

# HELEN ON 86<sup>th</sup> ST.

**Act 1** begins with **Vita**, heart set on getting the part of Helen in the school production of *The Trojan Horse* as she practices her audition piece. Vita believes that if she gets the role of Helen, her dad, who has been gone for three years, will return to see her play the part.

As we continue through Act 1 we witness the grueling auditions for *The Trojan Horse*, led by the chronically frustrated and burnt out drama teacher, **Mr. Dodd** and the handsome and charming music teacher, **Mr. Walker**. The beautiful and vapid, **Helen Mc.Guire** gets the part of Helen, and Vita isn't just disappointed, she's devastated. Not only is she playing the Greek soldier Neoptolemus, but she also has to deal with the fact that her mom, **Victoria**, seems to be getting more serious with her boyfriend, **Farfel**, who Vita is not fond of.

Victoria, has her own struggles. She questions her relationship with Farfel and is troubled about how she can continue to support herself and her daughter as a single parent. Vita learns that in ancient Greece they used to burn sacrifices in order to get their wishes granted. She decides to try it—and lo and behold, Helen Mc.Guire comes down with the Chicken Pox a few days before the show. The curtain descends on a panicked Mr. Dodd, an itchy Helen Mc.Guire, and a hopeful Vita.

As **Act 2** begins, the part of Helen is up for grabs, and the stakes are so high that Vita burns more sacrifices. As she does, she makes three wishes: that her dad comes back, that Farfel goes away, and that she gets to take over the role of Helen.

And it works! Back at school, Vita is told that she will be taking over the role of Helen! And after a fight (that Vita overhears), Victoria and Farfel decide to call it quits: Vita's second wish has come true.

We're back at school and the curtain is up on *The Trojan Horse* play. Vita, fully expecting to walk out in her big finale and see her dad sitting in the audience, makes her entrance. As she sings, she looks out and realizes he isn't there. She can't continue. There is silence on the stage until Mr. Walker starts to sing the finale. As he continues to sing, Vita's friends and cast mates join in, until the full cast is singing to Vita, urging her to go on. She joins them and they all sing together. The cast finishes the song and backs away, leaving Vita alone on the stage to finish her solo, "Helen's Good-bye." In a final moment of acceptance, with her mother looking on, Vita says goodbye to her father.