

Cheap / Kong

a cheap musical comedy very loosely based on the legend
of king kong

a play by
douglas brent smith

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Cheap / Kong

The Cast:

Kong: a gorilla

Captain Orange: a mad capitalist

Blue: a lion, Kong's best friend

Sunny: an attractive young lady

Pay Day: secretary

Harold: a young and emotional young man. Sunny's lover.

Harry (or Harriette) X. Tudas: wise old person and narrator

Harry X. Tudas, Jr.: not as wise

The Chorus: any amount in any combination and may dress in any outrageous fashion, preferably all fashions.

The Orchestra: guitar, piano, keyboards, bass, drums, etc.

Musical Numbers:

1.Overture

2.Oh, Poor Captain

3.Bananas

4.Think of the Money

5.[All You Need Is Money]

6.A Frozen Gorilla

7.Cheap Kong's waltz and Love Song

8.Come and See the Mighty Kong Fall

9.I May Be Just a Monkey, But I'm Apeshit Over You

10.Entre' Act

Cheap / Kong

- 11.Rebuz Nats Incidental
- 12.Forget Her
- 13.Let's Give Our Monkeys the Vote
- 14.Don't Worry About It
- 15.All You Need Is Money Part Two
- 16.He Signed It!
- 17.I May Be Just a Monkey But I'm Apeshit Over You Reprise
- 18.Mercer County Airport Instrumental
- 19.Don't Take a Fall For a Lady
- 20.Atlantic City
- 21.Harry's Bolero
- 22.Rebuz Natz
- 23.Underture, Underwear, Easy Chair

All words and music by Doug Smith, except Rebuz Nats by Jim Sabo.

Cheap / Kong

"Cheap/Kong" was first presented at Trenton State College March 13 thru 15, 1973 with the following cast:

Kong:	Tom Moffit
Captain Orange:	Harry Isaacs
Blue:	Steve Kasner
Sunny Day:	Susan Dobosz
Harold:	Jerry Petroff
Harry X. Today:	Peter Francis Hoff (Zeke Peterhoff)
Pay Day:	Della M. Porter
Harry X. Today, Jr.:	Jerry Pretzel
The Chorus:	Carolyn Viola, Lenny Rusay, Phil Candya

Drums:	Danny Kutz
Bass:	John Lindner
Piano	Doug Smith

Produced and Directed by Doug Smith

Assistant and Technical Director: Judi Madigan

Act One

(Opening: OVERTURE. Kong in a cage, covered by a sheet, so he cannot be seen. Pause. Four people led by Captain Orange wheel the cage to a surrealist set abstractly resembling an office floor in New York City.)

Chorus

DO YOU BELIEVE?

C Dm G F C

do you believe, in personality
in animals, as real as you and me?

Harry

Hello there. Please allow me to talk thru this vapor of existence long enough to introduce you to a fanciful group of well-meaning but somewhat disillusioned critters. They talk, they sing, they might even dance a little – and it's up to you my friends to sort it all out into a cohesive meaning of...of...

Orange

Aha! After all these years of searching in the jungle, thru sweat and toil, thru rain and mosquitoes, thru dangers unbelievable, thru customer in New York, I have the ultimate attraction, the penultimately appealing ape, Kong himself!

First Dude

Man, that monkey's heavy!

Second Dude

You said it! If I don't herniate myself I'll know I'm set for life!

Orange

Cheap / Kong

(writes check)

That will be all that you... and not a word of this to anyone.

(they salute and bow to Orange and then leave. Cage shakes violently.)

Be still you vicious, ugly, godforsaken brute.

(knock at the door)

Who is it?

Pay Day

Me.

Orange

Who?

Pay Day

Santa Claus, Nikita Khrushchev, Jean Harlow, and Estlin Cummings. Who do you think it is, stupid, it's me, Payadonna Day.

Orange

Wait a minute. (checks sheet on cage)

OK. Estlin Payadonna, you schmuck, come in.

Pay

Why so long? You been watching those foreign films in your spare time again? What on earth is that?

(cage shakes violently)

Orange

Oh...what?

Pay

What else, baby face...THAT!

Cheap / Kong

Orange

Oh, that? I keep...bananas in it...

(cage shakes)

Pay

Well, they certainly are fresh. (she lifts up the sheet)

It's a monkey mister!

Orange

Careful – that's no normal monkey. He's a brute – a sheer savage – he'll rip you to bits.

Pay

Hogwash. He's a harmless monkey. Just look at him, he's afraid of his own five o'clock shadow. What's he here for?

Orange

Remember when I told you I had devised a plan so we could be rich and get married and live happily ever after in Secaucus?

Pay

Cut the banalities buster and tell me why you got the monkey.

Orange

Be careful. I don't have to let you in on this and you know it.

Pay

OK. (she starts to leave.) Take it slow...nice meeting you, viscious savage brute...

Orange

Wait! Come back. At least give it a closer look...

Pay

Well...Who is he?

Cheap / Kong

Orange

King Kong!

Pay

You're kidding?

Orange

No, I'm not.

Pay

But he's only about six feet tall. Kong is a monster who climbs buildings, steals women, scares children, shots planes from the air and murders men.

Orange

Well...he'll grow.

Pay

Sure, everybody knows that Kong is as big as a house and mean and rotten. Just look at this guy...he's as gentle as...

Orange

He's meaner than he looks...

Pay

I don't know about that...

Orange

Just wait. He's only a baby.

(enter Harold)

Harold

Hi uncle. I was in the neighborhood so I thought I'd drop in and borrow some...what on earth?

Pay

Cheap / Kong

(sarcastically) It's King Kong.

Harold

Uncle. What on earth are you doing with a monkey in your office?

Orange

Is that all you can say "what on earth, what on earth"? It's not a monkey. He's going to make me very rich. Filthy rich.

Harold

You're already filthy but he's going to make you rich? How? Scaring munchkins?

Orange

Be careful or he might break that cage and eat you with a single bite.

Pay

(petting Kong who is now seated, the sheet completely off)

Who him?

Orange

(furious) Get out! Both of you!

(music)

You heard me – get out!

(Harold runs out. Pay Day leaves casually waving behind her as she leaves)

Pay

Alright, but you'll never get any help from me that way...

(Orange paces up and down, looks at a mirror, looks at Kong, paces more as music continues. He lights a very large cigar and smokes)

Orange

Cheap / Kong

Kong

Oh, you noticed...

Orange

Oh my God, he's actually talking. I've got a genuine talking, singing gorilla!

Kong

Oh no you don't. I've got you.

Orange

Oh, that's right. Let me out! Let me out!

Kong

Say please, please.

Orange

Are you nuts? Say please to a gorilla?

Kong

Say please, but only if you want to come out.

(music starts)

Orange

You are nuts. (music starts)

Kong

Nope, I'm bananas!

BANANAS!

G F G F G F G

Bananas! Bananas! how I love — bananas

Am G Am G

it's easy to see you're worse off than me

Cheap / Kong

F Bb
I've got the bananas you're going bananas

F
we all need bananas

Bb G F G F G F

bananas!

(dancing as music repeats. Kong sings first verse again)

G F G F G F G

Bananas! Bananas! how I love – bananas

Am G Am G

it's easy to see you're worse off than me

F Bb

I've got the bananas you're going bananas

F Bb G F G F G F G F A G

we all need bananas – bananas!

A G A G A G A G

Bananas! Bananas! don't you love my bananas?

(throws a peel at Orange)

Bm A Bm A

if you were me would you set me free

G C

to get the bananas you're getting bananas

G C

we all need bananas – bananas!

Cheap / Kong

(music fades)

Orange

PLEASE let me out...

Kong

That's much better. (opens cage with a large key.) There!

(Harry X. Tudas is at window, which is open.)

Harry

Freedom is there to be relished by a hot dog of all time.

(he leaves the window. Orange exits cage.)

(Suddenly Orange runs out and wraps arms around Kong trying to wrestle him into the cage.)

(A choreographed struggle to music of "Banana Bolero" begins but Kong is too strong and in jest begins to dance with Orange, holding on.)

Kong (sings)

Bananas! Bananas!

the world will be my bananas!

(Orange, totally worn out shrinks to the floor as the music fades.)

Kong

Tired already? If I do say so I believe you have two left feet – you don't dance well at all. Don't last long, either. June Tailor could never use you...ummm, the bananas are tasty.

(pause)

Orange

(out of breathe, struggling to his feet) Tell me, how do you do it?

Cheap / Kong

Kong

It's easy, you just peel 'em up here like a zipper and pop 'em in your mouth.

Orange

I mean talk. How do you talk?

Kong

How do I talk?

Orange

Yes.

Kong

I rather suspect much the same way that YOU do. How do you do it?

Orange

I'm a person. People talk. You're a...a..gorilla.

Kong

Oh, you're right...you're not as dumb as you look.

Orange

I resent that.

Kong

Then you shouldn't act so dumb. It isn't at all becoming, you know.

Orange

Well, what do you know?

Kong

I know all the multiplications up to 23 time 67. Enough.

Orange

Cheap / Kong

Too much, probably. (paces up and down again)

Wait a minute. (more pacing)

How would you like to be rich?

Kong

Rich who?

Orange

You know, wealthy.

Kong

I don't know a Rich Wealthy. I did once meet Rich Little back when he was a big deal.

Orange

No, stupid. How would you like to make a lot of money?

Kong

I thought they did that at the mint.

Orange

I mean EARN money to spend.

Kong

Doing what?

Orange

Singing and dancing, what else?

Kong

Can't I just eat bananas?

Orange

Yes, but you also must sing and dance. It will make us famous.

Kong

Cheap / Kong

Oh, I see. I'm going to make US rich and famous. Perhaps...NOT.

Orange

But just think of it – cars, women, music, wine, bananas...more bananas than you've ever dreamed about.

Kong

Singing and dancing?

Orange

Singing and dancing. Just be yourself. You're a natural.

Kong

And that's supposed to make us rich?

Orange

Of course it will.

Kong

Porter.

Orange

Porter who?

Kong

Pour da grape juice will ya? I'm thirsty.

Orange

Be serious (pours grape juice from a pitcher, hands it to Kong.)
Give it a try.

Kong

(sips grape juice) Yes, excellent.

Orange

Really?

Kong

Cheap / Kong

Yes, this is fine grape juice.

Orange

I mean getting rich.

Kong

Oh that. You really do have a one-track mind. Nope. I've already seen too many hokey talking animal tricks. They all fall on their face sooner or later...and for some reason I'm going to do my best to avoid any kind of FALL (makes motions with fingers of a long fall.)

Orange

Just think of it...(music starts)

...everything you need.

Kong

Sure. EVERYthing.

Orange

Yeah, everything...

THINK OF THE MONEY

Dm

C

think of the money just think of the money we'll make

Dm

C

all of the pleasures all of the treasures to take

Dm

Em

Dm

Em

you can't walk away from such wonderful pay

Dm

Em

F

G

Am G F

Am G F

King Kong just follow me into a fortune today

Dm

C

now that you're older bananas should take a back seat

Cheap / Kong

when your back's turned they'll take it

(Tacit)

but if you are smart, Jack – you'll take it right back

All Except Kong

C

all you need is money, all you need is money,

all you need is money

Sunny

Money for jewels, money for gold,

money for monkeys, young and old

All Except Kong

all you need is money, all you need is money,

all you need is money, all you need is money

Kong

I still say no. There are too many talking animals already.

Orange

I hadn't noticed. (rubs forehead, thinking)

Kong

Sure, all over. Cats, dogs, parakeets, alligators...

Orange

Even in today's world of animal rights?

Cheap / Kong

Kong

Now, look who's talking...would I lie to you just to get a banana?

Orange

But for many, many bananas, sure. Sure. I just know that you'll do it. Stay here, don't move. I'll make the arrangements.

(Orange exits, humming "Think of the Money..." Harry walks to window, which is open)

Kong

That man is certifiable. (Kong peels another banana and sings)

bananas! bananas! bananas!

Harry

Hey!

Kong

Wha...wha...what? (drops banana peel in fright)

Harry

Hey monkey. Swing from one tree before you count the bananas on another.

Kong

Who is this?

Harry

Your selfishness destroys the yellow glow which hangs from your majestic trees.

Kong

The only yellow glow I've ever seen is monkey snot.

Harry

Cheap / Kong

Surely the sun will set many times leaving a hole in the sky filled with raisons. And buildings will be ladders from which you will descend extremely quickly.

(Harry exits)

Kong

Wow.

(Orange enters with Sunny Day. He is still excited. Kong is apparently immediately attracted to Sunny the second he sees her. The percussionist hits a small gong or large cymbal.)

Orange

I'm back with my brilliant assistant and her also brilliant sister. Hey Pay Day, get out here and take some notes or something.

(Pay Day scurries on carrying dictation materials. Kong stars at Sunny, frozen in attention.)

...and I've got all the details worked out...whaddaya say?

(pause)

Well, what do you think?

Kong

Marvelous.

Orange

Good. It's settled...sign here.

(Orange realizes that he's asked a gorilla for a signature)

...on second thought never mind. Who would believe your signature was genuine anyway...

Pay

What's with the monkey? Is he in a trance or something? What a thing to do to the poor homely critter.

Cheap / Kong

Sunny

I think he's sorta cute.

Orange

Sure he's cute – and worth at least a million.

Kong

Is that all you think about?

Pay

Are you kidding? He's got a dollar sign monogrammed on his underwear.

Kong

Is it really that important to you?

Orange

Sure, kiddo. Listen...what were you doing before? This is a major step up for you. Imagine what this will do for your image. You've got a major talent and you need to use it to...to,,,

Sunny

To create a better, more fair world.

Pay

Yeah, that's it.

Sunny

I think that you're kinda cute...and smart...in a lonely sort of way. You're like a nerd only with more hair.

Orange

You're off. He's a gorilla, a stupid ugly gorilla. Listen, I've got to run down to the promoter. Watch him, will ya? Sunny, he's as gentle as a...well, you get the idea...see ya later. (exits)

Cheap / Kong

(music under: FROZEN GORILLA INCIDENTAL)

Sunny

I'll just bet you're more fun than a barrel full of animal crackers.

(Pause, Kong is again frozen)

I hear that you're rather talented...

(Pause)

Well, are you?

Pay

He's just ugly that's all.

Sunny

Why doesn't he move?

Pay

Maybe he's on strike or something.

Sunny

Paydonna sometimes I think you are an air head.

Pay

Well, YOU don't know why he's frozen, either.

Sunny

Well, I've seen a lot of cold shoulders, but never one so hairy.

(Pause)

Kong

Oh...dear...

Sunny

He's alive! Holy variety show cat woman, he's really alive.

Cheap / Kong

Kong

Oh my gosh.

Pay

Is he sick or something?

Sunny

Yeah, what is the matter with you?

Kong

I think I love you.

(sound of a gong)

Sunny

Oh really? Do you even know what that means?

Kong

I think I really love you...

Pay

Tee hee ha ha.

Sunny

Have you considered the inter-species implications?

Kong

I really think I really really love you.

Sunny

That's odd. Love at first sight seems high risk and short lived.
That you'd even ponder the possibility has me wondering.

(Harry appears at the window. Music under.)

Kong

Wha wha would you like to d-d-dance?

Cheap / Kong

Sunny

Certainly not. You're a...a...a...

Kong

Gorilla.

Sunny

That's it exactly. Why you're just a gorilla.

Harry

Here it comes folks...

Kong

And you're the gorilla' my dreams.

Harry

Warned you. (exits)

Sunny

Oh my goodness, he really IS irrational. Besides, I didn't even know gorillas COULD dream about such a thing.

Kong

I love you madly with all of my heart and all of my brain and every fiber instilled within me.

Sunny

Don't be absurd. You can't love me...You don't know what you're saying.

Kong

Oh but I do. (he falls to one knee) Say you love me, too and make me the happiest gorilla in the world.

Sunny

I told you, I can't love you— besides, I'm engaged.

Cheap / Kong

(sound of gong, more clunky this time. Kong falls, crying loudly. Music stops.)

Sunny

Good heavens, cut it out will you?

(Kong rises. Music starts in a waltz tempo..a moment of awkwardness and then they begin to dance)

KING KONG'S WALTZ AND LOVE SONG

Kong

G Am G Am
so i'm only hairy, and just a little scary

Bb G Cmaj7 Dm
what can I do? – it's totally new

Em F G Em Fm G
I need you, I need you

G Am G Am
so I'm too tall and disgusting, I'm loyal, loving and trusting

Bb G Cmaj7 Dm
why can't you see, some good in me?

Em F G
I need you

Sunny

(spoken) Oh, you're so corny. (she stops dancing, sits in a chair)

Kong (singing)

G Am
say you can't stand too be near me,

Cheap / Kong

Em F G

you don't need me

Kong

But I do.

Sunny

Em F G

Em F G

Em F G/D

no, you don't need me – you don't need me – you don't need me

(lights and music fade. Sunny leaves during the fade out)

Orange

Have you changed your mind about the contract yet – you hapless creature of the wilderness?

Kong

That depends.

Orange

Oh what?

Kong

On whether or not you call absolutely deciding NO means changing my mind.

Orange

So, you still refuse.

Kong

If that's what you call it.

Orange

Cheap / Kong

Well, maybe you will soon want to change your mind. You see, I am not about to have you ruin this incredible chance for a magnificent fortune. I need you, you over-grown chimp. You and your magic throat are going to make me a very wealthy man. One way, or another.

Kong

I seriously doubt it.

Orange

Are you certain? It isn't too late you know.

Kong

I'm completely positive.

Orange

Well, don't say that I didn't try to warn you, that I didn't try to make you see reason. What else can I do? (pause)

It's too bad...well...OK, men: do your job.

(several characters secure Kong in the cage and drape a cloth over it. Sunny, while not part of the scramble, does check to see if Kong is OK. She touches his hand and upper arm. Kong opens one eye, cartoon-style.)

Orange

It is done. I don't like to get rough, but if that's the way it must be, that is the way it must be. It takes a lot of monkey to beat Captain Orange. I had to whip the tar out of him. He'll be better off for it. I'm sure he'll recover in a few weeks, perhaps a few months, and then he may be ready to seriously discuss a business career in entertainment...

(Kong casually leaves his cage)

...and he will eventually see that...

Kong

Wow. That was fun. Boppity boppity-bop. Let's do it again guys.

Cheap / Kong

Orange

Oh, no.

(Pause. Orange turns slowly to look at Kong when he sees him he turns quickly back to the audience)

Oh, no.

Kong

Oh, yes.

Orange

I just don't believe it. FUN he says! Fun!

(lights out. The cage is back in its normal spot in the office. Music plays under a bit of "REBUZ NATS INCIDENTAL" while the orchestra shuffles around, finding instruments. Kong sits behind desk reading another magazine. Sunny enters.)

Sunny

Are you still here?

Kong

Every bit of me. I'm certainly glad you came back.

Sunny

But I didn't go anywhere...

Kong

Oh, well at least you're still here.

Sunny

But not for long. We're leaving for the coast tomorrow.

Kong

What coast?

Sunny

Cheap / Kong

The Pacific Coast, what else?

Kong

I don't know – the Atlantic, Mediterranean, African, maybe even the Roller Coast.

Sunny

Eyuck.

Kong

Mulberry Coast?

Sunny

Don't be selling. There's only one real coast.

Kong

I thought that you were going west?

Sunny

I am, silly.

Kong

Well the only real coast is in the east – Cape Cod, Egg Harbor, Cape May, Sea Isle, Atlantic City.

Sunny

Oh, you are so incorrect.

Kong

I'm just monkey shining a bit. You don't have to get hairy about it.

Sunny

Well then. I'm still going away. To the coast of MY choice. We've barely met and already you're trying to dictate which coast should matter to me? Please. I've got more important things to do.

Cheap / Kong

Kong

Are you making this journey alone? Or will you bring me along so that you can civilize me?

Sunny

Don't be absurd. I'm going with my fiancé of course, not you.

Kong

Now that's terrible. That's so disappointing. You should truly reconsider. I'm really quite likable once you get past all the hair.

Sunny

So far your hair is the most likable part of you. Although that talking and singing part is distinctive enough.

Kong

Fair enough. But according to Captain Orange here someday I could really BE something. Maybe I'll go to Broadway and be a musical star. Or maybe even make movies in Philadelphia.

Sunny

You mean Hollywood, don't you? They don't make movies in Philly..

Kong

Oh, sure they do.

Sunny

Well, I don't see a future for you in it.

Kong

See that? We've hardly met and already you are thinking about my future. This could truly work out. I can see it now – we could star together in movies like "King Kong vs. the Crop Circle Monsters..." and "King Kong vs. Apollo Creed" and "King Kong and the Liberty Bell Caper..." the possibilities are endless.

Sunny

Cheap / Kong

Sunny

What was that?

Kong

Oh, just a little song that I improvised...

Sunny

No, not that...listen.

(scratch repeats)

Hear it? Sounds like a cat. A rather large cat.

Kong

Sounds like cat. Hat, rat, bat, splat, fat...

Sunny

No, blockhead. It sounds like there's a cat making the noise.
(mumbling...) always playing games with me...

Kong

Well, why don't you let it in?

Sunny

Not me, I don't live here. No, sir.

Kong

Why not?

Sunny

(crossing to other side of room)

YOU let it in. It could be a pervert or something.

(Kong tries to open the door but has trouble figuring out the door knob, finally Sunny turns it for him. A lion walks in on all fours)

Kong

Cheap / Kong

How do you do?

Blue

Are you Kong?

Kong

Yep.

Blue

I was told that I'd find you here. It took quite a while though, you aren't even listed in the directory. Have you seen George lately?

Kong

The zebra? I think he's doing a chewing gum commercial.

Blue

No, George the chimp. He owes me \$200.

Kong

Oh, that George. No, I think he enlisted.

Blue

Not in that capitalist imperialist organization of repression the Zoo?

Kong

No, in the scouts. They said they wanted a mascot. Personally I think they could have done better.

Blue

Well, if you see him please let me know...

Kong

Sure thing. Take it easy, George, I mean Blue. Say, you still working for that insurance company?

Blue

Cheap / Kong

Nah. Can't claim that anymore. But I did once work for MGM.

Kong

Why did you quit?

Blue

I didn't – they only had to film me once.

Kong

Oh, that's too bad. They missed a great opportunity.

Blue

I know, right? They could have put me in every film.

Kong

Somebody's got to save the cat.

Blue

Exactamundo. Take care.

(Blue leaves. Pause)

Sunny

You know that cat?

Kong

Sure, we lived in the same neighborhood. He moved out because a family of elephants came. Nice guy but he's prejudiced against elephants.

Sunny

Oh. How many talking animals do you know?

Kong

We all communicate in one way or another. I'm surprised that you could understand her. Maybe you could do your work right here – Are you sure you won't change your mind about leaving?

Cheap / Kong

Sunny

Of course. Completely. Now I'm all set for a big wedding. I can't wait to be with the one I love, at least I think. Who ever really knows? It's not that I need him to be the one, I just don't need him to be a jerk. Anyway, I'm leaving and in a couple of days I won't even remember this place.

Kong

Too bad. I'd like to twist that fiancé into a pretzel.

Sunny

That's not nice.

Kong

I need you more than they do.

Sunny

I want someone strong – not needy. You're playing the wrong angle buster.

(music starts)

Kong

I don't have any angles I just only see an angel..

I MAY BE JUST A MONKEY BUT I'M APESHIT OVER YOU

(Kong sings)

G Bm C D G Bm C D

won't you please reconsider, this wonderful critter

C G C G

who stands before you now, loving all that you'll allow

Em Am C G

although I'm not much, I'm gentle to touch

Cheap / Kong

Em Am G
and we could be happy somehow

Em Am C G
would you now deny, me one little try

Em Am C G
to get together and see, it could be you and me

G G/F# Em Em/D# G Bm C Cm
I may be just a monkey, with hairy things to do
G G/F# Em Em/D# G Am7 G
I may be just a monkey, but – I'm ape shit over you

(Kong dances with Sunny for a complete verse)

G G/F# Em Em/D# G Bm C Cm
I may be just a monkey, with hairy things to do
G G/F# Em Em/D# G Am7 G
I may be just a monkey, but – I'm ape shit over you

G Am7 G G Am7 G
yes I'm all in over you, all in over you...

(music ends as Harold bursts thru door, breaking it. He is wonderfully dressed and his hair is neat and sprayed like a

Cheap / Kong

newscaster. In his hand is an overly large wedding ring in a red velvet case as big as a gallon of ice cream)

Harold

Will you marry me now, this Saturday?

Kong

(calmly) No thanks, I'm going bowling Saturday, besides I don't really know you.

Harold

Not you stupid. Her.

Kong

Oh, I'd be GLAD to marry her. I might even cancel my game on Saturday for that. In fact, I most certainly would.

Harold

Not you, ME!

Kong

Oh, do you bowl on Saturdays, too?

Harold

What? What is he talking about? What is this ape doing?

Kong

Just making a monkey out of you. I really don't know but if you'd like to bowl scotch doubles sometime I could take Sunny and maybe you could take Orange or Payadonna or somebody. I would've said Blue but I think Blue plays golf on the green on Saturdays or maybe it's water polo. I don't know.

Harold

Shut up! Please shut up!

Kong

Cheap / Kong

...of course I'm almost sure he could make it if we place a little wager on the game; would you like me to call him?

(Harold climbs out on the window ledge)

...it's nice of you to offer but the window washer cleaned them this morning. He's a marvelous guy from France. Still has the accent.

Harold

If you don't shut up and she doesn't say yes I'll jump.

Kong

Oh, I wouldn't do that -

Harold

I swear I will...

Kong

Take my word for it Horace...

Harold

Harold. The name is Harold.

Kong

Harold, believe me falling is a bad way to go...besides...

Harold

I don't care! If she down't say say I'll...I'll...

Kong

Besides, it won't do any good.

Harold

Why not?

Kong

Cheap / Kong

Because we're on the first floor – the worst you'll get out of it is a bruise or two. I'd reconsider if I were you.

(Harold climbs back in, shaking, furious embarrassed)

Harold

Smart aleck ape. I KNEW it was the first floor. I only wanted to scare you.

Kong

You did. I've got tomatoes planted under that window. You could have smashed them to smithereens.

Harold

(flashing the ring again) Well? What do you say?

Kong

Oh! A ring. Isn't that exciting? I once won a toy boat in one of those little machines.

Harold

What? I didn't win this.

Kong

Oh dear, didja hear that Sunny? You certainly can't marry a man who steals rings, can you?

(Sunny seems distracted.)

Sunny

Harold, I thought you had more character than this. This is a bit disappointing.

Kong

You'd better return the ring, Hermann...

Harold

It's HAROLD!

Cheap / Kong

(Harold jumps at Kong and they wrestle to a reprise of the TORTURE SONG incidental. This struggle must be really camp with clearly no chance of anyone getting hurt with lots of running in circles, falling, wrestling, posturing...Having fallen, Harold gets back up. Kong lies motionless)

Sunny

Oh no! You killed him...(Sunny starts to cry)

Harold

Yes. Yes I did. Oh how the mighty Kong has fallen! I'm sorry, but it HAD to be done. I had to use my superior strength and intelligence to subdue this savage beast and honor my honor. Honor is important in any struggle. I could not lose face...

(long pause as Sunny continues to cry and Harold begins to realize that she is not happy)

(serious music under, and then:)

Kong

Surprise! Just playing!

Harold

Oh no! (faint)

Kong

Oh yes!

Sunny

Oh yes!

Kong and Sunny

Yes! Yes! Yes!

Kong

Oh Horace didn't hurt me. I was just goofing again. We'd better wake him up though. Although I never really understood – how do people just faint like that?

Cheap / Kong

Harry (at window)

Fainting, outside of a dramatic pretext, is a physiologically induced drop in blood pressure that produces first a kind of gray-out or silent white-noise followed by a loss of consciousness often relieved by remaining quiet and calm or as is the case in dramatic enterprises, being doused with water.

(Harry pours water from a vase, including some flowers, on Harold, waking him)

Oops. Perhaps I should have removed the flowers.

Harry

Hey! Hey! (sneezes) Hey!

Harry

Sorry about that. (Harry leaves)

Harold

That's it. I'm leaving, Sunny. You blew it. I won't take you to the west coast or anyplace else. You can go with your little stupid hairy ape man.

(storms out of the door)

Kong

Well, that was much easier than I had any right to expect. Oh, and we're going to need to get that door fixed.

(Curtain. End of Act One)

Act Two

(ENTRE' ACT plays. bLights up. Blue and Kong are apparently sitting near the top of the Empire State Building. There

Cheap / Kong

are clouds and airplanes suspended above and stage right of them. The building top is stage left, projected skyline and clouds surround upstage. Sound of airplanes.)

Blue

You mean even after you showed her what a fool that guy was she still wouldn't go to Atlantic City with you?

Kong

That's it.

Blue

Then she's not worth your bowling shoes if you ask me. There are plenty of people in the jungle to monkey around with.

Kong

You're getting as bad as me with your jokes.

Blue

What else can I say? Just because you're not king of the jungle doesn't mean that you have to put with grief from other people. I never did trust them you know.

Kong

But she's so smart. You know that kind of smart that's so smart you can't even calibrate how smart? That's how smart she is. And pretty. And charming. And just a fabulous dancer. I'm a sucker for a good dancer.

Blue

Kong, no kidding, she's way too smart for you and you ought to forget her.

FORGET HER

E

F#

G

F

she's too much for you to care for, so why sit here being sore

Cheap / Kong

It was a broken childhood, that's what it was. No, it was too many video games. No, that's silly. It was a fascination with all things evoking gravity. I don't know. Maybe deeply rooted esteem issues. Hey, it's only a prop.

Orange

(to Kong) Aha! I've found you. I am back.

(the pedestrian crawls off)

Blue and Kong

Big hairy deal.

Orange

You'll learn to appreciate me when we're all rich.

Blue and Kong

Sure.

Orange

No, really. I've got a new plan, a really worthwhile cause for the betterment of earth and all people, all animals, all nature, a noteworthy established cause. Think of it. One that will surely change the face of our planet, make people proud to be alive, make God smile in wonder, and make US a billion bucks.

Blue and Kong

Naturally.

Orange

Here it is. (holds up contract with is really a poster which says "Give Monkeys the Right to Vote". A beat.)

Blue

The man is missing something.

Pay Day

Cheap / Kong

I agree. Imagine it. Next they'll want statehood. They'll want free tuition. They'll want free healthcare. They'll want free cable TV.

Blue

Nah, cable is cut. I'm dreaming of streaming.

Kong

I'm thinking of screaming.

Orange

I am not done scheming.

Blue, Orange, Pay Day

Ole'

Kong

Ole' indeed.

Orange

Just listen. Why should we treat our animal friends like second class beings? They have feelings. Imagine a new whole world, and whole new market we could open up selling hair products to critters.

Pay Day

He's misdirected but serious. What if he really CAN make us a billion bucks? Why not buy in?

Blue

Such a story. Sounds like a second rate movie.

Orange

No, really, listen...please.

LET'S GIVE OUR MONKEYS THE VOTE

C C/G

(rest)

Cheap / Kong

don't let politics get your goat

C C/G (rest)

because it's run by those old dopes

G G/D

give them pause – to see our cause

G G/D

step right up and shake their paws

F

you know it's right so

G C

let's give our monkeys the vote

Blue

(speaking, aside) Now, is that "pause" or "paws"?

Orange (sings)

C C/G

they're old enough – to strut their stuff

C C/G

and survive when everything gets tough

G G/D G G/D

it shouldn't be a big surprise – see the sentience in their eyes

F

you know it's right so

G C

let's give our monkeys the vote

(entire cast emerges, dancing, each with a poster such as "monkey power" "hairs to monkeys" "monkey rights" "ape balls in the side pocket" "critters matter, too")

Cheap / Kong

(all dance off as drummer plays a cadence, leaving Kong and Blue. Orange runs back, out of breath, to be near Kong and Blue, who are now sitting.)

Orange

Well, what do you think?

Kong

You're a few bananas short of a bunch. But what do you need ME for now?

Orange

Listen. I've got a nifty group of fanatic followers but they need a strong leader. I'm lacking a touch of credibility in that, well, I'M NOT a critter. We need someone to identify with, someone with charisma, someone with a hair shirt that's all hair. YOU!

Kong

Of course. But what can I do?

Orange

Run.

Kong

Thanks, but I'm afraid I'm a little out of shape since I've been in New York what with all the smog and pollution and riding on subways and staying close to home.

Orange

No, I mean enter politics. Run for office. Run for governor of New Jersey.

Kong

But I don't even live in New Jersey.

Orange

Cheap / Kong

Hey, it's New Jersey. Might not matter. Run for governor. You could win. All we need is a little pack money and you're in. Pack money we could use to fund our other ventures.

(Kong is petting Blue, picks off an imaginary flea and pops it into his mouth)

Kong

Well, then why start so low? Why not run for president. I wouldn't be the worst candidate ever, or even the worst or least likely president.

Orange

Don't be absurd. How much MONDY do you think we could raise? Besides, the object isn't to SPEND money, it's to earn it. Of course you won't win the election – we wouldn't want you to – can you think of a worse job than governor of New Jersey? – but think of the chances we'lll have with the free publicity. They might even bring back the Ed Sullivan show for this.

Kong

Isn't Ed dead?

Harry

(appears at window) We could call it the Dead Ed Show.

Kong

I thought for a second that this was going to be a noble effort.

Orange

Oh, it is. We'll advocate tremendous and necessary reform. And, make a buck in the process. A BILLION BUCKS!

Kong

Well, I'm not convinced and I'm not in.

Orange?

What? You're an idiot. No, I know you're trying to drive me crazy!

Cheap / Kong

Kong

It's too late for that. You've already made the trip and unpacked your bags.

Orange

Why you hairy good for nothing son of a banana loving monkey! No wonder Sunny won't have anything to do with you.

Kong

That was pretty dirty. You didn't have to say that. I could still be her partner someday if I really work at it you know. I'm just...too young for her.

Orange

Ha ha. Too young he says. Don't look now but you're almost ready for the elephant burial grounds. It won't be long before you are washed up. Then NOBODY will want you...not even the zoo.

(Sunny walks in with Harold, his arm around her)

Kong

Good grief. I thought you two were finished.

Harold

Touch luck, chum. When you're in love nothing can stand between you.

Kong

How about a nice two-by-four?

Harold

When you're in love you get over quarrels and kiss and make up.

Kong

You're making me sick to my stomach.

Sunny

Cheap / Kong

Be nice.

Kong

Can't. Henry here is a loser.

Orange

We're gong to have trouble with your image if you insist on being rude.

Kong

Don't worry about my image.

Sunny

Somebody has to.

Kong

Wow are you stupid to hang with such a jerk weed.

Orange

Don't say things you can't take back. (music starts)

Kong

Don't worry about it...(sings)

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

C2 (open 3rd – jazz C)

why do you treat me so terrible, is a monkey really so horrible?

if I get out of line, it's your fault not mine

don't tell me to quit, that the pieces don't fit

Cheap / Kong

Climbing. Wanna come?

(music begins "All You Need Is Money." Lights out.)

(when the lights return, Harry is seated stage right in a rocking chair holding a pipe that is not lit. Blue is sleeping near him. Harry Jr. is writing on a chalk board. As the scene goes on he writes the words underlined or circled in the play as they are spoken. Pay Day is in the cage which now has PRISON written on it. She is putting pennies in a big box with JUSTICE written on it and a slot on the top, near to or on the door to the cage. When enough pennies have been inserted the door will open and she will be free to exit.

The choruses standing like mannequins just up stage center. Whenever Junior write-in underlined or circled word on the board they do a tableau of it, silently. They hold the tableau for the length of the time to the next underlined word. A projection screen is showing assorted science fiction and surrealist type movie scenes that seem recognizable and yet are not. Close-ups of giant ants and roaches, lizards wrestling, turtles in odd positions enjoying adventures. Multiple projectors keep the motion continuous.

Captain Orange sings as the lights are up. Kong is doing assorted physical exercises such as push ups, sit ups, trunk twists, deep knee bends, and if he's up to is, burpees.)

ALL YOU NEED IS MONEY PART TWO

Orange (sings)

Bb

Gbm

all you need is money, to make your life bright

Ebm

F

take it from me sonny, it will show you the light

Cheap / Kong

Chorus Singers

Gm

Fm

people make it and spend it, we're here to defend it

Gm

Am

B7

it's just the right time to, save up all your dimes, you

Junior

(tacit)

Cm9

all you need is money, all you need is money

Pay Day (now free)

Cm9

Fm7

Cm9

Fm7

Cm9

Fm7

all you need, to satisfy your greed, to fertilize your seed

G7

Cm9

Fm7

Cm9

Fm7

is good old fashioned, money

(music under, full cast dancing)

Orange

(spoken/sung)

(bass)G

F#

yes folks it's money that we need

F

D#

why you can get anything you want

G

F#

with the proper amount of money

D#

D

you can even buy love

Cheap / Kong

All

Cm9 Fm7 Cm9 Fm7 Cm9 Fm7

all you need, to satisfy your greed, to fertilize your seed

G7 Cm9 Fm7 Cm9 Fm7

is good old fashioned in God we trust money!

(a beat. quiet. Kong is still exercising)

Orange

what on earth are you doing?

Kong

(continuing, a bit out of breath)

Getting in shape...so I can climb to the top of the Empire State Building.

Orange

You can't be serious. If you'd just cooperate with my master plan for liberating the scorned and misused jungle creatures you could ride up in the elevator.

Kong

No thanks.

Orange

Come on Kong. (pulling out a contract) Sign this.

Kong

(pointing to his posterior) Kiss this!

Orange

My aren't you terse today?

Kong

Cheap / Kong

You know what they say...

Harry (at the window)

Terse today, worse tomorrow.

Kong (grabbing the contract)

Here, let me see that...

Orange

Good. (as Kong reads the contract, Orange speaks to the audience)

If I can just get that ape to sign this we'll all be rich, but mostly me of course. I can move out of my fifth floor walk up and leave New York to the riches of the suburbs. Once there I can find ease, and comfort, and bliss – wonderful, wonderful bliss beyond my even most centered dreams, whatever that means, and friends! I can find friends! And appreciation! My self-esteem will find its dream! Oh yes, and we'll be floating in money...keep your fingers and toes crossed.

Kong

Well, it sounds OK. How many bananas did you say?

Orange

More than you ever dreamed of.

Kong

And I don't have to join the circus?

Orange

Nope.

Kong

Or the zoo?

Orange

Definitely not.

Cheap / Kong

everything because he signed it!

Orange

I'll be rich!

Kong

Sunny, you're back!

Harold

Just out for a walk and sing old chum.

Kong

Shove it, Hershel.

Harold

You know a bit is used up after three uses, right?

Kong

You were used up on the first, Heckle.

(Harold lashes out at Kong and there is a bit of a struggle)

Don't hurt yourself, chum.

Harold

Let's go, Sunny Bunny. Who needs this creature from the lost latrine.

(they start to leave and as they do, Pay Day drops the coin on Harold, apparently killing him. He falls dramatically. A chorus member with a badge meets Pay Day, arrests her, and

Cheap / Kong

walks her back to the cell. She resumes putting pennies in the box)

Kong

Oh, there they go, happy and me miserable...

Sunny

(returning, screaming, frantic, and runs to Kong's side)

Oh my sweet cheeses and crackers, he's dead.

Kong

Who?

Sunny

Harold, my on-again, off-again fiancé. A coin fell on his head and he's gone. Off forever. Permanently done. Love again is lost.

Kong

(a beat) Well, there's still me.

(aside, to audience) Too soon?

Sunny

Don't be absurd! I'm in mourning, can't you see?

(Sunny assumes a suitable mourning pose)(music starts)

Kong

Well, hang on just a second...

(Kong and a Chorus member attend to Harold, and then carry him off.)

Chorus Member

Sometimes it's not as bad as it looks...

Cheap / Kong

Sunny

I wonder if I could ask you something?

Kong

Sure.

Sunny

I like to ask questions – the kind that could change a person's life.

Kong

I'm all yours.

Sunny

But lighten up on the "I'm all yours stuff" and "deep true forever love lines," please.

(Pause)

Kong

Umhmm...

Sunny

I know two secrets about you that could change both of our lives, but you've got to listen carefully.

Kong

Yes.

Sunny

Because there are also two things about me that you don't know.

Kong

This just keeps getting better.

Cheap / Kong

Sunny

Which do you want first?

Kong

That's easy. Two things about you that I don't know.

Sunny

Interesting. After I tell you we'll find out if you really want to learn the two things about yourself.

(Pause)

Wow. You're really listening. That's rare. Here goes. Two things about me that you don't know: 1. I am by day, during work hours, a scientist. I've been working on a decade-long project concerning evolutionary deviations and the emergence of previously unidentified human species. I've uncovered a somewhat speculative but revolutionary and convincing study of such a species.

While you were out, or pretending to be out, in the cage, I drew a bit of blood from your arm...and...and...it turns out that you aren't actually a one-hundred per cent bonafide gorilla.

Kong

I'm not?

Sunny

No, in fact in some ways you're more Phi Mu Alpha fraternity bro than a full fledged ape.

Kong

You mean that I'm the missing link?

Sunny

Yep.

Kong

Cheap / Kong

So hey, that's one thing about you AND one secret about me.
Fascinating. What's the second thing about you?

Sunny

Well, it's not nearly as interesting.

Kong

Well?

Sunny

Since you seem to have some musical talent, I should reveal that
so do I. At least some people say so. I have a secret identity.
You've heard of the legend without knowing that they were me all
along.

Kong

Who?

Sunny

When you think about wild, experimental, jazz saxophone players
who do you think of?

Kong

Still living?

Sunny

Still alive.

Kong

Free jazz or smooth jazz?

Sunny

(does a take)

Kong

Forgive me. Free jazz. That would have to be Rebutz Nats.

Sunny

Cheap / Kong

Exactly.

Kong

And who's all set to play Atlantic City?

Sunny and Kong

Rebuz Nats.

Kong

And so...

Sunny

(does a take)

It's me! I am Rebuz Nats.

Kong

Wow, that really IS quite a secret. I thought that Rebuz Nats was a middle-aged dude with a Ben Franklin hair style and round little glasses.

Sunny

That's my disguise, that's the picture on the poster. On stage, though, on recordings, sax in hand and rippin', Rebuz Nats is all me.

Kong

I can hardly believe it.

Sunny

Well, believe this...

(Sunny starts playing a saxophone that PayDay has handed her from a platform cart which also has a small drum kit and an upright bass. PayDay begins a groove on the drums. Sunny wails on the saxophone. Kong grabs the bass and joins alone. They jam a bit and then pause.)

Cheap / Kong

Kong

Well, that does it. That explains a lot.

Sunny

Well?

Kong

Well?

Sunny

Do you want to know the other secret about you?

Kong

I'm still wrapping my mind around what you've already told me, but, sure – what? The second thing?

Sunny

I know that you took care of Harold when the coin fell on his head. I know that you gave him first aid and made sure that he got medical care. You made sure that he was OK. Isn't that right, Payadonna?

Pay

Yeppers. And weirdest of all, he had me help – with Harold and that other guy and with five other previous dudes I hurt in one way or another. No matter how poorly I treated Kong, he was patient and firm about gently nudging me to a better state of mind. I can hardly believe it myself, but I'm a new person, thanks to Kong.

Kong

Well, it wasn't much – I had a few bananas to spare and so...

Pay and Sunny

Oh, it was much more than that...

Sunny

Cheap / Kong

And there's a bonus.

Kong and Pay

A bonus?

Sunny

A third thing about me.

(Pause)

It turns out that not only am I a scientist and a jazz sax player – I am also a hybrid –

Kong

You mean?

Sunny

(makes a monkey sound and motion. Music starts.) Yes – I am also a missing link.

Kong

Well, while that seems highly implausible even to a mind like mine, I like it. It just doesn't seem statistically possible...

Sunny

And yet here we are...

(Sunny sings)

SUNNY LOVES A MONKEY (I May Be Just A Monkey Reprise)

C Cmaj7 F D C Em F Fm

won't you please reconsider, this wonderful critter

F C F C

who stands before you now, loving all that you'll allow

Am Dm F C

Cheap / Kong

although I'm not much, I'm gentle to touch

Am Dm C

and we could be happy somehow

Am Dm F C

would you now deny, me one little try

Am Dm F C

to get together and see, it could be you and me

C C/B F Fm C Cman7/B F Fm

I may be just a monkey, with hairy things to do

C C/B F Fm C Dm7 C

I may be just a monkey, but – I'm ape shit over you

(Sunny dances with Kong for a complete verse)

C C/B F Fm C Cmaj7/B F Fm

I may be just a monkey, with hairy things to do

C C/B F Fm C Dm7 C

I may be just a monkey, but – I'm ape shit over you

C Dm C

yes I'm all in over you, all in over you...

Cheap / Kong

Kong

I guess there's only one place for us to go from here...

Sunny and Kong

Atlantic City!

(Orange enters)

Orange

Oh, geez, I've been thinking and I'll do anything. All you have to do is name it. Anything you want. I'll take you anywhere you want to go: Paris, London, Atlantic City...

Kong

Atlantic City?

Orange

Sure

Kong

Really? You wouldn't kid me about a thing like that?

Orange

Tonight if you want. Immediately!

Kong

Atlantic City, wow. The big time. Lights. Waves. Boardwalk. You talked me into it. I can see it now...

(sings)

ATLANTIC CITY

(intro: F G F G)

C

Dm

F

G

let's go see miss america, walk on the boardwalk and play

Cheap / Kong

It is time my friends for "Les Grande Finale" for it does wonderful things to my esteem and I must fully emerge myself – shy though I am, Kong has liberated my own particular inner gorilla.

And so good people, please remember your promises, feel your feelings, and go ape whenever you have the opportunity. I present to you an opportunity now.

REBUZ NATS

(Entire cast appears in a wild assortment of costumes and begins an outrageous piece of song and dance.)

(The set is extra decorated with mannequins, objects d'art, props, masks, and musical instruments, which some of the cast members play. There is another ape costume almost identical to Kong except that "Understudy" is written on it.

Much of the action is improvised. Every available part of the stage is used. If possible, also involve the audience)

Kong

Cm7 Cm7/G Cm7 Cm7/G

Rebuz Nats in the morning

All

Rebuz Nats in the morning

Kong

Rebus Nats in the evening

All

Rebuz Nats in the evening

Rebuz! Nats!

Kong

Cheap / Kong

Rebuz Nats in the kitchen

All

Rebus Nats in the kitchen

Kong

Rebuz Nats in the bathroom

Kong

Rebuz!

All

Rebuz!

Kong

Nats!

All

Nats!

Rebuz Nats came out of the jungle

(chorus repeats each line)

to capture himself a hamburger jumbo

Rebuz! Nats!

Rebuz Nats on a Sunday

Rebuz Nats on a milkshake

Rebuz Nats on the telephone

Rebuz Nats on the saxophone

We've got lots and lots and lots

of good old reliable Rebuz Nats

the jazz star in Atlantic City

playing their modes and runs so gritty

(music softens)

Cheap / Kong

Harry

So that is our play. Kong and Sunny went on to be a fairly regularly gigging lounge performers with Orange as their manager and Pay Day as their roadie. But, and this is important...they've got bigger plans. Could it be romance?

Sunny and Kong

Not romance!

(music under and out into UNDERTURE, UNDERWEAR, EASY CHAIR)

the end