



# *SEEING RED: A Time-Traveling Musical*

**2018 Summer Show**  
Music / Lyrics by **Ira Marlowe**

## **TAKE THAT!** (*Bob*)

There used to be a town, used to be a town, once upon a time here  
now it's broken glass, empty storefronts, cardboard signs here  
Used to be said, you could get ahead if you just worked hard here  
now you're workin' three jobs, pushin' a cart, or sleepin' in your car here

Politicians left or right they're all the same  
corporate raiders, tax evaders  
promise you the moon and they give you the craters  
I don't have another damn to give that game  
    But what I still can do  
    Is stick it to folks like you  
    And vote you-know-who  
    Take that! Take that!

If you wanna know the truth  
this circus brings me down  
How the crowd cheers  
every four years  
for a new car full of clowns  
And they talk a good game  
But it all ends up the same  
    So this time I said, screw it  
    Was a sucker's bet, I knew it  
    But I threw my hand to the businessman  
    Who bragged that he could do it

All those cable station information fake news flunkies  
Those piss-and-moaning, Prius-owning latte junkies  
Well that guy who drives you nuts  
will kick your sculpted yuppie butts until they're flat!  
Take that!

## **SEEING RED** (*Ensemble*)

From Washington to Wall Street to the San Francisco Bay  
they're shaking in their shiny leather shoes today  
Their hands were on the levers of the big machine,  
they were rolling in the green but now instead:

They're seeing red They're seeing red  
They wish we'd never heard a word that Eugene said

They're seeing red    Seeing red  
Our colors unfurled! Unleashed upon the world!

Hey, Rockefeller put away the caviar!  
We're here to show you where to stick the big cigar!  
And take a sledgehammer to the color bar!  
Time for you to know those days are dead.

Seeing red! Seeing red!  
If you're livin' like a king, you better watch your pretty head!  
They're seeing red! Look where you tread!  
the workers are coiled like a copperhead

And when we strike, we strike for humankind  
And rise for all the lost and left behind  
For all the overworked and underfed  
A new way of being  
A new way of seeing...    Seeing...  
RED!

Seeing red! Seeing red!  
The waters are rising on the riverbed  
Seeing red! The word has spread!  
A new way of being  
A new way of seeing...    Seeing...  
RED!

**DON'T TRY TO TELL ME** *(Bob)*

Oh, my aching head  
Did I go back in time?  
I just took the strangest trip  
And left this all behind  
...or did I lose my mind?

Don't try to tell me, it was only just a dream  
Cause I can't go back to a worn-out world  
Where everything seems  
So broken, so empty  
With nothing left to try  
Don't tell me it's a dream 'cause that's a lie

So what can I do now?  
in this sorry place?  
Where we all drink our troubles down  
Guess I'll have another round

Don't try to tell me, it was only just a dream  
And I'm stuck back here where we pound our beers  
And stare up at a screen  
So empty, so broken  
And nothing we can do  
Don't try to tell me  
Don't try to tell me  
Don't try to tell me  
That it's just a dream  
'Cause that ain't true

## **THE WAR TO END ALL WARS** *(Ruby and Henry)*

### **Ruby**

You said, "Folks think reds are traitors  
We gotta show 'em that ain't true"  
So you went off to shoot your own class brothers  
just to prove you were red, white and blue

### **Henry**

I said, "Folks look down on Negroes  
Like that's how it's s'posed to be  
Only time they look up to us  
Is when we're swingin' from a tree

### **Ruby**

You're over there breathing mustard gas  
while some fat-cat hot dog sits on his ass  
and drools at the schools of fools like you  
so proud to be killing and dying  
in the stench of a trench in Belgium or France  
while he pockets his buckets of cash in advance  
for the guns and shells and the ranks of tanks  
the world's so eagerly buying!  
It's the war to end all notions they've got any use for peace  
It's to make the world safe... to carve up into colonies  
Africa and Asia are the prize  
Wealth gets concentrated  
See the monsters it's created!  
Make their plans in golden towers  
Workers' sons who shoot at ours!

### **Henry**

I never fired one single shot , I got  
handed a shovel and told not to stop  
digging' out bodies, digging down latrines  
it's what bein' a negro soldier means

### **Ruby**

All these empty empires are digging their own graves

### **Henry**

One day they'll be buried by the hands of former slaves

### **Henry and Ruby**

For too long it's only been a dream  
All the glory of our vision  
Blind and fractured by division  
Every wish now called sedition  
Lying dead or locked in prison

## **BUBBA TIME** *(Bubba)*

Destiny, I hear you calling  
Greatness is pounding at my door  
Yesterday I was the eldest son of an up-and-coming Ethiopian family  
Today I run this bar, tomorrow so much more

Destiny has led me to this moment

My pluck and drive have given me the chance  
To rise above this humdrum existence pouring watered drinks and mopping vomit  
Today I grab the future with both hands!

Bubba's on the move!  
Bubba's on the go!  
Soon he will be hobnobbing with movie stars and CEOs  
Bubba's on the move!  
Bubba's on the rise!  
Money pouring in, admiration in their eyes!  
Soon the world will know it by this sign  
It's Bubba bubba bubba bubba  
bubba-bubba-bubba-bubba-time!

Politics is very much like business  
You beat the other guy and grow your brand  
As the new mayor of Union, Ohio I will have many, very important regulars  
And I will move the world from where I stand!

Bubba's on the move!  
Bubba's on the go!  
The Bubba brand will sweep the land so everyone will know  
Bubba is the one!  
Bubba is the king!  
Only in America can one man become everything  
C'mon and sing! You know the line!  
It's Bubba bubba bubba bubba  
bubba-bubba-bubba-bubba-time!

**SEEING RED: REPRISE** *(Ensemble)*

Seeing red! Seeing red!  
You can lose your blues and choose a better way instead  
Seeing red! The word has spread!  
A new way of being  
A new way of seeing... Seeing...  
RED!