

West Side Story – 1961 – Robert Wise & Jerome Robbins

America (Act 1, Sc. 7)

Music: Leonard Bernstein

Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

Anita

Once an immigrant, always an immigrant!

Bernardo

Hey, look! Instead of a shampoo, she's been brainwashed!

Anita

Stop it!

Bernardo

She's given up Puerto Rico and now she's queer for Uncle Sam!

Anita

Oh, no, that's not true.

[sings]

Puerto Rico, my heart's devotion

Let it sink back in the ocean

Always the hurricanes blowing

Always the population growing

And the money owing

And the sunlight streaming

And the natives steaming

I like the Island Manhattan

(I know you do)

Smoke on your pipe

And put that in!

Girls

I like to be in America

Ok by me in America

Everything free in America

Bernardo

For a small fee in America

Anita

Buying on credit is so nice

Bernardo

One look at us and they charge twice

Rosalia

I have my own washing machine

Indio

What will you have, though, to keep clean?

Anita

Skyscrapers bloom in America

Rosalia

Cadillacs zoom in America

Teresita

Industry boom in America

Boys

Twelve in a room in America

Anita

Lots of new housing with more space

Bernardo

Lots of doors slamming in our face

Anita

I'll get a terrace apartment

Bernardo

Better get rid of your accent

Anita

Life can be bright in America

Boys

If you can fight in America

Girls

Life is alright in America

Boys

If you're all White in America

Boys and girls

La la la la ... America!

America!

La la la la... America! America!

Girls

Here you are free

And you have pride

Boys

As long as you stay on your own side

Girls

Free to be anything you choose

Boys

Free to wipe tables and shine shoes

Bernardo

Everywhere grime in America

Organized crime in America

Terrible time in America

Anita

You forget I'm in America

Bernardo

I think I'd go back to San Juan

Anita

I know a boat you can get on (bye bye)

Bernardo

Everyone there will give big cheer

Anita

Everyone there will have moved here!