

Scene Synopsis

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1

A CROWDED NEW YORK CITY STREET OUTSIDE OF THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY, AUGUST OF 1909

SCENE 2

THE LOCAL UNION HALL, A FEW DAYS LATER

SCENE 3

OUTSIDE THE FACTORY, THE NEXT WEEK

SCENE 4

A NEW YORK CITY JAIL, THAT NIGHT AND THE NEXT MORNING

SCENE 5

COOPER UNION HALL, NEW YORK CITY, NOVEMBER OF 1909

SCENE 6

ON THE PICKET LINE OUTSIDE THE FACTORY, DECEMBER OF 1909

SCENE 7

THE COURTROOM OF JUDGE POWELL, NEW YORK CITY, A FEW DAYS LATER

SCENE 8

INSIDE ONE OF MANY FACTORIES OWNED BY MR. JOHANNSEN AND RUN BY MARTIN ROTH, THAT SAME WEEK

SCENE 9

THE NEW YORK STATE WOMEN'S PRISON AT BLACKWELL'S ISLAND, KNOWN AS "THE TOMBS", EARLY JANUARY OF 1910

SCENE 10

"THE TOMBS", LATE JANUARY OF 1910

SCENE 11

OUTSIDE THE FACTORY, FEBRUARY OF 1910

POSTSCRIPT

Director's Note

“TO SEE THE STARS” IS BASED ON EVENTS SURROUNDING THE NEW YORK CITY SHIRTWAIST STRIKE OF 1909, ALSO KNOWN AS THE “UPRISING OF THE 20,000”, AN EVENT THAT CHANGED LABOR HISTORY AND BROUGHT RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE AMERICAN WORKPLACE.

IT IS A STORY OF REGULAR PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO STOOD UP FOR JUSTICE AND A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. MOST OF THE GIRLS WHO WENT ON STRIKE IN 1909 WERE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 20. THEIR EFFORTS SHED LIGHT ON THE HORRID CONDITIONS THAT “SHIRTWAIST GIRLS” WERE FORCED TO WORK UNDER. TRAGICALLY, ALTHOUGH THEIR STRIKE WAS SUCCESSFUL, IT TOOK A DEADLY FIRE AT THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY ONE YEAR LATER FOR THE STATE ASSEMBLY OF NEW YORK TO FINALLY ENACT WORKPLACE SAFETY AND FAIR LABOR LAWS.

STUDENTS HAVE NOT ONLY WORKED HARD MEMORIZING THEIR LINES, LEARNING THEIR CHARACTER ROLES, PAINTING THE SET, PUTTING TOGETHER COSTUMES, AND PULLING TOGETHER PROPS AND SOUND EFFECTS, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO EXAMINED THE THEME OF “JUSTICE” FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE. WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT IF WE TAKE THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY WE CAN'T IGNORE THE FACT THAT “JUSTICE” IS CLOSE TO GOD'S HEART. IT IS MY HOPE THAT STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THIS PRODUCTION WILL THINK MORE DEEPLY ABOUT GLOBAL JUSTICE ISSUES INCLUDING THE PLIGHT OF MODERN SWEATSHOP LABORERS.

THIS IS A CLASS PROJECT. IT IS A WORK IN PROGRESS, BUT SO IS OUR WORK HERE ON EARTH, NO MATTER OUR AGE OR OCCUPATION. WE HAVE BEEN TASKED BY OUR MASTER TO “SEEK JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, AND WALK HUMBLLY” WITH HIM.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING.

Daren Blanck,

TCIS MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA TEACHER