

OPENING NIGHT: “Don’t Stop Believin’!”

Detailed Synopsis

“When it’s like this I feel the music shootin’ through me, there’s nothin’ else that I would rather do. I wanna rock!”

- *I Wanna Rock*

Act I

In the late 1980s, an aspiring rocker, Drew Bowie, works as a busboy in the Hollywood bar/club The Bourbon Room, owned by Dennis Dupree (“Just Like Paradise/Nothing But A Good Time”). He falls instantly for the cute bartender, Sherrie, who has recently arrived from Kansas hoping to make it big in acting (“Sister Christian”). Sherrie urges Drew to go after his dreams (“I Wanna Rock”).

German city developers, Hertz and his son Franz, convince the city’s mayor to raze and rebuild the Sunset Strip, much to the anger of the city planner, Regina (“Love of a Lifetime”). It is revealed that the Bourbon will be torn down in the process, and Dennis invites rock star Stacee Jaxx to play his last show there (“Bohemian Rhapsody/Love of a Lifetime [Reprise]”). Regina begins protesting Hertz and Franz (“We’re Not Gonna Take It”).

Meanwhile, Sherrie and Drew share personal struggles: Sherrie fights with her parents over the phone and Drew tries to write lyrics that mean something (“More Than Words/To Be With You/Heaven”). Sherrie and Drew have a picnic overlooking Los Angeles, where he mistakenly suggests the two are just friends, which ruins their date (“Waiting For A Girl Like You”).

Stacee Jaxx arrives at the Bourbon and gives an interview about his life (“Wanted Dead Or Alive”). Thinking

she means nothing to Drew, Sherrie goes after him and the two end up having sex in the men’s bathroom (“I Want To Know What Love Is”). Subsequently, Drew proves his musical ability and is chosen to open for Stacee. Stacee tells Dennis to fire Sherrie. Before Stacee and his band go on, Stacee is knocked out by his guitarist. Drew accepts the offer to take over as he angrily brushes off Sherrie (“Cum On Feel The Noize”). Regina continues protesting (“We’re Not Gonna Take It [Reprise]”).

An upset Sherrie meets Justice, the owner of a nearby strip club called the Venus Club. She begrudgingly accepts Justice’s offer to work in her club (“Harden My Heart/Shadows of the Night”). Everyone finds themselves alone - Drew signing with the record company, Sherrie fending for herself, Regina protesting and Dennis defending his club (“Here I Go Again”).

Act II

Hertz and Franz begin demolition on the Sunset Strip, alienating them from each other as Franz falls for Regina and sees the error of his ways. Dennis and Lonny join in the fight with little success (“The Final Countdown”). Meanwhile, Drew’s rocker image is upsetting the record producer, and Sherrie is learning how things work at the Venus Club (“Any Way You Want It/I Wanna Rock [Reprise]”). Later Drew and Sherrie meet on the street and argue about their lives and relationship (“High Enough”).

Stacee arrives at the Venus Club and is pleased to see Sherrie there. After being



Original Broadway Cast. Photo by Joan Marcus.

forced to give him a lap dance, she beats him up while dancing (“I Finally Found Someone”). Drew arrives to admit his feelings to Sherrie, but becomes disheartened when he sees her in a suggestive position with Stacee.

Regina continues her protest against the destruction of the Strip, but yields no success. She convinces Franz to stand up to his father and Franz admits he had dreams to open a confectioner’s store back home in Germany. He finally rebels against his father and admits his love for Regina (“Hit Me With Your Best Shot”). Dennis and Lonny, upset at the prospective loss of The Bourbon Room, hilariously suggest they had feelings for each other (“Can’t Fight This Feeling”).

Sherrie decides to leave the strip club. Everyone is upset as they move on with their

lives (“Every Rose Has Its Thorn”). Drew realizes none of his dreams have come true—he still isn’t a rock star, and Sherrie has left for a midnight train. Lonny arrives to tell him to make his own destiny; it’s up to him to get the girl (“Oh Sherrie”). Drew reaches Sherrie before she gets on the train and they forgive each other (“The Search Is Over”).

In the end, The Bourbon Room is spared demolition and washed-up Stacee (who has been charged with statutory rape) has since moved to Uruguay (“Renegade”). Franz and Hertz make up. Franz opens his confectionery store in Germany and he and Regina have a long distance relationship. Dennis passes away. Sherrie and Drew move to Glendale and have a child. Lonny notes how in Los Angeles, sometimes the dreams you come with aren’t always the dreams you leave with, but they still rock (“Don’t Stop Believin”).



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