

= American Idiot (musical) =

American Idiot is a sung @-@ through stage adaptation of punk rock band Green Day 's rock opera , American Idiot . After a run at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre in 2009 , the show moved to the St. James Theatre on Broadway . Previews began on March 24 , 2010 and the play officially opened on April 20 , 2010 . The show closed on April 24 , 2011 after 422 performances . While Green Day did not appear in the production , vocalist / guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong performed the role of " St. Jimmy " occasionally throughout the run .

The story , expanded from that of the concept album , centers on three disaffected young men , Johnny , Will , and Tunny . Johnny and Tunny flee a stifling suburban lifestyle and parental restrictions , while Will stays home to work out his relationship with his pregnant girlfriend , Heather . The former pair look for meaning in life and try out the freedom and excitement of the city . Tunny quickly gives up on life in the city , joins the military , and is shipped off to war . Johnny turns to drugs and finds a part of himself that he grows to dislike , has a relationship and experiences lost love .

The book was written by Armstrong and director Michael Mayer . The music was composed by Green Day and the lyrics were by Armstrong . The score included all the songs from the original American Idiot album , as well as additional Green Day songs from other sources , such as the album 21st Century Breakdown , and unreleased songs originally recorded for the American Idiot musical .

The musical won two 2010 Tony Awards : Best Scenic Design of a Musical for Christine Jones , and Best Lighting Design of a Musical for Kevin Adams . It also received a nomination for Best Musical . In 2011 , its Broadway cast recording won a Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album .

= = Plot = =

Set in the recent past , the musical opens on a group of suburban youths living unhappily in " Jingtowntown , USA " and saturated with TV . Fed up with the state of the union , the company explodes in frustration (" American Idiot ") . One of the youths , Johnny (" Jesus of Suburbia ") , goes to commiserate with his friend Will . A third friend , Tunny , joins the two and they party until they run out of beer , prompting them to pick up more at the local 7 @-@ Eleven . Tunny soon exposes the do @-@ nothing go @-@ nowhere quicksand of their lives (" City of the Damned ") . They get riled up , and Johnny challenges his friends to engage (" I Don 't Care ") . Will 's girlfriend , Heather , soon makes an appearance . She is pregnant and doesn 't know what to do (" Dearly Beloved ") . Johnny borrows money and buys bus tickets to the city for the three young men , eager to escape suburbia . Before the boys are able to leave , Heather tells Will of her pregnancy . With no other choice , he stays home (" Tales of Another Broken Home ") . Johnny and Tunny depart for the city with a group of other jaded youths (" Holiday ") .

While Johnny wanders the city and pines for a woman he sees in an apartment window (" Boulevard of Broken Dreams ") , Tunny finds it hard to adjust to urban life and is seduced by a television ad for the army (" Favorite Son ") . Tunny realizes that his generation has been so numbed and apathetic that nothing , not even the bright lights of the city , will excite him (" Are We the Waiting ") . He enlists in the army .

A frustrated Johnny manifests a rebellious drug @-@ dealing alter ego called St. Jimmy , and injects heroin for the first time (" St. Jimmy ") . His newfound courage thanks to St. Jimmy and the drugs allow Johnny to make a successful move on the girl in the window . Back in Jingtowntown , Will sits on the couch as his girlfriend 's pregnancy progresses . He drinks beer and begs for a release . Meanwhile , Tunny is deployed to a war zone , and is soon shot and wounded (" Give Me Novacaine ") .

Johnny spends the night with the girl he saw in the window , whom he calls " Whatsername " . Johnny is smitten with Whatsername and wants to celebrate , but St. Jimmy has other plans for them (" Last of the American Girls / She 's a Rebel ") . Johnny and Whatsername go to a club ,

take drugs together , and have passionate sex . By this time , Will and Heather 's baby girl has been born , and Will is increasingly oblivious as Heather tenderly commits herself to her baby 's future (" Last Night on Earth ") .

Heather has had enough of Will 's pot @-@ and @-@ alcohol @-@ fueled apathy . Despite Will 's protestations , she takes the baby and walks out (" Too Much , Too Soon ") . Around the same time , lying in a bed in an army hospital (" Before the Lobotomy ") , Tunny falls victim to the hopelessness he has seen during wartime and hallucinates . He and his nurse engage in a balletic aerial dance (" Extraordinary Girl ") . He quickly falls in love with her . His hallucination disappears , and he 's left with his fellow soldiers in agony (" Before the Lobotomy (Reprise) ") .

Back in the city , Johnny reveals the depth of his love for Whatsername as she sleeps (" When It 's Time ") . The temptation of drugs , however , is too great ; Jimmy forces Johnny to become increasingly erratic , and he eventually threatens Whatsername (and then himself) with a knife (" Know Your Enemy ") . Whatsername attempts to talk about Johnny 's behavior , while the Extraordinary Girl dresses Tunny 's wounds and Will sits on the couch , once again alone (" 21 Guns ") . Johnny leaves a note for Whatsername , saying he has chosen Jimmy and drugs over her . Frightened and fed up , Whatsername tells Johnny that he is not the " Jesus of Suburbia " and reveals that St. Jimmy is nothing more than " a figment of [his] father 's rage and [his] mother 's love " (" Letterbomb ") . She leaves him .

Hurt by Whatsername 's departure , Johnny longs for better days ahead , Tunny longs for home , and Will longs for all the things he 's lost (" Wake Me Up When September Ends ") . St. Jimmy appears and makes one last attempt to get Johnny 's attention , but that part of Johnny has died , resulting in the metaphorical suicide of St. Jimmy (" The Death of St. Jimmy ") . Johnny cleans up and gets a desk job but soon realizes there is no place for him in the city (" East 12th Street ") . Will , all alone with his television , bemoans his outcast state (" Nobody Likes You ") . As he finally gets up off the couch , Heather appears with her new show @-@ off rockstar boyfriend (" Rock and Roll Girlfriend ") . Will heads to the 7 @-@ Eleven to get away from them and , surprisingly , finds Johnny there . Johnny had sold his guitar for a bus ticket home . Tunny returns from the war zone (as an amputee) with the Extraordinary Girl . As Tunny introduces his friends to the Extraordinary Girl , Johnny becomes furious with him for leaving the group , but quickly forgives him and the three friends embrace . Heather and her boyfriend arrive . In an uneasy truce , she gives the baby to Will . Other friends show up to greet the three men they haven 't seen in a year (" We 're Coming Home Again ") . One year later , Johnny laments that he lost the love of his life , but he accepts that he can live inside the struggle between rage and love that has defined his life . With this acceptance comes the possibility of hope (" Whatsername ") .

After the cast takes their bows , the curtain rises to reveal the entire company with guitars , with which they perform the song " Good Riddance (Time of Your Life) " . Each performance of this song was recorded and given to the audience as a free digital download .

= = Characters and cast members = =

The principal cast members of the major productions of American Idiot .

= = Background = =

In 2000 , Green Day released the album Warning . Village Voice music critic Robert Christgau compared Warning to the band 's previous album (Nimrod) , and noted that " [Billie Joe Armstrong is] abandoning the first person . He 's assuming fictional personas . And he 's creating for himself the voice of a thinking left @-@ liberal . " Christgau also detected " a faint whiff " of the work of the theatrical composer / lyricist team of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht . The trend of writing in the third person came to fruition with Green Day 's next studio album , American Idiot in 2004 . The first new song Green Day wrote was the single " American Idiot " .

One day , bassist Mike Dirnt was in the studio recording a 30 @-@ second song by himself . Armstrong decided that he wanted to do the same , and drummer Tré Cool followed suit . Armstrong

recalled , " It started getting more serious as we tried to outdo one another . We kept connecting these little half @-@ minute bits until we had something . " This musical suite became " Homecoming " , and the group subsequently wrote another suite , " Jesus of Suburbia " .

Green Day made the record an album @-@ long conceptual piece which was a response to the realities of the post @-@ 9 / 11 era . The band took inspiration from the concept records by The Who , sources in the musical theater repertoire like The Rocky Horror Show and West Side Story , and the concept album @-@ cum @-@ stage musical Jesus Christ , Superstar . Armstrong also said the band intended " that it would be staged or we 'd create a film or something ... we were thinking in terms that it kind of felt like scoring a movie . "

Director Michael Mayer heard the album and expressed an interest in adapting it for the stage . When he approached the band regarding a collaboration , they agreed to work with him . The band also gave Mayer a wide latitude for his adaptation after seeing his earlier work in Spring Awakening . Though additional songs were included from the Green Day catalog , Mayer added very little dialogue to the show . He felt instead that the music and lyrics were expressive enough on their own , and even removed some of the dialogue that was part of the Berkeley production before the show moved to Broadway .

= = Production history = =

= = = Berkeley (2009) = = =

The musical premiered at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre . Previews began on September 4 , 2009 and the official opening was on September 15 , 2009 . After becoming the top @-@ grossing show in the theatre 's history , the producers extended the limited run twice to November 15 , 2009 . The cast included John Gallagher Jr. as Johnny , Matt Caplan as Tunny , Michael Esper as Will , Tony Vincent as St. Jimmy , Rebecca Naomi Jones as Whatsername , Mary Faber as Heather , and Christina Sajous as the Extraordinary Girl .

= = = Broadway (2010 ? 2011) = = =

The musical transferred to the St. James Theatre on Broadway , with previews beginning on March 24 , 2010 . It officially opened on April 20 , 2010 . The cast for the Berkeley Repertory production was retained for the Broadway production , with the exception of Caplan , who was replaced by Stark Sands . It was rumored that the show cost between \$ 8 million and \$ 10 million to produce . After six months of performances , the show was " still a ways off from possibly turning a profit " according to a The New York Times report . As a part of the promotion for the show , the cast performed at the Grammy Awards on January 31 , 2010 with Green Day .

Tom Kitt was the music supervisor and orchestrator for both the Berkeley and Broadway productions . The lead producers for the show were Ira Pittelman and Tom Hulse . Vivek Tiwary was another producer . The creative team for the show was largely the same as for the musical adaptation of Spring Awakening : director Michael Mayer , scenic designer Christine Jones and lighting designer Kevin Adams . Steven Hoggett was the choreographer , Andrea Lauer was the costume designer and Brian Ronan was the sound designer .

Green Day 's Billie Joe Armstrong played the role of St. Jimmy from September 28 to October 3 , 2010 . Ticket sales for the week Armstrong performed were up 77 % , average ticket prices increased 22 % , and gross sales increased 127 % from the previous week 's totals . The singer @-@ songwriter filled in for Tony Vincent who took time off for personal matters . Armstrong made another 50 appearances as St. Jimmy between January 1 and February 27 , 2011. Melissa Etheridge played the part of St. Jimmy on Broadway from February 1 ? 6 , 2011 , and Davey Havok took the role from March 1 ? 15 , 2011 .

Following Armstrong 's departure from the cast , the show experienced weak sales . The Broadway production closed on April 24 , 2011 after 27 previews and 421 performances . Armstrong returned

to the role of St. Jimmy for the final three weeks . The show 's cast recording won the 2011 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album .

= = = International Tour (2011 ? 2014) = = =

American Idiot toured North America beginning on December 28 , 2011 , in Toronto , Canada . The original national tour cast included Van Hughes reprising his role as Johnny , Jake Epstein as Will , Scott J. Campbell as Tunny , Leslie McDonel as Heather , Gabrielle McClinton as Whatsername , Nicci Claspell as The Extraordinary Girl , and Broadway alumnus Joshua Kobak as St. Jimmy . A non @-@ Equity second U.S. tour launched in the late summer of 2012 .

A UK and Ireland tour visited Manchester , Southampton , Cardiff , Edinburgh , Glasgow , Dublin , Birmingham and London later in 2012 . The cast included Alex Nee as Johnny , Casey O 'Farrell as Will , Thomas Hettrick as Tunny , Kennedy Caughell as Heather , Alyssa DiPalma as Whatsername , Jenna Rubaii as The Extraordinary Girl , and Trent Saunders as St. Jimmy . It started on October 9 , 2012 in Southampton and ended on December 16 , 2012 at HMV Hammersmith Apollo in London . A second US tour began performances in Norfolk , Virginia on January 25 , 2013 with the UK touring cast . It ended Las Vegas , Nevada on June 16 , 2013 .

On August 7 , 2013 , American Idiot made its debut in Tokyo , Japan , and a few weeks later on September 5 , it made its South Korean debut in Seoul . Sean Michael Murray took over the role of Johnny , Mariah MacFarlane took over as Heather , and Daniel C. Jackson took over as St. Jimmy .

The third US national tour cast included Jared Nepute as Johnny , Casey O 'Farrell as Will , Dan Tracy as Tunny , Mariah MacFarlane as Heather , Olivia Puckett as Whatsername , Taylor Jones as Extraordinary Girl , and Daniel C. Jackson as St. Jimmy . On January 16 , 2014 , Carson Higgins , who had previously been a part of the non @-@ equity / UK tour , took over the role of St. Jimmy , after Daniel C. Jackson left the show . The tour ended on May 25 , 2014 .

= = = Malmö (2015) = = =

American Idiot 's Scandinavian premiere at the Malmö Opera from February to April 2015 was a new production of the musical . It was the first official production not to be directed by Michael Mayer . The songs were performed in English but the dialogue was spoken in Swedish .

= = = West End (2015) = = =

A production opened in 2015 at the Arts Theatre in the West End in 2015 . The cast includes Amelia Lily as Whatsername , Aaron Sidwell as Johnny , Alexis Gerred as Tunny , Steve Rushton as Will and Lucas Rush as St. Jimmy The show was produced by Sell a Door Theatre Company Directed and Choreographed by Racky Plews

It was announced in April 2016 that the production will return to the Arts Theatre for the Summer 2016 after a UK tour concluding in Belfast early July 2016 . For the tour , Newton Faulkner joined the cast as Johnny .

= = = Rio de Janeiro (2017) = = =

A production will open in Rio de Janeiro on January 2017 .

= = Musical numbers = =

The show features all of the songs from the album American Idiot , some B @-@ tracks and a few of the songs from Green Day 's 21st Century Breakdown . The show also features an onstage band .

" American Idiot " ? Company

" Jesus of Suburbia "

" Jesus of Suburbia " ? Johnny and Will
 " City of the Damned " ? Tunny , Johnny , Will , & Company
 " I Don 't Care " ? Johnny , Will , Tunny , & Company
 " Dearly Beloved " ? Heather & Men
 " Tales of Another Broken Home " ? Johnny , Will , Tunny , Heather , & Company
 " Holiday " ? Johnny , Tunny , Theo , & Company
 " Boulevard of Broken Dreams " ? Johnny , Whatsername , Tunny , & Men
 " Favorite Son " ? Favorite Son & Women
 " Are We the Waiting " ? Tunny , Favorite Son , & Company
 " St. Jimmy " ? Johnny , Miguel , Declan , Theo , St. Jimmy , & Company
 " Give Me Novacaine " ? Will , Tunny , & Company
 " Last of the American Girls / She 's a Rebel " ? Johnny , Whatsername , Gerard , Chase , St. Jimmy , & Company
 " Last Night on Earth " ? St. Jimmy , Whatsername , Heather , & Company
 " Too Much Too Soon " ? Theo , Alysha , Will , & Heather
 " Before the Lobotomy " ? Tunny , Joshua , Ben , & Chase
 " Extraordinary Girl " ? Extraordinary Girl , Tunny , & Company
 " Before the Lobotomy (Reprise) " ? Tunny , Joshua , Ben , & Chase
 " When It 's Time " ? Johnny
 " Know Your Enemy " ? St. Jimmy , Will , Johnny , & Company
 " 21 Guns " ? Whatsername , Extraordinary Girl , Heather , Tunny , Johnny , Will , & Company
 " Letterbomb " ? Whatsername & Women
 " Wake Me Up When September Ends " ? Johnny , Will , Tunny , & Company
 " Homecoming "
 " The Death of St. Jimmy " ? St. Jimmy & Johnny
 " East 12th St. " ? Johnny , Theo , Gerard , & Company
 " Nobody Likes You " ? Will & Company
 " Rock and Roll Girlfriend " ? Miguel , Heather , Will , & Company
 " We 're Coming Home Again " ? Johnny , Tunny , Will , & Company
 " Whatsername " ? Johnny & Company
 " Good Riddance (Time of Your Life) " ? Company (Curtain call)

Green Day re @-@ released the single " 21 Guns " with the musical cast on Spinner.com on December 3 , 2009 . This version features Billie Joe Armstrong , together with Christina Sajous , Rebecca Naomi Jones , Mary Faber and Stark Sands , with backup from the rest of American Idiot cast . Another version was released with John Gallagher , Jr . , Michael Esper , and Sands singing the parts that Armstrong had previously sung . Green Day and the cast of the musical also performed the song at the 2010 Grammy Awards on January 31 , 2010 .

The original cast recording of the musical was released on April 20 , 2010 . The cast album includes all the songs featured in the musical plus a brand new recording of " When It 's Time " by Green Day . The album won Best Musical Show Album at the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards .

== Critical reception ==

Reviews for the Berkeley Repertory Theatre production were mixed . Charles McNulty of Los Angeles Times called the show " kinetically entertaining in a way that intentionally reflects the shallow , media @-@ saturated culture the album rails against " . Karen D 'Souza of San Jose Mercury News called the production " a thrashing collage of songs fused together with hypnotic movement and eye @-@ popping visuals " and thought the show " as compelling as it is abstract [and] channels the grungy spirit of punk while also plucking at the heartstrings . " However , Jim Harrington of the Oakland Tribune compared the show unfavorably to the original album , writing : " [what] once was a fine Gouda , has been prepackaged as Velveeta " , and continued sarcastically , " In other words , it should do big business on Broadway . " Charles Isherwood of The New York Times commented that the show contained " characters who lack much in the way of emotional

depth or specificity , and plotlines that are simple to the point of crudity " but also felt that " the show possesses a stimulating energy and a vision of wasted youth that holds us in its grip . "

Isherwood 's review for the Broadway production was enthusiastic . He called the show " a pulsating portrait of wasted youth that invokes all the standard genre conventions ... only to transcend them through the power of its music and the artistry of its execution , the show is as invigorating and ultimately as moving as anything I ? ve seen on Broadway this season . Or maybe for a few seasons past . " Jed Gottlieb of the Boston Herald enjoyed the premise of the show but found that " the music and message suffer in a setting where the audience is politely , soberly seated " . Michael Kuchwara of the Associated Press found the show to be " visually striking [and] musically adventurous " , but noted that " the show has the barest wisp of a story and minimal character development " . Paul Kolnik in USA Today enjoyed the contradiction that Green Day 's " massively popular , starkly disenchanted album ... would be the feel @-@ good musical of the season " . Time magazine 's Richard Zoglin opined that the score " is as pure a specimen of contemporary punk rock as Broadway has yet encountered [yet] there 's enough variety Where the show fall short is as a fully developed narrative . " He concluded that " American Idiot , despite its earnest huffing and puffing , remains little more than an annotated rock concert Still , [it] deserves at least two cheers ? for its irresistible musical energy and for opening fresh vistas for that odd couple , rock and Broadway . " Peter Travers from Rolling Stone wrote , " Though American Idiot carries echoes of such rock musicals as Tommy , Hair , Rent and Spring Awakening , it cuts its own path to the heart . You won ? t know what hit you . American Idiot knows no limits ? it 's a global knockout . "

Reviews of the West End production were generally positive . Rachel Ward of The Telegraph gave it four out of five stars , calling " 90 minutes of uninterrupted chaos " . Kate Stanbury from Official London Theatre summarized , " Chaotic , intense and pulsating with legendary Green Day hits , a trip to this Tony Award @-@ winning musical may just give you the time of your life . " Paul Taylor of The Independent also gave four out of five stars , praising director and choreographer Racky Plews for making " a sharp @-@ witted version that throbs with some of the energy of a rock gig (if minus the feeling of unpredictability) while being shrewdly calibrated to suit the intimacy of the 350 @-@ seater Arts Theatre . "

= = Awards and nominations = =

American Idiot won a total of 5 awards . At a meeting of the Tony Administration Committee on April 30 , 2010 , the score of American Idiot was deemed ineligible for a Tony Award for Best Original Score nomination because less than 50 % of it was written for the stage production .

= = Broadway production = = =

= = Broadway attendances , performances , and gross receipts = =

The following is a month @-@ by @-@ month breakdown of sales , attendance , and performance data for the production at the 1 @,@ 709 @-@ capacity St. James Theatre .

= = Film adaptation = =

In 2011 , Tom Hanks and his production company Playtone optioned the musical to create a film version , and Universal Pictures began initial negotiations to distribute . Michael Mayer , who directed the Broadway production , was named as director , with Green Day and Hanks as producers . Dustin Lance Black was initially hired to adapt the screenplay from the musical for the film . Billie Joe Armstrong was asked to star as St. Jimmy , and the film was proposed for a 2013 release . Armstrong later posted on his Twitter account that he hadn 't " totally committed " to the role but was interested in it .

In 2013 , at a screening of Broadway Idiot , Mayer confirmed that the film adaptation was still happening , but production was unknown due to " Hollywood bullshit " . In March 2014 , playwright Rolin Jones told the Hartford Courant that he was writing a new screenplay for the film . Comparing it to the musical , Jones said , " The idea is to get it a little dirtier and a little nastier and translate it into visual terms . There 's not going to be a lot of dialogue and it probably should be a little shorter , too . After that , it just takes its ' movie time ' in getting done " . He expected to finish it by the end of the month .

= = Broadway Idiot = =

On January 23 , 2013 , it was announced that a documentary showing Armstrong 's journey from punk rock to Broadway was to be released . Called Broadway Idiot and showing a lot of behind @-@ the @-@ scenes of the musical production , the movie was directed by Doug Hamilton , veteran television journalist for CBS News ' 60 Minutes and PBS documentaries such as Nova , Frontline and American Masters . A trailer was released on January 30 , 2013 . The documentary premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival on March 15 , 2013 . On October 11 , 2013 , it was released in some theaters and on video on demand by FilmBuff .

Film review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reports that 63 % of critics gave the film a positive review based on 19 reviews , with an average score of 5 @.@ 8 / 10 . On Metacritic , which assigns a normalised rating out of 100 based on reviews from critics , the film has a score of 51 (citing " mixed or average reviews ") based on 14 reviews .