

***Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* by Stephen Sondheim**

In the grimy and rotting cesspool of London, the former Benjamin Barker returns as Mr. Sweeney Todd after several years of banishment. Corruption and lies of the city grow like grimy green mold and the only glimmer of purity lies between the young lovers Johanna and Anthony. Mr. Todd bleeds London of its infection with his admirer Mrs. Lovett in pursuit of revenge against the jealous Judge who sent him away all those years ago, but the blood lust soon goes out of control when Todd kills his long-lost wife.

With the creeping sound on the organ, the gritty green skyline of London disrobes the cloak of the fog and reveals its corrupted creases. The dirty citizens of London walk in and out of a dull bile yellow coming up from the sewers while the drab night sky lays and chilling touch on the people. With Anthony's hopeful gaze towards London, a rose kissed pink blushes his face at the start of "*No place like London*". Mr. Todd is brushed by a deathly deep blue, his joy in life gone no warmth follows him [*The Barber and His Wife*].

Inside Mrs. Lovett's shop the night sky seeps in, its long grimy beams creep like the boney fingers of Death. With Mr. Todd's entrance and her exclamation [*The Worst Pies in London*], she lights a candle at his table and forces him to sit down. She scurries over to her baking station and brightens her gas lamp, its tint of green highlights the mold on the crusts of the pies and her face. The boney fingers of the night sky reach over Mr. Todd with Mrs. Lovett's retelling the story of Benjamin's wife [*Poor Thing*]. The grimy green deepens then backs away with Mr. Todd's rage and tossing of his pie plate. The deathly deep blue embraces Mr. Todd and Mrs. Lovett as he is reunited with his blades, the sky night sky loses its grime and leaks a little stream of an icy moon beam, the blades shimmer and hypnotize Mr. Todd and Mrs. Lovett [*My Friends*].

Kept locked up high above the stage like Rapunzel in her tower, Johanna singing resonates with the grace of a rosy alabaster, her youth and purity pull her out from the grimy green world, like a pearl the monsters lurk after [*Green Finch and Linnet Bird*].

The midday sun is tinted lime green from the poisonous fumes of the factories nearby, no rays of sunshine can reach the city through the industrial smokestacks as Mr. Todd and Pirelli battle it out for who is the better barber.

The night sky creeps in again on to Mrs. Lovett's little shop, with the evil notion of baking people into pies, the oven heats up. Its hell like fires leak light out from its vents [*A Little Priest*] as Mr. Todd and Lovett dance around the room celebrating their diabolical plan, their shadows move like demons on the walls of the shop.

With the murder of the Beadle and the search of Tobias, the pressure is on Mr. Todd and Mrs. Lovett. Madness starts to rise with the intensity of the oven flames [*Final Sequence*]. The confrontation between the business partners builds as once again Mrs. Lovett and Mr. Todd dance in the light of the oven as demons dancing in hell. Hellish red heats the bakery walls and highlights the horns of Mr. Todd, revealing his demonic form. With the slamming of the oven door and Mrs. Lovett's scream the fires die down and simmer the room in a glowing red heat as Mr. Todd cries over Lucy. With the lift of his knife and the scream of the whistle, Tobias is highlighted in a sharp sulfur and slashes the throat of Mr. Todd's. The hell fire red is damped out with the gurgling of noise of Mr. Todd last few breaths. The citizens of London enter the dungeon while the lime light from the world above leaks into the black pit revealing the true horror and pile of body parts.