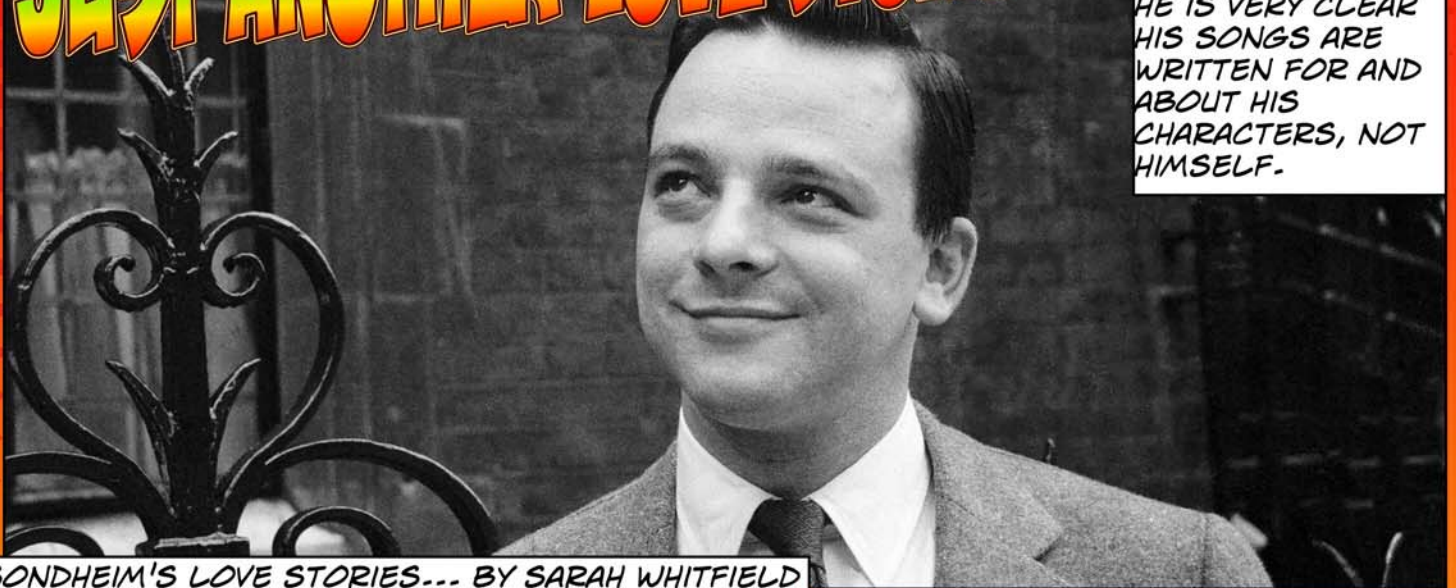


JUST ANOTHER LOVE STORY

SONDHEIM IS NOT KEEN ON BIOGRAPHY. AND HE IS VERY CLEAR HIS SONGS ARE WRITTEN FOR AND ABOUT HIS CHARACTERS, NOT HIMSELF.



SONDHEIM'S LOVE STORIES... BY SARAH WHITFIELD



THERE'S A PLACE FOR US

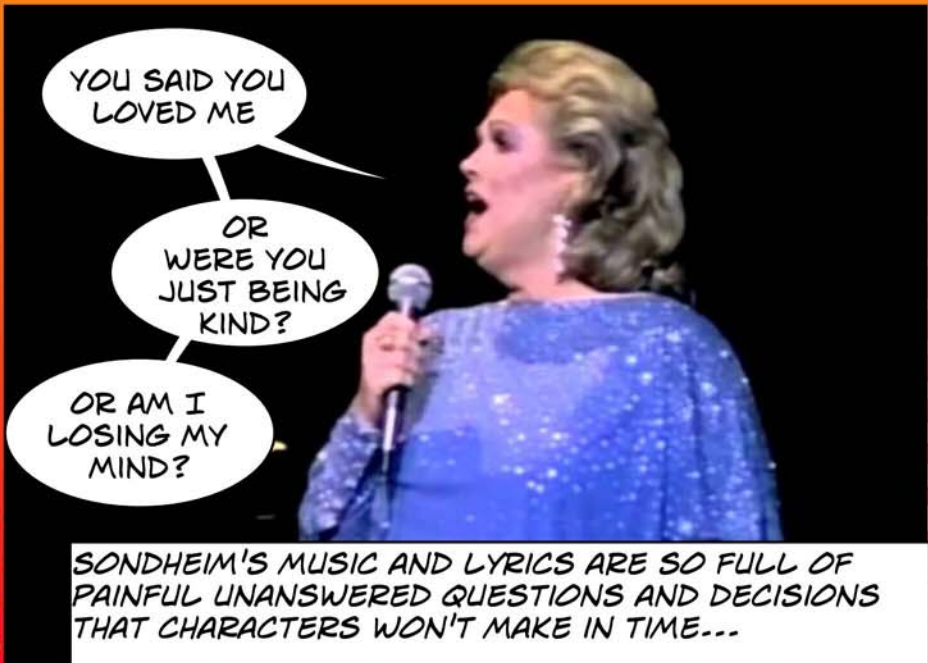
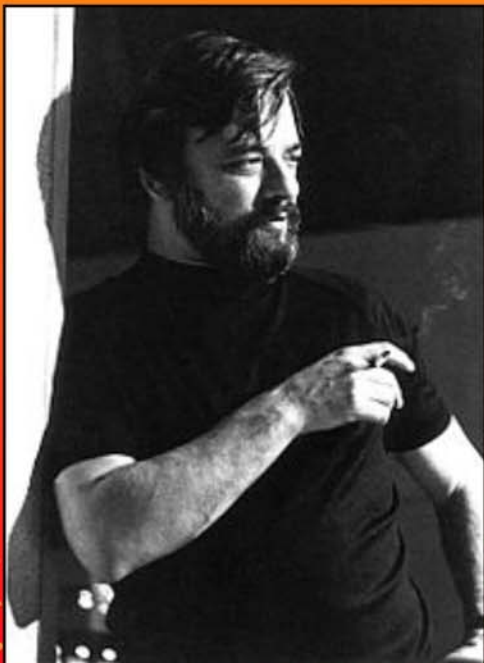
SONDHEIM WAS ONLY 27 WHEN HE WROTE THE LYRICS FOR WEST SIDE STORY



SOME HOW

SOME DAY

SOMEWHERE!



YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME

OR WERE YOU JUST BEING KIND?

OR AM I LOSING MY MIND?

SONDHEIM'S MUSIC AND LYRICS ARE SO FULL OF PAINFUL UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS THAT CHARACTERS WON'T MAKE IN TIME...



PRETTY WOMEN...

SWEENEY HESITATES AND MISSES HIS CHANCE TO KILL THE JUDGE



...AND LOUIS THE BAKER WAS NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND

DOT HAS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LOUIS THE BAKER AND GEORGES SEURAT - FOOD WINS OVER ART

IN 'A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC' WE SEE THE PAIN OF BITTER REGRET ABOUT THE 'WRONG DECISION'



THERE OUGHT TO BE CLOWNS...

WELL MAYBE NEXT YEAR



I DO NOT HOPE FOR WHAT I CANNOT HAVE!

IN 'PASSION', FOSCA HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT LIFE WITHOUT HOPE, BEFORE SHE FALLS IN LOVE WITH GEORGIO



I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF DEEP MELANCHOLY

STAGE DIRECTION READS 'AWKWARD MOMENT OF SILENCE'

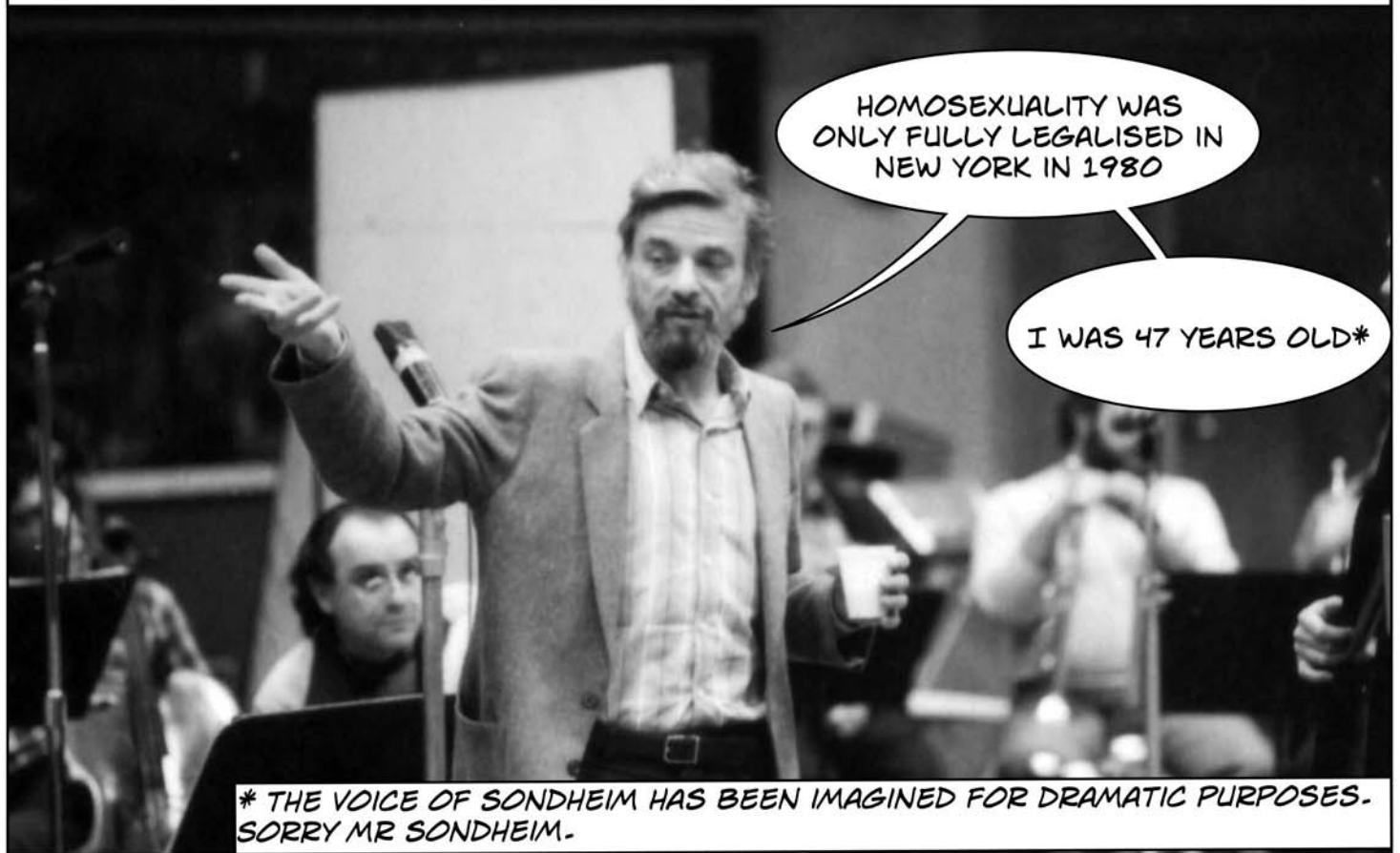


I CHOSE AND MY WORLD WAS SHAKEN, SO WHAT?

YOU HAVE TO MOVE ON...

THE LESSON IN SONDHEIM IS OFTEN TO DECIDE... AND TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES AND THE CONTRADICTIONS

SONDHEIM'S SONGS ARE NOT 'SNEAKY WINDOWS' INTO HIS PERSONALITY, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT THEIR CONTEXT, AND HIS CONTEXT AS A PERSON WHO FACED EXTREME PREJUDICE BECAUSE OF WHO HE LOVED.



BUT IT'S NOT UNTIL 2003 THAT A SONDHEIM MUSICAL HAS AN OPENLY GAY CHARACTER, IN A MUSICAL CALLED 'BOUNCE'. IN THIS VERSION IT IS NOT THE PRINCIPLE LOVE STORY, BUT IN THE REVISED VERSION AS 'ROAD SHOW' IT APPEARS MORE PROMINENTLY IN THE STORY. SONDHEIM'S CHARACTERS DO NOT REPRESENT HIS OWN EXPERIENCES, BUT WE DO NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE CONTEXT OF HIS LOVE STORIES...

REPRESENTATIONS OF SO-CALLED DEVIANT SEXUALITY WERE BANNED IN BROADWAY THEATRE FROM 1927 UNTIL 1968



IN THE 1950S, WHEN SONDHEIM WAS IN HIS 20S, THERE WAS A POLITICAL PANIC OVER SO-CALLED "MORAL WEAKLINGS" (HOMOSEXUALS) WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT. THIS HOMOPHOBIC PANIC WAS FUELLED BY ANTI-COMMUNIST THOUGHT. IT WAS CALLED THE 'LAVENDER SCARE'

THE STATE DEPARTMENT APOLOGISED IN 2017 FOR THE WITCH-HUNT, LIKE THIS CONGRESSIONAL HEARING



WE ARE SCARED OF WHAT WE REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND



THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY WERE FORMED IN 1950



MAKING THEM THE FIRST U.S. GAY RIGHTS GROUP



THE COMMUNITY FACED POLICE BRUTALITY AND TARGETED HARASSMENT



LITTLE WONDER THAT 'OVER THE RAINBOW' BECAME SO IMPORTANT TO THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

ON JUNE 26TH 1969 IN SOHO, NY, THE COMMUNITY HAD ENOUGH OF POLICE OPPRESSION

MARSHA P JOHNSON WAS AN AMERICAN GAY LIBERATION ACTIVIST AND SELF IDENTIFIED DRAG QUEEN



I GOT MY CIVIL RIGHTS

LGBTQ HEROES



I JUST WANT TO BE WHO I AM



IT WAS A REBELLION, IT WAS AN UPRISING, IT WAS A CIVIL RIGHTS DISOBEDIENCE --IT WASN'T NO DAMN RIOT

SYLVIA RIVERA WAS A TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST, SHE WAS A KEY FIGURE IN THE LGBTQ RIGHTS MOVEMENT

STORMÉ DELARVERIE WAS A BUTCH LESBIAN AND A LGBTQ HERO



WE CALLED IT 'CHRISTOPHER STREET LIBERATION DAY'



BRENDA HOWARD WAS A BISEXUAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST WHO CO-ORDINATED THE FIRST PRIDE MARCH IN NEW YORK

NEXT WEEK: LBGTQ HISTORY IN 1970S AND 80S, THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS AND THE PERFORMING ARTS AND HOW SONDHEIM'S MUSICALS RESPOND TO WHAT COMES NEXT

TO BE CONTINUED