

***THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS* (a sweet comedy)**

(synopsis)

ZAK, a young, broke and going-nowhere songwriter, lives in a shabby loft in Manhattan. One floor above lives SONDRA. She cleans banks at night and seems to have little future either. But while ZAK is discouraged and under-motivated, SONDRA is resolutely optimistic—and has designs on ZAK.

They pass one another occasionally on the stairs—until the day a dead rat brings them together. SONDRA, having found the rat in her dishwasher where she was doing her laundry, brings it down to ZAK for his advice on appropriate disposal. ZAK wants nothing to do with the creature and is wary of SONDRA's intentions as well. But as they negotiate over the rat and talk about their bleak lives, SONDRA gradually gets ZAK to agree to their taking the rat, together, out to Sheep Meadow for burial.

In the course of their funeral outing, SONDRA inadvertently gives ZAK the words for a new song—a song that becomes his first money-maker. As the play closes, ZAK and SONDRA have moved in together and share visions of a bright future—all thanks to the fortunate discovery of an unfortunate rat.

[23 pages, standard play format]

CAST

SONDRA

late 20S

ZAK

late 20S

SETTING

A shabby studio loft in Manhattan

TIME

The present