**Results from Feedback (60 responses)**

**Title:** we may change title and focus to Cubans rather than Fidel and call it ‘Viva Cuba Libre’ – what do you think?

**Q1. Do you think the torture scene works better with a song or just dialogue?**

Almost exactly even – 49% said it should be sung, 51% said not sung. In development I was nervous about including a torture scene but so many said it was their favourite bit, and kids seemed to like it so I kept it in. Two people expressed fears that it might be too much for a matinee performance or for kids to perform, but most had no problem. This scene will be longer in the real show. One person suggested having figures in black like a Greek chorus at the back singing Hasta La Victoria Patria o Muerte –homeland or death while the torture is happening silently on stage. What do you think?

**Q2. Do you think the trial scene would work better if Fidel’s speech is sung (as in music clip) or spoken (as in performance)?**

People liked this scene and loved the song. 22% said sing it all, but the majority (78%) said keep it as it was with the verse being spoken and just the chorus sung.

**Q3. Did you find the story easy to follow?** (circle) Yes Mostly No

Only 1 person said it was hard to follow 64% said it was easy and 34% said they mostly followed it.

**Q4. Did you warm to the character of Fidel?** (circle) Yes Mostly No

70.5% said they did warm to Fidel, 20.5% said mostly and 9% said no.

**Q5. Did the mix of comedy and tragedy work?** (circle) Yes Mostly No

This would be hard to fix if I’d got it wrong so very happy that 66% said mix of comedy/tragedy did work, 26% said mostly and 7% said no.

7 people liked the lighter moments and wanted more, but 3 people said need to play out tragedy and not do too much comedy. One person found torture scene hard to reconcile with lighter moments. Overall I think it looks like the mix is about right.

**Q6. How to start the** musical was the hardest decision. We discussed three options and in the end chose option 3. What do you think?

* Option 1: Starting with the song ‘Moving like that’ and add dialogue after 17%
* Option 2: Start with adult Fidel and friends talking? 13.5%
* Option 3 (what we did): Start with quick overview of Fidel’s past. 69%

Most people liked it as was as it introduced them to the character of Fidel. BUT, I’ve had a suggestion that we take the focus away from Fidel and instead call it ‘VIVA CUBA LIBRE’. A couple did say that this story is about the Cuban people not just Fidel so I am seriously considering this idea. What do you think? If we reframe as being about the Cuban revolution then maybe your thoughts on what would be the best opening scene might change?

**Q7. Do you think this has the potential to go all the way to the West End?** (circle)

1 2 3 4 5

Definitely Yes Definitely No

The mean was 2.08, with 70% saying 1 or 2 definitely/probably.

**Q8. Would you go and see this at your local theatre**? (circle)

1 2 3 4 5

Very likely Very unlikely

The mean was 1.83 with 78% saying 1 or 2 definitely/probably

**Other comments  
Development process:** Two people have said they loved it but I shouldn’t rush to commercialise it. Build it up at grass roots level first. I think this is excellent advice. My plan is to encourage schools/colleges/ amateur groups across the UK (and beyond) to put it on free of charge. In the early days to help workshop it with my help, and then when complete, just as a great musical with educational value. Once its momentum has built, then we can look to take it further.

**Length of musical**: Several had said to stop at Act 1. I agree. There is plenty of story and to take us up to the victory would take a good 2 hours. Perhaps the Bay of Pigs/missile crisis and story post 1959 will have to wait for another musical.

Favourite poster  

33%

67%

**Feedback on the songs**

**‘Moving Like That’:** people loved this and many said once properly choreographed and Cubaned up it will be a great first number

**‘You can’t Kill Our Dream/500, 000** Cubans’ 3 loved this song, but 2 didn’t like the 500, 000 Cubans bit. It is a bit of a mouthful. My idea is to have the 2 songs sung separately as 2 protests marches that cross the stage and when the two sets of marchers meet, they songs intertwine. Also perhaps change the lyric to a million Cubans – as less of a mouthful!

**‘Hasta La Victoria’**: 4 people did not like this version of the song. It doesn’t scan so well when sung faster, so could amend (remove words) or have in a different place. The original sad version (video clip) people love. Options are to place it during the torture scene, or when Fidel waivers but then decides to continue. Then we could have Mirta’s song ‘you love one woman, La revolucion’ being sung as she watches them train for the attack.

**'Kill him':** one person especially liked it, another didn’t like lyrics. I think it works.

**‘La Historia Me Absolvera’**: people loved this song

**Reprise of you can’t kill our dream:** 2 especially liked this bit.

**Music clips (see** [**https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCMHbvITJYiYHXfJ5u6gN4-MXeLJYOltx**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCMHbvITJYiYHXfJ5u6gN4-MXeLJYOltx)**)**

**Colonial Cocktail:** 3 people said they thought this will work well when performed. So do I!

**Climb to the top of the mountain**: one person loved the tune and another said no. What do you think?

**Viva Cuba Libre:** 4 people especially loved it, one quite liked it.

**638 plots against Fidel**: 2 really liked it and one didn’t. What did you think?

**Demons**: 1 person liked it but one person thought it didn’t go. What do you think?

**‘I heard’:** 2 especially liked this song.

**General:** one person said have more Cuban music, and another said make them all Cuban – what do you think?