Synopsis

The play is a series of interviews with historical figures of Sam Houston State University.

Scene 1890: Becoming Normal

I am the very model of a modern Normal Institute.
I train the finest teachers, on that fact, there can be no dispute,
In two short years, they graduate with their teaching ‘certificate,’
They’re in demand in country towns, they’re making Texans more astute.

My rigorous code of conduct keeps our students from forbidden fruit
They must comply most ‘cheerfullie’ if not we’ll give their bum the boot
I must insist that they desist from dancing, drinking, playing suits
And this is how we have become Sam Houston Normal Institute.

I’ve Principals, not Presidents, my faculty is just a few,
I’ve Austin Hall, still standing tall and Old Main came in ‘92
The library named Peabody was done in nineteen hundred two
I am the very model of a modern Normal Institute.

Scene 1920: A New Century

When you wore a tulip, a big yellow tulip,
And I wore a big red rose.
When you caressed me ‘twas then Heaven blessed me,
What a blessing no one knows.

You made life cheery when you called me dearie,
‘twas down where the bluegrass grows,
Your lips were sweeter than julep,
When you wore a tulip, and I wore a big red rose.

Scene 1940: WWII

There’ll be a hot time
In the town of Berlin
When the Yanks go marchin’ in
I wanna be there boy,
And spread some joy
When they take old Berlin

They’re gonna start a row
And show them how
We paint the town black, in Kokomo
They’re gonna take a hike
Through Hitler’s Reich
And change his ‘Heil’ to
‘What ya know, Joe’

There’ll be a hot time
In the town of Berlin
When the Brooklyn boys begin
To take the joint apart
And tear it down
When they take old Berlin

Happy down on the farm
After they take Berlin.
Scene 1960: Evolution

Hey Sam, it’s time for change
Take this college and make it better
We gotta let others into our school
Then we can start to make it better

Hey Sam, it’s time for change
ROTC is not for everyone
You gotta let us decide for ourselves
Then you begin to make it better

And for the third time since we came, hey Sam, your name
Has gotta be changed, we’re not just teachers
For we know that if our school can play it cool
We’ll just keep growing older

Hey Sam, don’t let us down
Make the changes that make us better
Remember to let us think for ourselves
Then we can start to make it better

Scene 2000: Dream and Succeed

Hail to Sam Houston,
School we love best,
Mighty in battle,
True to the test.
Bearkats so loyal,
Ever we’ll be.
Orange and white
Will lead us to victory!

Hail, Alma Mater
Hats off to you,
Ever you’ll find us
Loyal and true;
Firm and undaunted
Ever we’ll be,
Here’s to the school we love
Here’s a toast to thee.

Cast

Yliana Arredondo Destinee McGinnis
Laura DuBose Cole Ryden
Mark Ivy James Smith
Mark Jackson Kim Truncale

Written and Directed by Laura Avery
Choreographed by Jonathan Charles Smith