

Versions of "America"

1957 STAGE VERSION

ROSALIA

Puerto Rico,
You lovely island . . .
Island of tropical breezes.
Always the pineapples growing,
Always the coffee blossoms blowing . . .

ANITA

Puerto Rico . . .
You ugly island . . .
Island of tropic diseases.
Always the hurricanes blowing,
Always the population growing . . .
And the money owing,
And the babies crying,
And the bullets flying.
I like the island Manhattan.
Smoke on your pipe and put that in!

OTHERS

I like to be in America!
O.K. by me in America!
Ev'rything free in America
For a small fee in America!

ROSALIA

I like the city of San Juan.

ANITA

I know a boat you can get on.

ROSALIA

Hundreds of flowers in full bloom.

ANITA

Hundreds of people in each room!

ALL

Automobile in America,
Chromium steel in America,
Wire-spoke wheel in America,
Very big deal in America!

ROSALIA

I'll drive a Buick through San Juan.

ANITA

If there's a road you can drive on.

ROSALIA

I'll give my cousins a free ride.

ANITA

How you get all of them inside?

ALL

Immigrant goes to America,
Many hellos in America;
Nobody knows in America
Puerto Rico's in America!

ROSALIA

I'll bring a T.V. to San Juan.

ANITA

If there a current to turn on!

ROSALIA

I'll give them new washing machine.

ANITA

What have they got there to keep clean?

ALL

I like the shores of America!
Comfort is yours in America!
Knobs on the doors in America,
Wall-to-wall floors in America!

ROSALIA

When I will go back to San Juan.

ANITA

When you will shut up and get gone?

ROSALIA

Everyone there will give big cheer!

ANITA

Everyone there will have moved here!

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1961 MOVIE

[Rewritten by Stephen Sondheim at Rita Moreno's insistence. It is mostly sung by Anita and other women; the ripostes (indented) are increasingly sung by the men]

Puerto Rico,

My heart's devotion—

Let it sink back in the ocean.

Always the hurricanes blowing,

Always the population growing,

And the money owing,

And the sunlight streaming,

And the natives steaming.

I like the island Manhattan—

Smoke on your pipe and put that in!

I like to be in America,

O.K. by me in America,

Everything free in America—

For a small fee in America.

Buying on credit is so nice.

One look at us and they charge twice.

I'll have my own washing machine.

What will you have, though, to keep clean?

Skyscrapers bloom in America.

Cadillacs zoom in America.

Industry boom in America.

Twelve in a room in America.

Lots of new housing with more space.
 Lots of doors slamming in our face.
I'll get a terrace apartment.
 Better get rid of your accent.

Life can be bright in America.
 If you can fight in America.
Life is all right in America.
 If you're all-white in America.

Here you are free and you have pride.
 Long as you stay on your own side.
Free to be anything you choose.
 Free to wait tables and shine shoes.

[from here on, the main lines are Bernardo's and the ripostes Anita's]

Everywhere grime in America
Organized crime in America
Terrible time in America
 You forget I'm in America

I think I go back to San Juan
 I know a boat you can get on!
Everyone there will give big cheer!
 Everyone there will have moved here

=====

2021 MOVIE

[The only significant difference from the 1961 film is Anita's introduction, below]

Puerto Rico,
You lovely island
Island of tropical breezes
Always the pineapples growing
Always the coffee blossoms blowing

 And the money owing
 And the babies crying
 And the people trying

[rest as in the 1961 film]