



Synopsis

Olivia O, The Musical tells the story of Olivia Ortiz, a 14 year undocumented migrant who is separated from her mother at the US-Mexican border.

Set in 2017 in El Paso, Texas against the backdrop of the secretive and unannounced family separations policy that the US Dept of Homeland Security denies is happening, the story opens with Olivia alone in the detention center and her aunt Isabel, waiting, increasingly distraught, for Olivia and her mother to arrive at the El Norte border crossing.

When they never arrive, Isabel joins an immigration justice group to try and find answers and discovers the hastily and secretly implemented new family separation policies at the border have left the local immigrant community shaken to the core.

As Isabel gains confidence and tells her own story, she begins to feel a sense of hope, encouraging community members to share their stories and plan ways to make a difference, find justice, and most importantly, reconnect with their loved ones.

As Isabel begins to feel hopeful, the opposite is happening to Olivia, who has been sent to an abusive foster home and told to forget about her family.

Act 1 concludes with Olivia running away from the foster home while Isabel's plans for a peaceful protest at the detention center simultaneously go awry, as violence breaks out and Isabel is arrested.

As Act 2 opens, we see that the immigration justice movement has grown, and there is a growing 'fight back' energy in the El Paso community. Isabel, shaken by her arrest, but determined to find Olivia, continues to tell her story and helps build this radical new network of support and activism (and as she does, her attraction to her activist colleague grows).

Olivia

THE MUSICAL

But even as Isabel and the immigration group re-double their efforts, the militarized deportation machine operating in their midst steps in and Olivia faces an immigration raid and is ultimately re-captured by immigration officers.

As a heartbroken yet defiant Olivia is on her way back to the abusive foster home, the activist network kicks into high gear, and together with the community, Isabel confronts the foster parents, demanding Olivia be returned to her family.

As the foster parents refuse to let Olivia go, the El Paso community rallies around Olivia, and she breaks away from her foster parents to be with Isabel. They both vow to keep looking for Olivia's mother and reunite families, as the community surrounds them in love and solidarity.