

# **LYSISTRATA'S WAR**

An original Rock Opera by

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Adapted from Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*

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## **CHARACTERS** *(in order of appearance)*

Child's Voice

Myrrhine, an Athenian woman

Cinesias, Athenian soldier, her husband

Lampito, a Spartan woman

Theron, Spartan soldier, her husband

Lysistrata, an Athenian woman

Calonice, a friend of Lysistrata

Magistrate, an Athenian official

Finance Minister, an Athenian official

War Minister, an Athenian official

Chloe, an Athenian woman

Zoe, her lover

Alyssa, an Athenian woman

Charissa, an Athenian woman

Melita, an Athenian woman

Nerita, an Athenian woman

Philo, Athenian soldier, Calonice's husband

Governor of Athens

Daphne, an Athenian woman

Galatea, an Athenian woman

Belen, an Athenian man

Tessa, a Spartan woman

Raissa, a Spartan woman

Hypatia, a Spartan woman

Leander, a Spartan man

Stratyllis, an Athenian man

Assistant War Minister, an Athenian official

Terrorist

Chorus of Athenians and Spartans

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## OVERTURE

*Begins with ominous music as a young child's voice is heard saying:*

War is stupid.  
All that happens in a war is that people die.  
Nothing is decided that couldn't be decided another way.  
People think they are doing a good thing when they fight a war,  
But all they are doing is making people suffer...

*A time capsule montage of war from present day to the ancient period takes place as the chorus is heard chanting, "Chre stratiotein sumballein machein," Ancient Greek for: "It is a soldier's duty to wage battle." (Translation by Peggy Meyer.)*

## SCENE 1

*Opens with two couples, Myrrhine and Cinesias, and Lampito and Theron, on each side of the stage. The men are in uniform and are about to leave for the war.*

### **Myrrhine**

Another day, another dawn,  
Why can't you stay, so soon you're gone.  
Another day, I need you here,  
I hope and pray, and hide my fear.

### **Cinesias**

Another day, another test,  
Until we win, I get no rest.  
Another day, you have to wait,  
I shouldn't stay, I'm running late.

### **Both**

Another day, just another day.

### **Lampito**

Another day, another dawn,  
Another war and you are gone.  
Another day, you might be killed,  
To prove a point, your blood is spilled.

### **Theron**

Another day, but do not fear,  
I know we'll win, our duty's clear.  
Another day, Now I must go,  
Each day I'm gone, I miss you so.

**Both**

Another day, just another day.

*As the men begin to leave:*

**Myrrhine**

How can this war go on and on?  
It's one thing to hear of a war across  
the sea  
But another thing completely when  
it's my family  
When the death and destruction  
aims directly at me

**Lampito**

Why do we keep on wasting their lives in a  
war across the sea?  
It's another thing completely when  
it's my family  
When the death and destruction  
aims directly at me

**All**

Another day, I hope I (you) live,  
Another day, I have to give.  
Another day, it is our fate,  
The war goes on, the war we hate.

Another day, just another day,  
Just another day, just another day.

*The men move to each side of the stage--the women fade off. The music segues into a drum cadence and horns calling the men off to war. The men begin singing each part of the next song individually at first, and then are joined by their comrades as they march and drill to the Battle Song.*

**Cinesias**

It's the duty of every soldier,  
going off to war,  
To fight,  
to defend his country's way of life,  
No matter what's in store.

**Theron**

It's the duty of every soldier,  
Standing in the ranks,  
To fight,  
To battle on through day and night,  
Without need of any thanks.

**Theron and men (yelled)**

It's the duty,

**Cinesias and men (yelled)**

It's the duty,

**Theron and men**

Of every soldier,

**Cinesias and men**

Of every soldier,

**Theron and men**

To fight,

**Cinesias and men**

To fight,

**Theron and men**

For what is right,

**Cinesias and men**

No end in sight,

**Theron and men**

To protect,

**Cinesias and men**

To protect,

**Theron and men**

Our way of life,

**Cinesias and men**

Our holy right,

**Theron and men**

To guard,

**Cinesias and men**

To guard,

**Theron and men**

Our home from strife.

**Cinesias and men**

Within the light.

**Theron and men**

For God is on our side.

For God is on our side.

For God is on our side, our side.

### **Cinesias and men**

For God is on our side.  
For God is on our side.  
For God is on our side.

*(The soldier's singing crescendos into a full male chorus in counterpoint.)*

### **Theron and men**

It's the duty of every soldier,  
Going off to war,  
To fight.  
Knowing that we're right,  
We never give a pause,  
'Cause we fight a noble cause.  
For as we go off to war,  
We're told what we're fighting for.  
And as the weapons fly,  
We never question why.  
Because it is the duty  
of every soldier to fight.

### **Cinesias and men**

It's the duty of every soldier  
to fight.  
Knowing that we're right,  
We never give a pause,  
Beause we fight a noble cause.  
For as we go off to war,  
We're told what we're fighting for.  
And as the weapons fly,  
We never question why.  
It's the duty  
of every soldier to fight.

*Song finishes with both sides facing each other in battle lines. There is a pause and then a yell and movement that starts a very large choreographed battle scene with the War Theme from the Overture in the background. As the battle progresses the human pain and suffering begins to create chaos within the ranks of soldiers. The music is punctuated with the cries of death, etc. Into this comes Lysistrata, wandering through the mass of the fighting, the dead and dying. She is dressed in bedclothes and somehow looks like an angel amidst the carnage. No one takes any notice of her.*

### **Lysistrata**

My God! How can this happen?  
How can we create such pain and strife?  
How can we kill and say what we are doing  
is to protect our way of life?  
What are we doing to each other?  
What are we doing to ourselves?  
What are we doing to the world?  
Whatever we're doing,  
Whatever we're doing, it must stop.

*At this point the men freeze, the music shifts, and then slowly they begin to move off leaving Lysistrata alone.*

How can we do this?  
What can it all be for?  
Talk to anyone who's been there,  
And no one wants a war.

Look at all the haunted faces.  
Look them in the eye,  
And you'll see that all a war does,  
Is make sure that good people die.

This war is to give us what we need,  
When the truth is it's all for power and greed.  
Our leaders have convinced themselves and us,  
That they are the enemy no one can trust.  
And their leaders have done quite the same,  
They're in the right and we're the ones to blame.  
What a shame!

I can't sit by,  
And watch people die.  
I can't watch as we're told,  
Some politician's lie.  
This war must end, and now,  
I'll take it to the top.  
Before more people die  
I have to make it stop!

*On the last word she wakes up, we see she is in her own bedroom.*

This war must end, and now,  
I'll take it to the top.  
Before more people die,  
I have to make it stop!

*Lysistrata begins to get dressed as the scene ends.*

## **SCENE 2**

### **Calonice**

Good morning, Sunshine,  
Time to go, no time to sit,  
This is it.  
Come on, let's get you out in the sun,  
Down to the beach,  
Somewhere we can have fun.

### **Lysistrata**

Calonice, stop!  
Last night I had a dream.  
Images cascading, falling and fading,  
But so real I could feel the blood,  
So real, I could feel the pain.

People dieing, killing and crying,  
The highest price to be paid,  
For a section of soil, or a barrel of oil,  
We have lost our way.  
We have lost our way.

**Calonice** (*spoken*)  
What do you mean?

**Lysistrata**  
What is the one thing that's draining our lives?  
It takes all our taxes, our husbands and wives.  
What is the one thing we're told is a need?  
Though it's all about power and greed.  
With our leaders declaring with a patriotic thrill,  
We must seek out the enemy, find him and kill,  
And who are we doing it for?

**Calonice**  
Oh, I get it. You mean the war

**Lysistrata** (*spoken*)  
Exactly.

*Lysistrata and Calonice move into the street. As they do several Spartan women led by Lampito show up looking edgy and out of place.*

**Lysistrata**  
Lampito and women of Sparta, I welcome you.  
Thank you for coming on such short notice.

**Lampito**  
We came, but what is this about?

**Lysistrata**  
I'm sure you are tired of this war going on and on and on.

**Lampito**  
Everyone is tired of this war, except the men who started it.

**Lysistrata**  
Well, I might have a way to stop it.

**Lampito**  
Oh really, how?

**Lysistrata**  
Women of Athens, and Sparta!

Women of Athens and Sparta!  
Time is running out,  
This war will never end.  
We must gather together every foe and friend.

Women of Athens and Sparta!  
Women of Athens and Sparta!  
We must raise a shout,  
We must stop the war,  
And everything it's for.  
We must raise a shout,  
We must stop the war,  
And everything it's for.

*Women are gathering, listening.*

**Lysistrata and Calonice**

Women of Athens and Sparta!  
We must stop the war!  
We Must Stop the war!

**Various responses** *(spoken)*

How?  
We can't stop the war!  
We don't have the power!  
Yeah, what can women do?

**Lysistrata**

What can women do?  
We do not have political power,  
We're not in the business elite.  
For some we are there to deflower,  
But in that, there lies the deceit.

For what do men need from us,  
Plead from us, bleed from us,  
Without it they're nothing but wrecks?  
The one thing we have over men,  
Is without us they cannot have sex.

If we deny them their pleasure,

**Calonice**

No hunting for treasure.

**Lysistrata**

Stop doing our duty,

**Calonice**

So they get no booty.

**Lysistrata**

From every wife, girlfriend,

**Calonice**

Or whore.

**Lysistrata**

Soon they'll be down on their knees,  
And we'll put a stop to this war.

*Women all react strongly thinking it won't work.*

**Lysistrata**

I know this can work, please listen to me!  
The war must be stopped, oh, why can't you see!  
This is the place, we really have some power,  
The time is right now, this is the hour.  
They don't get one kiss until hostilities cease.  
If we deny them this, they will have to make peace

*General mayhem as Lysistrata tries to convince the women. Calonice yells or whistles to get their attention. The music shifts to a jazzier mood.*

**Calonice (spoken)**

Let me try!

*(sings)*

Hey girls, what do you think?  
Do we have the power to stop  
The men and their war?  
If we take away their fun,  
The women can come out on top.

We know what they want,  
We know what they like,  
For sex everything they'll drop.  
When it comes to sex,  
The women are really on top.

So if they want to make war,  
They can draw their big swords.  
But when they finally come home,  
If they want some hot sex,  
They can climb into bed,  
But they're going to have it alone.

### **Women**

But what about us, how will we cope?  
Our needs are important too.  
There are some things we can do for ourselves,  
But that takes too much effort to do!<sup>1</sup>

*There is a 16-bar dance break where the women show what the men will be missing.*

Do you think it's easy for us to stop?  
Because as you have said,  
Women love it on top.

### **Calonice**

Of course, we will suffer,  
We should not take this light,  
But an ace in the hole is our card.  
For us, guaranteed, it will not be easy,  
But for them it will REALLY be hard.

When they can't get it here,  
And they can't get it there.  
The pressure builds, it doesn't fade.  
Soon they'll get upset, when nothing's all they get,  
'Cause we don't ever let them get laid.<sup>2</sup>

### **All Women**

Everything they try,  
Everything they do,  
Everything will just flop!  
We hold the key to passion's release,  
And we love it on top.  
We hold the key to passion's release,  
And we love it on top.

*A runner comes in and speaks quickly to Lysistrata.*

### **Lysistrata**

Ladies, now that we've taken some action,  
I'll relate to you some other things.  
We will surely hit them below the belt,  
But we must also grab the purse strings.  
It is hard to make war without money,  
Money that can be better spent

---

<sup>1</sup> Alternate Lyrics include: "But that doesn't include a good screw," and "That we'd rather not have to do."

<sup>2</sup> Original lyrics: "The pressure builds, everyone knows. They'll start to tire, when they can't put out the fire, 'cause we don't let them use their hose."

On the health and welfare of our citizens.  
Money used for what it was meant.

Since most of the men are off fighting the war,  
We took advantage of their lack.  
Some women were charged to take over the treasury,  
And now they have just come back.  
They've been successful, I'm told,  
And now things should happen much quicker.  
We've taken their money and their sex,  
Which now leaves them only their liquor.  
And we know how well they operate when drunk,  
So we'll make sure their war is sunk.  
And now, I need your solemn vow.

**Lysistrata**

I promise to withhold,  
my virtue and my sex,  
From all men young and old,  
Even knowing what comes next.  
They will be driven crazy,  
And do anything to score.  
But I'll be vigilant, not lazy,  
Until they end this war.

**Women**

I promise to withhold,  
my virtue and my sex,  
From all men young and old,  
Even knowing what comes next.  
They will be driven crazy,  
And do anything to score.  
But I'll be vigilant, not lazy,  
Until they end this war.

**SCENE 3**

*The Magistrate and the War Minister are in his office, the Finance Minister has hurriedly entered and consulted with him.*

**Magistrate**

What do you mean you can't get in?  
Mere women have blocked your way?  
Make a use of force,  
Make them rue the day.

Women are no match,  
For bold determined men.  
They are the weaker sex.  
Force them to let you in.

**Finance Minister**

But Magistrate, we tried.  
They blocked our every turn.  
The treasury is locked.  
It's a serious concern.

**Magistrate**

Very well, I'll look into it. (*Dismisses Finance Minister.*)

This problem can't be that large.

I can take care of this business.

God, it's good to be in charge.

Women taking over, how absurd.

I can sweep them all aside with just one word.

Don't they understand, the silly girls,

It's the men who rule the world.

**War Minister**

Sir, I think you are so right, if I may say.

These women think that politics is play.

When it comes to really knowing, they're so tame.

They think the government is a game, they're to blame!

They should all be home, not running wild,

To take care of hearth and home and child.

**Magistrate**

So who's the leader of this mob?

**War Minister**

They call her Lysistrata...

**Magistrate**

Then let's go do our job.

*The Magistrate and the War Minister exit and confront Lysistrata and the women.*

**SCENE 4**

**Magistrate**

Now then, what's all this?

**Lysistrata**

It is just as you see it.

**Magistrate**

You've had your joke, so why not go,  
and perhaps I won't arrest you.

Up to now you have not disrupted the flow,

And since I find you rather cute,

I'm in a mood to let you go.

**Lysistrata**

Oh, you haven't seen anything yet, just you wait.  
Your flow of money to the war, will be a little bit late.  
And from where I sit, you're in no position to make demands.

**Magistrate**

Now see here...

**Lysistrata**

No, you see here, little man.  
The treasury is ours.  
And we will not depart,  
This is not the end,  
It's just the start.

**Magistrate**

I've had enough of this! Guards!  
We'll soon see who is in control,  
And we'll see how pretty you look  
Locked up in the hole.

*The guards come up.*

Break down the door!  
Never mind the cost!  
Our honor is at stake!  
We'll show her who's the boss!

*The guards move to the door.*

*Suddenly several women appear with bows all pointed at the Magistrate.*

Uh... Wait a minute.

*The guards are looking somewhat nervously at the women.*

Please be reasonable, little honey.  
Why are you doing this?  
Is your husband not giving you enough money?

**Lysistrata**

How can such idiots run the state?  
The main issue here is the war, Magistrate.  
Your war which is cheating us and bleeding us drop by drop,  
Of money, humanity, and this war must stop.

War needs lots of money, and now I hold the purse,  
For the big war machine. It can't get much worse.  
But it takes more than that. Yes! It takes much more.  
I have to take the heart out of your war.

**Magistrate**

What do you mean?

**Lysistrata**

Just this,

Until the soldiers stop fighting, this is a fact.  
Women of Athens and Sparta have created a pact  
To refuse all sex to any soldier, from bottom to top,  
Until all agree that this madness will stop.

So you will get nothing from wife, lover or whore,  
Until everyone puts a stop to this senseless war.

**Magistrate** *(spoken)*

Did you say refuse sex?

**Lysistrata** *(spoken)*

I did.

**Magistrate**

You've got to be kidding if you think that will stop the war.  
You're delusional!

**Lysistrata**

I guess we'll see,  
Oh, by the way, your wife's with me,  
And if that brings you no distress,  
We also have the word of your mistress.

**Magistrate**

Yes, well,  
The war is more complex  
Than simply stopping it still,

**Lysistrata**

It's not so complex,  
Just choose not to kill.

**Magistrate**

Your patriotism seems rather weak,  
And against all our soldiers of whom you speak.  
It's easy to criticize  
All those who are giving their lives.

**Lysistrata**

On the contrary, I want them all to live.

**Magistrate**

But that is a power that's not yours to give.

**Lysistrata**

Exactly my point, here's what you will do.

**Magistrate**

I will not stand idly by while you...

**Lysistrata**

No, you won't stand around.  
You'll take our demands,  
And our actions to stop the war  
To your superiors.  
Maybe they will show some sense.

**Magistrate**

I'll see you and all who are with you thrown in the pit!

*He exits.*

**Lysistrata**

If that would stop this war, I would gladly do it.

*Short music transition into Scene 5. Time has passed.*

**SCENE 5**

*All the women are lying about, looking bored, stressed, nervous, etc.*

**Various Women (spoken)**

How much longer?  
Is it over yet?  
I don't think I can wait anymore.  
Even my toys are broken.

**Lysistrata**

If it's this bad for us, think how it must be for them.

**Calonice**

Can I go see in person?

**Lysistrata**

No!

*A female couple enters hand in hand.*

**Chloe**

Hi girls!

**Zoe**

How are you? Isn't a beautiful day?

**Calonice**

That's no fair! They don't have to stop.

**Chloe**

We have no one in the war.

And it's not our fault if you're stupid enough to need a man in your life.

**Zoe**

There are prob'ly some soldiers who are also like us.

**Chloe**

Don't ask, don't tell.

**Lysistrata**

Ladies, we must all band together.

The only way we'll win is if we act as one.

**Chloe and Zoe**

Oh, all right. *(They look knowingly at each other.)*

**Lysistrata**

All right.

We've kept them on the outside,

Now let's turn up the heat.

The real test is about to begin,

When your men come home on leave.

Entice them, tease them, but don't give in.

Let them know the war must stop,

Before you'll give in with all of your heart.

**Alyssa**

So when my husband comes home,

I'll fix his favorite meal.

Dress in thin lingerie,

And when he cops a feel,

I'll back away and say, No,

You'll just have to go, because,

Until you stop the war,

You get nothing from me.

As long as you fight,

This is all that you'll see.

The killing must stop,  
That's what this is for.  
You won't have any fun,  
Until you stop the war,  
Until you stop the war,  
Until you stop the war.

*A Chorus of agreement.*

**Charissa**

My boyfriend just loves it  
When I move and dance,  
'Cause that means soon  
He'll have his hands in my pants.  
But he's in for a surprise  
when I stop his advance saying,

Until you stop the war,  
You get nothing from me.  
As long as you fight,  
This is all that you'll see.  
The killing must stop,  
That's what this is for.  
You won't have any fun,  
Until you stop the war.  
Until you stop the war,  
Until you stop the war.

**Melita**

I've been married for 25 years.  
He falls asleep after just a few beers.  
But when tries with his girlfriend,  
He'll have nothing but tears as we say,

Until you stop the war,  
You get nothing from me.  
As long as you fight,  
This is all that you'll see.  
The killing must stop,  
That's what this is for.  
You won't have any fun,  
Until you stop the war.  
Until you stop the war,  
Until you stop the war.

**Nerita**

My guy is a sweetheart.  
He is everything nice.

Though he wants all my fire,  
He'll get nothing but ice.  
He'll want everything,  
But a shower must suffice and I'll say,

Until you stop the war,  
You get nothing from me.  
As long as you fight,  
This is all that you'll see.  
The killing must stop,  
That's what this is for.  
You won't have any fun,  
Until you stop the war,  
Until you stop the war.

### **All women**

Until you stop the war,  
We will all be depressed.  
You can beg, you can plead,  
But you have to stay dressed.  
By fighting a war,  
You created a mess.  
You gotta stop the war!  
You gotta stop the war!  
You gotta stop the war!  
You gotta stop the war!

### **SCENE 6**

*Cinesias, Belen, Philo in camp, evening.*

Philo:  
I never thought it was real.  
I fight, I do my job well,  
But it's not a glorious job.  
People I know well have died.  
They have died in front of me.  
They have died in my arms.  
We work together to stay alive,  
But the glory has turned to dust  
Covered in blood.

Our leaders are out of touch.  
They fight the war from afar.  
Don't know what the losses are,  
But we don't question at all.  
We will continue to fight.

We will continue to die.  
We are only winning  
Because we are still alive;  
That's how it is.

Belen:

I signed on at seventeen,  
To have a soldier's life.  
To fight is what I want.  
Don't have a home or wife.  
If this war should end,  
They'll have no need for me,  
And I'll fade into the distance

I can't say that war is good  
But it's my job—I do it well.  
I protect our people,  
Not part time, but all the time.  
I know they need me,  
But they'll discard me  
Until the next war.

Cinesias:

I miss my home.  
I miss my wife.  
I miss my life.  
When will it end?

I long to be  
Safe and sound,  
Sleep off the ground.  
When will it end?

I fight each day.  
Each day I try.  
Hope I don't die.  
It has to end.

With any luck  
This war will cease.  
I'm in one piece,  
And I'll go home.

All:

One thing is for sure.  
To know about the war  
Don't listen to the men  
Who you listened to before.

Don't listen to your leaders  
Who say it's going well.  
They can go to hell!  
They just need to be elected,  
Don't care how we're all affected.

If you wanna know the truth,  
Wanna know about my life.  
Then read the letters from son to mother  
From husband to wife  
Hear the story first hand  
From those of us who are here.  
We gotta fight this war.  
When will they stop the war.  
We wanna stop the war.  
They gotta stop the war.

### SCENE 7

*Scene begins with Myrrhine and Calonice at different places on the stage getting ready for their men.*

#### **Myrrhine**

I miss you,  
I miss you every morning.  
I miss you,  
Though I know it's not forever.  
I want you,  
I want you every minute,  
Though I know I must be true to what we need

#### **Calonice**

I miss you,  
I miss your tender touch.  
I miss you,  
Though I know it's not forever.  
I want you,  
I just want to hold you,  
Though I know I can't give in to what you want.

#### **Myrrhine**

I love you,  
As the flower loves the sunshine.  
I need you,  
And I hope we last forever.  
To have you is to have the perfect  
feeling,

Feeling that we are complete when  
we're together.  
I miss you.

#### **Calonice**

I love you,  
As the flower loves the sunshine.

I need you,  
And I hope we last forever.  
To have you is to have the perfect  
feeling,

**Myrrhine**

But now I have to put that all aside,  
And the feelings I have must stay  
locked inside.  
It's our land and our people we're  
doing this for,  
To put aside our love 'til we stop the  
war.

When we're together.  
I miss you.

**Calonice**

I have to put that all aside.  
The feelings I have are locked inside.  
We're doing it for our people.  
We have to stop the war.

*The men enter.*

**Cinesias**

I love you,  
This war can't last forever.  
I miss you  
With each new day that's dawning.  
I want you,  
I want you for forever.  
But forever seems like never when I'm so far away,

**Philo**

I want you  
As a dying man wants water.  
I need you  
Each and every morning.  
I touch you  
With every thought and feeling.  
And I know it won't be long 'til we're together.

**Cinesias**

I miss you.

**Philo**

I miss you.

**Myrrhine & Cinesias**

It's been too long  
since I've been able  
to hold you.  
I thought of this  
moment and how it  
would seem,

When I look in your  
eyes and let my love  
enfold you,  
And now that we're  
here it's not just a  
dream.

**Calonice**

It's been too long.  
I want to hold you.  
I look in your eyes.  
It's not a dream.

**Philo**  
All I want is to hold  
you.

I want to see in your  
eyes.  
Let my love enfold  
you.

We're here, it's not  
just a dream.

*The music continues as the lovers embrace. The men obviously have something specific in mind. We see the women break it off and tell the men about their vow.*

**Cinesias** (spoken)  
We can't what?

**Philo** (spoken)  
You're kidding, right?

**Cinesias**  
I've thought of nothing but you since I've been gone,  
Nothing but you so that I could go on and on.  
The thought of you filled all my dreams,  
The thought of you, the thought of you.

**Philo**  
You are the one I've been dying for.  
You are the one, why I came through that door.  
Thy thought of you, was all that I had,  
The thought of you, the thought of you.

**Myrrhine**  
Why don't you see what we are trying to do?

**Calonice**  
If we stop the war, all of this will be through.

**Myrrhine**  
The killing must stop, we'll say with each breath.

**Calonice**  
This war simply bleeds us all to a slow death.

**Philo & Cinesias**  
So why blame us?  
We spend the time up on the borders.  
And we don't make decisions, we just follow orders.  
Go after the leaders, don't have sex with them.  
The leaders should suffer, not enlisted men.

**Calonice & Myrrhine**  
It must be everyone from bottom to top.

It's the only way we will make it all stop.

**Cinesias**

But you are my wife, does that mean nothing at all?

**Philo**

But you are my wife, does that mean nothing at all?

**Myrrhine**

But I should have your respect, I'm not just some doll.

**Calonice**

But I should have your respect, I'm not just some doll.

**Philo & Cinesias**

Just this once, I promise I won't tell.

**Calonice & Myrrhine** *(weakening)*

Just this once...

**Philo & Cinesias**

I love you so much.

**Calonice & Myrrhine**

*(Spoken with sudden resolve.)*

NO!

**Cinesias**

Remember that time when we were out on the lake?

**Myrrhine**

When you skipped out of work, just for my sake?

**Cinesias**

And the only thing soft was that old flower sack,

**Myrrhine**

And the terrible sunburn you got on your back.

**Cinesias**

I love you now just as I did in that hour.

**Myrrhine**

Why don't you go and take a cold shower?

*Cinesias moves to center.*

**Philo**

Have I told you just how beautiful you are?

**Calonice**

Don't expect that to get you very far.

**Philo**

Why don't you relax and I'll rub you down.

**Calonice**

That would be great, just not under my gown.

**Philo**

This isn't fair, I'll bet others give in.

**Calonice**

No one, otherwise we couldn't win.

*Philo moves to center with Kinesias.*

**Philo**

You too?

**Cinesias**

What's going on? Why do this to us?

**Philo**

They're not fighting the war, so why make a fuss?

**Cinesias**

We are only soldiers, not the powers above.

**Philo**

So how come we're the ones without any love?

**Philo & Cinesias**

Our love is so hot, it would turn flowers to ash.  
If we could stop this war, we'd do it in a flash.

**Myrrhine**

I love you,  
As the flower loves the sunshine.  
I need you,  
And I hope we last forever.  
To have you is to have the perfect  
feeling,  
Feeling that we are complete when  
we're together.

I love you.

**Calonice**

I love you,  
As the flower loves the sunshine.  
I need you,  
And I hope we last forever.  
To have you is to have the perfect  
feeling,

When we're together.

I love you.

*Philo and Cinesias move back to the women.*

**Cinesias**

I love you,  
And I do respect you.  
I need you,  
And I hope we last forever.  
To love you is to treat you as an equal.  
And if this means so much I'll wait until it's over.  
I love you.

**Philo**

I love you,  
But I am your husband.  
I need you,  
And it's part of your duty.  
To love me, and give me what I've wanted.  
This will all blow over and you'll thank me for it later.  
Now love me, love me.  
Love me!

*Philo forces himself on Calonice. We hear her screams as we go to blackout.*

**SCENE 8**

*Interpretive dance dream sequence with all the men and women. The dance starts with men on one side perhaps doing similar movements from the war sequence and women doing similar movements from "Women on Top." They then blend into couples and encompass the conflict. The dance becomes harmonious between them as the governor enters with his entourage. The men break away from the women (though still staged as couples) and begin to go back to war moves. As this happens, the governors and magistrate stand above the crowd overlooking the war and then randomly the men begin to be killed. As this happens, the women also die beside their men. Eventually the governors and magistrate are looking over a field of dead. Fade to black.*

**SCENE 9**

*The Athenian government offices. Various governors, politicians.*

**Governor**

Gentlemen. The war is important, for freedom and should  
Go on for a while because my job is good.

**War Minister**

Our contacts say the market is high.  
The buzz is all good for our piece of the pie.

**Finance Minister**

But as you've noticed, we've developed a thorn.  
These women will wish they had never been born.  
To take away our rights as husbands and men,  
To tie up the treasury all this, and then  
Demand that we stop the war?

**Magistrate**

Can't we just ignore them, what can they do?  
Do they think we'll stop the war just because we can't screw?  
As for the treasury, that really won't last.  
We can tap other funds and get to them fast.

**Finance Minister**

But we have to do something, and do it right now.  
The effect this has had is to lower morale.  
The men don't want to fight, they just sit and complain,  
Though our cause is still just and their duty is plain.

**War Minister**

Well, how 'bout at home, how are the polls?

**Finance Minister**

Down 20 points--the war's full of holes.

**Magistrate**

We have to stop them!  
These women can't win!

**War Minister**

But how do we stop them?  
What is the spin?

**Governor**

I have just the thing, a patriotic tale.  
They don't love their country, with that we can't fail.  
It's for times like this that we foresaw  
The need for the new patriot law.

**Magistrate**

We can have them arrested if we see them as a threat.

We don't need any evidence, just grab them, no sweat!

**War Minister**

They're an enemy to freedom, that is the spin.  
If all the people think that, then we will win.

**All Officials**

The war must go on, it's this war that we need.  
Re-election's at hand, and we must succeed.  
Everyone in our government supports it, and should.  
This war is good business and business is good.  
Yes, the war is good business and business is good.

**SCENE 10**

*Lysistrata alone.*

Why?  
Why must this go on?  
Am I fooling myself?

What am I doing, to think this will work?  
What do I think we can really do?  
Why should they stop this, just because of us?  
Why would they stop this, for anything at all?

I've already come to far to now start having doubt.  
I must see it through, make sure that nobody pulls out.  
It's not just for me that this is for,  
I just want to stop this needless war.

You sometimes can't avoid a war, it's a matter of degree.  
But there are wars for profit, and wars to set us free.  
I know it isn't simple.  
War's a part of who we are.  
But we move to war too easily.  
Make the wound and then leave the scar.

What if every leader, had to look at all the dead,  
See every lifeless eye, every shattered head.  
Then had to tell every mother, husband, child, or wife,  
Just who wasn't coming home, why we chose to end their life?  
And travel to the fields where everyone was killed,  
See the hopeless eyes of refugees desp'rate to rebuild.  
Our leaders would have to stand there, looking everyone in the face,  
And answer one question truthfully:

Did this war  
Make the world  
A better place?  
Maybe then,

Maybe then  
We might try something else,  
Before we go to war,  
Again.

I am Athenian, and I have a voice to say,  
This war is wrong and must be stopped today.  
Yes, I am Athenian, I am proud of who we are.  
I am not unpatriotic, 'cause I don't want this war.

I am Athenian, and I love my country.  
Yes, I love my country.  
I don't want to see it suffer, or see it kill...  
Anymore.

### **Scene 11**

*Various people coming out. Women, both Athenian and Spartan on one side,  
men on the other..*

#### **Daphne**

I'm tired of waiting, when will he be home?

#### **Galatea**

They said the war would not last long.

#### **Belen**

Maybe Lysistrata has it right,  
We shouldn't fight.

#### **Tessa**

They tell us the war is going well,  
But each day I go through hell.

#### **Raissa**

I support the troops that went,  
But I question the government.

#### **Hypatia**

My mind's in a funk.

I feel in a haze,  
'Cause I haven't had sex  
In so many days.

**Leander**

I used to think my wife was so frumpy.  
But even no sex with her, has made me grumpy.

**Stratyllis**

I just get jumpy

**All**

We're all in a state, and here is the tune.  
Something must give, and it's got to give a lot real soon.  
Is it the government or Lysistrata who betrayed us?  
The state of the state is quickly turning to chaos.

What is going on, what can we all do?  
How do we solve this, we haven't a clue  
We just want to be happy, like we used to be  
Where are our leaders, who should we see?

**Governor**

People, people, you must understand.  
There's only one reason why this got out of hand.  
These women, and this Lysistrata  
Are unpatriotic, and they gotta  
Simply stop what they're doing if you want to stay free.  
To get back where you were, you must listen to me.

**Lysistrata**

Well, you've got quite a mob.  
Should we have this out right here?  
Is it worth your job?

**Governor**

That's not necessary, for we know easily how to deal  
With people like you who are attempting to steal  
Our precious way of life.  
And we will protect  
Every honest citizen from your unholy sect.  
Because you're unpatriotic and the new law is clear,  
We can arrest you, if we hate what we hear  
(spoken) Guards, arrest her!  
(The guards quickly hustle Lysistrata off.)

**Myrrhine**

No! She's done nothing wrong!

### **Lampito**

If you take her, you'll have to take us all!

### **Governor**

People, people, do not be a mob.  
Please let your government just do it's job.  
We're here to protect you by stopping this threat.  
Believe me, these terrorists will deserve what they get.

*Crowd follows protesting. Guards close doors to Governor's chambers and the crowd wanders off. Calonice is left by herself.*

### **Calonice**

It's not what it seems,  
It must all be dreams.  
How can my life unravel so?  
Churning the pain, it's hurting me so,  
And I don't know when I'll hit bottom.

I know I still love him,  
In spite of what he's done.  
Don't know if I can leave him,  
Our life had just begun.  
What should I do?  
What should I do?

Circles in circles,  
I look in the past  
To try to find how this could be.  
All that I knew,  
just couldn't be wrong.  
So why did he do this to me?

I know I still love him,  
In spite of what he's done.  
But I must leave him.  
It just can't be undone.  
But is it something I can do?  
What should I do?

My God, the pain,  
Oh God, the shame,  
To be helpless in my own home.  
How dare he do this to me?  
How can I bear this wound to me?  
Right now I could cut him  
to watch him bleed.

I know I still love him,  
Or love what I thought he was.  
And I will leave him.  
Don't look, don't think, don't pause.  
It's something I will do.  
It's something I will do.

I know I still love him,  
Or love what I thought he was.  
And I will leave him.  
Don't look, don't think, don't pause.  
It's something I will do.  
It's something I will do.

## **SCENE 12**

*The Trial.*

*The officials bring charges to Lysistrata, which she answers,  
and she convinces them to talk a truce.*

**Magistrate**

We must do what we can...

**War Minister**

...To stop her.

**Finance Minister**

We must convince the crowd...

**Assistant War Minister**

...To drop her.

We must do what we can...

**Finance Minister**

...To stop her.

**War Minister**

We must convince the crowd...

**Magistrate**

...To drop her.

**All**

But what is the way

we proceed here today?

**Governor**

Hold.

You are accused of insidious crimes.  
We must protect all in these dangerous times.  
You've committed a crime against the state.  
You must turn back now before it's too late.

**All**

You must turn back now, before it's too late

**Lysistrata**

How did it come to this?  
How can you find  
It a crime against the state  
When I just speak my mind?  
You are slowly killing  
The freedom you prize.  
Democracy is dying  
Before your own eyes.

**Magistrate**

Stop her now!

**War Minister**

Don't let her continue!

**Finance Minister**

Where's the faith...

**Assistant War Minister**

...That we've placed in you?  
Stop her now!

**Finance Minister**

Don't let her continue!

**War Minister**

Where's the faith...

**Magistrate**

...That we've placed in you?

**Governor**

Wait.

Why do you blame our soldiers with your mob?

**Lysiatrata**

You're the one to blame,  
They're just doing their job.

**Governor**

But it's the same thing,  
We're on the same side.

**Lysistrata**

Then try to be honest, if you've nothing to hide.  
This war's about vengeance, money and pride.  
But I know that I could never convince you,  
Because reality is just not within you.  
But I have a plan, there's nothing to dread.  
You can stop this war, and still come out ahead.

**Governor**

We're listening.

**Lysistrata**

How do you expect to win re-election  
When all men can think about is their erection?  
It's not for me that you end this fight,  
But the good of the country, and for doing what's right.  
If you are responsible for bringing troops back,  
You can take the credit, when they jump in the sack.  
And you say that we won, and they will raise up a cheer.  
'Cause the people won't know about what happened over there.  
For your re-election, just look at the spin,  
If you end this war now, I know you will win.

**Magistrate**

She has a point.

**War Minister**

It is good spin.

**Finance Minister**

If we end the war,

**Assistant War Minister**

We might just win.  
She has a point.

**Finance Minister**

It is good spin.

**War Minister**

If we end the war,

**Magistrate**

We might just win.  
We bring them good news,  
And then disperse the mobs.  
But most important is we saved our jobs.

**Governor**

Stop, you've made your point.  
It might just work.  
I don't want to be seen as an uncaring jerk.  
I'll speak with the Spartan Governor soon.  
I believe their elections are set for next June.  
I will stop the war, and save the day  
Because this isn't real, life is just a play.  
This isn't real, it is just a play.

**Finale**

*The crowd awaiting the news from inside. A single person, sings to another two who sing to several more, etc.*

**Daphne**

The war is at an end.  
It will stop and foe will become friend.

**Galatea and Belen**

A finish to what we've been fighting for,

**All 3**

And they've finally put a stop,  
To this ongoing, draining, sad, pathetic war

**Tessa**

Listen one and all,

**Raissa**

It's time.

**Belen and Tessa**

Strike up the tune!

**All 5**

The war is at an end, and it ended none too soon.

**Everyone**

The war is over, the war is done.  
We don't even know if anybody won.  
It doesn't really matter, we know what's coming next,  
After waiting way too long, we can all start having sex.  
*(Drum break)*

Who would have thought that Lysistrata would win,  
But that is no surprise, when you see the state we're in.  
The war is over, and it's time to move on.  
We celebrate the living, And mourn those who have gone

**Myrrhine**

I love you,  
As the flower loves the sunshine.  
I need you,  
And I hope we last forever.  
To have you is to have the perfect feeling,  
Feeling that we are complete when we're  
together.  
I miss you.

**Cinesias**

I love you,  
As the flower loves the sunshine.  
I need you,  
And I hope we last forever.  
To have you is to have the perfect feeling,  
When we're together.  
I miss you.

*Philo moves toward Calonice.  
As he gets to her, she signals and guards come out.  
They place him under arrest, leading him off. She watches.*

**Calonice**

I know I still love him,  
Or love what I thought he was.  
And I will leave him.  
Don't look, don't think, don't pause.  
It's something I will do,  
It's something I must do.

**Everyone**

The war is over,  
and it's time to move on.  
We celebrate our lives now.  
And welcome the dawn,  
We celebrate our lives,  
And welcome the dawn.

**Calonice**

The war is over,  
It's time to move on.  
We celebrate our lives now.

**Lysistrata**

It's a time to heal,  
A time for hatred to cease.  
It is time that we learn,  
How we can live in peace.

**Everyone**

The war is over,

And it's time to move on.  
We celebrate our lives now,

And welcome the dawn.

And it's time to move on.  
And welcome the dawn.

**Lysistrata and Principals**

The war is over,

**Myrrhine and the girls**

Hey girls, what do you think?  
Now we don't have to stop  
The men and their war.  
We can all have fun and  
The women can be on top.

Hey girls, what do you think?  
Now we don't...

*As the chorus starts again an individual is seen pushing through the crowd toward Lysistrata.  
As he gets close he rushes toward her brandishing a knife, screaming:*

You are a plague to our cause!  
You would destroy our way of life!  
We must kill to be free!

*As he moves to stab her the lights go to black and we hear a small child's voice:*

War is stupid.  
All that happens in a war is that people die.  
Nothing is decided that couldn't be decided another way  
People think they are doing a good thing when they fight a war,  
But all they are doing is making people suffer...