

How Did We Come To This?

The Wild Party

- MUSIC LYRICS: Andrew Lippa
- STYLE: Modern Musical Theatre
- YEAR: 1999
- CHARACTER: Queenie

Synopsis:

A prologue introduces the audience to Queenie, a showgirl and Burrs, a clown. They appear to be a perfect match, since both are attracted to sleaze and kink, and they move into a Manhattan apartment together.

After a couple of years, boredom and distrust have replaced the passion in their relationship. Tired of Burrs and his physically brutal ways, Queenie makes plans to throw a party where she can embarrass him. Their guest list is a motley mix that includes Kate, a semi-reformed prostitute who is Queenie's best friend and biggest rival; her latest lover, Mr. Black; a prizefighter named Eddie and his wife Mae; the flamboyant and incestuous d'Armano brothers; Sam Himmelsteen, a theater producer; Dolores, a hooker and her lesbian madam, Madeleine True, and a mute dancer, Jackie. Queenie sees Mr. Black, who is immediately attracted to her, as her opportunity to make Burrs jealous. At the same time, Kate is determined to nab Burrs.

The tension between the two couples becomes obvious to all, and the d'Armanos suggest that Queenie and Burrs perform a number from their new Broadway show. Her performance fascinates Mr. Black even more, and the two discuss their growing feelings for each other. Meanwhile, Kate finds she is unable to attract Burrs, who is becoming increasingly drunk and begins to hallucinate. He makes a pass at Mae, prompting Eddie to fight with his host. Burrs takes quite a beating until Mr. Black intervenes. Kate offers Burrs cocaine to ease his pain.

The party soon evolves into a lot of people sleeping with each other. Burrs, finding Queenie with Black, pulls out his gun. He and Black struggle for it and Burrs is killed, leaving Queenie to wonder how her plan could end in such tragedy and sings *How Did We Come To This?*