

Sweeney Todd Preliminary Notes

- “Obsession left unchecked will destroy you”
- Man reduced to machinery by the industrial revolution
- Pg. 1 – *The definingly shrill sound of a factory whistle. Blackout:* followed by gears moving?
- Has a slow start, factory noises & walla
- Pg. 7 – Factory noises give way to sound of a dock
 - Bell, waves, rope & wood creaking, seagulls
- Pg. 10 – TODD: “There was a barber and his wife, and she was beautiful...”
 - Add verb, he’s dreaming?
- Pg. 11 – TODD: “vermin of the world inhabit it”
 - Factory whistle, transition into street noises; ‘theatrical’
- Pg. 15 – LOVETT: “There’s worse things than that [spit] down there”
- Pg. 18 – TODD: *a wild shout* “Would no one have mercy on her?”
 - Scream recorded? Effected some way, verb?
- Pg. 20 – TODD: “You there, my friend. Come let me hold you”
 - Refers to his razors; he’s crazy
- LOVETT: “I’m your friend too, Mr. Todd. If you only knew, Mr. Todd”
 - She’s more human than he is cause he is consumed with revenge
- Pg. 21 – TODD: “My right arm is complete again!”
 - Quiet, small verb
- COMPANY: “Lift your razor high, Sweeney!...”
 - BIG
- COMPANY: “The demon barber of fleet street...”

- Factory during red light transition?
- Gives way to dawn chorus of birds
- Pg. 22 – JOHANNA: “How can you jubilate, sitting in cages, never taking wing?”
 - Obviously talks about Johanna, but Sweeney too?
 - Her singing needs to be birdlike
- Pg. 25 – ANTHONY: “Take it and off with you. Off!”
 - Birds again
- Pg. 26 – BIRD SELLER: “We blind ‘em sir. That’s what we always does. Blind ‘em and, not knowing night from day, they sing and sing without stopping, pretty creatures”
 - Sweeney continues killing because he is blind with vengeance
- Pg. 28 – ANTHONY: “Sweetly buried in your yellow hair”
 - Factory fades away into marketplace
- Pg. 41 – PIRELLI: “It take-a da pace, it take-a da grace”
 - Big verb, iconic to him
- Pg. 46 – COMPANY: “Like a perfect machine ‘e planned”
 - The cogs are Sweeney as a machine
- COMPANY: “Letting it lead to higher places... Sweeney...”
 - Factory whistle; no sounds for scene cause Judge is cold
- Pg. 50 – JOHANNA: “You?!!!”
 - Scream + verb
 - Ear ring sound?
- Pg. 57 – PIRELLI: “You like-a my plan?”
 - Pirelli verb
- Pg. 59 – LOVETT: “Gin, dear? Why not?”
 - Whistle

- THREE TENORS: “Feel how well [the razor] fits as it floats across the throats of hypocrites”
 - His killing feels justified
- JUDGE: “Court adjourned”
 - Record scream of boy who had been sentenced to die?
- Pg. 71 – LOVETT: “What a relief, dear! For a moment I thought you’d lost your marbles”
 - Well, he has...
- Pg. 78 – TODD: “Out! Out, I say!”
 - Slight machine noises under music? -> Give to drummer and play w/ time
- Pg. 79 – TODD: “Why did I wait? You [Lovett] told me to wait! Now he’ll never come again!”
 - Lovett balances out Sweeney
- Pg. 83 – TODD: “Those crunching noises pervading the air?”
 - Incorporate this somehow?
- Pg. 93 – Act II Start
 - Whistle, factory noises, fades to market atmosphere
 - Cast talking, birds in cages
- TOBIAS: “That aroma enriching the breeze is like nothing compared to its succulent source”
 - Todd tries to control perception since some complained about burning smell
- Pg. 107 – CUSTOMERS: “God, that’s good!!!”
 - Same red out noise -> gives way to chimes + dawn chorus
- Pg. 112 – ANTHONY: “I’ll steal you...”
 - Asylum sounds, bird like singing contrasted to moans from cast -> effect on them?

- Pg. 115 – LOVETT: “Always harping on the bloody old judge...We got a nice respectable business now... who’s going to catch on?”
 - Todd is consumed
- Pg. 123 – QUINTET: “Most honorable Judge Turpin...”
 - Dry for song
- Pg. 135 – TOBIAS: “Let me out! Let me out!”
 - Whistle
- COMPANY: “The engine roared, the motor hissed, and who could see how the road would twist?”
 - He’s not in control anymore; machine imagery
- Pg. 135 – Scene change into Asylum -> Asylum sounds again
- Pg. 137 – ANTHONY: “I cannot shoot” (JOHANNA then steals gun)
 - Gunshot
- Pg. 143 – ANTHONY: “And I’ll be back before those lips have time to lose that smile”
 - Whistle + empty factory
- Pg. 147 – JUDGE: “Benjamin Barker!”
 - Just whistle
- Pg. 148 – TODD: “Sit, sir. Sit”
 - Just whistle
- Pg. 152 – TODD throws LOVETT into furnace
 - Effects to augment the screams? Furnace sound?
- Pg. 153 – TOBIAS: “and put him in the oven for baby and me!”
 - Whistle
- TOBIAS: “Three times through the grinder. Smoothly, smoothly”
 - Whistle
- Pg. 156 – Last line of show
 - Furnace roar w/ music bump