

OPENING NIGHT: “Working 9 to 5!”

Detailed Synopsis

“You’re just a step on the boss
man’s ladder.”

- 9 to 5

Act I

As the clocks ring and the characters wake up, Violet, Doralee and Judy prepare for work (“9 to 5”). The characters begin another mundane and hellish day at work under Franklin Hart Jr., President of Consolidated Industries. Violet gives Judy a few tips and pointers for surviving office life (“Around Here”). Franklin Hart Jr., the President of the company, is a domineering, masochistic man who has no qualms about making his feelings known for Doralee (“Here For You”). All three women share feelings of inhibition, but all feel they can overcome it (“I Just Might”).

The following day, Doralee invites the girls out for lunch and is rejected. She reflects on her life and people treating her like just a pretty face (“Backwoods Barbie”). Meanwhile, Violet is passed over for yet another promotion and Doralee finds out Hart spread a rumor about their supposed ‘affair.’ All three of the women are united in their contempt for Hart and go back to Violet’s house to smoke a joint. Soon, each woman lapses into a sexy, murderous fantasy involving Mr. Hart: Judy as an

unforgiving femme fatale (“The Dance O’ Death”), Doralee as a crack rodeo star (“Cowgirl’s Revenge”) and Violet as a deranged Snow White (“Potion Notion”). All of these sadistic fantasies soon culminate into a celebration of Hart’s death, which is quickly nixed after Hart is discovered alive (“Joy To The Girls”).

The next day at the office, Violet believes she unwittingly acted out her fantasy and put rat poison into Hart’s coffee. The women all go to the hospital in panic, but learn he was never there. Roz overhears the plan in the ladies restroom and tells Hart, who concocts a plan to scare them by pretending he was actually poisoned and to threaten them with the police. After Hart leaves, Roz sings a song confessing her love for him (“Heart To Hart”). Hart confronts Doralee with the information and Doralee rips the phones out and ties up Hart with the wires. Judy and Violet create a plan in which they will imprison Hart in his own house. As they are carrying out their plan, they tell Hart their issues with him and the problems in their own lives that are beginning to change for the better (“Shine Like The Sun”). Empowered, the women have restrained Hart (using a garage door mechanism) above his bed.

Act II

The women decide to run the company under Hart’s name. Violet sings about how she is now a hard-hitter like the rest of the male employees (“One Of The Boys”). Roz begins to get nosy and wonders where Hart is, so the women send her to a language seminar as a way to get rid of her. When



Original Broadway Cast. Photo by Joan Marcus.

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Roz receives the memo, she is lonely and bored at home (“5 To 9”).

Hart is still strung up in his bedroom. Doralee enters to give him a meal and he lashes out, saying he still has the control. Hart recounts how most of the men in history had “downfalls” by women and that he is no different (“Always A Woman”).

Back at the office, the women (under Hart’s name) have made positive changes and everyone’s spirits have improved (“Change It”). Joe, who has asked out Violet many times, asks her why she refuses him. She says her husband’s death three years before has prevented her from dating again. Violet decides it’s time to move on (“Let Love Grow”). Later that evening, Dick shows up and asks Judy to take him back. Judy strongly orders him to leave (“Get Out And Stay Out”).

The women began collecting evidence about Hart’s “creative accounting” and embezzling

practices when he storms in to the office with Judy held hostage. The women and Hart unexpectedly meet Tinsworthy, the CEO of the company, who is so impressed by the changes he believes Hart has made that he sends Hart to manage the South American branch in Bolivia. Violet is then promoted to Hart’s position as President of the company and a celebration ensues. The characters deliver epilogues about what happened after the events of the story (Finale: “9 To 5” Reprise). Hart was captured by natives in the jungles of Bolivia and was never seen or heard from again. Roz found a new love - Hart’s wife. Violet and Joe have been together for the past 30 years and are very happy together. Doralee went to Nashville and became a successful country western singer. Judy is single and loving it and wrote a bestselling book, “Life Without Dick.”



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