

Write a musical scene meant for an original contemporary Broadway musical, which includes at least

- three instances of a chorus of 4-12 bars (e.g., the repeating stuff is not very long).
- Include material in the concluding lines of the chorus which loops repeatedly in its final iteration.
- Describe in prose the function of the sections between choruses, and then write the entire scene, including
 - verses,
 - Dialogue
 - stage action and
 - Chorus.
- Explore combinations of music/dialogue/recit/verse.
- Conclude the scene with some or all of the chorus repeating multiple times,
- eventually exploding into a dance sequence.

Topic: Someone has big plans for Saturday night; but his plans are dashed, and the words which begin the scene come back in a new light. A dance breaks out.

A family is very excited that a child is to be born after they have tried for years. Tonight, Saturday night is the night of the delivery. The whole extended family has flown in from various parts of India. This family is very orthodox, and is expecting a boy child. A girl is unimaginable. Absolutely unwanted.

They have not been able to do a scan to check the gender because it is illegal in India. So instead they had to resort to all the traditional tricks and tips that “ensure” the birth of a boy.

For the sake of character clarity, all the relationships mentioned are from the point of view of the new born child:

Grandma: paternal grandma

Grandpa: paternal grandpa

Nana: Maternal Grandma

Nanu: maternal Grandpa

In the scene: both sets of grandparents, 2 sets of uncles and aunts with one boy child each, the mother and father of the newborn child. The family doubles as hospital staff too. They are in scrubs.

Everyone:

Thank you,
Thank you for this day.
We have waited for this day,
Thank you.

Both grandmothers do not really like each other and are trying to outdo each other in worship at the little hospital temple:

Nana :

Tonight you can take me

Grandma :

Or Me! You should take me!

I am clear of sin

Cousin brother 1 :

Mommy is grandma going to die?

His mom:

Not yet.

Everyone:

Thank you,
Thank you for this day.
We have waited for this day,
Thank you.

(Suddenly a hush)

It's time,
It's time,
It's happening,
It's happening
Its time, shh,
Its time, shh
Should be done, shh,
Shh,
Shhh,
Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

Everything goes silent.

Doctor in the middle of the stage, with a spotlight. He is standing at the Operation table, there's a second of baited breath anticipation. Then, the doctor raises the child above the table and declares:

IT'S A GIRL.

Scattered, everyone, spoken:

No NO No No nO NONO NO No NO.

Maternal grandmother faints and falls down.

Paternal grandmother sniggers at her. Noone bothers to pick her up, and just leaves her there.

Immediately the scrub wearing family members start doing a small dance of forgiveness in front of the deity in the hospital temple. They are trying to ask for mercy and guidance for the future.

Chorus:

Nooo, no, no no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)
Where did we go wrong.

Grandma :

I ALWAYS
Knew That this woman was bad luck for us
Our business went down

Grandpa:

We're jokes in the town
Nothing was bad and then she came along,
I'm going to hurl

Both:

Gives birth to a GIRL

Chorus:

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)
We wed evil to our house

Uncle 1:

Maybe we should just send her and her parents away.

Grandma :

Yes! Then we get rid of the girl as well.

Uncle 2:

We can say that she had an affair.

Grandma :

Yes.

Grandpa:

Noone will question that.

Uncle 1:

So we should make a scene in front of her parents.

Grandpa:

There they are. Can't even look at us in the eyes with shame.

Grandma:

Good.

Grandma:

YOU SAID YOUR

Daughter would light up our lives and our home

And now we can see,

Thats thats not to be.

Uncle 1:

Dowry was nil and the jewellery was poor

And what can we say

Grandpa:

Just take her away

Chorus:

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)

Take your girl and GO

Nana and Nanu are doing the same dance of forgiveness that was being done to the gods, but this time to their In Laws. To show themselves at their mercy, and maybe win some pity and favor. They want their daughter to stay at that house no matter what, in order to make sure she has a secure monetary future, however sad that life may be.

Nana : sorry, sorry, I don't know what to say. Please forgive her.

Nanu: The next one that she gives you will be a boy.

Nana :Yes! Yes! I will fast for a year and go on a pilgrimage.

Nanu: And whatever you say. Just please don't send her away.

Nana : She'll be alone forever.

Nanu: How will we take care of her and her daughter.

Nana : She's a good child. She obeys. She will do better.

The paternal side of the new child is unsure of what to do. Not that they have any sort of love towards their daughter in law or the baby, but rather about how the girl leaving would impact

their social standing. Despite any public name calling they can do for the mother, the fact of the matter would be that their family is up for judgement. However, they do not let their reluctance be visible, instead choosing to squeeze out every bit of torture they can inflict on the mothers parents.

Grandma:

LET'S SAY WE

Take them back home and we raise that damn child

Uncle 1:

A huge money pit

Uncle 2:

Our bank would be hit

Uncle 1:

School and then college then marriage, oh lord

And dowrys' no joke

Grandma:

You'll know, you are broke.

Suddenly the grandma and grandpa are shaken by the realisation that their son might go broke taking care of a girl, and their vicious nature starts emerging, squashing their earlier reluctance towards drama.

Grandma:

Our son will be broke?

Grandpa:

Our son won't have money?

Grandma:

Our sons future is finished, because of that witch?

Chorus:

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)

Won't let him go broke.

The paternal family is in a corner, making hushed plans about what to do. They decide to do what has been happening in India for centuries., the drowning of the girl child in milk.

Grandpa:

We've got no

options at this point we must take a call

Uncle 2:

Get rid of the girl

In milk white as pearl

Grandma:

They've done it for years we can do it once more

Uncle 1:

Ill sort the police
They all have their fees

Grandpa: Do you know the kind of shame your daughter has brought on us?

Uncle 2: A girl child! So expensive.

Grandma: Who will pay her dowry?

Grandpa: Look at our other sons and their wives! GRANDSONS.

Uncle 2: Only this woman.

Uncle 1: It's all your fault.

Grandma: We should have known. With parents like you, of course she would be rotten.

The maternal Grandparents have by now figured from their sudden shift in tone that their child and granddaughter are in physical danger. They are talking in hushed whispers, while the paternals have resumed the forgiveness dance, but with a hysterical fervor.

Nana :

What do they have in their mind

Nanu:

(Can) we leave our daughter behind

Nana :

(I) don't trust them we need to act

Nanu:

(They're in) danger I know for a fact

By this time, the father of the child, who was sitting in the corner in a sunken shock has recovered. He being an orthodox man himself is equally on board with his parents idea of female infanticide, cares more about saving his money in the future.

The mother also starts waking up from her painkiller induced dreaminess and immediately realises the kind of danger both she and her baby are in.

Simultaneously, layered:

Mother: AAAAAAA My baby

Father: AAAAAAAA My future

Grandma: OOOOOOOOUR Money

Nana: OOOOOUURRR daughters

Chorus:

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)

This nights not yet done

Chorus:

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)

Father: Mom, I need a gun.

Grandma:

My son wants a gun and who knows what he'll do

Nanu:

SO Grab them and run when I give you the cue

Mother:

My baby Ill die but not let them get you

Nanu:

GO! GO!!

Uncle 1:

They are running!

Grandpa:

We cant let them leave. No, no!

Grandma:

Get them!

Nanu:

Run run!

While the run and chase is happening the aunts and two boys are continuing the forgiveness dance from before, at a maddening pace.

Chorus: Everyone

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)

This was not meant to happen

Chorus: Maternals

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)

Run, run, faster, RUN!

Chorus: Paternals

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)

Lord be on our side

Chorus:Everyone

Nooo, no, no, no, no. (Layered with the whole cast)
There they are! Run!

Another topic I had thought of was this. I even started a draft before realising that I had absolutely no idea about bachelor parties apart from what I have seen in hollywood movies like the Hangover. So I stuck, this time, to what I knew.

Topic: A very groomzilla-esque groom, who is not a bad dude, but has just been incredibly stressed out about getting every detail about his wedding perfect. He is looking forward to his bachelor party tonight, to relax and blow off some steam.

What he does not realise is that he had accidentally sent an invite to his bachelor party to his entire extended family along with the wedding invite. While he and his boys are out in the town, one by one the family keeps on turning up.