

# 1. Bridges to the future – The Play

## A. Roles in the play

- Dancers and actors

Nasim – a young refugee from Iraq played by Frederik Schnabels (Halle)

Emma – a young native girl who lives on the street played by Aileen Noeker (Halle)

Red Leader played by Luka Glod (Wiltz)

Police Officer 1 played by Simone Sinaguglia (Sciacca)

Police Officer 2 played by Rafael Marques Da Silva (Wiltz)

Student (Green Mask) played by Elena Micalizzi (Sciacca)

Student (Red Mask) played by Luisa Ragusa (Sciacca)

- Dancers

Lina Luzay (Halle), Zara Clarke (Redruth), Ana Soares Nogueira (Wiltz), Anna Van Der Zee (Leeuwarden), Rani Nader Wilk (Leeuwarden), Kim Kaiser (Wiltz), Giovanna Principato (Sciacca), Isabelle Krier (Wiltz), Sarah Ferreira Rocha (Wiltz), Maximilian Müller (Halle) – directed by Joana Ferreira (Hariko)

- Singers and musicians

Iris Van Der Ploeg (Leeuwarden), Wietske Halma (Leeuwarden), Esmee Van Der Meer (Leeuwarden), Naomi Solano (Sciacca), Ana Lopes Kich (Halle), Lina Peters (Halle), Ester Bilello (Sciacca), Lucrezia Ferlisi (Sciacca) – directed by Georges Goerens (Hariko)

- Graffiti

Rafael Marques Da Silva (Wiltz), Kim Kaiser (Wiltz), Rui Martins Reis (Wiltz), Miguel Antonio Pinto Teixeira (Wiltz) – directed by Alain Welter (Hariko)

## B. The storyboard

Setting: Urban space in Europe. The stage is quite neutral. This story could happen anytime anywhere. There are three billboards on stage with projections of busy cities on them.

*Rushhour: Nasim is entering the stage. He is wearing a white mask. We can hear city noises (Music: Chassol XIXh Century). Coming from another country, he seems quite confused by the new surroundings. There are people running around, crossing the streets. The policemen are waving and trying to control the traffic. Nasim is trying to find his way to the front of the stage.*

*A teenage girl, Emma, also wearing a white mask, is already sitting at the front of the stage. She doesn't care about the turmoil around her. She is listening to her music on headphones, ignoring everything else.*

## SCENE 1

*Nasim is standing at the front. Spotlight on Nasim. Emma sitting at the other side is watching him, she seems a little curious, though shy. The music is silent and the hassle on the stage has stopped. Nasim seems still confused. He turns to the audience.*

**Nasim:** Wow, this is so different to what I know from home... My name is Nasim. I was 16 years old when I left Iraq. I arrived without my parents in Greece in early 2016. I stayed there for over a year in a refugee camp in Lavio, waiting for the right to asylum ... In early 2017, I decided to go by bus to Athens, hoping to get to Germany from there. In Athens, I met many other refugees. All wanted to go to Germany. In March, I finally left with a few friends hidden at the back of a big truck containing over fifty persons. There were a lot of parents with their children...

*Nasim is shaking while telling his story*

**Nasim:** It was very oppressing! I was on the road for about five days when I finally arrived ... not in Germany but in Luxembourg...

*Nasim is having a look around him as if he was still not sure that he managed to get here.*

**Nasim:** Now I am here in Luxembourg. The reception was not too bad. Most people I have been in contact with are cool. But everything is so new and I feel very lonely and somewhat abandoned in a world that is so foreign to me.

*Emma starts humming a song; she is listening on her phone. Then she takes off one headphone and starts giggling.*

**Emma:** You are weird. Who are you talking to?

*Emma is standing up, looking towards the audience.*

**Emma:** I can't see anyone except my- and yourself. But don't worry, that's fine with me. Most people say that I am little weird too. It's because I feel so different from the others. Because I always preferred fighting with the boys to playing with puppets. But I got used to that. You see, you can also be born here in Luxembourg and feel very foreign.

*Emma gets closer to Nasim.*

**Emma:** Right now, I'm living on the street. My parents don't care about me and I never liked the other at school. And then I got kicked out because of my bad notes. Everything seemed to be fucked up in my life, so I recently decided to live at my own, one day here, another day there, but mostly all alone by myself. Still, I could do with some company...

*Emma is reaching out her hand to shake Nasim's. He is looking at her. Then he's shaking it.*

**Emma:** My name is Emma. Nice to meet you, Nasim.

**Nasim:** Well at least we got some things in common... Nice to meet you, Emma.

*Nasim and Emma are walking over the stage together talking to each other. They seem to get along well. They take a seat in one corner while the choir is coming to the middle of the stage. They are all wearing the same clothes and carrying a banner with the word "society" on it.*

<b>SOCIETY CHOIR: SONG "WE ARE NOT RACIST BUT"</b> Music by Radioactive - Imagine Dragons	
<i>Verse We are not racist but You could have forced Yourself to say hello In the language that we are speaking here  We are not selfish but You know you are Not the only one Who's in trouble here  We are not selfish but we've got our problems, too  Chorus: We don't accept anything we can't relate to We cannot understand you Welcome to our new state, to our new state, Welcome to our new state, to our new state. We are so very sceptic, so very sceptic.  Verse Not homophobic but We all wanna know What the hell you are Girls don't dress like boys</i>	<i>We are just concerned, The apocalypse.  We are not picky but Show us your diploma We want people who bring money to our life Not disrespectful but We don't like school dropouts Like you.  Chorus: We don't accept anything we can't relate to We cannot understand you Welcome to our new state, to our new state, Welcome to our new state, to our new state. We are so very sceptic, so very sceptic.</i>

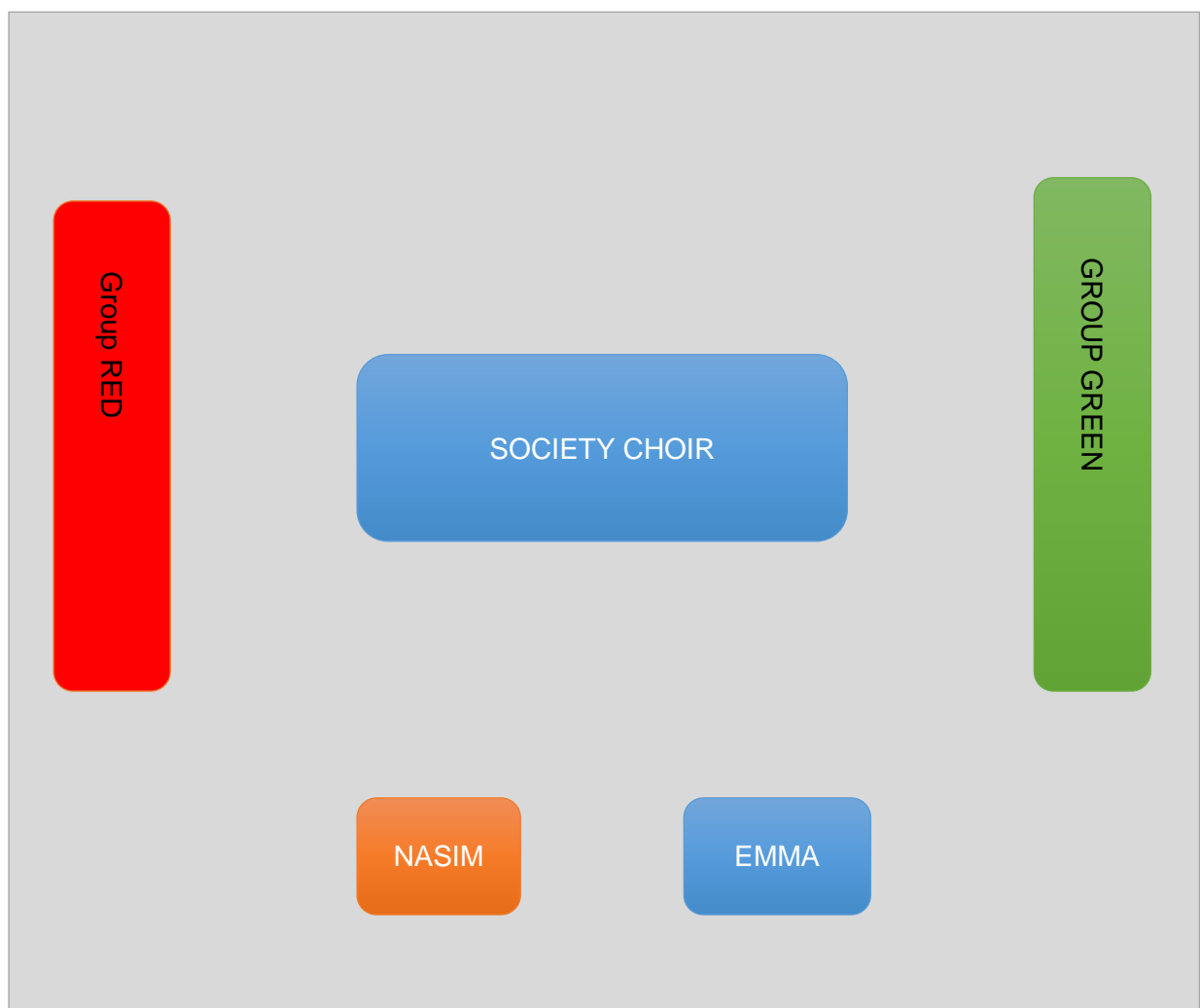
*The choir is singing the song in a very energetic way, sometimes addressing to Nasim and Emma. In the middle of the song, the dancers from the red and green group appear on the stage. They walk in their groups over the stage and take their position for the dance.*

*The choir leaves the stage. The stage becomes black. Light is coming back with the beginning of the dance part. Alternately, the lights are focusing the red group, the green group or Nasim and/or Emma.*

**Hip Hop Dance 1:** The dance introduces the two different groups and their differing behaviour. The two groups are dancing on the right and the left side of the stage. One group is wearing green masks and is dancing “normally”. The other group is wearing red masks and is dancing in a more violent /strange manner. In the middle of the stage are the two youngsters with white masks, trying several times, without success, to integrate into the “green” group. Inside the “green” group, there are also discussions between those who would like the two youngsters to join them (minority) and those who don’t want to allow them to integrate the group (majority). As the two youngsters are finally rejected by the “green” group, they turn to the “red” group. This group is a sort of mixture of “criminals” as well as “alternatives”, all young people excluded from society because of their differences. There, our two youngsters are immediately integrated and the group is showing them their philosophy of violence/alternative behaviour.

MUSIC: FUTURE – MASK OFF

STAGE PLOT: (SCENE 1)



## SCENE 2

*The green dancers are leaving the stage while the red group stays. The red dancers (Nasim and Emma with them) are hanging around on the stage and they are joined by a group of other red people. They are smoking cigarettes, drinking, doing graffiti, fighting and laughing. One of them seems to be their leader. He goes to the front and addresses to the audience.*

**Red Leader:** Nasim and Emma are now members of our family. Our group is considered by many to be a mere amalgam of criminals and anti-socials but what do they know? We are neither violent nor dangerous. People judge us because they don't know us. Maybe some of us got into trouble in the past but all of us are good people. We look different because we are not afraid of breaking the rules sometimes. We have our own values. In our group everyone can be what he wants to be. We prefer a little chaos to the conformity of the majority.

*While saying the last sentence, the leader is turning around the graffiti board to mess up the stage. He's joined by a group of red mask singers. During the song Nasim and Emma get red/white masks instead of their white ones.*

### RED MASK CHOIR: SONG "AT LEAST WE ARE NOT BORING"

Music by MGMT - Kids

*We are different,  
But at least we're not boring,  
Just look at the others,  
We barely can stop snoring,*

*We will show you our world  
It's made of fun and leisure,  
We only live once,  
We got to live faster*

*Let go yourself,  
Take everything you need from it  
We live the way we want it,  
We want it.*

*We just paint  
Everywhere we want to  
We don't care about rules  
They are made for the fools,*

*We spent our whole  
Days laughing  
We don't care about vows,  
We just live in the now.*

*Let go yourself,  
Take everything you need from it  
We live the way we want it,  
We want it.  
Let go yourself,*

*Take everything you need from it  
We live the way we want it,  
We want it.*

*The red choir is leaving the stage and the red dancers, in the background, continue to smoke, to drink, to fight and to laugh. The red leader comes up front.*

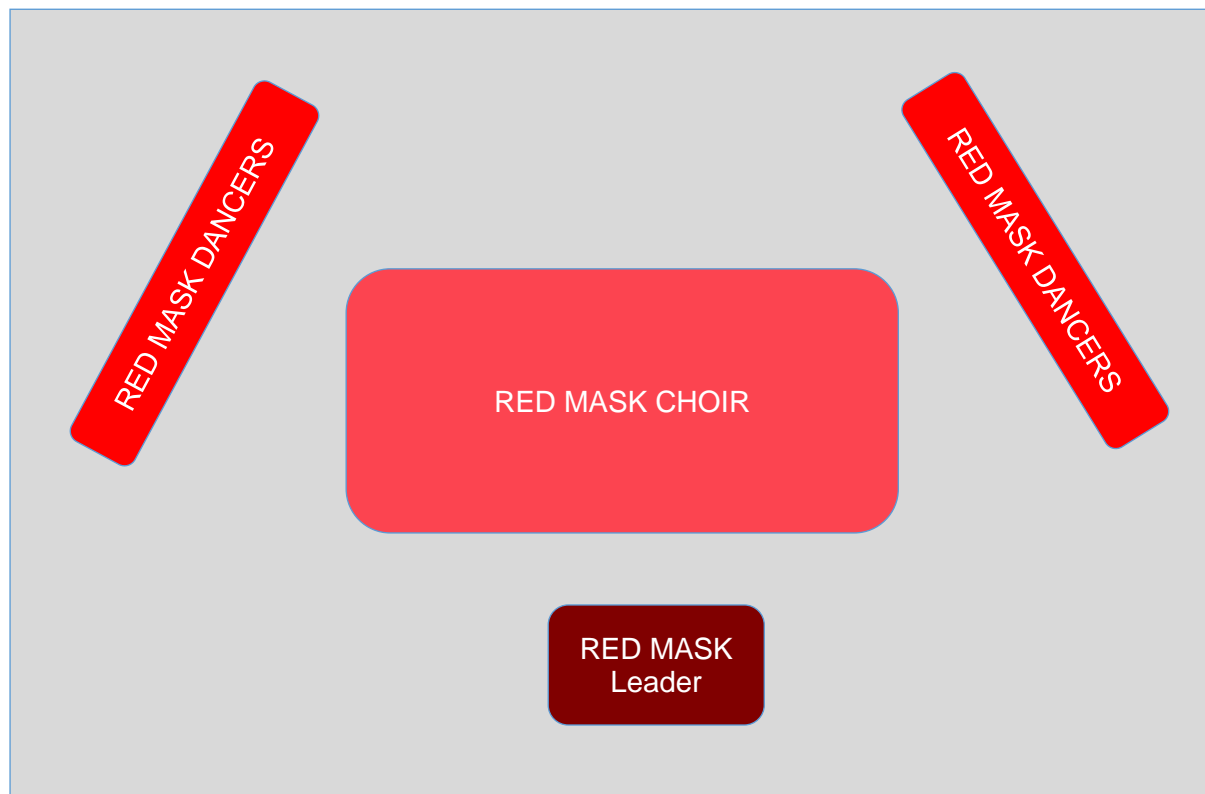
**Red Leader:** Yes we are different and we are not boring! Come on guys, let's take our spray cans and show our new friends what we can do.

*The red dancers are joining the front of the stage. Emma and Nasim are with them.*

Hip Hop Dance 2: The “red” group is dancing, illustrating their alternative behaviour. The two youngsters are doing illegal graffiti paintings at the same time. At a certain moment, two policemen are entering the scene. All the members of the “red” group are running away, Nasim is quick enough to get away, too. But Emma gets caught “in flagrante” by the police. The two policemen and Emma are leaving the stage. The members of the “red” group and Nasim are slowly coming back to the stage, looking one at the other and then disappear.

Lights are going out. The stage is turning black. In the meantime a small desk and a chair are brought to the stage.

#### STAGE PLOT (SCENE 2)



#### SCENE 3

Background Music: Alt-J – Intro

Nasim enters the stage again alone. Just like in the beginning scene he’s lost and alone. He seems confused by the situation. Nasim is walking around and he seems to look for Emma but he cannot find her. One of the police officers is sitting behind the desk. Nasim takes his courage and goes to see the officer to find out about Emma.

**Nasim:** Hello Officer, I am missing a friend of mine. Her name is Emma. Have you heard anything about her?

*The police officer is looking in his papers.*

**Police Officer:** Let me have a look. Emma, Emma... Ah, this could be something.  
(*Reproachful*) Oh well apparently your friend Emma had to face justice because she has not only been caught while doing some illegal graffiti painting, but she also was in possession of drugs. As she has already 18 years, she was sentenced to 6 months detention in a socio-educational institution.

*Nasim is very shocked about the information given to him by the police officer.*

**Nasim:** Oh no, how can this be? Thank you officer but I have to go.

*Nasim is leaving the officer behind and moves to the front of the stage.*

**Nasim:** I can't believe it... Six months? Poor Emma, she was just so unlucky. But I don't want the same to happen to me... Even my so-called new family let us down. No one cares about Emma, they all just ran away. I need time to think about.

*Nasim goes to sit alone in the back corner of the stage.*

*Three students, one guitarist with a green, one with a red mask and the singer (without any mask) come on stage. They play a song together (vocals & guitar) that explains the desperate situation of Emma and Nasim.*

### **SOLO SONG: SAD SONG**

*A sad story, might find it boring  
2 guys 2 different stories:  
A former a refugee excluded form society another for his  
homosexuality.*

*They felt a little oppressed.  
They felt unseen, unheard.  
in one word invisible entities.  
Nobody for them, to look up.*

*Now they don't talk too  
much, talk too much.  
They're probably given up, given up  
I think they've had enough, had  
enough cause ran out of life,  
out of luck.*

*Something happens:  
wrong place, wrong time.  
Completely different postcode  
and wrong path:*

*Drugs, violence is part of life.  
Now prepared to shoot  
now prepared to kill.  
Invisible Entities*

*Now they don't talk too much, talk too much.  
They're probably given up, given up  
I think they've had enough, had enough cause ran out of life,  
out of luck.*

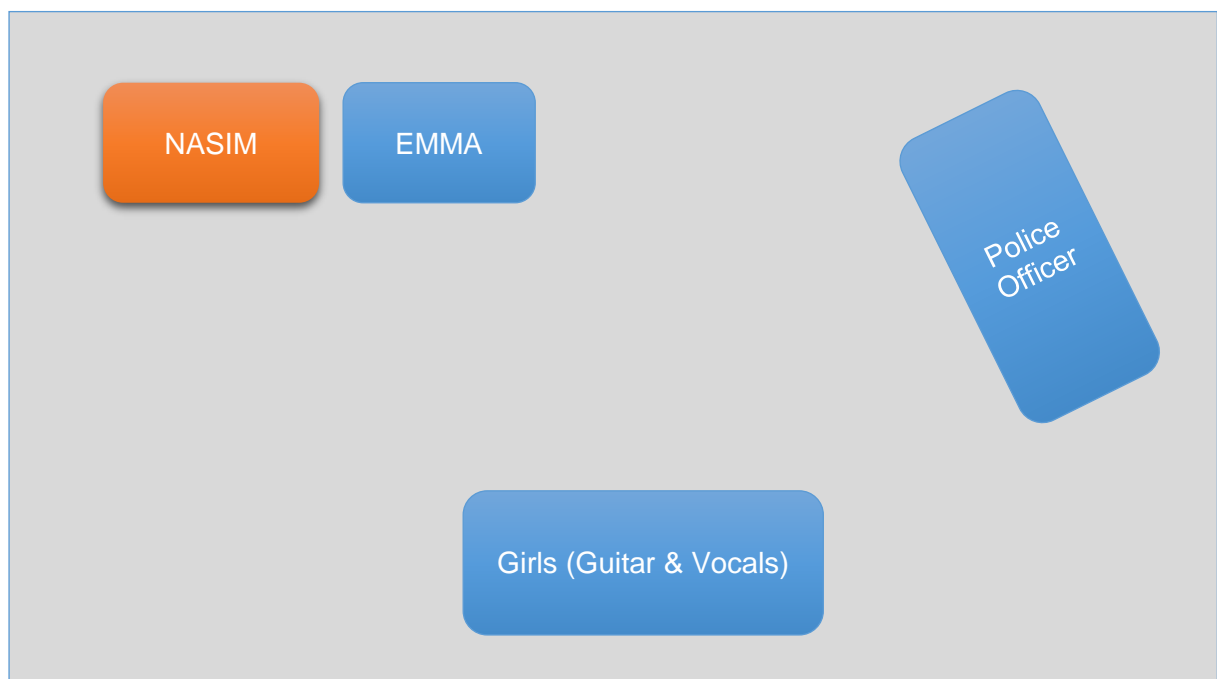
*Singer and guitar players leave the stage.*

*In the corner, where the desk with the police office is, the police officer gives Emma her papers back. Emma is moving to the middle of the stage.*

**Emma:** Finally. Finally I got out of this. These past six months were horrible. Why was I so stupid? ... And this institution of re-education. I don't want to be re-educated. They were trying to brainwash me. But I feel good the way I am .... They were driving me crazy in there ..... Nobody could understand me, except for my friends outside... But they kind of let me down 6 months ago, didn't they? ... I had so much time to think about what to do when I get out. And still I don't really know where to go.

*Emma moves to the back of the stage where she just sits next to Nasim.*

#### STAGE PLOT (SCENE 3)





## SCENE 4

*Hip Hop Dance 3: The two groups appear on stage again. The same scenario of hesitation begins. But this time the green group is a little more open. Nasim is joining them in the dance while trying to convince Emma to do the same. But Emma does not feel too comfortable in this group and she decides after a moment of hesitation to join the red group again.*

*Both groups remain on separate sides. They face each other standing in two lines. One of each group leaves the lines and takes a few steps to the other group.*

**Student green mask:** *(Turning to the red student)* Am I the good and you're the bad one? *(Turning to the public)* By what right do I decide that I am the good one and he's the bad one? *(Turning again to the red student)* I think I know you from somewhere... Weren't we neighbours when we were kids? Your face looks so familiar to me. *(Both take off their masks).* Aren't we all humans, with our good and our bad sides? Haven't we all got desires and dreams? Isn't everyone feeling joy as much as sadness and sometimes even despair? Why should I be the good one and he the bad one?

**Student red mask:** *(Turning to the green student)* Yes I remember you. Some years ago we were not that different. But each of us pursues his own path and no path is identical one to the other. I envied you for your family and the security that they gave you. My life was not so easy all the time. Still I found my way, just as you found yours. *(Turning to the public)* And I don't think that we should consider one to be better than the other.

*One by one, all the actors, dancers and musicians enter the centre of the scene, staying behind the two students talking.*

**Student green mask:** *(Turning to the public)* All of us, we have to find answers to so many questions. But how can we assure that everybody can live positively despite our particularities? *(Turning to the red student)* How could I have helped you? *(Turning again to the public)* How can we prevent exclusion of some of us? How can we learn to live together, respecting all the differences that characterize us?

**Student red mask:** *(Turning to the public)* Misfortune is not a destiny. If we believe in ourselves, I think we can change our own destiny and, together, we can change the destiny of us all. Let's talk together, let's work together, let's live together and build the BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE.

*All the actors, dancers and musicians are singing together the final song.*

## FINAL SONG: "BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE"

Music by Vance Joy - Riptide

Verse

*Green: I dreamed of becoming a football star,  
But my parents had different plans for me.*

*Red: I guess I had the same dream too,  
But who should have taken care of my nephew?*

Chorus

*uuuhh dreams came unstuck  
Let's change it, we're young enough to have dreams,  
There's still some time to fulfil whatever we want it to be  
Together, let's build bridges to the future,  
Let's find out where they are going to end.*

*Green: I couldn't become an artist  
Because they said I should get a real job  
Red: I wrote some songs no one's ever heard  
I had no money to record them*

*Chorus: uuuhh dreams came unstuck  
Let's change it, we're young enough to have dreams,  
There's still some time to fulfil whatever we want it to be  
Together, let's build bridges to the future,  
Let's find out where they are going to end.*

Verse

*Green : I'm sorry if I ignored you,  
I didn't know we had the same dream  
Red: I'm sorry if ever I sacred you  
I always thought that you were a prig  
Green : If I'd known you, I might have been your friend  
I could have taken care of your nephew  
Red : Sorry to hear that your dreams came unstuck  
But at least you had someone to take care about.*

*Chorus: uuuhh dreams came unstuck  
Let's change it, we're young enough to have dreams,  
There's still some time to fulfil whatever we want it to be  
Together, let's build bridges to the future,  
Let's find out where they are going to end.*

*During this last song, part 1, 2 and 3 of the graffiti are being placed in front of the stage.  
Together with the fourth part, they communicate the final message.*