

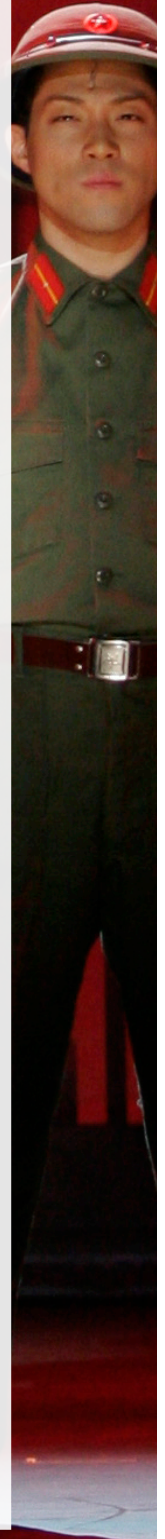
# Synopsis

Act I begins in April 1975 in a sleazy Vietnamese club called Dreamland, shortly before the Fall of Saigon. Kim is at her first day as a bargirl when she is greeted by the Engineer, an oily-dispositioned French-Vietnamese club owner. During the "Overture," the girls get ready for the night's show backstage. American Marines, who will be leaving Vietnam soon, party at the club in "The Heat Is On In Saigon." Sergeant Christopher Scott, a young, disenchanting Marine is encouraged by his friend John to leave with a girl. The girls compete for the title of "Miss Saigon." Kim catches Chris' eye when she innocently introduces herself for the competition. Gigi Van Trahn wins the crown and begs the marine to take her back to America. When he refuses, the scene freezes as the showgirls reflect on their dreams of a better life in "Movie In My Mind." John talks to the Engineer and buys the virgin Kim and Chris a room for the night in "The Transaction." Kim shyly introduces herself to Chris, and the couple dances. Chris tries to pay her off to leave the nightclub, when the Engineer interferes. Chris allows himself to be led to her room in "The Dance."

While watching Kim sleep, Chris asks God why he had to meet her just as he was about to leave Vietnam in "Why God Why?" When Kim wakes up, Chris tries to give her money but she refuses in "This Money's Yours." When Chris says he wants Kim to stay with him, the two pledge their love for each other in "Sun and Moon." John reluctantly agrees to cover for Chris when he takes leave in "The Telephone Song." Chris holds the Engineer at gunpoint until he gives Kim to Chris in "The Deal."

The bargirls hold an informal wedding ceremony for Chris and Kim in "Dju Vui Vai," with Gigi toasting Kim as the true Miss Saigon. During the celebration, Thuy, Kim's cousin and an officer in the North Vietnamese Army, arrives to take her home. Angered when he finds her with Chris in "Thuy's Arrival," the two men confront each other, drawing their guns. Kim tells Thuy that their arranged marriage as children is now null because her parents, who promised her to him, are dead. Thuy curses them all, before storming out. Chris promises to take Kim with him to America as they cling to one another and dance in "Last Night of The World."

The story moves forward to 1978 in Saigon, renamed Ho Chi Minh City, in "Morning of The Dragon." Thuy, an officer for the new government, has ordered his soldiers to find the Engineer. Thuy orders the Engineer to find Kim and bring her back to him. Kim has been living in hiding in an impoverished area, still believing that Chris will come back to Vietnam to rescue her. Simultaneously, we see Chris in bed with his new American wife, Ellen. As Chris suddenly sits up in bed shouting Kim's name, Ellen comforts him back to sleep, and the two women both swear their devotion to Chris at opposite ends of the earth in "I Still Believe." The Engineer locates Kim and brings Thuy to her. Kim refuses to be Thuy's wife, and shows him Tam, her two-year-old son fathered by Chris. Thuy tries to kill Tam with a knife. Kim pulls out Chris's gun and shoots Thuy in order to protect Tam in "You Will Not Touch Him." Kim flees with Tam as the street parade continues outside in "This Is The Hour." Kim runs to the Engineer and tells him what she has done "If You Want to Die In Bed." The Engineer refuses to help her until he learns that Tam's father is American in "Let Me See His Western Nose." Seeing this as his passport to the United States, the Engineer tells Kim that from now on, he is the boy's uncle and he will lead them to Bangkok. Kim swears "I'd Give My Life for You" to Tam and the three set out on a ship with other suffering refugees.



Act II opens in 1978, Atlanta, Georgia. John now works for an aid organization whose mission is to connect Bui-Doi, children conceived during the war and left in Vietnam, with their American fathers. John speaks to an audience at a conference in "Bui Doi." After the presentation, John pulls Chris aside, and tells him that Kim is still alive and goes on to tell Chris about Tam. This complicates Chris's current situation since Ellen does not know about Kim. John urges Chris to go to Bangkok with Ellen to meet Kim, and Chris finally tells Ellen about Kim before leaving in "The Revelation." In Bangkok, the Engineer has been reduced to working as a hustler enticing tourists to enter a sleazy club, where Kim works as a dancer in "What A Waste." Chris, Ellen and John have traveled to Bangkok in search of Kim. John promises to bring Chris to Kim in "Please."

While John goes to bring Chris to Kim, the Engineer tells Kim to go and find Chris herself because he doubts that Chris will come in "Chris Is Here." As Kim prepares to find Chris, she is haunted by the ghost of Thuy, who claims that Chris will betray her like he did the night Saigon fell. Kim suffers an intense, horrible flashback to that night in "Kim's Nightmare." The flashback travels back to 1975 in Saigon as Chris and Kim plan to escape Vietnam together as the Viet Cong approach and Saigon becomes increasingly chaotic. Chris is called to the embassy and leaves his gun with Kim and tells her to pack, reassuring her that they have plenty of time before they have to leave. Almost immediately after Chris enters the embassy, the gates are closed, as orders arrive from Washington for a total and complete evacuation of the remaining Americans. The Ambassador orders that no more Vietnamese are allowed into the Embassy. Kim reaches the gates of the Embassy, one of a mob of terrified Vietnamese trying to find a way in. Chris unsuccessfully tries to call Kim, and is about to go out into the hysterical crowd to look for her. The Americans refuse to let Chris out and John is eventually forced to punch Chris in the face to stop him from leaving. Chris is put into the last helicopter leaving Saigon as Kim watches from behind the gate. Kim pledges her love to Chris against all odds. The helicopter takes off with Chris screaming Kim's name in "The Fall of Saigon."

Back in the present 1978, Bangkok. Kim joyfully dresses in her wedding clothes during the "Sun and Moon: Reprise," and finds Chris's hotel room, where she is greeted by Ellen. Ellen is forced to tell Kim that she is Chris's wife. Her dreams for Tam's new life in America are shattered when Ellen refuses to take Tam to the U.S., saying that Tam needs his real mother, and because Ellen wants her own life and children with Chris. Kim demands to talk to Chris in "Room 317." Feeling bad for Kim but still determined to keep Chris, Ellen sings "Now That I've Seen Her." Chris returns to the room with John, having failed to find Kim, and is horrified when Ellen issues an ultimatum: Kim or her. They agree to leave Tam and Kim in Bangkok and offer them monetary support from America. John warns that Kim will not find it acceptable to have Tam stay in Thailand in "The Confrontation." Kim lies to the Engineer saying that they are still going to America in "Paper Dragons." The Engineer believes his dreams are coming true with "The American Dream."

Kim tells Tam that he should be happy because he now has a father. She tells Tam not to forget her, and that she will be watching over him singing "The Sacred Bird/Little God Of My Heart." Having said goodbye to Tam, she goes behind a curtain and shoots herself. Chris, Ellen, the Engineer, and John all rush into the room at the sound of the gunshot and find Kim mortally wounded on the floor. Chris runs to Kim and holds her in his arms. Heartbroken, he asks Kim why she has shot herself, and she explains that the gods have guided him to his son. With her last breath, she echoes a phrase uttered earlier when they first fell in love: "How in one night have we come so far?" Kim dies in Chris's arms during "Finale."

