

Fannin Musical Productions Coming to America

America is a joyous mixture that combines into something even greater than its parts... and so is *Coming to America*, a show which celebrates that diversity by seamlessly melding elements as disparate as James Brown and Neil Diamond, John Philip Sousa, and Cardi B. The immigrant experience is dramatized and celebrated in a show that is built around your most talented musicians, giving them the spotlight while allowing space for the rest of your ensemble to grow and develop their musicianship. Musical motifs from the lives of many American generations work together to make Coming to America a thrill for any audience, and an even greater joy for the performers.

Musical selections include "Living in America" by James Brown, "I Like it Like That" by Cardi B, "America" by Neil Diamond, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" by Sousa, and "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

Coming to America was composed for the 2020 Hightower High School Marching Band from Missouri City, Texas.

Copyright permission is required for this show.

Prop & Set Design



The set design for *Coming to America* is built around the great visual icon of the American immigrant experience, the Statue of Liberty—and specifically we have centered the stage around her torch, the beacon which has drawn immigrants for so long. The props themselves are simple, but highly effective at closing down the performance area for smaller ensembles, or for enhancing larger ones.





In the front on Side A, we have designed a sideline screen which directly lays out the most famous words of Emma Lazarus' poem on the statues pedestal. Front screens are a simple way to frame the stage, clean up the area used for color guard transitions, and establish theme. Our front screens are designed to utilize 4 of the <u>Corps Design 5 x 10 Sideline Screens</u>, with high-quality digital printing available via FMP. Or, allow our artists to customize the sizing to suit frames you already have.

Directly behind the sideline screens is the most important prop in the program, a round stage meant to evoke the Statue's torch—an association made clear by the backdrop behind the stage, as well as the choice of paint color and the digital printed skirt which wraps the stage's base. The stage is based on the <u>Corps Design Round Stage</u>, or our artists can customize the wrap to suit any stage you may already have.





Framing the back edge of our performance area are 5, double-sided backdrops which feature details of the statue. Our backdrops are designed to utilize 5 of the <u>Corps Design Adjustable Media Frames</u>, with high-quality digital printing available via FMP. Or, allow our artists to customize the sizing to suit frames you already have.





The double-sided backdrops turn during the third movement of the show, revealing a bright, pop-art color palette which completely transforms the visual mood of the show. This, combined with FMP's catchy, percussive music reflects the brightness and vitality of America's immigrant communities, becoming as celebration of the joy of diversity.



Flag & Costume Design



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BAND SHOPPE" GUARD UNIFORM DESIGN FOR

JFP - Coming to America

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For *Coming to America*, our partners at Band Shoppe have provided not just one, but 4 guard costuming options to suit the needs and preferences of your performers. All of these costumes use the color palette and other subtle design cues from the Statue of Liberty to cohesively connect to the show's themes and meaning. Meanwhile, the flag silks progress from the dignified, stately image of the Statue into more and more joyous, bright colors—just as the props and music design do. The result is a cohesive, through-designed program which audiences will find easy to follow, and effect judges will reward highly.

Movement 1 Effects



The show begins in a somber, aspirational mood with most of the stage proper empty, framed by the musicians. Then, a few at a time they are called out towards the 'torch,' searching for a better life in their new land.

A single guard soloist, near the torch, beckons them, while musically...





...a soloist sets the mood and tone for what is to come. Drawn here as a flautist, let our arrangers customize the solo to suit one of your finest musicians, whatever their instrument.

From here, the rest of the musical and visual ensemble begin to layer in, such as the woodwind section feature illustrated below, while the drill continually brings them us further out onto the main stage and nearer the torch that beckons immigrants to America.





Building finally to a massive, full-ensemble arrival point which speaks to the beauty of arriving in this country and becoming Americans.

Movement 2 Effects



Movement 2 beings by re-drawing our eye to Lady Liberty's torch, were a new flag silk, and a new dash of color, are introduced...





...and a new mood is established by another solo opportunity for one of your finest musicians. Sketched here as a trumpet, this solo like all in this program, can be easily adapted to suit your instrumentation needs by our arrangers.

In the movement of the show, FMP has given the traditional formula an unexpected twist by interweaving two musical moods: a reverent, majestic ballad and a lively, samba-like celebration. Utilizing simple but effective choreography the feel of a neighborhood street party begins to sneak in.





...before returning to the most traditional and moving of marching band moments: the full-ensemble, company front. Our arrangers have done a masterful job of interweaving these ideas and moods in a way that your audience and judges will find moving and delightful.

After the maestoso main moment, the field begins to clear, while yet another solo opportunity is available for one of your best students. A seamless transition, both musically and visually, sets up the final movement to come.



Movement 3 Effects



After depicting the experience of immigration in Movement 1, and the beauty of this land and its opportunities in Movement 2, for its final movement *Coming to America* shifts to the joy of fully becoming an American. The dance-like energy hinted at previously takes over completely in a full-blown street party on the field.

The backdrops turn to reveal the new color palette, the transformation mirrored in complimentary choreography in the musicians and in the new flag silks. The stage is flooded with color and percussive, infectious groove!





Beginning with the drumline, the musical energy passes between sections, layering in new groups and textures. Each part of the ensemble takes their moment in the spotlight, some even climbing back up onto the torch as in the Opener.





Finally, the building energy brings as back to the torch which had originally beckoned us to America and the joy of this new life. Music and color and motion combine to create a rapturous ending which will bring your audience to its feet and create an unforgettable moment for your young performers to treasure.



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