

Act 1

SCENE I

From the darkness, PIP, a handsome adult in his mid-thirties, enters and moves downstage into a pool of light. He carries a suitcase and is wearing a well-worn overcoat. Pip places his suitcase on the ground, takes out a handkerchief and blots his forehead. He replaces the handkerchief. He breathes deeply and closes his eyes, losing himself in his own memories, as he sings....

PIP:

(a Capella)

I TRUST MY HEART WILL GO ON BEATING

We hear a dissonant, odd chime as the clock tower is illuminated. It reads 8:40.

I TRUST MY HEART KNOWS WHERE IT'S LEADING

A second dissonant chime sounds and a large gate is illuminated. All else is in darkness. An eerie, off-kilter verse of "I Trust My Heart" continues. In the darkness, from behind the gate, come two ghostly voices.

YOUNG ESTELLA

Why, he's a coarse and common
laboring boy!

MISS HAVISHAM

Well, you can break his heart.

The underscoring transitions into another unsettling melody like an eerie music box ("PLAY"). From behind the gate, other ghostly VOICES echo individually, then cascade in a intolerable cacophony.

VOICE

Be grateful to them who raised you
by hand.

VOICE

Who gave you leave to prowl about?

VOICE

You have the arm of a blacksmith.

PIP

(unnerved)

Stop.

VOICE

Break his heart my pride and joy.

VOICE

Of course you'll go wrong somehow.

VOICE

Where have you been you young
monkey?

VOICE

Come and fight!

PIP

Stop!

MISS HAVISHAM

Break his heart and have no mercy!

YOUNG ESTELLA

Why don't you cry, you little
wretch?

MISS HAVISHAM

Love her! LOVE HER! LOVE HER!!!!

Pip puts his hands up.

PIP

Stop!!!!!!

Silence. Pip composes himself, looks at the gate. There is a
single cue note.

PIP: (sings)

WEEDS GROW WELL WITHIN THESE GATES

WHERE FLOWERS WOULDN'T DARE
 PAINFUL MEM'RIES CLING LIKE VINES
 SO WHY SHOULD I STILL CARE....

The music swells grandly to the chorus of the song, "This Old House", as the lights rise dramatically on a large, extraordinary, decaying, manor home. At the top-most window appears a silhouette of a young woman. The music pulls back to become underscoring. The voice is ghostlike.

ESTELLA

Now Pip, you will have me out of
 your thoughts in a week.

PIP

(ruefully)

Yes, Estella, out of my thoughts in
 a week. Well, perhaps a
 month.....or perhaps eleven
 long years. I have forgotten
 nothing in my life that ever had a
 foremost place there...

The light fades on Estella and then on the entire house.

PIP

...and little that ever had any
 place there.

SONG: WELCOME HOME

With the Intro, ghostly voices emerge from the house.

ENSEMBLE:

THERE IS SOMETHING SO FAMILIAR
 WAS IT IN A FORMER LIFETIME
 THE SPARK OF YOUTH NO LONGER BURNS IN YOU

PIP:

I'M AT PEACE

ENSEMBLE:

BUT STILL ALONE

Characters creep out from behind the gate and encircle Pip.
Some almost touch him. They are veiled and ghostly.

ENSEMBLE:)

REST YOURSELF

YOU MUST BE WEARY (PIP: I'M WEARY OF THESE MEMORIES)

TELL ME THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS (PIP: I DON'T WANT YOUR
SYMPATHY)

WHATEVER HAPPENED,

THAT WAS YEARS AGO

NOW MY OLD FRIEND WELCOME HOME

PIP:

TELL ME

TRULY

WHY YOU'RE SO BOLD HERE

YOU THINK YOUR MAGIC STILL IS STRONG

AND STILL BEGUILING

ENSEMBLE:

LINGER (PIP: WHY LINGER)

ENSEMBLE:

WHISPER (PIP: WHY WHISPER)

THE DREAMS YOU HOLD NEAR (PIP: I HOLD SO DEAR)

OR HAVE YOU SUFFERED FAR TOO LONG

FOR RECONCILING (PIP: TOO LONG FOR RECONCILING)

ENSEMBLE:

WE WILL CHALLENGE YOU TO FIGHT

PIP:

MUST I FIGHT UNTIL I'M FREE

ENSEMBLE:

FACE THE DARK, EMBRACE THE LIGHT

PIP:

WILL I HAVE PEACE IF I SUCCEED

ENSEMBLE:

LET US LEAD YOU IF YOU WILL

PIP:

IF YOU WOULD

ENSEMBLE:

TO THE DREAM YOU CAN FULFILL

PIP:

IF YOU COULD

ENSEMBLE:

ONCE THAT YOU DISCOVER HER,

JUST HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HER

PIP:

JUST HOW MUCH I LOVE HER STILL

The uppermost window reveals the silhouette of Estella. The ghosts enter into the gates and reappear in windows and on balconies.

ENSEMBLE:

SHALL WE START FROM THE BEGINNING

PIP:

ALL MUST BE REVEALED

ENSEMBLE:

MANY SHADOWS WILL BE PAINFUL

PIP:

IT IS TIME TO HEAL

ENSEMBLE:

JUST STAY UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO

OH MY OLD FRIEND WELCOME HOME

The ghosts turn to the upper window to focus on Estella.
Lights slowly begin to fade on the House from the bottom up.
Another voice echoes from the dark past.

MAGWITCH

Keep still, you little devil, or
I'll cut your throat!

Unnerved, Adult Pip looks around. The voice grows louder,
still in echo.

MAGWITCH

Keep still, you little devil, or
I'll cut your throat!

Lights out on Adult Pip, lights rise on a churchyard
cemetery.