

CHANG & ENG: THE MUSICAL

By Ming Wong and Ken Low

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ACT 1

ACT 1 SCENE 1 (8TH WONDER)

Preset :

Chang & Eng logo projected on scrim.

House light at pre-set level.

Preset light on stage.

House light dims to 50%.

Pre-show announcement.

House light dims to 0%.

Overture begins.

Chang & Eng logo fades out on scrim.

Actors begin to sing while light changes on stage to reveal silhouette of actors.

***SONG: EIGHTH WONDER**

All: Incredible - Unbelievable - Amazing - But True! (X4)

Giant poster descends.

Chorus 1/Abel Coffin :

Eighteen Twenty-Nine - New York City -

Showing tonight at the Grand Saloon, Masonic Hall on Broadway

Eighteen Twenty Nine - Grand Exhibition

Never before will you see so much more than your eyes would have you believe.....

Chant : "Amazing - but true! Incredible - but true!"

Verse1 : Coffin & Chorus 2 :

Discover Tonight! - the new Eighth Wonder of the world!

Uncover tonight! - the greatest living natural cu-ri-o-sity

Bridge 1:

Coffin : Twin Boys Born in Siam

Ladies : Must be wonderful news for the mo-o-ther

Men : What's so special 'bout them?

All : Do you think that we really should bother?

Coffin : Ladies & Gentlemen you will find - these were boys, that could not be separated....

All : What? What do you mean?
 Coffin : They were joined at the breast by a thick cord of flesh
 Imagine two boys - stuck together - all of their lives - Are they one or are
 they two?
 Fifty cents to see what they do.....
 Coffin/All: Doomed to spend their lives together by a cruel trick of Mother Nature....
 Coffin : (spoken) Nobody would touch them.....
 Annie : (screams) They're Freaks!

Verse2 :

Coffin & Chorus 2 :

Discover Tonight! - the new Eighth Wonder of the world!
 Uncover tonight! - the greatest living natural cu-ri-o-sity

Coffin: (spoken) Narrowly escaping a death sentence by their own King
 Saved from separation by sawing or with red-hot wires
 Plucked from the jaws of death, they are here now,
 For the first time in America!
 They're the real thing, ladies & gentlemen! Incredible but true!
 What kind of existence can theirs be?

Bridge 2 COFFIN :

I give you my word - it will be a religious experience
 Soon - afterwards - you will want to get down on your knees and pray
 "Thanks be to the Lord" - you were spared you were not born that way!
 No ! Madam! Wait! Don't faint -- be assured
 (There is) nothing offensive or indelicate
 Ladies - I beg you to see
 You with such perfect propriety - would never regret to see

Observe how they can walk, run and jump
 With perfect co-ordination
 Fifty cents is all you need - don't pass this chance there might not be
 another.....

Chorus 3 : Eight Wonder Of the world - Eighth Wonder ahh- ahh - ahh - ahh - ahh
 Eight Wonder Of the world - Eighth Wonder ahh- ahh - ahh - ahh - ahh

(simultaneously)

Chorus 1 : Incredible, Unbelievable, Amazing but True!

Coffin : Eighteen Twenty-Nine, New York City -
 Showing tonight at the Grand Saloon, Masonic Hall on Broadway
 Eighteen Twenty-Nine - Grand Exhibition
 Never before will you see so much more than your eyes would have you
 believe

Coffin laughs.

COFFIN (Spoken)

So come and behold, Ladies and Gentlemen, the UNITED BROTHERS

They're the real thing, incredible but true !

Chang & Eng - the Eighth Wonder of the world, the Siamese Twins.

Crowd is dispersed at this point.

Platform starts to move towards the audience.

Silhouette of scarecrow is being revealed slowly.

Crowd moves closer to examine.

Crowd is repelled.

Curtain opens to reveal scarecrow.

Scarecrow drops .

TERI-ANNE screams.

Crowd breaks out.

Crowd realises it's a scarecrow not the twins.

ENSEMBLE

It's a hoax!

We want our money back!

Call the police!

Put them in jail!

I told you it's a hoax!

→ go to SR scrim
→ exit SR ... (A) Living Curse

Ensemble goes after Coffin and his assistants. Coffin tries to calm everybody down, tries to figure out where the twins are.

Scrim lowers (for next scene).

Lights change.

Crowd turn to face audience once scrim has come down.

Crowd disperses offstage SR & SL .

ACT 1 SCENE 2.1 (TWINS BACKSTAGE)

Backstage. Dim light. (in shadow or in silhouette)

We can still hear the angry crowd off stage (at lower volume).

Chang is having a good laugh; Eng is quite anxious.

CHANG

Ha! I knew they'd fall for it.

ENG

How long do you think we can fool them?

CHANG

No one suspected a thing! Come on, it's time to show them what we've got.

ENG

No, not yet.

CHANG

We can't stay backstage for the rest of our lives.

ENG

I can't face them.

CHANG

Oh here we go again!

ENG

I'm scared.

CHANG

I keep telling you, just pretend that you are the King of Siam and all these people are your subjects, and they have come to pay their respects to you.

ENG

They have come to pay fifty cents to stare at us.
I feel... I feel naked.

CHANG

Enough is enough, let's go.

ENG

I'm not moving. If you want to go, you can go by yourself.

CHANG

What's the matter with you?

ENG

Nobody told me it was going to be like this.

CHANG

Come on! We are in America!

ENG

I want to go home.

CHANG

What do you mean you want to go home? We have travelled across the sea for over one hundred days and now that we're finally here you say you want to go home? Are you sick?

ENG

I am not a clown, I'm not a freak, I'm not a monster!

CHANG

Brother!

ENG

I'm not a freak!

CHANG

Stop it! Stop saying that!

Why can't you look on the brighter side?

Things will be different from now on!

They loved us in Boston and they will love us even more in New York! It can only get better!

ACT 1 SCENE 2.2 (FROM NOW ON)

*SONG: FROM NOW ON (IT WILL BE DIFFERENT)

Prelude:

Chang:

Here we are in America

It's just you and me - and me and you - together

Here we are - in the promised land

You know - we can - get - very far

All those dreams of faraway places - There is so much more - that we can explore

Here we are in America - and this is where our dreams will all come true

Chang:

From now on - it will be different

It will be special - our dreams will come true

From now on - life will be better

We'll taste all the pleasure and travel the world

We'll be rich, we'll be famous - there'll be girls at our call

There'll be love all around us - and we can have it all - From Now On ... From Now On ...

Eng:

From Now On - it will be difficult,

It will be frightening - I can't face the world

From Now on - the seasons are changing,

We need rearranging, it won't be the same

Chang:

When there's sunshine,

Eng:

There's rain,

Chang:

When there's pleasure,

Eng:

It's pain

Chang:

Don't you see we're the ones they've been waiting for ...

Both:

From Now On... From Now On... From Now On...

Will we get used to this fortune and fame?

From now on it will be different, it'll open our eyes

From now on - it will be magic, or it could be tragic, we can (can't) change the world!

Eng:

(Might be) Mountains to climb

Chang:

but rainbows to paint

And the stars will all shine on the great Chang & Eng

From Now On - (From Now On)

CHANG (Spoken)

It's time to go. We have a show to do.

ENG

Brother...

CHANG

(gently) What's wrong?

ENG

I miss Ma. When I close my eyes, I am back in Siam. I miss home.

(Sings)

Here we are in America

And all I can dream of is going home...

Chang hugs Engs

Platform moves out

Set chang. Time warp to Meklong, Siam

ACT 1 SCENE 3.1 (YOUNG CHANG AND ENG)

NOK'S VOICE (*with some reverb*)
 Chang! Eng! Where are you? Don't go too far.

Young Chang and Young Eng runs out, trying to coordinate their movements.

YOUNG CHANG
 When I say go, you just go!

YOUNG ENG
 You are going too fast.

YOUNG CHANG
 You are too slow.

They fall down.

YOUNG CHANG
 Look what you've done!

YOUNG ENG
 If you want to go, you can go by yourself.

*Chang hits Eng.
 They start to fight.
 They stop when they hear the sound of other children approaching.
 They hide and watch from the side as the children enter.*

ACT 1 SCENE 3.2 (REE REE KAO SAAN)

BENJI
 Let's play a game.

MATT
 What game do you want to play?

ALL KIDS
 Ree Ree Kao Saan!

Two children (Brendan and Pei Shan) raise their joined arms to form a bridge under which the other children pass.

REE REE KAO SAAN
 SONG TAA NAAN KAO PLER-ARG
 LER-ARG TONG BAI LAAN
 KEPB BIA SAI-TAI-TOON-LARN
 KOD KAO SAI JAAN
 PAAN OW-KHON-KANG-LANG-WAI

Young Chang and Young Eng join the end of the queue after 2nd round. But when they try to pass, they get stuck. Brendan and Pei Shan scream. All kids disperse

MATT goes to take a closer look of the twins.

MATT

Yeeeeeee!

RAVIN

Don't go near them!

Who are you?

YOUNG CHANG

My name is Chang.

YOUNG ENG

My name is Eng.

NICOLE

Why are you like that?

YOUNG CHANG/YOUNG ENG

We are born like this.

RYAN goes behind to touch to cord.

RYAN

Yeeeeee!

YOUNG CHANG/YOUNG ENG

Hey, don't touch us.

NOY (SHAIYA)

Stuck together! Hahahahaha

CHARMAINE

Can I touch?

ENG

Cannot!

MERINI

My mother says cannot go near them!

PEI SHAN

Left side same! Right side same! Stuck together! Cannot go anywhere! Fall down!

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