

IF I WERE A BELL

Guys and Dolls

- MUSIC: Frank Loesser
- TYPE: Musical theatre with jazz influence
- YEAR: 1950
- CHARACTER: Sarah Brown

SYNOPSIS:

Guys and Dolls is a comedic story of love, money, and salvation in New York City. All the hot gamblers are in town, and they're all depending on Nathan Detroit, and his two cohorts, to set up this week's gambling game- "The Oldest Established Permanent Floating Crap Game in New York". As the gamblers finish their pitch, Sergeant Sarah Brown and the Mission Band enter playing a hymn. Sarah delivers a street-corner sermon on the evils of gambling, inviting all sinners to visit the Save-A-Soul Mission and repent before it's too late.

Nathan needs \$1,000 to secure a garage for the game but Nathan is broke. Sky Masterson is in town and could surely supply the money needed for the garage. When Nathan asks why Sky is travelling to Havana alone, Sky says he could get any woman he chooses to go with him. Nathan bets Sky \$1,000 that Sky can't convince Sarah Brown from the Mission Band to go with him. Sky accepts the bet. Sky enters and presents himself to Sarah as a gambler eager for redemption. He suggests she give him personal help over dinner. She declines the offer. However, the head of the Save-A-Soul Mission, arrives and explains that the Mission's poor performance in attracting sinners is forcing her to close the branch. Sky proposes a trade: he will give Sarah an IOU guaranteeing to fill the Mission with twelve sinners, if Sarah agrees to have dinner with him in his favourite restaurant in Havana.

In a street café Sarah orders a milk shake, which Sky translates to the waiter as "Dulce de Leche," a potent alcoholic drink. After several drinks, Sarah jealously interrupts when a dancer flirts with Sky, precipitating a huge barroom brawl. Sky carries Sarah away from the brawl. As he sets her down, she kisses him. He asks her how she feels. She drunkenly tells him she feels wonderful ("If I Were a Bell") and falls into his arms. Realizing he is falling in love with her, a guilty Sky tells her about the bet he made. Sarah is angry but Sky promises to keep his IOU to her.

The gambling game is proceeding furiously. Big Jule demands they all stay until he wins back the money he has lost and uses his gun to back up the demand. Sky appears at the game and punches Big Jule, knocking him down. Sky grabs Big Jule's gun and tosses it to Nathan. He then proposes a bet on one throw of the dice: if he loses, Sky will pay each gambler \$1,000; if he wins, each gambler has to show up at the Mission for the meeting taking place that night. Sky wins. At a few minutes past midnight, all the gamblers enter the Mission to the surprise and delight of Sarah Brown.