

## *Passion* (1994)

### Original Broadway Production:

Opening Night: May 9, 1994

Closing Date: January 7, 1995 (280 performances)

### Creative Team:

Music & Lyrics by: Stephen Sondheim

Book by: James Lapine

Directed by: James Lapine

Set Design: Adrienne Lobel

Lighting Design: Beverly Emmons

Costume Design: Jane Greenwood

Orchestrations: Jonathan Tunick

### Casts of Selected Productions

Role	Original Broadway Cast (1994)	Classic Stage Company Cast (2004)
Fosca	Donna Murphy	Judy Kuhn
Clara	Marin Mazzie	Melissa Errico
Giorgio	Jere Shea	Ryan Silverman
Colonel Ricci	Gregg Edelman	Stephen Bogardus
Doctor Tambourri	Tom Aldredge	Tom Nelis
<i>Director</i>	<i>James Lapine</i>	<i>John Doyle</i>

### Awards

**The Original Broadway production won 4 Tony awards:** Best Musical, Book of a Musical (Lapine), Original Score (Sondheim), and Actress in a Musical (Murphy). **It was also nominated for 6 additional awards:** Actor in a Musical (Shea), Featured Actor in a Musical (Aldredge), Featured Actress in a Musical (Mazzie), Director of a Musical (Lapine), Costume Design (Greenwood), and Lighting Design (Emmons).

### Synopsis

**Setting:** Milan, 1863

**Characters & Plot:** The handsome captain Giorgio is having an affair with Clara, a beautiful married woman. He is transferred to a remote military outpost where he meets Fosca, a sickly cousin of his commanding officer. Fosca falls obsessively in love with him. Complications ensue. A detailed plot synopsis is available on Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passion\\_\(musical\)#Synopsis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passion_(musical)#Synopsis)

### Selected Song Lyrics

In an unusual move, since songs and dialogue scenes often blended from one to another seamlessly, the Broadway playbill did not provide song titles. On the cast recording, many songs are indicated by titles such as “First Letter,” “Transition,” and “Garden Sequence.” The songs whose lyrics are reprinted below are ones that are occasionally recorded outside of the show.

## *Passion (1994)*

### “Happiness”

CLARA

I'm so happy  
I'm afraid I'll die  
Here in your arms.

What would you do  
If I died  
Like this—  
Right now,  
Here in your arms?

That we ever should have met  
Is a miracle—

GIORGIO  
No, inevitable—

CLARA  
Then inevitable, yes,  
But I confess  
It was the look—

GIORGIO  
The look?

CLARA  
The sadness in your eyes  
That day  
When we glanced  
At each other in the park.

GIORGIO  
We were both unhappy.

CLARA  
Unhappiness can be seductive

GIORGIO  
You pitied me . . .

BOTH  
How quickly pity leads to love.

CLARA  
All this happiness  
Merely from a glance in the park.  
So much happiness,  
So much love . . .

GIORGIO  
I thought I knew what love was.

CLARA

I wish we might have met so much sooner.  
I could have given you—

GIORGIO

I thought I knew what love was.

CLARA

--My youth

GIORGIO

I thought I knew how much I could feel.

CLARA

All the time we lost . . .

GIORGIO

I didn't know what love was.

CLARA

I've never known what love was.

GIORGIO

But now—

CLARA

And now—

BOTH

—I do.  
It's what I feel with you.  
The happiness I feel with you.

CLARA

So much happiness—

GIORGIO

You are so beautiful . . .

CLARA

—Happening by chance  
In a park

GIORGIO

Not by chance,  
By necessity—

CLARA

Surely, this is happiness—

GIORGIO

By the sadness that we saw  
In each other.

## *Passion (1994)*

### “Happiness” (cont)

CLARA

—No one else  
Has ever felt before!

BOTH

Just another love story,  
That’s what they would claim.  
Another simple love story—  
Aren’t all of them the same?

CLARA

No, but this is more,  
We feel more!

BOTH

This is so much more—!  
Like every other love story.

Some say happiness  
Comes and goes.  
Then this happiness  
Is a kind of happiness  
No one really knows.

GIORGIO

I thought I knew what love was.

CLARA

I’d only heard what love was.

GIORGIO

I thought it was no more than a name  
For yearning.

CLARA

I thought it was what kindness became.

GIORGIO

I’m learning—

CLARA

I thought where there was love there was shame.

GIORGIO

—That with you—

CLARA

But with you—

BOTH

—There’s just happiness.

CLARA

Endless happiness . . .

[dialogue: Giorgio tells her he has been transferred.  
She is devastated.]

GIORGIO

God,  
You are so beautiful.  
I love to see you in the light,  
Clear and beautiful.

Memorize—

CLARA

No . . .

GIORGIO

—Every inch,  
Every part of you,  
To take with me.

CLARA

Giorgio . . .

GIORGIO

Your feet so soft,  
As if they’d ever touched the ground—

CLARA

Don’t . . .

GIORGIO

—Your skin so white,  
So pure,  
So delicate.

CLARA

Don’t . . .

GIORGIO

Your smell so sweet,  
Your breath so warm.  
I will summon you in my mind,  
I’m painting you indelibly on my mind.

CLARA

Let me go . . .

GIORGIO

We must fill every moment.

CLARA

All this happiness—

GIORGIO

No, don’t

## *Passion (1994)*

### “Happiness” (cont)

CLARA

—Ended by a word in the dark.

GIORGIO

Oh, my love, oh, my darling . . .

CLARA

So much happiness—

GIORGIO

No, please, you musn't . . .

CLARA

—Wasn't meant to last.

GIORGIO

I am here,  
I am with you,  
I am yours.

CLARA

I never knew what love was.

GIORGIO

Your skin,  
Your silken hair . . .

CLARA

I always thought I didn't deserve it.

GIORGIO

Your breasts,  
Your lips . . .

CLARA

I didn't know what love was.

GIORGIO

I want you every minutes of my life . . .

CLARA

I don't know how I'll live when you're gone!

GIORGIO

I will always be here.

CLARA

I don't know how I'll live . . .  
Giorgio . . .  
Don't leave me . . .

### “I Wish I Could Forget You”

[Fosca asks Giorgio to write a letter to her—which she will dictate. He agrees.]

“My dearest Fosca . . .

I wish I could forget you,  
Erase you from my mind.  
But ever since I met you,  
I find  
I cannot leave the thought of you behind.

That doesn't mean I love you . . .

I wish that I could love you . . .

I know that I've upset you.  
I know that I've been unkind.  
I wanted you to vanish from sight,  
But now I see you in a different light.  
And though I cannot love you,  
I wish that I could love you.

For now I'm seeing love  
Like none I've ever known.  
A love as pure as breath,  
As permanent as death,  
Implacable as stone.

A love that like a knife  
Has cut into a life  
I wanted left alone.  
A love I may regret,  
But one I can't forget.

I don't know how I let you  
So far inside my mind,  
But there you are and there you will stay.

How could I ever wish you away?  
I see now I was blind  
And should you die tomorrow,  
Another thing I see:  
Your love will live in me.”

## ***Passion (1994)***

### **“Loving You”**

GIORGIO (spoken)  
Fosca, you have to face the truth. Please. You have to give me up.

FOSCA  
Loving you  
Is not a choice,  
It's who I am.

Loving you  
Is not a choice  
And not much reason  
To rejoice,  
But it gives me purpose,  
Gives me voice,  
To say to the world:

This is why I live.  
You are why I live.

Loving you  
Is why I do  
The things I do.  
Loving you  
Is not in my  
Control.  
But loving you,  
I have a goal  
For what's left of my life . . .

I will live,  
And I would die  
For you.

### **“No One Has Ever Loved Me”**

[Giorgio has received a letter from Clara breaking off their affair. Fosca says she is sorry, that she doesn't want him to be sad.]

GIORGIO  
I feel so much . . . but I'm not really sad.

FOSCA  
I thought you loved Clara?

GIORGIO  
I did love Clara. I did, but . . .

No one has ever loved me  
As deeply as you.  
No one has truly loved me  
As you have, Fosca.

Love without reason  
Love without mercy,  
Love without pride or shame.  
Love unconcerned  
With being returned—  
No wisdom, no judgment,  
No caution, no blame.

No one has ever known me  
As clearly as you.  
No one has ever shown me  
What love could be like until now:

Not pretty or safe or easy,  
But more than I ever knew.  
Love within reason—that isn't love,  
And I've learned that from you . . .

[spoken] Are you cold?

FOSCA  
No, I'm afraid.

GIORGIO  
Of what?

FOSCA [sung]  
All this happiness,  
Coming when there's so little time.  
Too much happiness  
More than I can bear.

[spoken] You do love me, don't you?

GIORGIO  
Yes, I love you.