**My Truth (Working Title) Synopsis Written by Karen Keavey**

 **Music and Lyrics by Karen Keavey**

**Overview**:

Karen, our single, funny, smart, sensitive late 40 something NYC heroine finds her world turned upside down by COVID-19, racial tension, the contentious 2020 political climate/election: all told - 2020. This tumultuous year unleashes her inner and literal transition -- from former successful ad sales careerwoman to musical songwriter and artist with creative message and direction. The draw of her story is not only in its content but in its delivery – with quick wit, astute power of observation and delicious native new yorker-ness. Karen offers, in word and song. her sophisticated, streetwise musical metamorphosis (one song per scene) charting her chronological unfolding and change as influenced by the events of the day. A one-woman tour de force from a one-bedroom apartment --- her story is a witty, heartfelt, and quasi autobiographical tale of throwing away long held beliefs, convention, and expectation – and following her heart as reveal through the tumultuous and eye-opening trajectory of 2020-21. The setting is in Karen’s groovy 1-bedroom apartment on 25th and 2nd in an increasingly bleak and wounded Manhattan where she engages with her friends and family through an occasional live visit but mostly the “tech” of the day including Zoom. IM’s, Email and Phone. She is a media hound whose content consumption includes all things books, print, online. TV, and Radio. She lives with her dog Louie the Puggle - 15 years old. Her guitar and piano are both in the apartment -- where she composes her songs and videos them for YOUTUBE and her project.

**Act 1 – March 2020 – August 2020**

The show opens with Karen hearing casually of this contagious virus that seems to be going around and musing about how she can’t visit her hair colorist because of this crazy illness. Bored, she picks up her guitar and dabbles her way into the funny opening tune**. (“I’m Going Grey”).** She has also just ended relationship which causes her to feel both sad and empowered as she makes it a point to “move on” in her strong girl style. **(“The Hard Way”).** As this illness elevates to a national pandemic and begins limit her movement and interaction with family and friends, it becomes an issue of greater concern and confusion**. (“I Don’t Understand”)**. She finds herself becoming more politically engaged as the deadly virus becomes worse; and her effort at writing music takes a stronger tone **(“She’ Doesn’t”)** as she sees her old life begin to fade and her artistic side start to flower. Her growing obsession with all things political grows and she is particularly enthralled with MSNBC and Rachel Maddow, who she perceives to be a genius; **(“Rachel Maddow”)**. On a lighter note, she muses about her neurotic best friend Louie Puggle, her dog of 15 years, who is a constant source of love and extreme frustration with his antics and constant need for food and attention **(“Peanut Butter Boy’)** As the pandemic begins to worsen, her closest childhood friends Mom dies of COVID-19; This experience as her friend’s mom goes through diagnosis, hospitalization, intubation to ultimately passing brings close to home the tragedy that is occurring , the mismanagement of the pandemic and the overall horrible state of the state – **(“Stopped”)**. She grows more distressed at the scenario, feeling powerless confused lonely and isolated **(“Sick of Me”).** She cutely laments her lost love, **(“Still Diggin You’)** as the nation braces for a fall wave of the pandemic, which in fact, arrives. The first act ends with a hope and belief that there will be an end to all this and a return of some new normal **(“Another Springtime”)** but that there are still dark days ahead.

**Act 2 -- September 2020 – Spring 2021**

The country is in the heart of the pandemic as well as contentious presidential election. **(“Another Planet”).** Businesses close, unemployment rates rise, and the nation is in a dark place. Seeing the plight of all of all those less well off than she, Karen writes a tune about families struggling to stay afloat **(In the Morning”)** \_. Her new crazy hours are become her own new normal **(“Late at Night”)** as her old 9-7 working gal life becomes a faint memory and her songwriting takes a front seat. With a downsized existence and new point of view, small things in life begin to offer new meaning **(“Fruit Stand”).** More political engagement and fury unearth, in both song and person (“Mask On”) and on Facebook, where she doesn’t hold back at her intense dislike of the current administration. (??????) The songs and writing efforts continue, fast and furious…one about the effort to write that great song **(“That Hook”)** and the next an acknowledgement of how her how life now takes place on social media **“(Social Media”).** Things reach a fever pitch when former VP Joe Biden, legitimately wins the 2020 Presidential election yet is abusively contested by the increasingly insane sitting president and his cronies **(“Voter Fraud”).** This, plus social isolation, and homebound months start taking their toll. Moving through late fall and shorter/darker days plus the increasing political turmoil and country divide brings in fear and disorientation as Karen thinks about abandoning the whole project and that maybe it was all a stupid idea. Things start looking down and she writes **(“Losing Trace of Time”) –**entering a new low. Late November/Early two events concur to give her hope…one, that the Biden win seems to be more embraced and an appointee are announced, and two, a vaccine with a 95% efficacy has been confirmed and will be approved and ultimately distributed. A more lighthearted and inspired Karen acknowledges the struggle ahead but sees hope. **(Reprise, “Another Springtime” )** Karen recommits more up heartedly to a tough winter but offers a sense of humor that there is no way to pursue love, even online, during this crazy time**. (“Deleting the Dating Apps).** Newly inspired, she embraces a feeling of optimism as we approach inauguration day. This allow hers to reembrace her Show and songwriting with new vim and vigor. She begins composing what she believes will be finale song – **(“My Truth”)**, Fast forward to late March.

Karen dotting i’s and crossing t’s on her show’s synopsis and 5 demo songs. New president in office and Karen starts doing open mics testing her tunes with a live audience and getting ready to send out her package to potential parties of interest! Show ends with her getting her vaccine shot! And playing a song for a live audience in a small coffee shop……

**7 PLOT POINTS**

1 - **Normal world** – opening –Boredom, Disgust with Corporate America, Burnt out Uninspired

2 – **The Inciting incident** (Catalyst) – COVID-19, Trump, Racial Unrest, Social Distancing,

3 – **Point of NO return** – Worldwide Pandemic, Racial Violence, Political Upheaval, Social Isolation, Commitment to Songwriting and realizing there is a larger thread that bonds what she’s already written

4a: - **Midpoint Begins** -- Karen Proactive show songwriting, posting, being aware of what going on intently – commitment and involvement

BREAK

4b - **The Midpoint Continues** -- Karen continues as the heat of the election grows and the contest becomes ugly. Karen begins to become disillusioned about her new transition in this new crazy world.

5 – **The Big Gloom** She increasingly feels lonely, hopeless, and depressed – the days grow dark. The Biden election win is contested. COVID-19 19 is at its peak as the country looks at the dim light at the end of the tunnel…the Karen has writers block –her piece was coming together but now she feels overwhelmed and uninspired

6 - **Climax and Inspiration**:

The end of November/Early December – New administration transition becomes more embraced and there’s a vaccine announcement. This news brings hope. Karen picks up the synopsis and finishes her show…. with this good news and the will to continue.

7 **– New Normal** – Spring comes, the sun comes out, Biden in now in office, TRUMP fades into the background the vaccine is being distributed. A new normal emerges Karen is playing open mics and testing her songs she wrote for the show in front of a live audience. She emails out her first Synopsis and Song Demo to a bunch of show producers. She sets up her appointment for the vaccination.