

OPTIMISM

Or Voltaire's 'CANDIDE'

Adapted for animation by

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EXT. CASTLE VON THUNDER TEN TRONCKH - NIGHT

It's raining as a carriage pulls up to the front of a dark Castle in Westphalia.

INT. CASTLE VON THUNDER TEN TRONCKH - SAME

POUNING at the door. An unremarkable 18th century MAID (35) runs to the huge door and opens it. A driver in a black rain cloak hands her a small bundle.

The BARON VON THUNDER TEN TRONCKH (49) a dignified man with Hapsburg jaw, in a dressing gown and cascading grey wig appears behind her and takes the bundle. He pulls back the little blanket revealing a BABY with golden hair and big blue eyes.

BARON VTTT

He has an honest face at least.

The BARONESS VON THUNDER TEN TRONCKH (45) a woman wider than she is tall, has come in behind him.

BARONESS VTTT

WHO this time?

BARON VTTT

Cousin Ingrid... or her daughter.

He hands the baby to the Baroness, who hands it to the maid.

BARONESS VTTT

Find some place for it.

And she's gone. The maid curtsies.

INT. SERVANTS QUARTERS - LATER

The maid places the baby into a drawer serving as a cradle. He looks up at her and coos. He does have an honest face.

EXT. STABLES - DAY

The boy is now 7 years old and shoveling horse dung in the stable. CUNEGONDE and the YOUNG BARON, the Baron's children, pass the stables laughing. They are well dressed. The boy comes to the gate to see them. The Young Baron spots him and approaches.

Is the stable boy finally invited to play?

The young Baron SLAMS the swing gate in his face and ushers his sister away.

VO

In a castle in Westphalia,
belonging to the Baron of Thunder-
ten-Tronckh, lived a youth, whom
nature had endowed with a face that
was the picture of his soul.

EXT. STABLE YARD - DAY

The boy gets on his hands and knees allowing BARON VTTT to step on his back and reach the horse to mount. He's smiling.

VO

He combined a good judgment with
simplicity of spirit, which was the
reason he was called CANDIDE.

EXT. CASTLE VON THUNDER TEN TRONCKH

The seasons change on the exterior of the castle. Years pass.

EXT. STABLE YARD - DAY

CANDIDE, now a handsome 18, helps the Baron VTTT from his horse with brute strength. He's well built.

PROFESSOR PANGLOSS emerges from an outhouse carrying a copy of Leibniz 'Pre-established Harmony'.

BARON VTTT

Professor! I give these goddamn
kids everything! You promised no
more complaining. Do something
about it!

PANGLOSS

Yes of course Baron. No
complaining!
Candide, go and round up the others
when you finish here, will you?
Meet in the front garden.

CANDID

Yes professor.

PANGLOSS

It's all for the best. Everything
is for the best...

He exits to prepare this emergency lesson.

EXT. GARDEN - LATER

The Young Baron, Cunegonde, Candide and PAQUETTE (19) the
Baroness' pretty chamber maid, are lined up at attention.

PANGLOSS

We are currently living in the best
of all possible worlds! There is
NOTHING to complain about!
Noses were made for glasses - thus
I wear glasses. Legs are designed
to fit stockings - here I have
stockings. There are stones to
construct castles - consequently we
live in a magnificent castle.
Everything works out for the best!
Give us another example Paquette.

PAQUETTE

Because there are pigs - we eat
pork all year long.

PANGLOSS

Young Baron.

YOUNG BARON

Horze shit is made to shovel - We
have Horze boys to shovel it.

PANGLOSS

Cundgonde.

CUNEGONDE

Because there are oysters, we have
pearls to wear.

PANGLOSS

Candide.

CANDIDE

Because there is beauty, we have it
to admire.

Candide looks at beautiful Cunegonde.

PANGLOSS

And why is that?

ALL

We live in the best of all possible worlds!

PANGLOSS

Very good. And because everything is for the best there is no reason to be unhappy! Young Baron what are you most grateful for?

YOUNG BARON

I'm grateful I will be ze next Baron von Thunder-ten-Tronckh because I am noble by birth and better zan everyone else.

PANGLOSS

And Cunegonde my dear?

CUNEGONDE

I'm grateful for soft sprouting bosoms. Everyone admires them.

PANGLOSS

They do. And you Candide? What do you say? What's your greatest happiness?

CANDIDE

I'm grateful to be taught by you Professor Pangloss. You're the wisest philosopher in Germany.

PANGLOSS

Well said!

An apple falls from the tree above him and BONKS Candide on the head.

CANDIDE

Ouch!

Cunegonde jumps up to nestle him in her bosoms.

CUNEGONDE

Oh, my poor baby!

He's in heaven.

CANDIDE

Everything is arranged for the best, because this is the best of all possible worlds.

PANGLOSS
 Very good. You are all excused.
 Except Paquette, would you stay a
 moment dear?

PAQUETTE
 Willingly professor.

EXT. GARDEN

Candide and Cunegonde walk side by side. The Young Baron
 breaks them apart as he rushes ahead.

YOUNG BARON
 Out of ze way Horze Boy!

CANDIDE
 Oh, sorry!

CUNEGONDE
 That was informative.

CANDIDE
 Was it? You know, I... uh...

CUNEGONDE
 Oh! My hat!

She rushes back to the lesson area.

CANDIDE
 Oh, ok.

Cunegonde finds the hat. She hears RUSTLING in the bushes.
 She investigates.

She finds Paquette masturbating Pangloss behind a little
 cluster of trees.

PANGLOSS
 Natural Philosophy! You see my
 dear... the greater the friction...
 the greater the release! Cause and
 Effect!

Cunegonde watches in astonishment.

He flips her over to take her from behind. Miss Cunegonde
 breathlessly observes the repeated experiments.

INT. STABLES - LATER

Candide is shirtless and sweaty, shoveling shit as usual. Cunegonde comes into the stables behind him.

CUNEGONDE

Candide?

He turns. His full golden glory on display. She's agog.

CANDIDE

Oh hello.

CUNEGONDE

Would you... help me with an experiment in natural philosophy?

CANDIDE

Of Course.

She notices the filth.

CUNEGONDE

After dinner then.

She exits leaving him in wonder.

INT. CASTLE DINING ROOM - LATER

The whole household sits eating dinner. There is no conversation, only the sound of FORKS on plates.

INT. CASTLE SITTING ROOM - LATER

Candide is warming his hands by the fire when Cunegonde enters and mysteriously disappears behind a large screen.

CUNEGONDE

Psst, Candide... Over here.

Her hand appears and drops a handkerchief. He springs into action and retrieves it. She pulls him behind the screen.

CUNEGONDE (CONT'D)

Oh Candide.

Their eyes sparkle. Their knees tremble. They kiss. She pulls the front of his breeches open. They both marvel at what is displayed.

CUNEGONDE (CONT'D)

Oh Candide!!

She reaches to touch it.

The screen is ripped away, exposing them both. The Baron and Baroness stand in horror.

BARON VTTT
 What's this?!! What's going on
 here?!

INT. CASTLE VON THUNDER TEN TRONCKH - SAME

With great kicks to the backside, Candide is chased from the castle by the Baron and his household. He has only the clothes on his back.

BARON VTTT
 Out, out, out! I said get out! Go!
 Curse that meddling whore Ingrid!

He turns to his weeping daughter.

BARON VTTT (CONT'D)
 Get inside!

Cunegonde is boxed on the ears by the Baroness and dragged into the house. All is consternation in the most magnificent of all possible castles.

MONTAGE:

EXT. WESTPHALIA - LATER

Candide wanders the countryside without knowing where.

He crosses field and stream.

He weeps and raises his eyes to heaven.

He lays down to sleep with a grumbling stomach in the middle of a field.

Snow falls on him.

The next day:

He wanders some more and then spots smoke.

Candide drags himself towards a NEIGHBORING VILLAGE.

END MONTAGE

EXT. VILLAGE INN - LATER

He stops sorrowfully at the door of an INN. Two RECRUITERS dressed in blue observe him from a table.

The table is laid with food of every sort. Candide drools.

RECRUITER 2
Look comrade, here's a well built
young man.

RECRUITER 1
Is he tall enough?

RECRUITER 2
Ask him.

He waves at Candide and calls out.

RECRUITER 1
Good day young man! You look
hungry. Would you like to join us?

CANDIDE
I'm very hungry sir but I have no
money.

RECRUITER 1
What?! Are you five foot eight?

The Recruiter jumps to his feet and grabs Candide to his shoulder. He IS tall enough.

CANDIDE
Five foot nine.

RECRUITER 2
Come sit down!

RECRUITER 1
We could never allow a man such as
yourself to want for money. Men are
meant to help one another.

He escorts the young man back to the table.

CANDIDE
That's what Professor Pangloss
says. Thank God! Everything IS for
the best!

Candide is firmly wedged between the two.

RECRUITER 1
Are you in love young man?

CANDIDE
Yes sir! With the most beautiful
girl in the world.

RECRUITER 1
No... We're asking if you love your
king.

RECRUITER 2
We're asking if you love your king.

CANDIDE
I've never met him.

RECRUITER 1
What?! He's famous. He's a great
king. Let's drink his health!

RECRUITER 2
Let's drink his health!

CANDIDE
Oh absolutely gentlemen. What good
luck!

RECRUITER 1
You say it.

CANDIDE
To the King's health! May he live
long!

They drink.

RECRUITER 1
That'll do nicely.

RECRUITER 2
Do you know what it means?

CANDIDE
What what means?

RECRUITER 1
Do you know what it means for a
scoundrel like yourself to swear an
oath like that?

CANDIDE
Swear an oath?

RECRUITER 2
To the King's health.

CANDIDE
What does it mean?

RECRUITER 1
It means you are now responsible.

CANDIDE
Responsible for what?

RECRUITER 1
For his health!

They pull a bag over his head and carry him away.

RECRUITER 2
Congratulations! You are now the
help the support and the defender
of the King!

RECRUITER 1
Your fortune is made and your glory
assured.

CANDIDE
Aaaah!

MONTAGE:

EXT. ARMY FORT - VARIOUS

Candide in uniform being made to wheel about right and left,
draw his rammer, return his rammer, present, fire, march.

Any mistake is rewarded with ten lashes.

At night they chain him to his bed.

The next week he does all this a little better and receives
fewer lashes.

Next week fewer still.

The following week he makes it all the way through with no
mistakes.

END MONTAGE

EXT. ARMY FORT - DAY

Two CAPTAINS make their way along the line of cadets. They stop at Candide.

They pin a medal on him and hand him a bag of coins.

CAPTAIN 1

Young man, you're a hero and a prodigy!

Candide beams.

INT. BARRACKS - NIGHT

That night Candide is finally out of chains and lies talking to his snoring bunkmate.

CANDIDE

I miss the castle of Thunder-ten-Tronckh. I miss seeing Miss Cunegonde everyday. You know what? I'm going to go home and throw myself at the feet of the Baron. Maybe he'll remember that everything is for the best and take me back.

He gets out of bed.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Candide marches out of the Barracks and down the road. After some distance he is overtaken by 2 WATCHMEN.

WATCHMAN 1

Where do you think your going?!

They beat him, bind him and carry him back.

EXT. ARMY FORT STOCKS - DAY

The next morning we find him in chains with a sadistic JAILER (40) standing above him and soldiers all in a row.

JAILER

Young man, we punish deserters! Which would you prefer: whipped 36 times by the whole regiment or a bullet in your brain?

CANDIDE

I was taught human will was free so
I choose neither.

JAILER

Choose! Or we bury you alive.

CANDIDE

Since a bullet in my brain would
certainly kill me, I suppose I have
to choose the whipping.

JAILER

Good.

They now stand in front of a long line of soldiers on either side.

JAILER (CONT'D)

You'll run the gauntlet. Ready!

They raise their sticks and look menacing.

The Jailer gives the signal and Candide runs along the line of men. Each strikes him. He reaches the end.

JAILER (CONT'D)

One!

He runs back again, and again, and again.

JAILER (CONT'D)

Two! Three! Four!

Candide is bloody from the nape of his neck to his rump. They are about to proceed to a fifth whipping when Candide falls at the feet of the Jailer.

CANDIDE

Sir, I can't take any more.
I beg that you would be so good as
to shoot me!

JAILER

Fine! You see? There IS free will!

He pulls out his gun and cocks it. He takes aim.

Just as the Jailer is about to pull the trigger, Trumpets sound. A voice calls out.

FREDERICK THE GREAT

You there, Captain! What is the
nature of this man's crime?

FREDERICK THE GREAT has come to observe.

JAILER

A deserter your Excellency!

FREDERICK THE GREAT

What say you, boy? Well?

CANDIDE

Your majesty, I was led to believe by the great teacher Dr Pangloss that because I had legs to walk I could make use of them to go where I pleased. I have now learned that that was a error. I beg you to forgive me.

FREDERICK THE GREAT

A philosopher. I have a great talent for understanding the incredibly ignorant of the world. A crown is merely a hat that lets the rain in. Also we are in need of men. I will pardon you.

Just then a BUGLE sounds in the distance. News on horseback arriving from the front.

HORSEMAN

WAR!!

The king rushes off. Candide collapses.

EXT. - FIELD OF BATTLE - DAY

Two elaborately dressed ARMIES face each other on a field of Battle. The lines fade back to the horizon on either side. TRUMPETS, FIFES, HAUTBOYS, and DRUMS build. CANNONS fire, then MUSKETS.

MONTAGE:

'CHARGE' is called and they all run toward each other with bayonets pointed.

Canon balls tear through the masses of men. It is bloody pandemonium.

4 ways to die in wars of this period. Each guy gets his own death in short succession.

Candide manages to duck and hide behind the dying men before he is knocked out and buried under a growing pile of bodies.

EXT. - FIELD OF BATTLE - LATER

Frederick can be seen in the distance shaking hands with his GENERALS.

Candide wakes up and crawls out from under the pile of bodies. The battle is over. The land is splashed with death.

Nearly unrecognizable, he walks through the devastation of two burned cities.

All the horrors of war are on display.

Scenarios based on the hell paintings of Hieronymus Bosch reworked with humans in 18th century costumes.

The landscape rolls past until Candide has finally walked out of danger and devastation into sunlight.

END MONTAGE

EXT. HOLLAND - DAYS LATER

At last in the distance he sees a WINDMILL with a peaceful town below it. He heads directly for it.

He enters the town square and makes his way through a crowd of grave-looking people. They are listening to a stern ORATOR (60) in black robes who stands at a porch pulpit.

ORATOR

For we know in part, and we
prophecy in part. But when that
which is perfect is come, then that
which is in part shall be done
away.

Candide makes his way toward the porch. The people he passes shrink from him.

ORATOR (CONT'D)

Now abideth faith, hope, charity,
these three; but the greatest of
these is charity.

At last he reaches the Orator.

CANDIDE

Sir, I am in need of charity!

ORATOR

What?! Are you for the good cause?

CANDIDE

There can be no effect without a cause. It was necessary for me to have suffered the misfortunes of war. Now I must beg for my bread until I can find some way to earn it.

ORATOR

My friend, do you believe the Pope to be the Anti-Christ?

CANDIDE

I've not heard that before, but whether he is or not, I'm starving.

ORATOR

If you don't believe that Pope is the antichrist you don't deserve to eat. Be off wretch! If you come near here again we'll put you in jail.

The Orator's Wife puts her head out the window, sees the man who doubts whether the Pope is the Anti-Christ and pours the contents of a chamber pot over his head.

Candide turns and wanders away.

ORATOR (CONT'D)

Charity never faileth: but wherever there be prophecies, they shall fail; wherever there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SAME

JAMES (35) a kind Anabaptist (Mennonite/Quaker) has been watching all this. He approaches Candide.

JAMES

Are you all right?

CANDIDE

I had heard that everyone in Holland was rich and that you are all Christians, but now I'm not sure if that's true.

JAMES

Begging is illegal here. He believes that anyone not baptized as an adult lives in sin. Babies aren't accountable until they know of good and evil and can ask for forgiveness. Adults are a different story.

CANDIDE

It makes some sense. Still not very christian.

JAMES

You've had a hard time. You say you need employment?

CANDIDE

My teacher Dr. Pangloss used to say that idle hands were the devil's work.

JAMES

I do need an errand boy. Could you see yourself working in Persian goods?

CANDIDE

Sir, I am touched by your generosity. There is good in the world.

JAMES

Let's get you some bread.

CANDIDE

I could use a beer.

INT. JAMES' PERSIAN WARE STOREFRONT - A FEW MONTHS LATER

Candide puts together an elaborate HOOKAH pipe.

CANDIDE

All finished James. I'll deliver it now.

JAMES

Thank you my friend!
Then you can take lunch.

Candide cheerfully heads out into the street.

EXT. STREET - SAME

He comes upon a BEGGAR all covered with scabs. He tosses two coins as he passes.

The wretch leaps at him and begins to CRY. He wraps his arms around Candide.

Candide is startled.

PANGLOSS

Aaahhhh! Candide. Don't you know me?

He looks closely.

CANDIDE

It can't be... it's...
Professor Pangloss!

LATER

Candide sits on the sidewalk with Pangloss, his errand forgotten.

CANDIDE

What's happened? Why aren't you in the most magnificent of castles? Where is Miss Cunegonde?

PANGLOSS

She is dead my boy!

CANDIDE

No! Was it grief from seeing her father kick me out of his castle?

PANGLOSS

She was ripped open by soldiers after being raped until she could be raped no more!

The story unfolds before us as we hear it.

PANGLOSS (CONT'D)

My poor pupil received exactly the same treatment. Both the Baron and his wife were murdered and cut to pieces! As for the castle there's hardly a stone left standing. We had our revenge, however: We did the same to a neighboring Baron!

CANDIDE

But what's happened to your face?

PANGLOSS

It was love my boy. The comfort of the human species, the preserver of the universe, the soul of all sensible beings!

CANDIDE

I know something of love but it never cost me more than twenty kicks on the backside. How could something so beautiful produce an effect so terrible?

PANGLOSS

You remember Paquette? In her arms I tasted the delights of paradise. Which has produced the hellish torments with which you now see me devoured. She was infected with Syphilis and is now most likely dead. It was a present she received from a learned Grey Friar who had it from an Old Countess, who got it from a Cavalry captain, who owed it to a Marchioness, who took it from a Page, who had received it from a Jesuit, who when a Novice, had it in a direct line from one of the shipmates of Christopher Columbus. I will give it to nobody, because I am dying of it.

CANDIDE

Oh Professor! What a strange genealogy!

PANGLOSS

It's a necessary evil I suppose. If Columbus hadn't brought this torment from the new world we wouldn't now have chocolate or tobacco. It's all for the best.

CANDIDE

We have to get you to a doctor.

PANGLOSS

Unfortunately I have not a farthing, and nowhere in this wide world can you get so much as an enema without paying. I'm sure it'll be fine.

CANDIDE

Come with me.

INT. JAMES' PERSIAN WARE STOREFRONT - LATER

James is alarmed at the appearance of this unfortunate soul. Candide flings himself at the feet of the charitable Anabaptist.

CUT TO:

A doctor arrives and treats us to a primitive, unnecessarily cruel mercury cure treatment of horrors.

INT. JAMES' PERSIAN-WARE STOREFRONT - MONTHS LATER

Pangloss is well dressed and working at a desk having lost only an eye and most of his nose. These are tactfully covered with a patch and metal nose prosthetic. Anabaptist James has made him a book keeper.

PANGLOSS

What have I always told you, Candide? Everything is for the best. Good intention is rewarded. Cause and effect.

James comes in.

JAMES

Gentlemen! I have to go to Lisbon on business and I've decided to take my philosophers with me!

CANDIDE

I have always wanted to see Lisbon!

PANGLOSS

You see Candide?!

CANDIDE

Everything really is for the best Professor.

PANGLOSS

Very good! And because everything
is for the best there is no reason to
be unhappy!

EXT. SHIP - LATER

On deck, James and Pangloss listen while Candide expounds on
the nature of suffering.

CANDIDE

Mankind must have a little
corrupted nature. God didn't give
man cannon or swords but they have
made both to kill each other.

PANGLOSS

Someone else's loss is your gain my
boy!

CANDIDE

But what is the point of all of it?
Is there some greater purpose?

JAMES

I think if men make an effort to
help each other there can be some
happiness.

PANGLOSS

We are currently living in the best
of all-

THUNDER. The sky has darkened and it has begun to rain.

JAMES

A storm!

SAILOR

You there! Man the sail!

James immediately goes to help the SAILOR who is struggling
with a rope. Candide and Pangloss watch as the sailor loses
his grip and falls overboard -

He is saved at the last minute by James.

James then loses HIS footing and the sailor turns runs off to
some other part of the ship as James loses his grip on the
rope and falls into the sea.

Candide watches in horror.

He struggles toward the scene but Pangloss holds him back.

PANGLOSS
No Candide! Clearly the Bay of
Lisbon was made for our friend to
drown in!

They watch James bob until he disappears beneath the waves
for the last time.

CANDIDE
Nooooo!

The ship is battered and tossed into darkness.

EXT. THE OPEN OCEAN - DAY

Candide and Pangloss cling to a barrel. They are surrounded
by debris and thick mist. Suddenly there is a break in the
mist and a distant city becomes visible.

PANGLOSS
Ah! There is Lisbon! We're saved!
Paddle Candide paddle!

EXT. BEACH, LISBON - DAY

Candide and Pangloss finally make it to shore. They stumble
out of the water and the first person they see on shore is
the Sailor who turned his back on James. He is also wet and
tired.

PANGLOSS
Oh, look who it is! It's all for
the best.

The sailor joins them as they make their way up the cliff and
into the city itself.

EXT. STREET ON A HILL, LISBON - LATER

The 3 men explore the city. Pangloss finds some coins in his
pocket.

PANGLOSS
Look here! What's this? I have some
money left! Maybe it can save us
from starving.

The sailor is ready to clobber him over the head and take the money, when the earth begins to QUAKE. Everyone scrambles for safety. Buildings crumble.

CANDIDE

Ahhhh!

PANGLOSS

It must be the end of days!

Unseen by the others, a wall falls on Candide. The quake subsides.

Pangloss and the Sailor let go of each other. The Sailor is excited.

SAILOR

There'll be things for taking here!
I'm going to grab what I can, get
drunk and purchase the favors of
the first good-natured whore I see!

PANGLOSS

My friend that is no way to behave.
You are flouting the laws of
universal reason.

SAILOR

I trampled the cross 4 times on
voyages to Japan. I've broke with
religion and I don't give a damn
about universal reason.

PANGLOSS

This is not the time nor the place!

The Sailor shrugs him off and disappears. Pangloss hears a muffled cry.

CANDIDE

HELP!!!! Help Professor! I am
dying!

Pangloss finds where Candide is buried.

PANGLOSS

Don't worry my boy. This concussion
of the earth is no new thing.

CANDIDE

Oh for the love of god professor...

PANGLOSS

It will be all right. Everything is for the best... for the best... for the best...

Candide passes out.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

He wakes up in a makeshift hospital set up in a ruined church. Pangloss is in the middle of another lecture to the surrounding wounded.

PANGLOSS

You know the city of Lima, in America, experienced the same convulsions last year. Same cause the same effect. It proves that there is certainly a vein of sulphur running from Lisbon to Lima.

Pangloss sees that Candide is awake.

PANGLOSS (CONT'D)

But don't worry my boy. All that is, is for the best... in the what?

CANDIDE

...the best of all possible worlds.

Hearing all of this, the GRAND INQUISITOR (60) in black and white robes, eases closer.

GRAND INQUISITOR

Then you don't believe in original sin?

PANGLOSS

What?!

GRAND INQUISITOR

If all is for the best then there has been no fall and there is no need for punishment.

PANGLOSS

I beg your pardon, but the fall of man necessarily entered into the system of the best of all possible worlds!

GRAND INQUISITOR
Interesting... You'll have to
explain.

He gives a signal and two dark MONKS come out of the shadows.

INT. DUNGEON CELL - LATER

Candide and Pangloss are in a dungeon behind bars.

They are dressed in San-benitos; Candide's are painted with inverted flames and devils that have no tails or claws; Pangloss' devils have claws and tails and the flames are upright. Pangloss will die.

CANDIDE
Sometimes Professor I think you
talk too much.

EXT. LISBON CITY SQUARE - DAY

The stage is set for an Auto-da-fe by the Portuguese Inquisition. A gallows, a pyre and two whipping posts stand in a row.

There's an air of festivity as a line of prisoners are walked to the stage and put in place.

Pangloss has a noose put around his neck and Candide is stripped shirtless and locked into wooden stocks.

The Grand Inquisitor plays ring master.

GRAND INQUISITOR
It has been decided by the University of Coimbra that to hinder the earth from quaking it is necessary to punish the following heretics: A Scientist, for suggesting the earth was not the center of the universe. A Converso for being heard to say an Islamic curse under his breath. Two Tailors for rejecting the bacon they were served at breakfast and two Philosophers, the one for denying the fact of original sin and the other for agreeing.
Let the festivities begin!

A barrel organ plays a CHEERFUL TUNE while Candide and the SCIENTIST are whipped by Monks, the CONVERSO and Pangloss are hanged and the TAILORS are set alight.

It's a fine spectacle. The crowd cheers.

Suddenly the earth sustains another violent series of concussions. Everyone runs screaming.

Candide is left imprisoned in the stocks.

CANDIDE

If this is the best of worlds then
what are the others?!

A lone OLD WOMAN (70) with a bad limp, comes to untie him. She lifts the stock from his neck.

OLD WOMAN

Take courage my son and follow me!

He does as he's told.

EXT. MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN CASTLE - NIGHT

The limping Old Woman leads Candide out of the woods and around the back of a mysterious Castle. Candide is wrapped in a dirty blanket.

CANDIDE

If I had only been whipped it would
be all right, I've been whipped
before, but to see Pangloss hanged..

The Old Woman lets Candide into a decaying shack. She lays him down and anoints his sores.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

And to watch kind James drown, and
to hear that the love of my life
has had her belly ripped open? It's
all too much.

She finishes.

OLD WOMAN

I'll be back tomorrow. Sleep and
eat.

INT. MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN SHED - MORNING

Candide is eating from a table laid with food. The Old Woman enters carrying clean clothing.

CANDIDE

Who are you? Why are you being so good to me?

OLD WOMAN

It is not me you must thank. Here put on these clothes.

INT. MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN SHED - LATER

He sits on the bed fully restored to this former self.

OLD WOMAN

Come with me and say nothing.

They walk around to the front of the lonely but magnificent castle. It's surrounded with gardens and canals.

INT. MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN CASTLE - RECEPTION ROOM

She leads Candide into a large receiving room richly furnished with romantic art and imagery. She stops him.

OLD WOMAN

Wait here.

He is left in the middle of the room while the Old Woman goes out another great door.

CANDIDE

It's like a dream. Like I've been having a nightmare my whole life and this present moment is the only agreeable part of it all.

The Old Woman returns supporting a trembling woman of a majestic figure, brilliant with jewels and covered with a dark veil.

OLD WOMAN

Take up the veil.

Candide raises the veil with a timid hand.

CUNEGONDE

Oh Candide!

CANDIDE
Oh Cunegonde...

He drops at her feet. Cunegonde collapses too.

The Old Woman runs to get the smelling salts.

INT. SITTING ROOM - LATER

They have recovered and are now sitting together on a richly upholstered couch.

CANDIDE
You're alive! And in Portugal?
Then you've not been raped and had
your belly ripped open as Professor
Pangloss said?

CUNEGONDE
Yes, but those two injuries are not
always fatal.

CANDIDE
Were your father and mother killed?

CUNEGONDE
I will tell you!

The following story is fully illustrated as described. We are back at Thunder-ten-Tronckh. Cunegonde lies in bed when the blue color from her window changes to orange.

CUNEGONDE (CONT'D)
I was in bed and fast asleep when
WAR came to our delightful castle
of Thunder-ten-Tronckh.

Gunfire. Shouting. She goes to the window.

CUNEGONDE (CONT'D)
I saw with my own eyes my father's
throat cut, my mother butchered and
cut to pieces and my brother killed
in the courtyard. When a soldier
broke into my bedroom, I fainted.

We hear boots on the staircase and the door burst open. She faints.

CANDIDE
That's terrible!

CUNEGONDE

It was!!

She has been mounted by a brutish soldier.

CUNEGONDE (CONT'D)

I woke up to being violated.
Defiled. Ravished! I was trying to
scratch out the brute's eyes when a
Captain came in and caught us. He
flew into a rage and killed him
right on top of me. Leaving me with
a terrible wound!

CANDIDE

Can I see it?

CUNEGONDE

You shall, but let me continue. He
dressed my wounds and carried me to
his camp where he let me wash the
few shirts he had because he
thought me very pretty.

The Captain's advances are constantly rebuffed.

CUNEGONDE (CONT'D)

He eventually grew tired of my
company and sold me to a passing
merchant called Don Issachar who
has a strong passion for women.

DON ISSACHAR

Hello sweetheart. Come with me.

Don Issachar shows her to a kitchen.

DON ISSACHAR (CONT'D)

How's this?

She walks out.

CUNEGONDE

To render me more AGREEABLE, he
brought me to this country house.

DON ISSACHAR

How about this? You like it?

Cunegonde, dressed elegantly, sees the reception room.

She immediately agrees.

CUNEGONDE

I believed nothing could match the beauty of our home in Thunder-ten-Tronckh, but I found out I was mistaken! The peace did not last. One day while I was attending mass the Grand Inquisitor saw me. He sent to tell me that he wished to speak with me.

She stands in the Inquisitor's office.

CUNEGONDE (CONT'D)

I informed him of my family history. He told me it was beneath my rank to belong to Don Issachar.

GRAND INQUISITOR

He's below your rank.

CUNEGONDE

And insisted that he should hand me over.

The Inquisitor and Issachar tug of war with Cunegonde.

GRAND INQUISITOR

You'll have to hand her over.

CUNEGONDE VO

Being the court banker, Don Issachar wouldn't hear of it.

DON ISSACHAR

Oh no you don't.

CUNEGONDE VO

The Inquisitor threatened him with an Auto de Fe.

GRAND INQUISITOR

I'll have you burned!

CUNEGONDE

At last they made a bargain: The Inquisitor has me Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Don Issachar has me Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. It is now six months of constant fighting for they can't decide what to do about Saturday.

CANDIDE

And what's today?

Cunegonde thinks about it. She gasps and leaps up.

INT. MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN CASTLE - RECEPTION ROOM

She sees Candide out the way he came.

CUNEGONDE

I will send for you tomorrow.

DON ISSACHAR

What did you say baby?

Don Issachar stands in the doorway behind.

DON ISSACHAR (CONT'D)

What!? Was the Inquisitor not enough for you? Now I also have to share you with THIS schmuck?

He grabs a sword from the wall and throws himself at Candide. The Old Woman passes Candide another sword.

DON ISSACHAR (CONT'D)

I get no respect and I'm sick of it! I keep this city on its feet! I'm about to rebuild it from rubble and what do I get?! Shanda!

After a short funny fight, Candide impales Don Issachar with his own momentum. The Old Woman is instrumental in the killing having forced Candide's blade somehow.

DON ISSACHAR (CONT'D)

Aaaaarrrggghhh! gak...

Issachar falls dead. The Old Woman, hearing a knock, rushes out.

CANDIDE

I have killed a fellow human being!

CUNEGONDE

If the Officers of Justice come now we're done for!

CANDIDE

The Professor would have had good advice in this situation.

At that moment the Inquisitor enters. The Old Woman is trying desperately to stop him.

OLD WOMAN
She's tired!

INQUISITOR
Oh the poor child.

He sees Candide and Cunegonde and a dead man on the floor.

INQUISITOR (CONT'D)
What the hell is this?! The
misguided philosopher!?

The Inquisitor goes and pulls the other sword from the wall.

CANDIDE
Surrender you weapon sir. I do not
wish to harm you.

INQUISITOR
Why you little...

There is another comical fight. Candide mostly runs and plays
defense. It ends with Cunegonde pushing the blade and
impaling the Inquisitor, who falls dead.

CANDIDE
I have killed again!

CUNEGONDE
There'll be no pardon now! We'll be
excommunicated!

CANDIDE
How could I have done it?!

CUNEGONDE
When one is a lover, jealous and
whipped by the Inquisition, one
stops at nothing.

OLD WOMAN
Young man help me saddle the
horses! Madame grab the jewels!
We gotta get out of here. We should
make for the port of Cadiz!

INT. MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN CASTLE - STABLES

Cunegonde is already on horseback. The Old Woman holds a
pillow.

OLD WOMAN

Darling you must help me into the saddle, for I have only on one buttock on which to sit.

CANDIDE

One buttock? How did you lose a butt cheek?

OLD WOMAN

One day I may tell you a story to freeze your ears but now is not the time.

He helps her up. They head out into the darkness.

MONTAGE:

They cross moonlit plains riding fast.

Finally they arrive at and INN.

END MONTAGE

INT. INN - NIGHT

Candide, Cunegonde and the Old Woman are drinking at a table. An OLD GREY FRIAR (65) joins them. They toast and drink.

The Friar and the Old Woman get up and go to the room together. Eventually Candide and Cunegonde go to bed. Lights out.

Old Grey Friar makes his escape just as the sun rises.

INT. INN - NEXT MORNING

Candide and the Old Woman comfort Cunegonde.

CUNEGONDE

But who could have stolen my money and jewels? Where can I find Jews and Inquisitors who will give me more?

OLD WOMAN

I'm afraid it was that Grey Friar! He left before sun up.

CANDIDE

He could have left us SOMETHING to get us where we are going.

CUNEGONDE
Not a farthing.

CANDIDE
What do we do?

OLD WOMAN
Sell one of the horses. I will ride
behind Madame until we reach the
port.

They ride again, this time the women share a horse.

EXT. PORT OF CADIZ - NEXT DAY

Candide, Cunegonde and the Old Woman arrive at the port city
of Cadiz. A fleet of Portuguese ships gather in the harbor.

They enter the town square where a CRIER (25) reads the
following:

CRIER
The fleet is preparing to depart.
Troops are assembling to bring to
justice the reverend Jesuit Fathers
of Paraguay, who have convinced the
native tribes to revolt against the
King of Spain. They are two
captains short.

CANDIDE
I know the bulgar drill!

CUNEGONDE
The who?

EXT. FORT - LATER

Before the GENERAL (50), Candide stands ready to perform the
military exercise he learned in the army.

GENERAL
Go Ahead.

Candide moves with agility and expedition. He finishes clean.

GENERAL (CONT'D)
Impressive! I'll give you command
of a foot company. Cacambo!

CACAMBO (20) steps forward. He is an intelligent looking
South American.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

This will be your valet. Cacambo
take this Captain to his company.

They are dismissed. The Old Woman and Cunegonde are ecstatic.

CUNEGONDE

Oh Candide!

OLD WOMAN

Oh, isn't it wonderful!

EXT. SHIP SAILING TO SOUTH AMERICA - DAY

Candide sets sail with Miss Cunegonde, the Old Woman, Cacambo and the two Andalusian horses which had belonged to the Grand Inquisitor of Portugal.

CANDIDE

I'm sure that everything is going
to be better in the New World.
There has got to be ONE place that
is actually like the Professor
said.

CUNEGONDE

God forgive me, but I'm starting to
think the Professor was a liar.

CANDIDE

I'm already feeling better. Things
are going to be all right.

CUNEGONDE

I have been so horribly unhappy so
far that my heart is almost closed
to hope.

OLD WOMAN

You complain much! You think you
have had it bad? You've not known
misfortunes like mine.

CUNEGONDE

Unless you have been defiled by two
soldiers, received two deep blades
in your belly, had two castles
ruined, had two mothers cut to
pieces before your eyes and two of
your lovers whipped by the
inquisition, I don't see how you
could be more unfortunate than me!

OLD WOMAN

You don't know anything of my birth
and were I to show you my backside
you wouldn't talk like that.

CANDIDE

Oh the butt cheek story! How DID
that happen?!

OLD WOMAN

I'll tell you, if you take me
inside.

She shivers.

INT. SHIP GALLEY

The Old Woman has settled into a chair by a stove. Candide is
interested, Cunegonde critical.

OLD WOMAN

I have not always had bleary
bloodshot eyes. Neither did my nose
always touch my chin. Nor was I
always a servant.

Again the story is enacted as we hear it.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

I am the daughter of Pope Urban X
and the Princess of Palestrina.
I was brought up in a palace to
which your German castles would not
even serve as stables. One of my
gowns was worth more than all the
magnificence of your Westphalia. As
I grew up I improved in beauty and
wit. My ladies, when dressing and
undressing me would to fall into
ecstasies and proclaim how happy
MEN would have been in their place!

She truly is gorgeous.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

My fiancé was the most noble Prince
of Massa Carara. Two days before
the wedding his MISTRESS invited
him to drink chocolate with her.
He DIED in the most terrible
convulsions. My mother decided we
should leave the city.

(MORE)

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

We embarked on a galley which was gilded like the altar of St. Peter's in Rome. Pirates soon boarded us. Our men flung themselves to their knees begging for absolution like all the pope's men do.

Pirates board the ship, kill the guards and strip the women.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

We were immediately stripped bare as monkeys. I was a virgin but I did not remain so long. The Pirate Captain thought that he did me a great honor. Certainly we were very strong to survive all that we suffered before we arrived in Morocco. No sooner were we landed, than the Captain's enemies tried to rob him of his booty. They fought to see who should have us. My Captain concealed me behind him and defended us. I watched my mother torn limb from limb, I saw my ladies murdered and the Captain and everyone else killed. I hid behind a heap of corpses. With difficulty I crawled to a large orange tree a safe distance away where I passed out.

The old woman takes a breath. C & C give sideways glances.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

In this state, between life and death, I felt pressed by something, that moved up and down on my body. I opened my eyes and saw a man, who finally gave up pumping and cried out:

EUNUCH

What a misfortune to be without testicles!!

OLD WOMAN

I told him there are greater misfortunes. He kindly carried me to a tent near by.

INT. EUNUCH'S TENT IN MOROCCO - DAY

She bathes herself in a barrel tub. The eunuch watches from behind a curtain.

EUNUCH

I have never regretted the loss of my manhood so much. I have never seen anyone so beautiful.

YOUNG WOMAN

How did you come to be a Eunuch?

EUNUCH

I was born in Napoli were they geld 3000 children every year. Many die of the operation, others acquire beautiful voices. I was chapel singer to Madame the Princess of Palestrina.

OLD WOMAN (VO)

To my mother.

YOUNG WOMAN

To my mother!

EUNUCH

What?! The young Princess!? Who even then promised to be this beautiful?

YOUNG WOMAN

My mother is lying on the beach back there, torn to pieces.

She looks at him sorrowfully. He gets an idea.

EUNUCH

I will take you home.

OLD WOMAN (VO)

I cried tears of joy.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEY'S COURT - LATER

OLD WOMAN VO

Instead of taking me to Italy he took me to Algiers where he sold me to the Dey.

He exhibits her like a circus animal.

EUNUCH

See this fine specimen of the
female form. Smile!

OLD WOMAN VO

Scarcely was I sold, than the BLACK
PLAGUE broke out.

Everyone dies around her.

Back on the ship:

OLD WOMAN

You've seen a lot, but tell me,
have you ever had the plague?

CANDIDE

Never.

CUNEGONDE

Never.

OLD WOMAN

I did not die but almost the entire
city did. After many months of
recovery I became the property of a
Battalion of Janissaries who were
besieged by Russians. The Russians
were determined to starve us out.
The 20 soldiers had sworn to never
surrender. After several days with
no food they decided to EAT the
women.

The Janissaries turn, swords ready, but an Imam intervenes.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

We had a very pious and humane Imam
who begged them not to kill us all
at once. He told them:

IMAM

Cut only one buttock from of each
of these ladies. Take the other in
a few days if you must. Heaven will
see your charity and send
reinforcements.

The women are laid down and one buttock is removed from each.
The Janissaries cook and eat the meat.

OLD WOMAN VO

Hardly had the Janissaries finished the meal we provided, than RUSSIAN reinforcements arrived by flat-bottomed boat. Not a Janissary escaped. I travelled all of Russia after that. I was an Inn servant at Riga, then St. Petersburg, Moscow, Penza, Serov, Lensk, Warsaw, the Hague, then Rotterdam.

In each town she wears the customary costume and grows a bit older.

OLD WOMAN VO (CONT'D)

I became old in misery and disgrace, having only one-half of my posteriors, and always remembering I was a Pope's daughter! A hundred times I've been at the point of killing myself; but still I love life.

Now old, she offers an orange to a giggling baby on the street.

OLD WOMAN

Is there anything more ABSURD than to detest existence and yet to cling to one's survival?

She is being shown the receiving room of the Mysterious Hidden Castle by Don Issachar.

DON ISSACHAR

I can afford a penny a week.

OLD WOMAN

I ended up a servant to Don Issachar who gave me you.

CANDIDE

Do YOU believe this is the best of all possible worlds and there can be nothing better?

OLD WOMAN

I am now more invested in your troubles than in my own. It's enough just to be distracted. I know the world. You can ask each passenger on this ship.

Candide looks around the galley. It is filled with sad looking souls.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

If you can find ONE who hasn't been miserable, you have permission to throw me overboard.

After a beat Cunegonde stands. She'll take that bet.

CUNEGONDE

Ok. Come on.

INT/EXT. VARIOUS AREAS OF THE SHIP

Candide and Cunegonde talk to many different people. Each is MORE miserable than predicted.

BOAT PASSENGER 1

When my brother grabbed me by the throat, I took the knife and I jammed into his gullet...

BOAT PASSENGER 2

...she put my kids in potato sacks and threw them off the bridge...

BOAT PASSENGER 3

...the entire city burned to the ground...

BOAT PASSENGER 4

...they sawed my leg off at the knee...

BOAT PASSENGER 5

I was circumcised at 36.

The passengers gasp in horror.

EXT. SHIP DECK - LATER

Candide carries the Old Woman back along the deck. Cunegonde looks shell shocked.

CANDIDE

Wow. That was worst than I expected.

CUNEGONDE

Yeah, I feel stupid.

The old woman smiles.

CANDIDE

I mean, but from now on everything
is going to be fine. Right?

Cunegonde inhales as if to speak. The Old Woman gives her a
dirty look.

Cunegonde instead gives a big SIGH in defeat.

EXT. SHIP STABLES - DAY

Candide is learning the story of his new friend and valet
Cacambo, while feeding the horses.

CACAMBO

I've been a choir boy, grave
digger, monk, sailor, soldier.
I started in the kitchens of the
Jesuit Fathers of Paraguay.

CANDIDE

Isn't that who we're going to
overthrow?

CACAMBO

It is. They have great influence.
Los Padres own everything and the
natives nothing. They rule with an
iron fist. I have the scars to
prove it.

SAILOR

Land ho!

EXT. PORT OF BUENOS AIRES AND SURROUNDING

They land at Buenos Aires.

They are taken to the Governor's Palace.

SECRETARY

Governor Don Fernando d'Ibaraa
Figueora Munoz Sanchez Rodriguez
Ramirez Robles Mascarenes
Lampourdos y Souza!

CANDIDE

I hope he has a generosity fitting
so many names.

GOVERNOR DON FERNANDO(45) enters. He carries his nose loftily
and assumes an imperious air.

GOVERNOR

I heard my name? Who is this?

SECRETARY

Your excellency, this Captain has just arrived from Cadiz.

The Governor stares at Cunegonde.

Cunegonde lets her shawl slip down around her shoulders.

GOVERNOR

My dear you are the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. Are you this captain's wife?

CANDIDE

Actually we hope your excellency will agree to marry us.

GOVERNOR

Captain welcome to Buenos Aries! I have an important mission for you, but first you should go and review your company.

CANDIDE

Thank you sir! Thank you!

He is shown out.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE

The Governor gives the ladies a tour of the palace. They end up in his office.

Suddenly the Governor succumbs to his lust. He grabs Cunegonde.

GOVERNOR

Dear lady I must have you. If you would just lay with me tonight, I promise I will marry you Mañana.

Cunegonde extricates herself and runs to the Old Woman.

CUNEGONDE

What am I to do? What about Candide?

OLD WOMAN

Miss it is now in your power to be wife to the greatest nobleman in South America, who has very beautiful mustaches, and now you want to talk about fidelity? Our money problems are excuse enough. If I were in your place, I would have no problem marrying the Governor and making Candide's fortune in the process.

A MESSENGER runs in.

MESSENGER

Governor! A Magistrate from Lisbon is here in pursuit of a MURDERER!

The women turn in surprise.

EXT. FORT STABLES - LATER

Cacambo is unsaddling the two Andalusian horses.

The Old Woman runs through the stables to find Candide.

OLD WOMAN

Candide! You must flee!
We've been followed!

CANDIDE

What?!

OLD WOMAN

The magistrate from Lisbon is here!
The Grey Friar who stole
Cunegonde's money and the
Inquisitor's jewels gave our
description before he was hanged.

CANDIDE

But where can we go?!

OLD WOMAN

That is up to you. Cunegonde and I
have been offered the Governor's
protection. There is no time to
waste. Run Candide!

Cacambo begins re-saddling the Andalusian horses.

CACAMBO

Let's get out of here and not look back.

CANDIDE

Oh Cunegonde! Must I leave you again? What will become of you?

OLD WOMAN

She will do the best she can. Women are seldom at a loss. Run Candide! You must go!

EXT. BRAZILIAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Candide and Cacambo ride across open plains and thru valleys.

CANDIDE

Where are we going?!

CACAMBO

We were going to fight AGAINST the Jesuits. Now we're going to go fight FOR them. They'll be delighted to have a captain who knows the Bulgar drill. If a man cannot get what he wants in one world, he looks for it in another.

CANDIDE

You say you have already been to Paraguay?

CACAMBO

I know it like the back of my hand. You are about to become the happiest of men.

EXT. JESUIT FORT GATE - A DAY LATER

Cacambo knocks at the gate of the well defended Jesuit Fort. A face appears between the bars.

CACAMBO

A Captain wishes to speak with the Commandant.

GUARD

The Commandant is not here.

CACAMBO

The Reverend Father then?

GUARD
He only speaks German.

CANDIDE
Oh, but I am German.

CACAMBO
This captain is German.

The gate opens.

EXT. JESUIT FORT - SAME

SOLDIERS, PRIESTS and NATIVES of every sort mingle inside the fort. Our heroes are directed toward the mission Church. Cacambo knocks at the church door.

CACAMBO
This captain is German. He wishes to see the Reverend Father.

The GUARDS open the door and they enter.

A REVEREND FATHER comes toward them.

REVEREND FATHER
They say you are German?

CANDIDE
Yes, Reverend Father.

REVEREND FATHER
And what part of Germany do you come from?

CANDIDE
I was born in the Castle of Thunder-
ten-Tronckh.

The Reverend Father is now close enough to recognize. They look at each other with amazement.

It's the YOUNG BARON from Westphalia.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)
It can't be.

YOUNG BARON
Horze boy.

EXT. JESUIT GARDENS - LATER

They now sit under a Gazebo in the garden. Between them a table is laid with food.

Cacambo is giving oats to the two Andalusian horses.

CANDIDE

The Young Baron a Jesuit in
Paraguay! What a strange world!

PRIEST COLONEL

It is a miracle from god.

CANDIDE

Our Professor would say this proves
all is for the best, if he hadn't
been hanged. But you'll be happy to
hear that your sister is alive.

YOUNG BARON

What? Where?

CANDIDE

With the Governor of Buenos Aires.
I was being sent here to fight
against you. But how did you
survive? How are you HERE?

YOUNG BARON

I will never forget the night my
birth-right was destroyed.

We watch it unfold. The Young Baron is ravaged by a line of soldiers as his castle burns.

YOUNG BARON (CONT'D)

When the battle was over my sister
could not be found. We were put
into a wagon and hauled to the
Jesuit chapel. As the Father
sprinkled us with holy water, he
noticed that my eyelids moved a
little. I was taken into his care
and somehow by the grace of god I
recovered. I'm sure that you
remember how gorgeous I was. Well I
got much better looking as I grew
into manhood. The Father Superior
developed the tenderest affection
for me. He gave me the habit of the
order.

The Young Baron receives regular baths from the Father Superior until one day he finds he has been replaced. He's broken hearted. The Father Superior dismisses him.

FATHER SUPERIOR

I think you should go.

YOUNG BARON

Later I was sent to Rome.
The Father-General was there to enlist young German brothers. The church in Paraguay allows no Spanish Jesuits; believing they do less mischief when they are unable to communicate.

The FATHER GENERAL inspects the applicants.

FATHER GENERAL

Habla Espanol?

YOUNG BARON

How dare you sir!

FATHER GENERAL

Ah perfecto!

YOUNG BARON

When I arrived I was honored with a Lieutenancy. I am now a Priest Colonel.

The Young Baron gets another bath, this time from a PARAGUAYAN FATHER.

EXT. JESUIT GARDENS - SAME

Back at the table Candide stuffs his face.

YOUNG BARON

We will have a nice surprise for the troops from Buenos Aires. Fate sends you to assist us horse boy. And you say Cunegonde is here?

CANDIDE

She is!

YOUNG BARON

We will conquer the city and recover my sister!

CANDIDE

And then I will MARRY her!

YOUNG BARON

What!?! You? The horze boy?
What extraordinary insolence! I
find it highly presumptuous of you
to speak to me about anything so
absurd. You shoveler of shit!

CANDIDE

I rescued your sister and brought
her to this Continent. She wants to
marry ME, and the Professor told us
that all men are EQUAL.

YOUNG BARON

We'll see about that, dog!

CANDIDE

I WILL marry her!

YOUNG BARON

Here, hold this.

The Young Baron hands Candide his divine staff and from it
pulls his sword. It has the cross as a handle.

Before the Baron can strike, Candide lifts the rest of the
heavy staff and clobbers him over the head with it. He falls
in a dead heap.

CANDIDE

Oh my God! I have killed my future
brother-in-law! What should I DO?

Cacambo runs over.

CACAMBO

We have no choice but to fight for
our lives.

CANDID

You are a good man Cacambo.
I'm sorry things have turned out
this way.

CACAMBO

I have been in many fights in my
life, let's not lose our heads.

CANDIDE

I'm the mildest man alive and now I
have killed 3 men. Two of them
PRIESTS.

CACAMBO

Here, take his robe!

Cacambo strips the robes from the Young Baron and helps
Candide into them. There is blood on the inside of the hat.
He puts it on anyway and pulls it down low.

CACAMBO (CONT'D)

Hopefully they'll take you for a
priest going to deliver orders.
We'll have passed the frontiers
before they can catch us.

EXT. JESUIT GATE

They race from the Fort on horseback through clusters of
soldiers.

CACAMBO

Make way for the Reverend Father!

EXT. - JUNGLE MEADOW - DAY

The two now gallop thru wild country.

After some distance, they come to a beautiful meadow.

They hear little screams.

The noise is made by 2 NAKED GIRLS running from a MONKEY that
pursues them, biting at their buttocks.

Candide raises his gun.

BANG! It falls dead.

CANDIDE

Maybe they are young ladies of
family and can help us in this
country.

The girls run back and begin to cry over the monkey.

It's a pet.

CACAMBO

Maybe not.

Cacambo and Candide ride out of the meadow embarrassed.

EXT. JUNGLE CAMP - SUNSET

They are feeding the horses and making their camp.

CANDIDE

Damn that Baron.
Damn that monkey.

They eventually fall asleep against a tree.

EXT. JUNGLE CAMP - FIRST LIGHT

They awake to find that during the night they have been bound with jungle vines and can't move.

20 naked OREILLONS surround them. Wearing the same markings as the 2 girls they are armed with bows, clubs and flint hatchets. They begin to CHANT.

OREILLONS

Eat the Jesuit! Eat the Jesuit!

CACAMBO

They take you for a Priest. It looks like we are going to be eaten.

CANDIDE

What would the Professor say now? Everything is right maybe, but to be eaten by natives is ridiculous.

CACAMBO

I'll try to speak to them.

CANDIDE

Tell them I don't like priests much either.

CACAMBO

Señores, me suena como que ustedes piensan comer jesuíta. Todo eso esta muy bien. La ley de la naturaleza nos enseña a matar a nuestros enemigos. Así se hace mundialmente. Pero, señores, seguramente no escojerían comerse a sus amigos. Este hombre es su defensor. El es el enemigo de sus enemigos, quienes ustedes asarán.

(MORE)

CACAMBO (CONT'D)

El acaba de matar al jesuita, cuya túnica tiene puesta. Es un error lógico.

Gentlemen, it sounds like you believe you are going to feast upon a Jesuit. That's all very well. The law of nature teaches us to kill our enemies. Such is the practice all over the world. But, gentlemen, surely you would not choose to eat your friends. This man is your defender. He is the enemy of your enemies that you are going to roast. He has just killed the Jesuit whose robe he wears. It is a logical mistake.

With his teeth Cacambo pulls the hat from Candide's head exposing the blood on the inside of it.

An Oreillon inspects Candide's scalp and finding no wound nods to the others.

The tone of the chanting changes. They find this explanation reasonable.

EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - LATER

Cacambo and Candide are now on foot.

CANDIDE

They could have left us one of the horses!

CACAMBO

See, this hemisphere is no better than any other. Take my advice and let's go back to Europe by the shortest route possible.

CANDIDE

But how do we get back? And where do we go? If we go to my country we'll find soldiers murdering everybody. If we go to Portugal I'll be arrested and hanged. And how can I leave the part of the world where Cunegonde still lives?

CACAMBO

Let's go to Cayenne. We'll find
Frenchmen there. Maybe they'll have
pity on us.

CANDIDE

How far is that?

CACAMBO

Real far. I hope we can find it.

Precipices, canyons, robbers and savages obstruct them all
the way. Every situation has them turning around and going
back.

EXT. JUNGLE CAMP - EVENING

Candide and Cacambo do the Bulgar drill while squirrel roasts
over an open fire.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

More traveling. They find themselves at last near a RIVER
bordered with coconut trees. Stuck in the mud is a damaged
canoe.

CACAMBO

A boat! Maybe we can fix it. Let's
fill it with coconuts and go with
the current.

CANDIDE

We'll put our trust in fate.

CACAMBO

Rivers always lead to human
habitation of some kind.

EXT. AMAZON RIVER - LATER

They row a few leagues between banks. Some places are
flowery, others barren. Some parts smooth, others are rugged.
The river is jagged with switchbacks.

It eventually narrows and goes under an arch of rocks which
reach to the sky. It becomes a cave. In blackness the river
whirls them along rapidly with loud noise. It's all very
frightening.

Their canoe suddenly crashes against rocks.

They fall out and are swept away.

EXT. ELDORADO BEACH - DAY

They have washed up on a beach surrounded by jagged mountains that reach high into the sky.

Candide and Cacambo walk toward the first trace of civilization they see.

There are recliners and palm umbrellas and little tables with trays on them. It generally resembles a TROPICAL RESORT.

CANDIDE

Now this is much better.

THREE BOYS play at marbles out near a fountain.

A SCHOOL MASTER sees the newcomers and calls to the boys.

SCHOOL MASTER

Back to class!

They run off without taking their marbles.

The Candide picks a few off the ground. The marbles are yellow, red and green. They are actual Jewels and Gold.

CANDIDE

Emerald, ruby, gold nuggets!
Those must be the sons of the King.

The School Master approaches them and Candide hands him the precious marbles.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

Don't lose these.

The School Master drops them and makes his escape.

SCHOOL MASTER

Run Boys!

CANDIDE

He didn't want them!

Candide kneels down to recover the jewels. He pauses. The whole ground sparkles.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

Wait, is this ALL gold?

Cacambo kneels too.

CACAMBO
Yep. It's all gold.

EXT. INTERIOR OF ELDORADO - LATER

The country is cultivated as much for pleasure as for necessity. On all sides the useful is also the beautiful.

CANDIDE
Gold dust, gold nuggets, diamonds,
rubies. They're all over the
ground!

They come upon a fruit stand. The girl behind the counter immediately serves them a pair of tropical drinks.

Candide puts a couple of gold nuggets down as payment. The confused girl wipes them off the bar.

A voice comes from behind.

OLD MAN
No need to offer the pebbles from
the road.

And OLD MAN has appeared.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
Refreshment is paid by the
government for the convenience of
commerce. We don't get many
strangers here, but we're always
happy to see them.

CANDIDE/CACAMBO
What country is THIS?

OLD MAN
It's called Eldorado by the
Spaniards, who would murder every
one of us for the dust in the
streets. Luckily we are surrounded
by treacherous mountain peaks and
sheltered from the rest of the
world. Everything is for the best.

Candid is astonished.

EXT. ELDORADO CITY CENTER- LATER

The Old Man shows them around the village. The streets really are paved with gold.

CANDIDE
Where are the PRIESTS?

OLD MAN
My friend we are all priests.

CANDIDE
What! No holy men to burn people
that are not of their opinion?

OLD MAN
We would be mad indeed if that were
the case. No, here we are all of
one opinion.

CACAMBO
How do you pray to God in Eldorado?

OLD MAN
We don't pray to Him. We have
nothing to ask of Him.
He has given us all we need.

CANDIDE
Wow.

OLD MAN
I'll take you to meet the King.

He whistles. A carriage pulled by RED LLAMAS, arrives with a jingle.

EXT. GOLDEN ROAD - SAME

The roads are adorned with carriages of a glittering form and substance. Inside each are men and women of surprising beauty, drawn by the same red Llamas.

EXT. KINGS PALACE

The carriage delivers them to their destination. Candide and Cacambo and the Old Man begin to climb the steps. The Palace looks like it was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

CACAMBO
How do we greet his Majesty?

OLD MAN
What do you mean?

CACAMBO
On our knees or on our stomachs?

CANDIDE
Do we kiss his SHOES?

CACAMBO
Do we lick the dust off the floor?

OLD MAN
No...

Now inside, beautiful damsels receive Candide and Cacambo and conduct them to the baths. They dress them in clothes woven of the down of humming-birds.

CACAMBO
Well what's the greeting ceremony?

OLD MAN
You can give him a hug if you want.

Great CROWN OFFICERS of both sexes lead them to a backyard pool BBQ.

The KING (40) is handsome, affable and wearing a long cape and feathered headdress.

He surrounded by glamorous women in chic bathing suits.

KING
What took you so long?
Are you staying for dinner?

They happily join the party.

EXT. PATIO OVERLOOKING ELDORADO - LATER

Candide, Cacambo and the King stand surveying the land below.

The public edifices and market places, the fountains of rose water incessantly flowing into the great squares, which are paved with precious stones.

Surrounded on all sides by high cliffs and mountain peaks.

CANDIDE
And where are the courts of
JUSTICE?

KING
What's a justice?

CACAMBO
Don't you have any prisons?

KING

There's no need to imprison anyone here. No one does anything wrong. There IS a Palace of Sciences over there.

He points at a structure which looks to have telescopes projecting from it.

KING (CONT'D)

I'm very proud of this work. That gallery is filled with every instrument necessary for the study of mathematics and physics. We can watch the stars rotating in the heavens.

The stars rotate.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF PLEASURE - NIGHT

Food, fruit and dishes and drinks of every description are laid out on a table.

Candide and Cacambo now sit with his Majesty, the Queen and several other couples. Never was there better entertainment and never was more wit shown at dinner.

Candide is inspired to stand. They pause for him.

CANDIDE

I have finally found the country where everything IS for the BEST. Thank you for welcoming us.

KING

We are happy to have you.

The party continues.

MONTAGE:

They are given accommodation with a fine view.

The next day they ride water slides,

get foot massages,

relax at the beach.

Repeat.

Ride water slides,
get foot massages,
relax at the beach.
Days and weeks pass.

END MONTAGE

EXT. BEACH - DAY

They recline on lounge chairs, fruity drinks in hand, shaded and fanned by mechanical apparatus.

CANDIDE
I'm bored.

CACAMBO
Me too.

CANDIDE
This is a perfect life except
Cunegonde isn't here.

CACAMBO
And I miss having something to do.

He thinks for a moment.

CACAMBO (CONT'D)
If we go back with a few bags of
dirt from this place we'll be
richer than all the kings in Europe

CANDIDE
Then we could get her back EASILY!

CACAMBO
Nobody will believe it.
Let's ask if we can leave.

INT. KINGS HALL - LATER

They stand before the King.

KING
I think you're fucking crazy but
you're not mine to keep.
But you have to SWEAR never to
speak of this place, got it?

They nod.

KING (CONT'D)

Then you can go whenever you want.

CANDIDE

But how do we get OUT?

CACAMBO

It's impossible to go back by the river we came.

CANDIDE

And the mountains are 10,000 feet high.

KING

My cousin has an invention you may be able to test for us. It should put you over the mountains if it doesn't kill you, but the rest will be up to you. What else will you need?

CACAMBO

Only a few red sheep to carry provisions.

CANDIDE

And bags of your pebbles and dirt.

He pauses suspiciously. Then laughs.

KING

I can't understand why you pink bastards get so excited about our yellow dirt, but take as much as you like. Much good may it do you.

EXT. PLACE OF SCIENCES - DAYS LATER

The ENGINEERS of Eldorado have built a contraption something like a ski lift to carry Candide and Cacambo up and over the mountains. They say their goodbyes.

KING

Good luck! I hope you idiots make it!

They get into the lift and ride on pulleys up the side of the mountain. Dozens of fully loaded pack Llamas hang from the lift and bleat around them. C&C enjoy the view and wave goodbye to the shrinking city of Eldorado below.

MONTAGE

Our travelers now carry more treasure than in all Europe down the mountain passes.

Two of their sheep plunge into a morass where they and their burdens are lost;

More die of fatigue;

Some perish from hunger in a desert.

Others subsequently fall down precipices.

One sinks in a swamp.

After traveling a hundred days, only three sheep remain.

END MONTAGE

EXT. SURINAM - DAY

Finally they reach what appear to be the straight long rows of sugarcane.

CACAMBO

This Sugarcane has been planted.
This must be Dutch Surinam.

He looks back.

CACAMBO (CONT'D)

But we've lost another one.

There are only two Llamas left.

CANDIDE

How perishable are the riches of this world. I guess it's still more treasure than Frederick the Great will ever have.

Candide looks down the road ahead.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

Is that a PERSON?

He sees one dark leg peeking out between the rows further down. They go that direction and find a man chained to a post.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

What are you doing here friend?

SLAVE

I'm waiting for my master.

CANDIDE

Why does he keep you in this shocking condition?

SLAVE

It's the custom.

CANDIDE

Where is your HAND?

SLAVE

When we work the sugar-mills and a gear snatches ahold of a finger, they cut off the whole hand.

CANDIDE

And your LEG?

SLAVE

They cut it off when I tried to run away. It's the price we pay for the sugar you eat.

CANDIDE

What put you here?

SLAVE

My mother sold me for ten copper coins on the coast of Guinea. She told me I had the honor of making her fortune. I don't know whether I made her fortune or not, but I know I've not made my own. Dogs and cats are a thousand times better off than I am. The Dutch missionaries declare every Sunday that we are all children of Adam, but you have to agree that it would be difficult to treat your brothers and sisters worse.

Candide pours a bag of gold and jewels before him.

CANDIDE

Here. Your fortune is made.
May it bring you some happiness.

The slave is shocked and a little afraid.

EXT. SURINAM

They enter the little village with their two remaining sheep.

CANDIDE

When I see Cunegonde I can finally
be happy too.

Behind them teams of slaves shear sugar cane.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

They are inquiring of a SPANISH CAPTAIN whether his vessel is
taking on passengers.

CANDIDE

...to Buenos Aires where I intend to
elope with Miss Cunegonde.

SPANISH CAPTAIN

Cunegonde? German girl? Blonde
hair?

CANDIDE

Yes! That's HER!

SPANISH CAPTAIN

I'm afraid Señorita Cunegonde is
the Governor's favorite mistress.
I'll not take you anywhere near
Buenos Aires. You would be hanged!
And so would I.

Candide is grief stricken. They walk back into town.

CACAMBO

Listen I have an idea. Do you want
to hear it?

CANDIDE

Yeah. You're more cunning than I
am.

CACAMBO

And I haven't killed an Inquisitor.
I'll take as much gold as I can
carry and go free Cunegonde. I'll
offer the Governor as much as you
want. If he won't give her up I'll
double it. You take the sheep and
the rest back by ship to Venice.
You won't have to worry about
Portuguese magistrates in Venice.

(MORE)

CACAMBO (CONT'D)

The Doge never grants extradition of criminals. It's why Venice is great. Wait for me there. I will bring Cunegonde to you.

CANDIDE

It's a good plan. But I'm sorry to lose you.

CACAMBO

I'll be back as soon as I can.

CANDIDE

Cacambo you might be the actual hero in this story.

CACAMBO

I'm happy to help you. It gives me something to do.

EXT. DOCK - LATER

Cacambo is now on board the ship waving goodbye.

CANDIDE

And don't forget the Old Woman!

CACAMBO

I won't. I'll see you in Venice.

Candide watches his friend until he is out of sight.

EXT. SURINAM - DAY

Candide searches for a ship to Italy. He purchases everything necessary for a long voyage and tends to the Llamas.

Behind him, MYNHEER VANDERDENDUR (45) a large frightening man enters, dragging the SLAVE from the sugarcane fields.

The Slave points at the man who gave him the gold and jewels.

Mynheer discards the slave and marches toward Candide. His face softens into a smile before he speaks.

MYNHEER VANDERDENDUR

My name is Mynheer Vanderdendur of the Assendelft. I've come to offer my services.

CANDIDE

A ship! How much will you charge to carry me and my two sheep directly to Venice?

MYNHEER VANDERDENDUR

Ten thousand piastres.

CANDIDE

That's reasonable! Ok!

MYNHEER VANDERDENDUR

I'm sorry. Did I say ten? I meant twenty thousand.

Candide fishes in his pocket and pulls out the money.

CANDIDE

Here you are.

MYNHEER VANDERDENDUR

Did I say 20? I'm afraid I was mistaken. I can't carry you alone to Venice for less than fifty thousand.

CANDIDE

I haven't converted that much...

Candide turns to the Llama and digs in his pack a bit. He turns back with a large diamond.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

But will this do?

EXT. DOCKS

The two sheep are put on board a skiff.

MYNHEER VANDERDENDUR

I'm afraid there's no more room.
I'll come back for you.

Candide stands on the dock and watches the skiff paddle away and join the vessel in the harbor.

The ship is put out to sea with the wind favoring it.

Candide, sitting dismayed and stupefied, soon loses sight of the vessel.

CANDIDE

Fuuuck! Pangloss this is it. I give up on your Optimism!

MARTIN (40) an intelligent looking man with a permanent frown stands behind him on the dock.

MARTIN

What is this Optimism?

CANDIDE

It's the insanity of insisting that everything is fine when everything is terrible.

MARTIN

As in: I am optimistic that I will get screwed again?

Candide laughs.

CANDIDE

What's your name?

MARTIN

It's Martin.

CANDIDE

Martin I have just lost enough wealth to buy Germany.

MARTIN

I can take you to see the Magistrate but I doubt he'll do anything.

INT. MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE - LATER

Candide rushes the bench.

CANDIDE

I've been robbed!!

DUTCH MAGISTRATE

5000 paistres fine for shouting.

CANDIDE

Captain Mynheer Vanderdendur stole my red sheep!

DUTCH MAGISTRATE

I'll ask him when he gets back.
10,000 hearing fee. Payable now.

Candide is in despair.

EXT. DOCKS - LATER

They are now back at the docks. Newly arrived slaves pass behind.

CANDIDE

The villainy of mankind presents itself before me in all of it's deformity.

MARTIN

I have a bad habit of always expecting the worst. When things go wrong I'm rarely caught off guard because I was expecting it. When things go right I'm always absolutely delighted.

CANDIDE

I have to get out of here.

MARTIN

There IS a French ship about to set sail for Bordeaux. I couldn't afford passage.

CANDIDE

I do have some money left. I can take you with me if you're unhappy here.

MARTIN

Oh I AM unhappy here. I have been robbed by my wife, beaten by my son and abandoned by my daughter, who ran off with a Portuguese sailor.

We see all of this unfold

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Also, I was just fired from my job after the priest here called me a Heretic. Fuck everyone and everything!

CANDIDE

I'm sure you'll keep me entertained.

EXT. SHIP TO BORDEAUX - THE NEXT DAY

Finally Candide is on his way home. Martin stands with him on deck, scanning the horizon.

CANDIDE

I cannot wait to see Cunegonde again.

MARTIN

You have great advantage over me. I have nothing at all to hope for.

CANDIDE

But I've lost SO much wealth.

MARTIN

Be grateful for what you have left.

CANDIDE

What do you make of all this Martin?

MARTIN

That priest accused me of being a heretic. The fact is that I am a realist. I am one. I can't help it. I don't know how to think otherwise. I never knew a city that didn't want to destroy a neighboring city, nor a family that did not wish to exterminate some other family.

CANDIDE

There is SOME good.

MARTIN

If there is, I've not experienced it.

Suddenly a ship in the distance FIRES on another ship. It sinks quickly with much screaming while the other ship continues on. Everyone watches in shock.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

This is how men treat one another!

The CAPTAIN joins them.

CAPTAIN

The sinking ship was the Assendelft. Infamous Dutch pirate ship.

CANDIDE
Mynheer Vanderdendur!

Candide sees something floating in the water.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)
Wait what's THAT?

It is a red Llama swimming toward them.

EXT. SHIP DECK - LATER

The Llama has been hoisted out of the water by winch and now stands on deck shivering. Some of his pack remains. A few of the lighter bags of jewels are intact.

CANDIDE
You see crime IS sometimes
punished! That Pirate got what he
deserved!

MARTIN
But did the passengers have to
drown too?

Candide dries the Llama with a rag.

CANDIDE
Well at least I have found YOU
again. Maybe I can find Cunegonde
too.

Martin holds his tongue.

EXT. BORDEAUX - DAY

The ship arrives in Bordeaux Harbor. They are back in Europe.

Candide immediately visits the 'Banque du Bordeaux' to exchange a bag of JEWELS for stacks of GOLD COINS.

He places the coins along with the tattered remaining bags of jewels into a heavy metal LOCKBOX.

He closes the lid and secures it.

INT. ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES - DAY

Next he visits the 'Academy of Sciences' where he says goodbye to the loyal red llama who is now covered in sores.

CANDIDE
Thank you red sheep.
I hope you don't die of POX.

The Llama gives a sickly bleat.

He exits and the Llama falls off the examination pedestal
dead.

The scientists are puzzled.

EXT. ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES - SAME

Candide rejoins Martin outside the Academy.

CANDIDE
I'd like to see Paris on my way to
Venice. Will you come with me?

MARTIN
You have money. I have none.
I'll go wherever you want to go.

EXT. ROAD TO PARIS - DAY

Candide has hired a fine coach. He and Martin are riding in
style through the villages and fields of France.

CANDIDE
Have you been to Paris, Martin?

MARTIN
I made a short stay there.
I was robbed by pickpockets the
first day.

CANDIDE
Do you think men have always robbed
each other?

MARTIN
Do you think hawks have always
eaten pigeons?

CANDIDE
Of course.

MARTIN
Well if hawks have always had the
same nature why should MEN have
changed theirs?

EXT. PARIS - LATER

Candide climbs out of the coach feeling the weight of the lockbox. He doesn't look so good.

Martin gets out behind him and they proceed up the walk to the Hotel

CANDIDE
I'm very tired.

Two middle aged gentlemen DOCTORS in white powered wigs have spotted them.

DOCTOR 1
Are those diamonds on his fingers?

DOCTOR 2
What a huge lockbox!

CANDIDE
Ugh. I don't feel WELL.

The Doctors rush in and brace him on either side.

DOCTOR 1
I know the cure!

DOCTOR 2
Here let me help you.

He relieves Candide of the lockbox and feels the weight of it.

Martin quickly takes it from him. They help Candide up the walk.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

The Doctors examine the contents of Candide's bed pan.

He sits on the bed waiting for the results. Martin attends.

CANDIDE
Somehow I now have two Doctors,
though I never sent for either of
them.

Candide is undressed and put into a chair and BLED. Thick jets of blood flow into a bowl.

They lay him on his stomach and blow tobacco smoke up his ass with a long glass tube.

They put out their hands and he pays them with a stack of gold coins each.

They put him back in bed. Martin waits.

MARTIN

I was sick on my first visit too.
Of course I had no money so I had
no doctors. Somehow I recovered.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAYS LATER

Candide now looks terrible. His head is wrapped in a rag and there are pits under his eyes and his cheeks are hollow.

The Doctors and their attendants put him into the chair and Bleed him again.

They blow tobacco smoke up his ass. He pays.

CANDIDE

I'm afraid that with all this
treatment my illness has become
SERIOUS.

The Doctors stand around discussing final steps with their attendants.

A finely dressed old PARIS PRIEST bursts into the room.

PARIS PRIEST

I have good news! I can offer you
entry to the next world. 200 francs
buys you a ticket to heaven!

He shows them a printed document granting 'Monsieur Candide entrance to the pearly gates'.

MARTIN

That sounds unlikely.

PARIS PRIEST

But I assure you it's the FASHION.

CANDIDE

I've never been a man of fashion.

MARTIN

Let me throw this priest out the
window.

PARIS PRIEST

Then you won't be buried HERE!

MARTIN

I'll bury you! Go on! Get out!

Martin takes him by the collar and roughly throws him out.

PARIS PRIEST

This is a scandal! I'll sue you!

The Doctors are likewise thrown out. Martin SLAMS the door and turns back to Candide.

MARTIN

I'll cure you myself. Marie, get this gentleman some bone broth!

The only remaining MAID scurries off with purpose.

EXT. PARIS - WEEKS LATER

Candide is well again and in very good company. They see the sights of Paris.

Cock fights.

Boxing matches.

A Fashion parade outside a theatre, where a fight between rivals breaks out.

Inside the theatre an ACTRESS in a Queen Elizabeth I costume finishes a speech.

ACTRESS

...I assure you I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people.

The curtain comes down.

Candide and Martin are in the audience.

CANDIDE

I like the actress playing Queen Elizabeth. She looks like Cunegonde.

The ABBE OF PERRIGORD, an ugly but finely dressed gentleman who sits next to Candide, turns to him.

ABBÉ

I should introduce you.

CANDIDE

You know her? What's the etiquette?
How do you treat Queens of England
in France?

ABBÉ

Well enough. At least while they
are beautiful.

CANDIDE

Can I meet her after the show?

ABBÉ

Perhaps.

INT. THEATRE LOBBY - LATER

Candide and Martin wait for news. The Abbé returns.

ABBÉ

She's busy tonight. But I CAN take
you to the house of a lady of
quality. She can open doors for you
in Paris.

Candide lets himself be taken.

INT. FAUBOURG ST. HONORÉ - LATER

It is the home of the MARCHIONESS OF PAROLIGNAC.

The room is full of gamblers at card tables playing faro.

The room pauses to inspect the newcomers.

ABBÉ

Monsieur Candide meet the
Marchioness of Parolignac.

She gestures Candide to an empty seat next to her.

MARCHIONESS

Join us.

INT. GAME ROOM - LATER

Candide plays cards and spills his guts.

CANDIDE

...after that I will be on my way to Venice to marry Miss Cunegonde of Thunder-ten-Tronckh who I've known for many years...

INT. GAME ROOM - LATER STILL

The card playing continues.

CANDIDE

I've lost 50,000 francs in 2 hands.

MARCHIONESS

I'm surprised you're not more upset.

CANDIDE

Oh, I've lost more than THAT.

From across the room the Marchioness and the Abbé share a discreet cheer. Martin notices.

INT. LIBRARY - LATER

The Marchioness now has Candide alone in a darkened room.

MARCHIONESS

Sit down there on the chaise.
Isn't it comfortable?

CANDIDE

Yes it is!

She joins him seductively, laying her hand on his.

MARCHIONESS

Do you really love this Cunegonde of Thunder-ten-Tronckh?

CANDIDE

Oh I do.

MARCHIONESS

You answer me like a young man from Westphalia. A Frenchman would have said: It's true that I once loved Cunegonde, but seeing you madame, I can love her no longer.

CANDIDE

Would you like me to say that?

MARCHIONESS

Oh never mind.
What beautiful rings!!

She admires Candide's large sparkling diamonds.

The Marchioness suddenly jumps up.

MARCHIONESS (CONT'D)

Oh dear, my garter has slipped!

Her dress falls to the ground exposing one garter that is sliding down her thigh. Other than stockings she is naked.

MARCHIONESS (CONT'D)

Would you would put it back up for me?

Blushing, Candide takes the garter and slides it back up.

CANDIDE

There you are.

CUT TO:

The Marchioness rides Candide like a prized pony.

She now wears his rings.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER STILL

Candide is feeling used and wondering what just happened.

MARCHIONESS

I usually make my Parisian lovers
languish for weeks. Maybe it is
because you're a foreigner.

The rings on her fingers sparkle.

EXT. STREETS OF PARIS - DAWN

Candide, Martin and the Abbé ride home in a carriage as the sun rises

CANDIDE

I lost a lot tonight.

ABBÉ

So did I.

CANDIDE
I feel bad for being unfaithful.
I'll have to ask Miss Cunegonde's
forgiveness.

ABBÉ
You are going to meet her in
Venice?

CANDIDE
That's the plan.

ABBE
And you trust your servant to bring
her?

CANDIDE
He's my friend. I trust Cacambo as
I trust myself.

A moment.

ABBÉ
Does this Cunegonde write charming
letters?

CANDIDE
I've never received one from her.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Candide is awakened by a servant with a letter. He opens it.
Cunegonde's voice reads:

CUNEGONDE
My love,
I have just learned that you are
here. For 3 days I have been ill in
Paris. Cacambo went to Venice to
find you. Come to me at the Hotel
Duperie. -Cunegonde

CANDIDE
She's HERE!
But she's SICK.
We have to HURRY.

EXT. HOTEL DUPERIE - DAY

Candide's coach pulls up to a dilapidated Hotel.

INT. DARK ROOM IN THE HOTEL DUPERIE

A NUN show them into the room. Martin carries the lockbox.

CANDIDE
Where's the old woman?

NUN
She's... died.

CANDIDE
Oh no! It's so dark. We should open
the CURTAINS.

He does so.

NUN
No, the light hurts her!

She closes them again and leads them to the curtained bed.
Candide sadly kneels at the gap in the curtain.

CANDIDE
Cunegonde how are you my love?

No reply.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)
If you can't look at me at least
speak to me.

NUN
She can't speak.

The imposter puts a hand out from the bed and Candide bathes
it with tears. Then he fills it with diamonds and cries some
more.

CANDIDE
What strange dark hairs.
Wait, you're not -

The Nun screams. An OFFICER bursts in followed by a file of
SOLDIERS and the Abbé of Perrigord.

ABBÉ
There are the two undocumented
foreigners!

OFFICER
Seize them!

The soldiers apprehend Candide and Martin.

EXT. CITY STREET - LATER

Candide and Martin now sit in the back of a jail wagon.

CANDIDE
Foreigners are treated better in
Eldorado.

MARTIN
What did I tell you?

He shouts to the driver.

CANDIDE
Where are you taking US?

OFFICER
To a dungeon.

Back to Martin.

CANDIDE
What do we DO?

MARTIN
Rather than deal with the COURTS,
I say you give the Officer a
diamond.

Great idea.

EXT. JAIL WAGON FRONT SEAT

CANDIDE
Psst.

Candide reaches between the bars offering a large diamond.
The Officer gets up and calls to the soldiers.

OFFICER
There's been a mistake!
You officers may go.

EXT. JAIL WAGON BACK

He unlocks the wagon and helps Candide and Martin out.

OFFICER
Sir, instead of taking you to jail,
I would give my life to serve you.

CANDIDE
You can show me the quickest way
OUT of France.

OFFICER
I'll take you to Normandy.

EXT. DOCKS AT NORMANDY - THE NEXT DAY

True to his word the Officer has them on board a ship.
He waves goodbye.

OFFICER
Farewell Monsieur! Bon Voyage!

Candide turns to Martin.

CANDIDE
Where is this boat going?

MARTIN
England.

CANDIDE
You know England?
Are they as CROOKED as in France?

MARTIN
I know only that the people are
very bad tempered.

EXT. ENGLISH HARBOR

They arrive in an English Harbor.

On a nearby cliff a tree dangles with human bodies. A crowd
watches as another is added.

He drops, twitches, then goes still.

CANDIDE
What is THAT?

MARTIN
It's called a hanging tree.

CANDIDE
I'm not getting off this boat.

EXT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN DOOR

Martin waits outside listening.

CANDIDE

Please Captain, I will make you a
WEALTHY man!

EXT. COAST OF EUROPE - VARIOUS

The ship heads back. We vaguely recognize a passing city in the distance. It has been rebuilt.

CANDIDE

Lisbon. Where Pangloss was hanged.

EXT. VENICE HARBOR - A WEEK LATER

Beautiful Venice. The boat has docked. Martin carries the lockbox. Candide breathes a sigh of relief.

CANDIDE

Venice at last. It's here I will
see Cunegonde again. Everything is
fine.

Martin harrumphs.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

Everything WILL be fine...
at least as fine as possible.

EXT. VENICE CANALS - VARIOUS

Candide hires a Gondola and explores the canals. He searches high and low stopping at every other public building.

Martin likewise explores the docks.

One final stop and Candide turns around a heads back.

INT. CAFE FLORIAN - LATER

Candide finds Martin waiting in a popular coffeehouse.

CANDIDE

I have searched every Inn and
Public House.

MARTIN

I checked all the ships that came
in today.

CANDIDE

Where are they?

MARTIN

A fellow with that much money will
not search the other end of the
world to find YOUR mistress and
bring her all the way to Venice.

CANDIDE

Cunegonde is DEAD I'm sure.

MARTIN

If he finds her he'll keep her to
himself.

CANDIDE

There is nothing left but for me to
die too.

MARTIN

I think you should FORGET this
Cacambo and this Cunegonde. Can I
get you a coffee?

CANDIDE

I should have stayed in Eldorado
instead of coming back to cursed
EUROPE.

Candide buries his head in his hands. Despite himself, Martin
approaches sympathy.

MARTIN

Maybe they'll come tomorrow.

EXT. STREETS OF VENICE - LATER

Candide and Martin walk back to their hotel. They crest a
bridge and see a joyful couple playing and singing in the
street.

CANDIDE

At least THOSE two are happy.

MARTIN

I promise you they're not.

CANDIDE
Let's ask them.

Candide goes over.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)
Excuse me, may I ask you a
question?

PAQUETTE
Candide doesn't recognize his
classmate Paquette anymore.

The costume has changed, but the face has not.

CANDIDE
Paquette? It IS you. How are you
here?

PAQUETTE
It's a long story.

EXT. STREETS OF VENICE - LATER

Martin and FRIAR GIROFLEE chat in the distance while Candide
and Paquette catch up.

CANDIDE
I'm happy to find you but I have to
ask: Did you give our Professor the
POX?

PAQUETTE
So you've heard. I was very
innocent when you knew me, horse
boy. The disease was given to me by
my confessor.

We see the CONFESSOR open his robe. She considers.

PAQUETTE (CONT'D)
I take great pride in pleasing
others. He easily seduced me.
I believed that all was for the
best in the best of all possible
worlds, so I was not prepared when
I was told to leave the castle.

Pangloss, the Baron and the Baroness all have the POX.

PAQUETTE (CONT'D)
It was only a few months after you.
The consequences were horrible.
(MORE)

PAQUETTE (CONT'D)

I had no money and nowhere to go.
If a local Surgeon had not taken
pity on me I would have died.

The SURGEON carries Paquette out of the workhouse.

PAQUETTE (CONT'D)

He put me to work as a maid in his
home. For a while I was his
mistress, merely out of gratitude.
His jealous wife found us out.
She beat me every day. She was a
fury.

The WIFE chases her around with a RUG BEATER.

PAQUETTE (CONT'D)

It was extremely unpleasant to be
constantly beaten for such an ugly
man. One day he gave her medicine
to cure her of a slight cold.
2 hours later she was dead.
The wife's family prosecuted the
doctor and I was thrown in jail.
My innocence wouldn't have saved me
if I hadn't been good-looking.

Now in court, the JUDGE eyes her.

PAQUETTE (CONT'D)

The judge set me free on one
condition: that HE succeed the
surgeon. I was soon forced out by a
rival, kicked to the street quite
destitute, and forced to continue
this trade. I've come to try my
hand in Venice.

CANDIDE

Do you ENJOY it?

PAQUETTE

If you could only imagine how it
is. To feel the hot breath of an
old MERCHANT, the calluses of a
GONDOLIER, to fondle a LAWYER, then
a TEAMSTER, to be subject to the
extortions of the OFFICERS of
justice to be exposed to abuse and
insults; to be reduced to borrowing
a pair of stockings, only to have
them ripped by a drunken SAILOR;

(MORE)

PAQUETTE (CONT'D)

You would know that I am one of the MOST unhappy creatures in the world.

CANDIDE

But you looked so optimistic when I saw you.

PAQUETTE

It's one of the tricks of the trade. Yesterday I was robbed by an officer today I put on a happy face to please a Friar.

Martin has returned with the FRIAR.

MARTIN

So I've won our bet?

CANDIDE

We haven't heard from the FRIAR yet.

FRIAR GIROFLÉE

You can ask me at supper.

INT. INN TAVERN - LATER

They sit having a meal.

CANDIDE

Are you happy? You look like you have it ALL. You're healthy. You smile from ear to EAR. You have a very pretty girl on your arm and you seem satisfied with your FAITH.

FRIAR GIROFLÉE

My FAITH?! I hope the Fathers rot in hell! A hundred times I've wanted to set fire to the abbey and go and become a Turk. My parents forced me into this ugly robe at 15 years old, to increase the fortune of my older brother, who I've never got along with. In the Abbey jealousy and conflict are the rule. I preach a few bad sermons that bring in a little money, of which the Prior steals half. The rest pays for my girls.

(MORE)

FRIAR GIROFLÉE (CONT'D)

When I return to the dormitory every night, I want to bash my head against the walls, and all my fellow brothers are in the same situation.

Candide is disappointed.

MARTIN

Well have I won the whole bet?

CANDIDE

Give me your coin purse.

He puts half the coins from his purse into it. He then pulls more out of his vest. Both bags are heavy. He offers them to Paquette and the Friar.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

Here. A small fortune each. Let's see if this solves your problems.

PAQUETTE

What? Oh my god!

FRIAR GIROFLÉE

Really? Free money? Wow!

They immediately get up and rush to the BAR.

MARTIN

You know it'll only make everything worse, right?

CANDIDE

Be that as it may, one thing consoles me: I keep running into people I never expected to see again. Maybe I also find Cunegonde.

MARTIN

I hope someday she makes you happy. But I doubt it.

CANDIDE

You're very hard.

MARTIN

I've lived.

EXT. VENICE CANALS - NEXT DAY

Candide and Martin check all the Inns and Public Houses again. Still no sign of Cacambo and Cunegonde. Gondoliers sing out around them.

CANDIDE

I envy the Gondolier's happiness.
They're always singing.

MARTIN

You don't see them at home with
their wives and brats. The Doge has
his problems, the Gondoliers have
theirs.

Crossing the canal, Candide points out a large beautiful palace on a nearby bank.

CANDIDE

Senator Pococurante lives over
there. I bet he doesn't have ANY
problems.

MARTIN

It's a nice Palace. No way he's
happy.

CANDIDE

Let's go pay him a visit.

EXT. POCOCURANTE'S PALACE

The Gondolier docks the boat and Candide and Martin get out and start up the steps.

INT. POCOCURANTE'S PALACE

They are lead through a large and beautiful entryway. All around are fine marble statues.

INT. BALLROOM

They are brought before SENATOR POCOCURANTE a man of around sixty who receives them with indifference. He is trying on silk robes.

POCOCURANTE

Sit down if you must.

Candide does as he's told.

CANDIDE

I'm not sure he wants us here.

MARTIN

Nonsense.

POCOCURANTE

Chocolate?

Two PRETTY SERVANT GIRLS, very neatly dressed, serve them with cups of chocolate from either side.

CANDIDE

My god, they're beautiful aren't they?

POCOCURANTE

I like their company more than the LADIES of Venice.

Returning to offer him a refill, the girls flirt. He scowls.

POCOCURANTE (CONT'D)

But their eagerness begins to annoy me.

They retreat. He has chosen his robe and exits.

POCOCURANTE (CONT'D)

Follow me if you intend to look around.

INT. HALL

World class paintings are densely hung in a grand hallway.

CANDIDE

Who painted those pictures there?

POCOCURANTE

Those? The one is Botticelli the other is by Raphael. They were very expensive. But the colors are too bright.

INT. MUSIC ROOM

A little BOY MOZART and his SISTER rehearse harpsichord and violin in a garden just outside.

CANDIDE

This music is delicious. Who is this?

POCOCURANTE

The exercises of a 6 year old. It's amusing for half an hour but when it goes longer it gets tiresome.

MARTIN

Tiresome. That's what I was thinking.

CANDIDE

I like it.

POCOCURANTE

Excuse me for a moment.

He leaves them.

MARTIN

What a great man.

CANDIDE

A genius. Nothing can please him.

INT. LIBRARY - LATER

Senator Pococurante searches for something up on a balcony of his enormous ornate library.

Below Candide has found a book that interests him. He pulls it out to examine it.

CANDIDE

A magnificently bound Homer's ILIAD. This book was the JOY of the great Pangloss, the wisest philosopher in Germany.

POCOCURANTE

It's REQUIRED to have in the library as a monument of antiquity. I sometimes ask EDUCATED men if they are as bored by it as I am. The honest ones confess that it puts them to sleep.

Candide closes the book and puts it back.

CANDIDE
What about Paradise Lost?

POCOCURANTE
Religious fanaticism.

CANDIDE
Don Quixote?

POCOCURANTE
About a madman and a whore!

CANDIDE
The works of Shakespeare?

POCOCURANTE
Completely over rated!

They exit.

EXT. GARDEN - LATER

They come into a finely organized Garden.

CANDIDE
Now you have to admit that this is
a BEAUTIFUL garden.

POCOCURANTE
It's a travesty. Next week I have
it ripped out and re-planted with a
nobler design.

EXT. PALACE DOCKS

Pococurante leads them out of the garden.

POCOCURANTE
Curse this damn sunshine!

The tour is over. Senator Pococurante has delivered them to
their Gondola.

POCOCURANTE (CONT'D)
Goodbye.

They climb back in the boat. He looks around irritated.

POCOCURANTE (CONT'D)
Chocolate!!! Girls?! Where are you!

He marches off in search of servants.

EXT. GONDOLA - SAME

The Gondolier rows the boat away.

CANDIDE

Well he's definitely the luckiest man in the world. He is above everything he possesses. But why point out faults where others see only beauty?

MARTIN

There's pleasure in having no pleasure.

CANDIDE

I guess I'll be the only genuinely happy man in the world when I see Cunegonde again.

MARTIN

It's good to hope...

EXT. PUBLIC INN - AFTERNOON

Carnival is underway. Richly costumed revelers fill the streets.

Candide and Martin stand outside their regular Inn Tavern waiting for a table.

A man in Turkish costume comes up behind Candide and takes his arm.

CACAMBO

Be prepared. We leave after dinner.

CANDIDE

Cacambo! Where's Cunegonde?

CACAMBO

Constantinople.

CANDIDE

Constantinople?! Well let's GO!

CACAMBO

I have to serve my master at table. I'm not a free man anymore. I can't tell you any more right now. We leave after dinner.

He starts to exit but adds:

CACAMBO (CONT'D)
 You don't know me.

Candide looks at Martin.

MARTIN
 Constantinople?

CANDIDE
 Let's eat UP. Who knows when we'll
 eat next. Cunegonde! Finally!

INT. PUBLIC INN / TAVERN

They are now seated at a table with six finely dressed and
 MASKED GENTLEMEN.

Cacambo enters and speaks to the grey bearded man in the
 enormous turban.

CACAMBO
 Your Majesty, when you're finished
 we leave for Constantinople.

The man nods and Cacambo steps back.

Another servant enters and speaks to a man in a large
 feathered mask.

SERVANT 2 (RUSSIAN)
 Your Highness, your chaise is at
 Padua.

The master gives a nod and the servant steps back. The
 company looks at one another. A third valet, in a kilt, comes
 to yet another masked man.

SERVANT 3 (SCOTTISH)
 Sire, the room is ready.

A fourth servant offers a fourth masked man a decanter.

SERVANT 4 (POLISH)
 More wine your Magnificence?

Everyone gives side eyes. Candide whispers to Martin.

CANDIDE
 This must be a carnival game.

A 5th valet arrives with a letter for the 5th man.

SERVANT 5 (POLISH)

A letter for your Majesty.

A scruffy scoundrel runs in and addresses the man sitting next to Candide.

SERVANT 6 (ITALIAN)

Your Highness, they say your credit is bad. They're threatening to put us both in jail. I'm leaving. Good luck to you.

He rushes off. Candide can't help himself.

CANDIDE

You guys are kidding right?
How can you all be KINGS?

Cacambo's master lifts his mask.

AHMET III

I'm not kidding. I'm Ahmet the third. I was Grand Sultan for 3 years. I stole the title from my brother. When Charles the 12th of Sweden came to beg like a little girl for my help, I ripped up a peace treaty so I could beat Russia senseless and make Peter the Great cry like a little baby and swear never to meddle in European affairs ever again.

Peter the Great cries like a little baby.

AHMET III (CONT'D)

Then my nephew stole the title from me. My Viziers were beheaded and now I'm stuck in a remote palace with nothing to do. The current Grand Sultan lets me travel for my health, so I've come to spend carnival in Venice.

Now the man in the feathered mask lifts it, showing a head incased in an IRON mask.

IVAN VI

I'm not joking either. I'm Ivan the sixth. I was made Sovereign of all the Russias but I was dethroned in my cradle. I've been sitting in prison my entire life.

(MORE)

IVAN VI (CONT'D)

The Emperor sympathizes with my situation and lets me travel as long as I have a guard. I've come to Venice for Carnival.

The man at the end of the table lifts his mask.

CHARLES EDWARD

They call me Bonnie Prince Charlie. I've fought to regain my throne for 30 years, haven't I Duncan?

SERVANT 3 (SCOTTISH)

Aye, your Majesty.

CHARLES EDWARD

Eight hundred Scottish Highlanders Where soundly beaten and then hung, drawn, and quartered in my name. I was put in prison like Ahmet and Ivan. But I'm free now. I'm going to Rome to see my father, who was ousted just like my Grandfather and myself. I always come to enjoy the Carnival.

The letter receiver elbows the wine drinker.

STANISLAW I

Tell them.

AUGUST III

We are both Kings of Poland.

STANISLAW I

I'm Stanislaw.

AUGUST III

And I'm August. Hello.

STANISLAW I

Hello.

AUGUST III

Both deposed.

STANISLAW I

blah blah blah-

AUGUST III

Here for Carnival.

He burps and then giggles. Now the man next to Candide lifts his mask.

THEODORE NEUHOF

I was King of Corsica. I went bankrupt and had to hand my kingdom to my creditors. I've had two secretaries of state and now I don't even have a valet. I have minted coin and now I've not one to my name. Can anyone spare change?

He looks around the table. Everyone shifts nervously.

Ahmet III gets up to leave. Candide pulls a diamond out of his vest and offers it.

THEODORE NEUHOF (CONT'D)

Sorry, WHO are you again?

CANDIDE

Nobody. It's a long story.

Cacambo taps him.

CACAMBO

We're leaving.

EXT. VENICE DOCKS - LATER

Candide and Martin wait on the docks with their trunks. Martin carries the lockbox.

CANDIDE

Strange adventure we had in VENICE. Who ever heard of 6 Kings eating together at a Public Inn?

MARTIN

Let's not question the logic of it.

Cacambo arrives.

CACAMBO

I've arranged for the Turkish skipper taking Ahmet to Constantinople, to take on two more passengers. We'll need money though.

CANDIDE

Oh as much as you want. I mean, less that we once had thanks to a Dutch Pirate and a few months in Paris, but first I need to hear about Cunegonde.

(MORE)

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

Is she as beautiful as the last time I saw her? Does she still love me?
Did you buy her a palace in Constantinople?

CACAMBO

Cunegonde washes dishes in service of a man who has few dishes to wash. She is the slave of a Transylvanian prince called Ragotsky. As for her looks, I'm sorry to tell you she's really let herself go. I don't think anybody would call her beautiful anymore.

CANDIDE

I'm a man of honor. I will love her whether she's beautiful or not. But how is she so poor with the two million you took her?

CACAMBO

By the time I got there I didn't have two million anymore and she wasn't even there. She had already fought him and been kicked out.

Governor Don Fernando and Cunegonde fight on a balcony.

GOVERNOR

Go ahead, get out! And take that old bitch with you!

CACAMBO

I spent the rest following her trail. I had to pay my way to Cayenne, Antigua, Accra, to Marrakesh, Casablanca, Tripoli, to Cyprus.

A map displays the route.

CACAMBO (CONT'D)

Eventually I ran out of money. I was captured and forced to work for the Sultan. I only found Cunegonde and the Old Woman because our masters happened to know each other.

CANDIDE

At least I have money enough left to pay all your RANSOMS.

(MORE)

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

It's a shame Cunegonde has lost her looks but now at least I am going to rescue her. It proves once and for all that Pangloss was right: Everything IS for the BEST.

MARTIN

The story's not over yet.

EXT. TURKISH GALLEY - EVENING

Candide and Ahmet III bargain.

CANDIDE

Your highness I would like to purchase your servant Cacambo.

AHMET III

Give me one of those diamonds and you can have anything you want.

EXT. TURKISH GALLEY - LATER

The Galley is rowed by SLAVES out of Venice harbor. They pass a burning church.

MARTIN

The Friar's Abbey is on fire.

CANDIDE

You know Paquette never even came to thank me.

MARTIN

I'm not sure you did her any favors.

EXT. TURKISH GALLEY - NEXT MORNING

100 SLAVES are at the oars. Rowing in time to a drum. Candide and Martin pass through.

CANDIDE

That guy looks familiar.

It's an old man with no eye and half a nose. Next to him is a younger man with Hapsberg jaw.

CANDIDE (CONT'D)

So does THAT ONE.

The slave looks up.

 YOUNG BARON
Horze Boy? Candide?

The 2 slaves jump to their feet.

 PANGLOSS
Candide!

 CANDIDE
Baron? Professor Pangloss?!
Am I AWAKE?

 YOUNG BARON
It is me!

 PANGLOSS
It's us!

 MARTIN
So THIS is your great Philosopher?

The SLAVE CAPTAIN comes over. He's angry.

 SLAVE CAPTAIN
Hey, why have you stopped rowing?

He raises his whip.

 CANDIDE
Stop! Stop! Captain, what ransom
will you take for the Baron von
Thunder-ten-Tronckh and Professor
Pangloss the greatest philosopher
in Germany?

 SLAVE CAPTAIN
One is a Baron and the other a
Professor? I'm afraid quite a lot.

Candide reaches into his vest and pulls out a diamond.

 CANDIDE
How's this?

 SLAVE CAPTAIN
It's a start.
You'll need to buy their tickets.

EXT. GALLEY STERN - LATER

The friends catch up.

CANDIDE

Baron I'm sorry for killing you.

YOUNG BARON

Oh it's all right.

CANDIDE

How is it even possible that you're a Turkish Galley SLAVE?

YOUNG BARON

After I was left to die, I was found by the Father Superior, who bandaged my head and cared for me. A week later I was back to work, when suddenly we were invaded by Spanish troops and confined to prison in Buenos Aires. There I sat until I could be sent back to Rome. I was eventually appointed Chaplain to the French Ambassador in Constantinople. One day I met a handsome young man who wanted to bathe. The weather was warm so I took the opportunity. I didn't realize it was a capital crime for a Christian to be found naked with a Muslim. A Cadi ordered me 100 lashes on the soles of the feet and condemned me to the galleys. There's never been a greater injustice against a European nobleman. But where is my sister? Is she with you?

CANDIDE

We're on our way to rescue her now. She's a slave too. In Constantinople.

The Baron turns on Pangloss.

YOUNG BARON

So this is your best of all possible worlds?

PANGLOSS

My opinion stands.

CANDIDE

Professor Pangloss how are YOU alive? I was there when you were HANGED.

PANGLOSS

Luckily I couldn't have been more incompetently hung than I was. The rope was being held by a brother who let go and ran away during the earthquake. I must have appeared dead because afterward a surgeon purchased my corpse and carried me home to dissect me.

Pangloss is laid out on a bloody table.

PANGLOSS (CONT'D)

When he made the incision from clavicle to navel, I let out such a terrible scream that he fell flat on his back. His wife came in and yelled:

SURGEON'S WIFE

I told you not to cut up heretics! They're possessed by demons!

She holds the largest cross she could find.

PANGLOSS

I mustered up what little life I had left and said: Heaven have mercy! The surgeon found his courage and sewed me back up. His wife even nursed me back to health.

Still holding the cross, she fearfully tosses a wash-rag to him in the bath.

PANGLOSS (CONT'D)

With their help I entered the service of a Venetian merchant. Who took me with him to Constantinople. One day while sight seeing, I stepped into a Mosque, where I saw a very pretty young lady kneel down to pray. She dropped a flower from her uncovered bosom. I simply picked it up and put it back.

He slowly slides it between her breasts.

PANGLOSS (CONT'D)

The Imam saw me and started shouting.

IMAM

PERVERT!!

PANGLOSS

The Mufti ordered me a hundred lashes on the soles of the feet and sent me to the galleys. All being for the best I was chained to the very same bench as the Baron.

Back on deck.

YOUNG BARON

I've obviously suffered the greater injustice.

PANGLOSS

Baron, I'm afraid it's far more innocent to pick up a flower and return it, then to be found in flagrante delicto with some young muslim.

YOUNG BARON

How dare you!

PANGLOSS

In any case, on board this galley there are 4 Frenchmen, 5 Neapolitans and 2 Monks from Corfu who are all here for similar offenses.

CANDIDE

And after all that do you still believe that everything is for the Best in this world?

PANGLOSS

I am still of my first opinion. Leibniz could never be wrong. His 'Pre-established Harmony' is the finest TOILET reading in the world!

EXT. CONSTANTINOPLE HARBOR - DAYS LATER

The slave ship is rowed under bridges past the city. It pulls up in front of a dilapidated castle where a fat lady and an old woman fold sheets.

Candide an Cacambo jump ship. Candide hesitates.

CACAMBO
Are you alright?

CANDIDE
I will be... Hello Cunegonde!

She turns, screams and then runs at them.

CUNEGONDE
Candide! Is it really you?

CANDIDE
I'm here to rescue you.

CUNEGONDE
Oh Candide.

OLD WOMAN
Who is it?! Oh look who it is! OH!

RAGOTSKI has arrived.

RAGOTSKI
What's going on here?

CANDIDE
I've come to buy your SERVANTS.
I intend to marry one of them.

CUNEGONDE
Oh Candide!

OLD WOMAN
Isn't it wonderful!

The Young Baron hears this.

YOUNG BARON
You what? You better be talking
about the old woman.

CANDIDE
I'm doing the RIGHT thing.
Look at her.

YOUNG BARON
I'll never allow it horze boy!

CANDIDE
I just rescued you from a SLAVE
GALLEY!

YOUNG BARON

I will NOT permit such debasement
on her part or such insolence on
yours.

CUNEGONDE

Oh please Wilhelm! Don't you care
about my happiness?

YOUNG BARON

No. My sister can only marry a
Baron or better.

CANDIDE

But I'm about to pay her RANSOM.
If I wasn't able to control myself
I'd kill you again.

YOUNG BARON

Go ahead and kill me again, but
you'll NEVER marry my sister, horze
boy.

Martin clobbers him over the head. He falls in a heap.

YOUNG BARON (CONT'D)

Gak!

MARTIN

He's got to go back.

CACAMBO

I agree.

CANDIDE

What do you think Professor?

PANGLOSS

The Baron has no authority here.
A long as she marries you with her
right hand, no court in the world
can interfere.

CANDIDE

And what do YOU think Cunegonde?

She looks to the Old Woman, who nods.

CUNEGONDE

Ok.

The Young Baron is sold back to the Galley Captain.

They wave goodbye as the Slave ship rows away.

INT. TURKISH HALL - A WEEK LATER

Candide and Cunegonde are MARRIED.

Ragotski officiates.

Everyone is dressed in the latest Turkish fashion.

INT. DINING ROOM

Candide talks to Martin and Cacambo.

CANDIDE

I hadn't planned any further than
this day. What NOW?

MARTIN

Back to Venice?

CANDIDE

No.

The Old woman joins them.

CACAMBO

Paris?

CANDIDE

Definitely no!

CACAMBO

England?

OLD WOMAN

There's an uncultivated FARM near
here. The farmer is a friend.
We can stay there until we decide.

EXT. UNCULTIVATED FARM - VARIOUS

The farm is in a bad state from years of neglect. Windows are
shuttered and hinges broken.

Passing the gates of the farm, groups of refugees escape
their countries of origin in banishment or exile.

Around back on the covered patio, everybody sits around
lethargically. Waiting for who knows what.

Martin and Pangloss dispute morals and metaphysics while
playing chess.

MARTIN

I never knew a city that did not
want to destroy a neighboring city,
nor a family that did not wish to
exterminate some other family.

The Old Woman combs out Cunegonde's thinning hair.

CUNEGONDE

Ouch! No, not like that!

OLD WOMAN

Oh forget it. I'll do it 'Mañana'.

Cunegonde is shocked by the reference of Don Fernando.

CUNEGONDE

Bitch.

OLD WOMAN

I'm going to market.
Somebody has got to do it!

She exits leaving Cunegonde in disarray.

The men continue the chess game.

MARTIN

This is how men treat one another.

PANGLOSS

Someone else's loss is your gain my
boy.

Cacambo jumps up. He's had enough.

CACAMBO

I need something to do.

PANGLOSS

Idle hands are the devil's work.

CANDIDE

We'll figure out what to do soon.
I know it.

Cacambo exits in frustration.

MARTIN

I am absolutely certain that I am
as bad off here as I would be
anywhere else. I'll try to be
patient.

INT. BARN - SAME

Cacambo finds the old FARMER.

CACAMBO

I can't sit around like this anymore. Is there anything I can help you with?

FARMER

The west field needs clearing. And what's left of the potatoes could be taken to market. If you have the strength. I don't.

CACAMBO

I'm on it!

He exits relieved and invigorated.

EXT. OVERGROWN FIELD - LATER

Candide watches Cacambo rescue the remaining potato crop in the distance.

The Farmer joins him to watch.

CANDIDE

It's beautiful here.

FARMER

It has been a wonderful life. My family used to cultivate this land. Our labour preserved us from the three great evils: BOREDOM, VICE and POVERTY.

We see the Farmer's family happily work the land. One by one they disappear.

FARMER (CONT'D)

My wife died years ago. My children moved to the city to find adventure. I'm very old, I'm deeply in debt and have nowhere else to go. If only there were somebody to take over here. But nobody is interested in farming anymore.

CANDIDE

How much land do you own?

FARMER

Only twenty hectares.

The Old Woman rushes to them.

OLD WOMAN

Did you hear about the trouble
in Constantinople? Two Viziers and
a Mufti killed.

Pangloss joins them.

PANGLOSS

Did you get the name of the Mufti?

OLD WOMAN

No. I hoped Faruk would know.

FARMER

I don't know anything about it.
Those who meddle in politics always
die miserably and they deserve it.
I never trouble my head about what
is happening in government.

He exits. Candide is struck by this little nugget of wisdom.

EXT. FARM - VARIOUS

The Farmer watches refugees passing the front gates.

Cacambo fills a wheelbarrow.

Everybody else lounges on the patio.

OLD WOMAN

I want to know which is worse: to
be ravished 100 times by pirates,
to have a buttock cut off, to run
the gauntlet, to be whipped or
hanged at an auto-da-fé, to be
dissected and made to row in a
Turkish galley, to go through all
the miseries we have seen or to sit
here and have nothing to do?!

CANDIDE

It's a good question.

MARTIN

Man was BORN to live either in a
state of distracting inquietude or
of lethargic disgust.

CANDIDE

I don't quite agree but I'll keep
my mouth shut.

PANGLOSS

I have always suffered horribly,
but since I was taught that
everything is for the best, I'm
convinced it still must be true,
even though I no longer really
believe it.

CANDIDE

I just don't get the point of any
of it.

Nobody can argue.

EXT. TURKISH COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING

Candide takes a long walk. He sees the local sights. He's
deep in thought, when he hears a familiar laugh. The man
wears a robe and funny hat.

CANDIDE

The Friar from Venice!
What are you doing here?

FRIAR GIROFLÉE

Oh Hello! I set fire to the Abby
after all.

CANDIDE

We saw it burn! What happened to
Paquette?

FRIAR GIROFLÉE

She's right there.

She turns.

CANDIDE

Paquette!

PAQUETTE

Candide! Horse boy!

EXT. ROMAN RUINS - LATER

The Friar explores while Paquette and Candide catch up.

CANDIDE

So the money I gave you did you no good?

PAQUETTE

We squandered everything. We had a big fight, went our separate ways, got back together, fought again. Finally the Friar got fed up and burned down the Abbey. I happened to be with him so we were both thrown in jail. We bribed the jailer, escaped and now here we are to fulfill his dream of becoming a Turk.

EXT. FARM GATE

Refugees pass. This time Candide, Paquette and the Friar are among them. They enter the gates.

Pangloss runs to greet them.

PANGLOSS

Ha! Providence has brought you back to us again, my poor Paquette! You know you cost me the tip of my nose and an eye? What a life this is!

INT. FARM DINING ROOM - LATER

Everyone celebrates the return of their friends with a spread of Turkish food.

Martin sits next to Candide with the Friar on the other side.

MARTIN

I told you that money would only make them more miserable.

CANDIDE

I wanted them to be happy.

MARTIN

I have watched you waste several fortunes in the short time I've known you. Are you any happier for it?

CANDIDE

Well then what's the answer?
I want to know.

FRIAR GIROFLÉE

There's a famous Dervish, the
wisest man in all of Turkey.
Shall we go and ask him?

CANDIDE

Yes.

EXT. TURKISH COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING

Candide, Martin, Pangloss and the Friar hike thru the
countryside into the mountains.

They pass interesting geography and walk through a series of
cave dwelling communities.

EXT. DERVISH'S DOOR - DAY

They come to a cave where an old man in a wise man's turban
is just exiting his front door. Friar Giroflee nods. They
approach him.

DERVISH

Can I help you?

CANDIDE

Master, we've come to ask why such
a strange animal as MAN was made.

DERVISH

What do you care?

CANDIDE

I guess I just need to know.

DERVISH

Why is it any of your business?

MARTIN

He wants to know the meaning of
life. Why is this fucked up fucking
world so terrible?

DERVISH

When the king sends a ship to
Egypt, does he worry whether the
rats onboard are happy or not?

CANDIDE

But what are we supposed to do?

DERVISH

Shut up about it. You want happiness? Work at something. Occupy yourself with some meaningful activity. Take up gardening. I don't care.

PANGLOSS

I had hoped that we could discuss cause and effect, the best of all possible worlds, the origin of evil, the nature of the soul, and pre-established harmony.

DERVISH

The only thing WORSE than all the bad luck in the world is LISTENING TO PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT IT.

He goes back to his dwelling shuts the door in their faces.

EXT. TURKISH COUNTRYSIDE

They retrace their journey.

EXT. TURKISH VILLAGE

Back in the village Candide sees the Old Woman and the good old Turk Farmer taking the fresh air and having a Turkish coffee under an orange bower.

He stops to watch them as the others pass. Maybe this IS a perfect life?

INT. FARMHOUSE - LATER

Candide inspects the house room by room. There is work to be done but the bones are strong. He opens the front door and watches the passing stream of refugees.

EXT. OVERGROWN FIELD - LATER

Cacambo has made progress and much of the field has been cleared. Candide joins him.

CANDIDE

Everyday we watch refugees fleeing one land or another in fear for their lives. I'm tired of looking for the next best thing. I have an idea.

CACAMBO

Oh good, I was starting to worry.

CANDIDE

This honest Turk seems to be happier than King Ahmet and in a situation far better to that of King Charles Edward or the Emperor Ivan. Do you like it here?

CACAMBO

I do.

CANDIDE

I'd like to use what's left in the lockbox to purchase this farm. Buy some horses maybe. What do you think?

CACAMBO

I like this life. There's plenty to do and it's peaceful. I don't want to regret leaving here like we regretted leaving Eldorado.

CANDIDE

Let's ask the others.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LATER

Everyone has been gathered together in the great hall where Candide is in the middle of his presentation.

CANDIDE

Will there be more unhappiness? I'm sure there will be, but until that day we should focus on this one. We must make each day as good as it can be, by coming together and working for the greater good. Hopefully someday we can look back and laugh at our many misfortunes. Until then we need to cultivate our garden.

CUNEGONDE

I love it!

OLD WOMAN

Isn't it wonderful!

PANGLOSS

You are correct! When man was first placed in the Garden of Eden, he was put there that he might cultivate it. It very clearly proves that man was not born to be idle.

MARTIN

But please can we just try to do it without fighting. It's the only way to render life tolerable.

CANDIDE

Everyone in agreement?

The room cheers. Candide goes in for a group hug.

MONTAGE

Candide goes to the LOCKBOX and takes out everything that is left.

He gives a large bag of it to the good old Farmer. They shake hands.

The house is restored and the windows opened.

The field in front is cleared and then planted.

Candide buys two beautiful white stallions.

Martin helps Cacambo in the field.

Friar Giroflee has set up a carpentry shop and restores windows.

Cunegonde and the Farmer bake bread.

The Old Woman and Paquette set up the spinning wheel and loom.

Pangloss teaches the children from the village.

EXT. STABLES - DAY

Candide is shoveling horse shit in the barn like the good old days when Cunegonde comes in behind him.

He turns and sees her. This time despite the filth Cunegonde embraces him.

They kiss.

INT. REMODELED FARM HALL

In the great hall the whole company eats a festive meal provided by their labors.

END MONTAGE

EXT - FARMHOUSE - DAY

Candide and Cunegonde stand in front as we back out on the farm, seeing the land has produced plentiful crops extending into the distance. The day is clear and the weather good. All is right with the world.

ROLL CREDITS

STINGER:

The sky over the farm is dark with smoke fire. The Farmhouse has been destroyed by war and still burning.

The flow of refugees has only increased.

A lone man looking at the devastation turns around.

It's Martin.

MARTIN

May I ask what the hell you expected?

BLACK OUT