream

2 Shadows shift...

5 the story flows

1 Summer turns to autumn...

4 scenes transpose.

1 Ivy attends Pratt Institute each weekday
Artists hoping to make their mark someday.

5 Mr. Herman says, "Hold your pencil so,
Let the line take you...where it wants to go."

1 At noon we girls gather in the luncheonette

4 God, how we laugh and swoon and fret.

IVY Sheila, there's something about the way you set your hair
Debra, with those cool smoky eyes – that icy stare
Bonnie, that snaggle-tooth is a major charm
Greta, your smile sparks my fire alarm
Of all the girls in the school
Greta gets the highest grade for being cool.

2 A parade of songs come and go

5 As I spin the dial on the radio
Ivy takes a job – designing cards
Which are then displayed in subway cars.

1 She hates the gig. She hates her boss.

2 Each day there is a little loss.

4 But down the hall, in the mailing room
There's a group of gals to dissipate the gloom.

IVY Donna, you have those distant, soulful eyes
Frita, so delicate, your waist the perfect size
Wilma, your cologne can drive a person wild
Annette, her manner, inviting and mild.
Of all the girls in the joint
Annette earns the extra point.

2 The clock won't pause,

1 her hands don't bend
 4 Moments pass...
 IVY Then I meet Eddie...
 1, 4, 5 An unexpected friend.

EDDIE - HELLO

2-EDDIE Ivy lived across the street
 Every morning she and I would meet

2-EDDIE and IVY We'd walk together to the metro station
 Manhattan - our destination

2-EDDIE Every evening we'd meet once more
 I'd walk Ivy home to her front door

IVY Eddie loves math and building things
 He seemed to live under his mother's wings

2-EDDIE Ivy is a dynamo
 Always up, on the go

IVY Eddie's really very shy
 Folks consider him a bookish sort of guy

2-EDDIE She's full of jokes and so carefree
 People like her instantly

IVY Not the type to catch a sweetheart's eye
 Most girls pass Eddie by

2-EDDIE Our first date is ho hum
 Am I a prospect or just a chum?

IVY Our first date is a ruse
 Eddie is the safest guy to choose

2-EDDIE We double date with Donnie and his girl
 I seem to disappear in the swirl.

IVY We double date with Annette and her guy
 But it's Annette who's really caught my eye
 As the night goes on, I realize

There's a wealth of kindness in Eddie's eyes

2-EDDIE

As the night goes on, I begin to see
My sense of insufficiency comes from me

IVY

Eddie doesn't cop an attitude
He doesn't push or exude
Doesn't try to be some cool or swanky dude

2-EDDIE

Ivy has an easy winsome way
Her delight is always on display
Her charm is impossible to allay

IVY

Twenty-six. That's old, is it not?

1, 3, 4, 5

(Offstage) Uh-huh.

IVY

Most girls I know have tied the knot
Should I give Eddie a shot?

2-EDDIE

It's no secret Ivy was engaged to several guys
I'm not a prince nor a prize
In Ivy's eyes, would I be a compromise?

IVY

We are compatible

2-EDDIE

She's great company

IVY

He likes my puns.

2-EDDIE

We rarely disagree
Would she...consent to be my wife?

IVY

Am I suited for a married life?

THERAPY

4-PSYCHIATRIST

Come in, come in
Please take a seat. Let's begin.
Don't hold back. What would you like to share?
You'll find I'm most astute and fair
Do you like my large and handsome desk
It pleases me....so Freud-esque
Now, why are you here?

IVY

I think I'm queer.

4-PSYCHIATRIST What? I beg your pardon. Say again. Once more.

IVY I love women. That is the sex I adore.

4-PSYCHIATRIST Oh, no, that's not good
Let's look under the hood.
How old are you, my dear?

IVY Twenty six. Does that matter? Please be clear.

4-PSYCHIATRIST Twenty six. Have you kissed a woman? Ever?

IVY No. Well, in my dreams, perhaps. No, never.

4-PSYCHIATRIST Your husband? Is there a problem there?
Does he not know how to manifest his care?

IVY I'm not married. What makes you think that is so?

4-PSYCHIATRIST You're here to discuss marital issues, no?

IVY I'm about to be married. To Eddie. In ten days.

4-PSYCHIATRIST I see. Well, let's navigate this maze.
Have you kissed your fiancé?

IVY It was not all that thrilling, I must say.

4-PSYCHIATRIST Have you lain in bed – joined - as a couple would?
Did you take pleasure in it? Was it good?

IVY Have we had sex? Is that what you wish to know?

4-PSYCHIATRIST I sense your flame of passion is somewhat low.

IVY My desires are strong, I swear

4-PSYCHIATRIST There is no cause for despair
We all have fantasies
But we can't always do as we please.
This phase will pass, it's momentary
Such thoughts will soon be an obituary.
Can we probe for a longer while
To see if you fit the lesbian profile?

IVY Well, I'm an artist. And I like sports

4-PSYCHIATRIST Mmmmm. A contradiction of sorts
We must decipher - is this learned or genetic?

IVY Is that strange...to be artistic and athletic?

4-PSYCHIATRIST Could we talk about your father
To dredge him up won't be a bother?
He was cold...distant...often he got mad

IVY Not at all! He was a kind and loving Dad.

4-PSYCHIATRIST A loud, boorish guy who threw chairs and such

IVY Not at all! I loved my father very much

4-PSYCHIATRIST Well, if you're sure. Our session's over. I declare
You're not a lesbian. The signs simply aren't there.
But I'll prescribe an antidote, to ease your mind
A twofold program – sensible and refined
Sever ties with sporty girls who are unattached.
Married friends will be much better matched
Happy to have helped you get over this hill.
I'll have my secretary send you the bill.

BRIDGE

IVY In January, nineteen fifty-two
I walk the aisle and say, "I do."

2-EDDIE Husband and wife, we assume a nice routine
And slip into the marriage scene.

IVY Laura is born in fifty-three
I'm thrilled. Motherhood appeals to me!

2-EDDIE Fifty-four – Ivy buys a house in Levitown
Our family – putting roots into the ground.

IVY Fifty-five – I take a job at Newsday
Imagine! I create art – for pay!
Fifty-six, Lisa, our second child arrives.
In her I see, once more, my father's eyes.

WHEN GOOD ISN'T ENOUGH

(Staging suggestion: Eddie (M2) and Laura (F2) and Lisa (F3) may create tableaux in the background to accompany and highlight the events described in the song/poem. Perhaps chorus members provide rhythm by clapping on the floor or scenic units).

IVY

Every September
 Our family will perfectly pose
 Girls in lace collars and fine linen bows
 The photograph glows
 Eddie – Laura – Lisa - Me
 Aren't we the nines
 Showing no signs
 I'm desperate to break out of the lines.

I could go on, ignoring the truth
 I could go on, denying the dreams of my youth
 Will I give in or will I be tough
 When good isn't enough?

Every December
 I host a holiday meal
 A table of plenty with festive appeal
 A portrait ideal
 Eddie – Laura – Lisa - Me
 Am I not the dutiful wife
 Stage managing our life
 No sign of deadening strife

I could stay here, maintain this lie
 I could stay here, repressing the sigh.
 Will I give in or will I be tough
 When good isn't enough

Every March
 We scrub the house ceiling to floor
 We polish and wax...completing each chore
 Duties fulfilled once more
 Eddie – Laura – Lisa - Me
 Showing no wear
 No visible signs of quiet despair
 Appearing to live without care

I could shut down, ignore beckoning doors
 I could shut down, filling my life with infinite chores
 Will I give in or will I be tough
 When good isn't enough

Every July
 We prepare a picnic in the park
 Watch fireworks when it turns dark
 On schedule....on mark
 Eddie – Laura – Lisa - Me
 Though appearing content
 Emotionally spent
 From the lies I resent

I can't go on, ignoring the truth
 I can't go on, denying the dreams of my youth.
 Will I give in or will I be tough
 When good isn't enough?

1-DOR
 No more playing the expected scene
 No more saluting the straight routine.
 Come on. I'm driving. Get in the car.
 It's time to investigate a gay bar.

LOCUST VALLEY BAR

5-DRAG QUEEN
 The Locust Valley Bar
 A place to be the person who you are
 Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Queer
 All special folk are welcome here
 A glitzy stage glams up the bar
 There...queens work the room, like a star
 A jukebox blares out the hottest tunes
 Brenda Lee emotes. Frank Sinatra croons.

1-DOR
 Locust Valley Bar – nice, isn't it?

IVY
 This is where I meet my first love
 Nancy – her dancing a major cut above

1-DOR
 Trouble is...Nancy has a gig
 Her name is Martha, who Ivy assumes is a prig

4-NANCY
 We gad about, the three of us
 Trolling the bars, creating a fuss.

IVY
 When Nancy dumps her other half
 I'm there – lucky me – for the last laugh
 Oh, god, how does one describe the sex?

5-DRAG QUEEN Impossible, dear. You will not find a rhyme...

1-DOR There are no words...

IVY One hot summer night
There's some guys who don't seem quite right

1-DOR As the crowd is cutting up the floor
One scornful man steps up to block the door

5-DRAG QUEEN The lights go out – the music comes to a stop
A second guy jumps to the counter top

IVY The Locust Valley Bar, where people gather unafraid
Is now the target of a raid

5-DRAG QUEEN The gays are cornered and are cuffed
Into a paddy wagon they are stuffed.

1-DOR The women, pushed into the nearby park
Are surrounded by headlights shining in the dark

5-DRAG QUEEN Cameras click as sirens scream
It is a hateful, nightmarish scene.

IVY Nancy is taken to jail
I scam to post her bail
Though Nancy is set free
She freaks. What if her parents see
A story in Newsday...with her name.
I know I have to douse the flame.

4-NANCY Ivy calls Joe.

IVY He reports all local crime
Joe says,

3 I'll leave out a few details this time.

IVY, 1, 4, 5 Locust Valley Bar

5-DRAG QUEEN you gave much to me

1 Now you're closed...just a memory

5-DRAG QUEEN You were a home away from home

From the day that we met
 You were a class act
 I was a handful – that was a fact
 Don't be upset
 There's no need for regret
 Ours is a friendship not to forget
 We have to part
 If I am to live the truth of my heart

Eddie
 I know you're in pain
 There's not much to explain
 Please don't assume blame
 Nancy is her name
 Eddie
 The lie has to die

BRIDGE

4-NANCY Goodbye. You're here to say goodbye
 I see it in your eye
 I hear it in your voice

IVY Nancy. I don't have a choice

4-NANCY You do! You do! Why!?
 Please give me another try.

IVY It's over.

4-NANCY No!

IVY I met someone

4-NANCY You and I ... we're not done
 Who? Tell me her name.

IVY Please, let's not play this game

4-NANCY Will I recognize the name?
 Or are you speechless from shame?

IVY Helen. Her name is Helen. Can we stop now, please?

4-NANCY Helen - the bitch who brought down Troy. Geeze!

IVY We're a better match.

4-NANCY Just one more chance.

IVY She suits my needs.

4-NANCY Baby, let's dance....
You changed.

IVY I have.

4-NANCY Not for the good!

IVY I have dreams you've never understood.

NANCY-F2 Oh, yeah. Taking up the women's cause

IVY Yes! Striking down misogynistic laws

4-NANCY Your rabid meetings – night after night
Angry broads – looking for another fight

IVY I found a tribe! I belong!

4-NANCY This is all . . . so wrong.

BRIDGE

3-HELEN I'm Helen. With Ivy, our first flirtation
Waiting for a train in the subway station.
My Ivy, she won't be stopped
No way will her fiery dreams be cropped.
She joins the Betty Friedan brigade
A gang of gals impassioned, unafraid
They take New York City by the balls
Hold rallies in clubs and lecture halls
Together they create somehow
The woman's citadel called NOW.

2 Ivy designs the logo – clear and bold;
Their concerns and demands take hold.

3-HELEN, 2, 5 National Organization for Women!

5 The Chapter elects Ivy as their president

3-HELEN Ivy cannot hide her secret discontent.

IVY I'm coming out! No more hiding. No more shame.
The world is going to know. I'll speak its name!

3-HELEN I'm so proud of that dyke
Ivy gave lesbians a platform and a mic
She blossomed right before our eyes
Growing taller. Her reputation on the rise

LADY LIBERTY

IVY and 3-HELEN Monday, August 10, 1970

IVY and 3-HELEN The Ladies of Liberty
Prepare to make their plan reality

3-HELEN A hundred women begin the trek
Boarding a ferry, standing on the deck,
Singing loud. This was their fervent cry:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 "The patriarchal way of life must die!"

IVY Across New York Bay we sailed
Spirits high, passions un-curtailed
In the crowd, five women...in disguise
Five gutsy women...concealing a surprise

3-HELEN At the dock, we marched ashore

IVY Lady Liberty smiled at us, I swore.

3-HELEN On the lawn, women set their blankets out
Guitars were tuned, tambourines waved about

IVY Five pregnant women stood in line
Concealing their ingenious design
Inside the pedestal, they climbed the stairs
The guards bemused, but unawares

3-HELEN Five women, each hiding a sheet
Stepped on the balcony, their mission nearly complete

IVY They snapped the sheets together, a single banner for all to see
And from the ledge unfurled their ardent plea:

IVY and 3-HELEN Women of the World Unite!

IVY, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Women of the World Unite!

IVY Freedom won't be won without a fight

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Women everywhere, hold hands
Bang your pots, drum loudly with your pans
Then dump that shit in garbage cans

IVY The Coast Guard approached in speeding boats
Men with shiny buttons and nappy coats
Thinking they had a situation to abort
They ordered a lockdown of the port

3-HELEN The Harbor Police joined the fray
Racing to the island to save the day
But the men in uniform soon saw
No one was breaking the law!
The officers joined in the fun,
Celebrating what the women had just done

IVY Three networks covered the event that day
Three newspapers – the same photo on display

IVY, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Women of the World Unite!
Freedom won't be won without a fight.

IVY New York Times.

3 Boston Globe.

IVY and 3-HELEN Our movement grows.

1 Chicago Tribune.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Now the country knows.

4 August 10, 1970

5 A day of infamy

IVY Our cause took a turn that day

1 We had prevailed.

IVY, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 The movement was underway.

BRIDGE

2, 3, 5 Oh, no! Trouble! Betty's pissed! Look out!
What will this "Betty Rumble" be about?

1-DAD Girl, show me you know how to box
It's time to punch, to use those blocks
Let's begin with an uppercut
Follow through with a jab to the gut.

BETTY GOES BESERK

(Staging suggestion: M1, M2 and M3 are dressed in top hats. They wear gloves, carry a cane and do a jazz routine on their lines).

1, 2, 3, 4 Betty. Here comes Betty
The legendary, highly contrary Betty
Make room. Can we have a speech?
Please, Betty, lay your gospel down and preach!

5-BETTY I was born into a lovely Jewish home in Illinois
It was tough, but I'll forego a diatribe about the goy
The sentiments of Marx appealed to me
His views of oppression - particularly
From early on, I loved to write
Even more, I loved to pick a fight
In high school, my writing dreams were denied
So I began a literary magazine called *Tide*.
I went to Smith - a girl's school for the well-to-do
And graduated with aplomb in '42.

1, 2, 3, 4 Betty. Stand aside for Betty
A firestorm, breaking the norm Betty.
At twenty-six, Betty became a wife

1 Hey, Betty, how is married life?

5-BETTY Carl - boisterous, fist-a-cuffs Carl
Our life disintegrated into an endless quarrel
He was a producer - loved a good show
Like Punch and Judy, we exchanged blow for blow
Our home became a horror stage
On which to unleash our psychic rage
Often I went about with black eyes

- Which only a ton of makeup could disguise
- 1, 2, 3, 4 "Man-eating tiger,"
- 5-BETTY Carl would howl
I'd throw a knife or sock him in the jawl
Friends said we were perfectly cast
- 2, 3 Of course, the hellish union didn't last.
- 1, 2, 3, 4 Betty. Salutations, Betty
Hail the notorious, the one and glorious Betty
The marvels of your life never cease
Tell us, Betty, about your masterpiece
- 5-BETTY I'm thirty-six and discontent
I sense my college friends would like to vent
So I send out a short survey
"Fifteen years have passed, what would you like to say?"
One-by-one, their answers come in
Holy shit, where the hell does one begin?
Life isn't the picture it was made out to be
The girls are pissed, without a sense of validity
I tally up the score
And vow: "No hiding in the shadows anymore!"
Women, once strong and proud, are now crushed and weak
So I write, *The Feminine Mystique*.
- 1, 2, 3, 4 Betty. Sensational Betty
That megaphone, upturning every stone, Betty
The mastermind of N. O. W. - NOW
Unafraid. Fearless. Not one to bow.
- 4 Betty thinks the New York chapter
Is corrupted by the Bottini factor
- 1 Ivy says NOW should be a lesbian enclave
But Betty says,
- 5-BETTY "Hell, no!"
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and she won't cave
- 5-BETTY One term with Bottini as chief is quite enough
It's time to boot the dyke and play rough
Give me a month to devise a plan

I'll undo Ivy and her pussy-loving clan.

1, 2, 3, 4

Betty. Kudos to Betty
That visionary, never stationary, Betty
What plan did you devise
To bring about Ivy's demise?

2

On election night, Ivy's victory seems secure
About to begin a second presidential tour

4

Then strangely, while they take roll call
A crowd of angry women enters the hall

1

Another name is proposed on their behalf

1, 2, 3, 4

"Goodbye, Ivy,"

1

say the straight girls as they laugh.

IVY

Did Betty ever show her face? Hell, no!"
But she was there, all the same, managing the show
The vote, sabotaged by Friedan imposters,
Replacing all the leaders on our rosters.

1, 2, 3, 4

Betty. Captain Betty
At the helm of NOW, take a bow, Betty
By giving Ivy her pink slip
You've up-righted a tilting ship.

IVY

New York – I have to get away
Some place – where it's easier being gay.

BRIDGE

IVY

Helen, baby, it's for the best

3-HELEN

We pack the car and head west

IVY

LA has a party atmosphere
Lesbians are far more visible here.

3-HELEN

Gay bars are open late into the night
The possibilities for sex are out of sight

IVY

So Helen, this once shy and mousy thing
Decides to up and have a fling

b

First one, then two, then three affairs
 I'm feeling bad. I don't think she cares.
 She disappears for days
 Leaving me in a funky haze
 When she returns, it's tears and a soulful sigh
 As she swears

3-HELEN

you're the apple of my eye.

IVY

I buy a house...in Venice Beach
 I foot the bills. Helen? A frickin' leech.
 Well, there's only so much abuse a broad can take
 So I move out, leaving Helen in my wake.
 But hell, I'm not one to mope or whine
 There is Mary Carol and, oh boy, is she fine!

1-MARY CAROL

I'm an actress, looking for my break
 With a back story that's hard to shake.

IVY

She was a novice – set to be a nun
 With the mouth of a devil on the run.

1-MARY CAROL

I told Sister Alice she wouldn't harbor such hate
 If she learned to masturbate!

IVY

We hook up. She's all about her acting class.

1-MARY CAROL

It's a lot more fun than mass!
 Ivy gives workshops – raising consciousness
 No topic too small or taboo to address.
 "You're good," I tell her. "You tell a story well
 And your jokes – they're funny as hell.
 Why not join the Actor's Studio
 And give the theatre a go?"

IVY

Of all the acting styles I do and see
 Improvisation most appeals to me
 To start with a blank page
 Then build and bring a scene to the stage!

1-MARY CAROL

Bam! Over night, Ivy gets sick

IVY

Out of nowhere – blind-sided by a brick

1-MARY CAROL

Her heart won't stop racing. She loses weight

Two, three pounds a day, an alarming rate.
Ivy says...

- IVY I've locked the house. Here's the key
Let's drive to New York, to my family.
- 1-MARY CAROL I sense she thinks she's going to die
She's going home to say goodbye.
In Las Vegas, we abort
We check into a hospital, our trip cut short
Laura, Ivy's daughter, books a flight
She shows up – poised for a fight.
I leave the room. Take over! Fine!
- IVY Laura never liked my lovers.
- 1-MARY CAROL I order wine.
We shuttle Ivy to the airport in an ambulance.
We fly to New York. It's surreal. I'm in a trance.
- IVY Finally, there's a diagnosis – Grave's Disease
Treatment is prescribed.
- 1-MARY CAROL Our worries ease.
Ivy recuperates slowly day by day
Then gets a call out of the gray.
- 4 We heard about your acting stint in LA
There's a conference – would you put on a play?
- IVY There's nothing else to do, I say
I have the time. Sure. It sounds fun. Okay.
Mary Carol leaves town for summer camp. A play?
I huddle in bed. What should it say?
- 1-MARY CAROL Then there's that fateful phone call
Where one misspeaks and the curtains fall.
- IVY Mary Carol, every time we chat
All I get is Julie this, Julie that
What is going on out there?
Are you having an affair?
- 1-MARY CAROL We mess around from time to time. Don't be hurt.
- IVY Mary Carol. It's over, you shameless flirt!

I begin to flesh out my show
 A woman's journey, blow by bloody blow
 I'm this nervous little tyke in the womb
 I'm born, grow, get old, get stuffed in a tomb.
 Oh god, when I perform the routine
 The audience goes nuts. It's obscene.

2, 3, 4, 5

Everywoman –

3

what a show!

4

Sassy!

5

Smart!

2

Silly!

3

Stunning!

1-DAD

Ivy, way to go!

3

You ought to write a full-length play!
 I sense you have so much more to say.

BRIDGE

IVY

One weekend I fly to San Francisco.
 I'll lead a workshop and do my show
 The room is packed – things are running late
 As I stand behind the podium and wait
 A door in the back opens rather slow
 A woman slips in, oh, god, I just know
 I have to meet this stranger in the shadow
 This is someone I can't let go.
 Late that night there's a party next door
 And there is this stunning beauty once more
 Her name is Dottie, I am told
 Just when the party is about to fold
 I circle the room and kiss everyone.

2-DOTTIE

Miss Bottini, very clever. Nicely done!

IVY

She's got my number – sees through my charade
 Oh! She's not a soldier in the gay parade!
 Why should that stop my desire to play?
 I snoop about. She's also from L A

What to do? What to do? It's a sleepless night
Next day, I pull some strings, change my flight.

2-DOTTIE On my return, guess who's in the next seat?

IVY Hi, Dottie! Fancy this! Again we meet!

2-DOTTIE Pursued by a woman...but...I'm not queer!
Yet I find it strangely thrilling. Oh, dear!

IVY Beautiful, beautiful Dottie, what charm
Dottie, born in Nebraska, raised on a farm

2-DOTTIE I move in. We rearrange the house. It's great!

IVY She has this day planner which I hate!
Coupons. Cards. A frickin' file folder
Receipts, prescriptions, recipe holder.

2-DOTTIE Without my attaché, I'd lose my way

FAN-F3 You ought to write a full-length play.

2-DOTTIE I'll help you! I'd love to help you.
Just tell me. What would you have me do?!

DOTTIE AND ME AND THE ROAD

IVY How about some music to start the show?
Be a Clown is a song most people know.

2-DOTTIE Yes! You sing! I'll play the piano!

IVY Let's perform the song with a twist
I'll dress like Barbie, a look people can't resist

2-DOTTIE Wear a wig – blond – and fake lashes, I insist!
As my fingers dance across the "Ivy" keys
You saunter on stage, oozing sleaze

IVY Then...pause...I begin a faux strip tease.
I'll toss my wig aside. Wipe off the lipstick
Slip out of my robe – give it a kick
Gone: the trappings of the phony Barbie chick.

2-DOTTIE and IVY There'll be a whole lot of oohs, a whole lot of cheers

As that silly clown disappears
We undress women's deepest fears.

2-DOTTIE The show needs a title. Something with bite!

IVY *The Many Faces of Woman.*

2-DOTTIE Right!
We hit the road, touring the USA
Performing for folks straight and gay
Getting acquainted along the way.

1, 3, 4, 5 (Bring on road signs and sign a phrase or two from a traveling song).

2-DOTTIE Did you know I was bit by a rattlesnake?

IVY Did I tell you I had a miscarriage?

2-DOTTIE It was Dad who taught me how to play piano. But I took lessons from a honky-tonk pianist in a minstrel show, too.

IVY Eddie and I owned three art galleries

2-DOTTIE Every summer, my sisters and I would ride the fences and count cattle. I hated horseback riding.

IVY I loved being pregnant. Really loved it.

2-DOTTIE I loved...paper dolls.

IVY Where shall we have lunch?

2-DOTTIE On a family trip with our German Exchange Student, I swam in all five Great Lakes!

IVY Howard Johnson's or Stuckey's?

DOTTIE We stayed in a tent, so close to Niagara Falls, we could feel the ground vibrate.

2- DOTTIE and IVY There's a whole lot of miles, a whole lot of bumps
Lots of great late-night romps
In Betty Davis motel dumps.

IVY Two tours and we return to LA.

2-DOTTIE Then Ivy trumps up a new gig, as is her way.

IT'S A GAY LIFE

2, 3, 5 (Singing at a microphone). “It’s a Gay Life” on KHJ

1-MARTY The most progressive radio station in LA

2, 3, 5 Everyone, let’s raise a hardy toast

5 To Ivy Bottini,

3 our outrageous...lesbian...host.

IVY Good afternoon. Welcome to “It’s a Gay Life.”

1-MARTY I call her, “Dyke with a knife.”

IVY That’s my producer Marty
Not exactly a party

1-MARTY Ivy’s antics make me tired
Ivy is going to get me fired.

5 A look at all things gay

2, 3, 5 Her talk show so risqué

3 Her topics so divinely shocking

2, 3, 5 Topics to get the straight world rocking

2 “Coping with menstruation”

2, 3, 5 (Singing). KHJ

1-MARTY Ivy, a constant source of agitation

5 “Techniques of masturbation”

2, 3, 5 (Singing). KHJ

1-MARTY Ivy, always preaching emancipation

3 “The process of a transgender operation”

2, 3, 5 (Singing). KHJ

1-MARTY Ivy, calling to end all forms of exploitation

2 "Sex toys and their application"

2, 3, 5 (Singing). KHJ

1-MARTY Ivy, putting me in a precarious situation

IVY I'm interviewing Robin Tyler today
Who performs with Patty Harrison – also gay!
This duo has taken comedy and are redefining it
Their feminist humor has been a huge hit

4-ROBIN Thanks, Ivy. Great to be here.
It's been quite a journey, my career

IVY How did it all begin, Robin, pray tell

4-ROBIN I was doing standup and doing well
I'm in the closet, flying low
Hoping to land a network TV show
And this guy calls, a dude on the inside

3 We want to celebrate gay pride
Would you come and do a routine?
We have no issues if it's obscene.

4-ROBIN You want jokes that are anti-gay? No way!

3 God, no, the spin should be pro-gay.

4-ROBIN So I say, "Okay" and in the middle of my run
This dude yells out, axing the fun

2 Take all the queers out there
And put them on an island somewhere.

4-ROBIN I say, "They already did," quite sincere
"It's called Manhattan, my dear."
The crowd went wild. That was my first gay joke
Really! Spun from the shit of this asshole bloke.

1-MARTY Oh, God, Ivy, you and I are dead
The FCC is going have my head

2, 3, 5 (Nervously singing). KHJ (Exit)

4-ROBIN After that I came out – I felt free and sunny
 And my jokes became a lot more funny
 Humor comes from anger and truth – that’s its fire
 No one can be a comic and a liar

IVY Have you heard of this nut, Anita Bryant?

4-ROBIN The beauty queen...slash...media giant?

IVY She’s been shaking her tits and ass
 Campaigning to have Proposition 6 pass
 That law would really screw our tribe

4-ROBIN The quack claims God is on her side.

1-MARTY Ivy, Ivy, Ivy. The FCC rules are clear
 We got that call - my biggest fear
 You can’t say “tits and ass” on the air
 This is their final warning, so beware
 Please. No more. Enough with the shit

IVY Okay. Fine, Marty. I quit!

BRIDGE

4 Anita Bryant and John Briggs form a team
 They barnstorm California with their scheme.

PROPOSITION 6

(Staging suggestion: John and Anita are a circus, sideshow act. They are outrageous, sport theatrical makeup and perform a dance routine).

5-JOHN Listen up! If you’re a god-fearing man,
 I warn you of the devil’s plan

2-ANITA Hey, sister, Bride of Christ,
 Beware of the homosexual heist

2 and 5 Are you aware
 Kids at school
 Could be trapped in a sexual snare?

2-ANITA Boys are a gay man’s fantasy

Queer teachers shouldn't have a classroom key

- 5-JOHN Lesbians see girls as a sexual treat
Throw those wicked teachers to the street!
- 2 and 5 We are the Briggs and Bryant show
Sent by God to let the people know
Today there's a homosexual scourge
Perverts in the classroom, who must be purged
- 2-DOTTIE No on 6! The opposition strikes back
Ivy leads the counter attack
- 4 "Come out!" is their battle cry
"Come out, come out." Expose the lie.
- IVY Your rhetoric is built on lies.
Sexuality is not passed on, as you surmise
Students are not soldiers to boot
That gay teachers wish to recruit
- 3 If children getting harmed is what you fear
Look beyond the folks who are queer
- 1 It's straight perverts, statistics say
Who abuse our youngsters in that way.
- 5-JOHN Schools should be safe, with sturdy walls
We cannot have fags scumming up its halls
- 2-ANITA It's not possible for gays to procreate
So converting youth is how they retaliate
- 2 and 5 Are you aware
Kids at school
Could be trapped in a sexual snare?
- 2-ANITA If God had meant for men to mate
He would have made Adam and Nate
- 5-JOHN Proposition 6 will protect our youth
A law backed by God – built on truth
- 2 and 5 We are the Briggs and Bryant show
Urging you, California, get up and go!
Cast your vote for Proposition Six

A lesbian lock. A faggot fix.

IVY	John and Anita have reached a new low. How far will their hate and bigotry go? We can't stand by and let them win We have to counter, extinguish their din
1, 3, 4	Come out, come out, wherever you are! Come out, come out, declare who you are
4	Uncles and aunts
1	Nieces and nephews
3	Catholics
4	Protestants
3	Agnostics and Jews
1, 3, 4	Now is the time to dare Show the world we're everywhere
4	In factories and fields
1	Every age and race
3	Working hard
4	Making the world a better place.
1, 3, 4	Making the world a better place
2-DOTTIE	Despite the march of hate and its drumbeat Proposition 6 went down in defeat
IVY	Then...in the gay community, darkness descends As a mysterious illness ascends
BRIDGE	
2-DOTTIE	To combat despair, to honor the dead Ivy paints. Florals. In orange, violet and red.
IVY	Light travels, it shimmers and plays When I paint, it stays,

1 There's a whole lot of darkness raining down
A whole lot of fear – all around

2-DOTTIE Ivy paints. Nudes reclining in bed.

IVY Time has an unstoppable will
When I paint, the clock stands still.

4 Friends Ivy has known for years and years
Fall ill, the cause unknown, it appears.

1 Then, an optometrist confirms Ivy is right
The diagnosis: Ivy is losing her sight.

2-DOTTIE Ivy paints. Birds in glorious flight.

IVY On the canvas I can sweeten the truth
Or...renew the dreams of my youth

4 On the shoulder of a downtown freeway
Ken collapses behind the wheel one day.

2-DOTTIE Ivy paints. Portraits in colors bold and bright.
Paints blended in infinite shades
As her vision slowly, steadfastly fades

F-3 Doug is in the shower, singing off key
Suddenly a wave of pain. He can't see.

2-DOTTIE To find a cure – leading the way
The Medical Center of UCLA

IVY Dr. Gottlieb heads the cause
Collecting data...researching laws

2-DOTTIE Ivy and Dr. Gottlieb meet
Ivy takes his concerns to the street
In West Hollywood, she rents a hall in the park
Gottlieb speaks to the crowd. The mood is stark.

5-GOTTLIEB I know this is hard to hear
There's little that we know, but let's be clear
Until we find the cause and its effects
I recommend everyone refrain from having sex.

2-DOTTIE That was not what anyone wished to hear
Gottlieb was shouted down out of anguish and fear.

4 Get lost!

1 Eat shit!

3 What do you know?!

4 Go to hell!

IVY In 1981, Gottlieb gives the disease a name

IVY, 5-GOTTLIEB AIDS

IVY but no one can extinguish its flame.

2-DOTTIE Ivy founded AIDS Network LA
A clearing house for victims to have their say.

IVY Then LaRouche appears on the scene
He proposes a law. His tactics obscene.

PROPOSITION 64

4-LAROUCHE There's a parasite in the air
Dining on the flesh of people everywhere
There's no doubt from where it came
Gay men are to blame
(Sung in a monotone style, without pause or inflection. Perhaps chant-like, to reveal the public face of the character). And so...I, Lyndon LaRouche, in the interest of good health for all, submit to the good people of California, for your kind consideration, a poetically crafted, lovingly nurtured, dutifully mindful, legally bind-full, incredibly mature Proposition 64.

IVY (Logical. Even-tone. Insightful).
Of course, LaRouche won't say
He hopes to brand and banish those who are gay
Locking them away
Never again to see the light of day.

4-LAROUCHE (Private thoughts. Sung in a loud, grand, aggressive, brutal, bullish, dramatic fashion. Also delivered, at times, in a vicious whisper).
Of course, I won't say
I hope to brand and banish each and every gay

Locking them away
Never again to see the light of day.

- 2-DOTTIE Once more, Ivy stands up in opposition
Marching to protest the proposition.
- 4-LAROUCHE Don't shake a faggot's hand
These freaks should be forever banned
Always be on guard
Always play the cautious card
(Public face. Monotone. Chant-like). And so...I, Lyndon La Rouche, as
a man of upright character and deep moral integrity who cherishes
the constitution and salutes the flag in a most proper and fitting style,
humbly implore you to support the deliriously good-hearted
Proposition 64.
- IVY (Logical. Even-tone. Insightful).
- Of course LaRouche won't say
His "Caring Card" is just display
Gay men are his prey.
His guns blazing away
- 4-LAROUCHE (Private thoughts. Sung in a loud, grand, aggressive, brutal, bullish,
dramatic fashion. Also delivered, at times, in a vicious whisper)
Of course I won't say
My "Caring Card" is just display
Gay men are my prey.
His guns blazing away
- 2-DOTTIE Doctors and patients join hands, outraged
By the lack of health care. Die-ins are staged
- IVY Your campaign is a ploy, a play on fear
- 4-LAROUCHE Look around...the threat is clear
- IVY It's a grim disease we don't know much about
- 4-LAROUCHE It's God's punishment, without a doubt
- IVY You use misfortune as a tool of politics
Prop 64 is an lying bag of tricks
- 2-DOTTIE And so, I, Dottie Spangler, do happily report Prop 64 was defeated by
a resounding margin and all gay men and countless other groups and

minorities who LaRouche abhorred and placed in his cross hairs...can rejoice.

BRIDGE

- IVY Victory may be cause to cheer, it may be sweet
But it has no means to defeat
This disease claiming countless lives
As the soul of our country dies
- 5 Cleve Jones plans a march. How can we show
The scale of loss in San Francisco?
- 3 Why not carry cards, each with a single name
Lovers lost. Friends who died. AIDS to blame?
- 5 The march ends, the cards are taped to a wall
From a distance, it is apparent to all.
- 3 The display looks like a patchwork quilt
Cleve Jones sets to work. A memorial is built.

AIDS QUILT

- IVY Three by six
How is a life portrayed?
- 2-DOTTIE In three by six
How are kind, countless deeds displayed?
- IVY A gingham heart, a velvet bow
So much we won't ever know
- 2-DOTTIE A sequin star, threads of gold
So much remains untold
- IVY Three by six
A treasured tapestry
In three by six
There's so little we can see
- 2-DOTTIE A testament, a broken shrine
Dreams sadly left behind
- IVY Three by six
- 2-DOTTIE Six by ten

IVY Heartaches that never mend

2-DOTTIE Six by twelve...countless tears

IVY No one to stop the turning gears

2-DOTTIE A hundred squared...the numbers grow

IVY The doctors still don't know
What in God's name is wrong

2-DOTTIE The list of casualties is long

IVY Three by six
On the graves the flowers wilt

2-DOTTIE Three by six
Another panel added to the quilt

4 Michael Korbel
Your laughter will never die

1 Steven Brooks
All my life I'll be asking why

5 Eduardo Nunez
In my heart you reside safe and strong

3 Alice Newman
The sky is filled with the music of your song

4 Daniel Cohen
Somewhere over the rainbow you now dwell

1 Leonard Palin
You are my hero -

IVY, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Damn AIDS to hell!

IVY Does the world know?
Pray that history will forever show
Those who were fierce and unafraid
Who stepped up and led the parade
Were lesbians.
Yes, lesbians

And one's right to worship is denied.

2 Why can't we embrace everyone on earth
And celebrate their dignity and worth?

3 Inclusivity. It is Ivy's quest

4 Inclusivity. Her litmus test

5 Whatever her role:

4 Lesbian

3 Mother

2 Wife

1 Protests and marches were the stuff of her life

3 The bigotry doesn't stop.

4 Challenges don't end

1-DAD But for every foe, there is a friend.

4 Myrtle

1 Archie

2 Dottie

5 Eddie

3 Rosie

3 Laura

4 Lisa

5 Even Betty

1-DAD From a small and modest family tree
Ivy grew...into an advocate for all
Who make up our great, diverse...world tree