

TURNOVER: A NEW LEAF

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"). Malus soon introduces their teenage nibling, 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 Cell Mall, 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. "Test the Water" Parsley, Pyrus
4. "Glucose is Clear" Parsley
5. "Propagation" Rau, Parsley
6. "Photosynthesis" Parsley, Pyrus
7. "Crop Top" Pyrus, Parsley
8. "Spray Date" Parsley, Pyrus
9. "Soiled (The Family Name)" Rau, Parsley
10. "Fertile" Parsley
11. "Worm Out" Pyrus, Parsley
12. "Dirt on You (Your Botany Brings the Dirt to the Yard)" Pyrus, Parsley
13. "Miracle" Rau
14. "Sterilize" Pyrus, Parsley
15. "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 plant isn't meant to live for tonight.

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

MALUS

Turn over.

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. 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 beds.

Several tanning beds roll 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 cannot imagine.

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.

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

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.

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

RAU (CONT'D)
Turnover...

PARSLEY turns around.

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

End of "TURNOVER (A NEW START)"

PARSLEY

—

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.