

TURNOVER: A NEW LEAF

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A Floral-Herbal Musical

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## PLOT SUMMARY

TURNOVER is an herbal fable that plots a tanning salon by a nightclub, respectively Tan Salontro and FigLeaf Nightclub.

In Dirty City, a Cilantro arrives. Rau Răm is an Asian immigrant and expectant mother hoping to start a tanning salon business. When no one can spare a plot of land, Malus Crabapple welcomes her with a neighboring open plot. Rau is a bit hesitant due to Malus's gay nightclub known as FigLeaf. But FigLeaf patrons have a liking for Rau's body oil that spices up their skins. Rau happily takes their money but cannot support their "lifestyles." But the major turnover would be Rau's son: Parsley ("Turnover").

This teen operates the day-to-day business of Tan Salontro and spends the night with his mom ("Direct Sunlight"). Parsley is curious about the nightlife ("A Natural"). Malus soon introduces their teenage nibbling, Pyrus, to a tan at Salontro. Parsley helps Pyrus with issues that they have with the other flowers ("Test the Water"). Pyrus pays Parsley with a new beverage called Miracle and invites him to go shopping with them ("Glucose is Clear").

Parsley asks Rau for permission. She reluctantly lets Parsley go ("Propagation"). At Celery Outlets, Parsley and Pyrus pose in a photo booth ("Photosynthesis"). Pyrus takes him to a clothing area. He discovers a liking for different floral styles, especially crop tops ("Crop Top"). A coming-of-age series of adventures happen amongst the two ("Spray Date").

Rau finds Parsley's stashed clothing abhorrent and grounds them ("Soiled"). Parsley ponders ("Fertile"). Pyrus helps Parsley sneak out ("Worm Out"). They have the time of their lives ("Dirt on You"). However, herbs are not accustomed to the nightlife and this one is especially underaged. Parsley ends up in the hospital, getting their stoma pumped.

Rau sees the light of their ways ("Miracle"). FigLeaf shuts down due to the violation of Dirty City's underage drinking laws. Pyrus visits Parsley, letting him know that they prepare to move ("Sterilize"). Rau offers Pyrus a summer job if they ever are around again. After all, it is a family business ("Turnover").

What are the turnovers of this sunny salon and this night saloon? How a growing child flips over to and accepts the darkness is the petal of this floral coming-of-age story.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

**PARSLEY** RĂM, teen, Rau's son

**RAU** RĂM, adult, Parsley's mother and the owner of Tan Salontro

**PYRUS** CRABAPPLE, older teen, Malus's nibbling

**MALUS** CRABAPPLE, adult, the owner of FigLeaf Nightclub

## Orchestra

**DJ CAULIFLOWER**, the alias for the production's music director, who may briefly interact with the performers.

✿ Androgyny Botany: Each character resembles the androgynous nature, with open-ended vocal requirements

✿ People of the Global Majority most represent the experiences of these flowers and herbs; cast accordingly

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. "Turnover (A New Start)" Rau, Malus
2. "Direct Sunlight" Rau, Parsley
3. "A Natural" Parsley
4. "Test the Water" Parsley, Pyrus
5. "Glucose is Clear" Parsley
6. "Propagation" Rau, Parsley
7. "Photosynthesis" Parsley, Pyrus
8. "Crop Top" Pyrus, Parsley
9. "Spray Date" Parsley, Pyrus
10. "Soiled (The Family Name)" Rau, Parsley
11. "Fertile" Parsley
12. "Worm Out" Pyrus, Parsley
13. "Dirt on You (Your Botany Brings the Dirt to the Yard)" Pyrus, Parsley
14. "Miracle" Rau
15. "Sterilize" Pyrus, Parsley
16. "Turnover (A New Leaf)" Company

SCENE 1

DIRTY CITY

Dirty City is if Grand Rapids was entirely Frederik Meijer Gardens. The city is scaled down so that a single block takes a single step. Empty plots of land scatter about. It is between seasons. Any season.

RAU enters. Her hair is unearthly. Her tan gleams. She is expecting a new seed. She tries to plant herself in an empty plot of dirt.

A picket that reads "Curb the Herbs" projects upon that plot.

RAU moves to another empty plot of land. The same message projects. RAU repeats. The message repeats.

The Sun sets.

RAU collapses on the concrete with her body facing the sunset. She feels her belly.

RAU

Sun... A leaf is not meant to turn from this light.

MALUS enters, opposite of the sunset. They are barely clothed.

MALUS

Turn over to the night.

RAU turns away from the sunset.

RAU

*Chào.* Aren't you an angel?

MALUS

*Hello.* Aren't all Figs?

RAU

*Any Fig is a malice!*

MALUS

That's my name: Malus Crabapple. I am a Fig-

RAU

Ment of my imagination.

MALUS

Does your imagination include a better life for yourself here?

RAU

Any plant can imagine. A Cilantro can dream! Imagine Dirty City's first-ever tanning salon. I *dream* of a better life for my family here...

MALUS

You immigrants have wild dreams. *But imaginations*. You cannot imagine people like me living by your family, let alone amongst yours, wherever you come from.

RAU

You don't know where I come from.

MALUS

Like a leaf, my people are open enough to fly all around the world. You took a leave from Southeast Asia? All your last names are like... *Weed (re: Nguyen)?*

RAU

Răm. Rau Răm. There are more family names out there in Vietnam. And no. You don't know the daily life I came from.

MALUS

Well Rau, I won't judge your days if you don't judge my nights.

RAU

I don't know where your nightlife comes from.

MALUS

It stems from birth.

RAU

You chose this light. This lifestyle you have. It is not something you are born with. You are not natural. I cannot imagine a life without light.

MALUS

You keep this up and your salon stays an imagination.

RAU

I cannot keep this up. No plot of land in Dirty City will ever let me plant myself.

MALUS steps onto a colorful plot of land.

They push aside an adjacent block of concrete to unveil untouched soil.

MALUS

Make your roots at home.

RAU reluctantly plants herself next to MALUS.

RAU

(Relaxing)

Im lang.

MALUS

(Puzzledly)

Make your bed.

A tanning bed rolls out.

RAU

*Shut up.*

MALUS

I wasn't born with lightheartedness. *I chose it.*

## SCENE 2

TAN SALONTRO

The heart of Dirty City lightly transforms into a tanning salon. An Open/Closed sign hangs.

RAU

Im lang. Im lang. Im lang! Im lang!

MALUS

Imagine Dirty City's first-ever tanning salon's first-ever customer!

RAU

*Im lang.* I refuse to imagine you Figs.

MALUS

I may be a Fig but not a figment of your imagination!

RAU

*Figures...*

MALUS

We may have different figures and feel differently for other figures, but we bleed the same eukaryotic cells.

RAU

You are crazy to think I'd let your kind use my tanning bed. You ain't got shit on you!

MALUS

Wash that mouth out with soap.

RAU

We Cilantros are soap! I mean... Do you have bullshit on you?

MALUS

My business adheres to the capital and makes profits. So yes. What's your worth?

RAU

*That'd be ten bullshits, please...*

MALUS

*That's a start.*

MALUS hands a manure-laced bill to RAU. They get in the tanning bed.

1. "TURNOVER (A NEW START)" (<https://www.turnovershow.com/music/1-turnover>)

The tanning bed does its magic.

MALUS gets out of the tanning bed. They inspect themselves.

RAU

TURN AROUND.

NICE TAN.

MALUS

NOT A FAN.

RAU

NOTHING FANCY.

MALUS

YOU WILL SEE THAT FANCY GETS THE FANS.

RAU's business fails at first then suddenly picks up due to an incident that leads to her unveiling her gleaming body oil (still brainstorming).

Either animated silhouettes or an ensemble of FIGLEAFS demonstrate that business is booming.

Several tanning beds roll out.

Bullshit rains down on RAU.

RAU turns the "Open" sign to  
"Closed." RAU lies in a tanning  
bed. She closes the lid.

RAU  
BUT THE BEST TURNOVER I EVER HAD...

RAU opens the lid. Her belly is no  
more.

Direct sunlight lands on the  
distinct soiled tanning bed.

RAU (CONT'D)  
IS MY SUN...

PARSLEY jumps out of the lit  
tanning bed. He turns the "Closed"  
sign to "Open."

End of "TURNOVER (A NEW START)"

RAU (CONT'D)  
Turn around...

PARSLEY turns around.

RAU (CONT'D)  
You missed a spot. But son, do you shine...

PARSLEY  
Mom... Don't embarrass me in front of the  
customers!

PARSLEY starts getting to work.

RAU  
Parsley Răm is a natural.

### SCENE 3

It is night. Dance music distantly  
echo.

RAU uses a tanning bed as a desk  
to do paperwork and count  
bullshit.

PARSLEY perches by the window.

PARSLEY  
Mom... What is out at night?

RAU  
A light with no sense of direction, son.



PARSLEY

But the sound sure likes going this way.

RAU

Sounds don't feed us.

PARSLEY

A light with no sense of direction... So, there is light. They are just lost.

RAU

The light is artificial. They chose to not follow what is natural.

PARSLEY

But our tanning beds... Its light don't come from the Sun?

RAU

They paints skins with UV. It is like if you split the spectrums of sunlight onto a palette.

PARSLEY

What is a spectrum?

RAU

I don't know... But don't ask Malus. Malus—

PARSLEY & RAU

Has malice intent.

PARSLEY

I know... But they—

RAU

He pays our rent. His bullshit is unnatural.

PARSLEY

Artificial is artful. I'm down with it.

RAU

*Artificial is awful.* Are you high?

PARSLEY

Nothing is blunt as you, Mom.

RAU

Nothing is direct as the Sun.

RAU heads to PARSLEY's side.

## 2. "DIRECT SUNLIGHT" ([https://www.turnovershow.com/music/2-direct\\_sunlight](https://www.turnovershow.com/music/2-direct_sunlight))

RAU sings a lullaby to PARSLEY. The themes are wellbeing, mortality, and what is truth.

RAU  
SON. YOU ARE A NATURAL.

End of "DIRECT SUNLIGHT"

A blanket plops out of the soiled  
tanning bed.

RAU (CONT'D)  
I made your planter. Now go lie in it.

PARSLEY lies in bed.

PARSLEY  
*I am a natural.*

RAU tucks PARSLEY into bed.

RAU  
You speak the truth, Parsley. Good day. Ngu  
ngon, my little Răm.

RAU exits.

3. "A NATURAL" ([https://www.turnovershow.com/music/3-a\\_natural](https://www.turnovershow.com/music/3-a_natural))

PARSLEY sings his "I Want" song. He wants to be a natural.  
This song should be composed in the key of A.

End of "A NATURAL"

Scattered thoughts below...

MALUS  
And plots of land are not a plant right. But I  
think it is right for you to plant yourself  
here. To have your business right beside mine.  
You'll see the light. Or at least, the Sun.

MALUS looks at the Sun and points  
to RAU's belly.

RAU  
I cannot imagine a life without light.

MALUS  
Your salon will stay that way if you keep it  
up.

RAU  
My dream is

MALUS  
That's all you Cilantros do.

RAU  
My dream is

A rainbow arches onto a particularly dark patch of land.

RAU heads towards the end of the rainbow.

MALUS enters. They plant a sign on the colorful plot of land reading: "FigLeaf Nightclub."

MALUS  
Signing up?

RAU distances herself.

RAU  
I'm not signing up for whatever this is...

MALUS  
Do you have a thing for us, Figs?

RAU  
Do you have something against immigrants?

MALUS  
I have nothing against immigrants. I have something for them. I got dirt, for you. A shitload of it.

RAU  
Bullshit.

MALUS  
All the bullshit in the world. I won't treat you like how Grand Land treats us. This dirty city treats Figs like dirt and not like plants.

RAU  
I've never seen a plant grow under a rainbow...

MALUS  
A white light is a combination of all seven colors... Us Figs are naturally born to filter them out.  
RAU moves to another empty plot of land. The same message projects. RAU repeats. The message repeats.

**SCENE**

The tanning bed tilts up and  
transforms into a photo booth.

. "PHOTOSYNTHESIS" (<https://www.turnovershow.com/music/1-photosynthesis>)