

# Dick Lee



## Life in the Lion City

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Warner Elektra Atlantic

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**Dick Lee**

*Life in the Lion City*

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### SIDE ONE

Flower Drum Song 5:07  
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Internationaland 4:13  
I Need You Back 5:41  
Old Chinatown 3:26

### SIDE TWO

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First Lesson 3:47  
This Town 4:02  
Familiar Faces 4:08  
Home Song 4:20

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All Songs written and arranged by Dick Lee  
Produced by Dick Lee & Richard Goh

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## Flower Drum Song

The Peter Panaling the Lion City Chinese Ensemble  
Not a word in sight, the Flower Drums awaken  
the night.  
Shattering the moonlight, maybe turning a million  
dreams.  
Annotated girls in pink, blossoms in their hair,  
Marching drums in hand, but are they really  
there?

What is this parade? Watchful thinking  
someone said.  
Only I can see them, waving flags and blowing  
paper lanterns.  
And above on darkened clouds, the monkey  
heart is calling.  
Come back to where you know your home's  
heart is falling.  
Follow the dragons tail, be guided by the  
drumming.

Chorus  
Chao loo loo, go ah loo, loo loo chao loo loo  
chiang loo  
Per it kee in ah loo loo loo loo loo loo loo  
Tay joo joo joo joo joo joo joo loo  
Tei loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo  
Should I get or stay? The flower drums are on  
the way.  
Giving me no reasons to stay to who I seem to be.  
It is an ornamental troupe I see I will speak.  
We'll bring the people back, the flower drums  
will lead.  
Show them the heritage they don't know that  
they seek.

It's close to me, it's where I want to be  
in Flower Drum Land — Away  
if I awaken, will I still hear their play?  
My Flower Drum Song will take us all away.

## Culture

Featuring the 1,001 voices of Dick Lee  
From your  
Back Home Concerts to G  
Buddhist Film Symposium  
Rasa Raging Field  
Listen to the music — let the music through.  
Show them you appreciate what they're trying to  
do.  
Exercise some discipline — don't tap your feet  
too fast!  
Try to see that what you hear has got no  
counterpart.  
Culture  
When you look upon the wall, do you see dots  
and lines?  
And when you watch the dancing figures, do  
they dance in rows?  
Teach yourself to hear it fed into you day and  
night.  
Soon you'll come to understand the dots,  
dots and lines.  
Culture

Lakes & gentlemen, we proudly present  
The greatest works ever created by man.  
Do start come to your eyes —  
When all indicators indicate  
it comes up no surprise.  
After all, culture's forced down your throat.  
Do you like Michelangelo? Do you like jazz?  
Listen to the Stravinsky — let the music through.  
Show them you appreciate what they're trying  
to do.

## International Land

My name — Kay Nee, Linda Elizabeth  
Here we are in the children of the middle class  
Growing out of childhood in a first house  
A lot to take, but as I've said — won't ever let  
Here we are, the product of material things  
Simply advanced civilizations something  
A lot too late, oh well, that's fate —  
— embarrassing.

Overdressed, we've never had the time to feel  
ourselves in our attempts at work!  
Always going northeast to get a thrill  
Never again! But maybe I will

Oh, the mindless servants of society  
Mocking the public in self parody  
How we go on, but now it's ending — we think  
we see  
We're adolescent offspring never age  
Elegantly refusing the power age  
How we go on, well we were born into the  
stage  
Having never met, even the other side  
We fall into the spiral with our other side  
Complexity and satisfaction a crime  
But not today — some other time

Time to grow up, some to face the world  
Spaf'd disks are over for most of the boys and  
girls  
Working and being may not be fun  
But there is bound to be something going for  
everyone  
And as for the I'll carry on as I am  
The Virgin Jay have international

Here you are developed by the power plant  
Surrounded only by the things you'll ever want  
But look at me — I'll always be the things you  
can't  
Here you are the coded codes of industry  
Regimen where since you had fantasies  
Don't you regret me ever met? — now look at  
me  
Understand that you were always free to  
choose

I know it sets a game only for me to lose  
You satisfied life for a pair of winking stars  
And now you've learned — well, sorry on  
me  
I think I'm the inferior of my female  
I hope I'm being superior due my female

Top ball you must go  
You don't have to go  
Well, if you must go don't wait for me  
Understand that you were always free to  
choose

## I Need You Back

From Singapore, Kay Nee

I've always brought — serves me right —  
You were in a storm of darkness — you were  
my light  
Blame it on me — didn't see — how I could say  
of these things — you know that I never  
could

No I never could stay in other circumstances —  
I guess it was just my character — all at the  
same, same one — pulled my own punches  
So where are you now? Where are you now?  
Won't you allow me to come and bring you  
back to me  
But I don't know how, baby, I don't know how  
I need you back with me — no I'm not the same,  
the same

the same  
I know when I said I was right — I was playing a  
game  
Maybe I haven't been fair and maybe  
I've been very wrong —  
But maybe I was learning to make it just  
right — see how now, now you've got me —  
I'm not gonna cry — I'm gonna laugh —  
The Lord only knows how I'll stay alive  
I need you, see — if my feelings catch up with  
me — if they go I'm coming for you — and you  
better be there, thinking to take me back  
Well I see you again — will it be the same —  
Oh I want you back so bad — Now I'll —  
go to try not to notice the pain

## Old Chinatown

From Singapore, Kay Nee, Linda Elizabeth, Dick Lee

She wants her love underneath a pair of pinches,  
Preserving not to care, but really does make  
She knows she can't believe, and even though  
she tries  
She stays the same, her love remains  
In Old Chinatown, taken home long ago  
It's all broken down, where's the old  
Chinatown

She wants to see if her love will change his  
mind  
It's not for me, she says — you must decide  
this one  
He looks so old and clear  
And here is warm and kind  
She can't give more, she's longing for  
That Old Chinatown, take her home, she will  
go  
But it's all broken down, where she went  
Chinatown

This is what they said it would be  
Haunted souls, decaying dreams,  
Every face has something to reveal  
Smiling, crying, why are they here?

Chinatown, Chinatown  
Chinatown, Chinatown  
Old Chinatown, taken home, long ago  
It's all broken down, where's the old  
Chinatown  
Old Chinatown, take her home, she will  
go  
But it's all broken down, where she went  
Chinatown

## Life in the Lion City

From Singapore, Kay Nee, Dick Lee

See Mike — In Lion City, Singapore, Asia  
Chinatown, Asia, Hong Kong  
The same one, he looks much morning  
A tableau of 1,001 and Asia  
Then it suddenly rains without warning  
Then every destination becomes very far  
On some days, there are no taxis,  
But of course, so I'll stick it on a jam  
Well, he can't complain, cause the fact is  
He's got the system fairly by hand  
Driving past all the premises and shopping  
centres, and he's not a tourist  
He's contemplative, he's thoughtful

great here in Singapore, Singapore  
So sometimes tropical some more  
Singapore, Singapore —  
Full of tourists and department stores,  
He works very hard for a living  
Rewards are a holiday or two  
But he has to be fair and forgiving  
Because his work environment is not very  
good

His desperate search for a rival  
Provides entertainment at least  
Since the city declares it not liable  
for his state of mind, he can be quite a beast  
He can soon go to some foreign, or to some  
other island to be entertained  
On the way, he decides to stay back  
in Singapore, Singapore  
Newer comes, food on every floor  
Singapore, Singapore

He's a Singaporean the case  
Ang Mo Kio — H. D. B.  
Shenton Way — Productivity  
People's Park — Speak Mandarin  
Orchard Road — Keep the City Clean  
Come On Singapore — Oak Leaf  
Singapore — Oh say  
Singapore, Singapore  
So sometimes tropical some more  
Singapore, Singapore

Never mind the sun shining off my eyes,  
Never mind the heat, it's a paradise  
Everything is old and new and so clean,  
The sea may be grey, but the city is green,  
Everybody's rushing, though the life is slow,  
Where they all are going, I really don't know  
Sometimes you really find somebody with the  
time  
To smile and say "Hello" Life In The Lion City  
Singapore, Singapore  
Hawker Centres, food on every floor  
Singapore, Singapore  
He's a Singaporean to the core  
Where is that old tropical spirit you had in  
you?

## First Lesson

By Chin, Singapore, Lee Fernandez

Every plan & example, cuts a wound deep  
inside  
And I smile, but I bite my lip to keep the cry  
out  
I can say I must learn, to stop my ears going  
wide  
And I seem to be here, but I'm a floater miles  
outside  
Remember the old time — only yesterday —  
Communist camp naturally — now what do  
we see  
We see the ground but we don't understand  
And nothing works out the way we plan  
So much to like, the message is plain  
Maybe we should give up playing games  
Every night, every quarter, brings you closer to  
me  
And I hurt, but I'm cold so you won't think I feel  
if you must, the courage to approach  
carefully  
You might say if you treat the subject very  
tenderly  
Remember when love came very easily —  
Now we have to be so suspicious of what it can  
mean  
Who should we care — nobody tries —  
All the old ones don't know any more  
I'm not a tourist, I'm not a tourist

Maybe we can give up playing games  
Take your chance while you don't lose  
Singapore, Singapore —  
We don't know if we don't try  
See if what we know we live

## This Town

From Singapore and Larry  
I take someone with me to meet the  
atmosphere  
To let the figures just go by and not know that  
they're here  
You could say look around you

So where's your knowing who?  
You've lost your feel for life, you who can be the  
spirit by  
Come on — I'm right before you, me & the city  
but  
Where is that old tropical spirit you had in  
you?

The town should bring the lover out in you  
Don't try to disregard the signs — just give in  
to this love  
Today there was a procession, the colour and the  
lights  
Well, did you know the occasion was to  
celebrate our love  
I wondered whether you noticed  
But I was singing out  
To throw the love for you above the urban  
rains  
Where they all are going, I really don't know  
For what they seem to be  
I know there's room made for the city for you & me  
Just give in to the streets  
So let me tell you, although to me  
Come on — I'm right before you  
Me & the city, too  
Where is that old tropical spirit you had in  
you?

## Familiar Faces

From Singapore, Lee Fernandez

The Lion City Streets  
One night I drove to work on Orchard Road  
And I met with the old gang, we were doing it all  
We were feeling our way around the Sun, we  
were having a ball  
And I woke up feeling sorry, 'cos I thought all  
that was gone

But, we did hug our way into the all-night  
bars  
Then head for Carter's house or something in  
our all-night cars  
We met all-night cars, the all-night stars  
But we all said I should have stayed behind  
But I was free to come, so badly  
Somehow I long for those follow jokes, and  
our childish crimes  
And now we'd gamble away our sleep just to  
have the night  
But I hear they're still doing that, and I want a  
part to play  
But I hear I am at the doorstep of my time —  
what price is my  
What price is my? One smile away  
from me, and I really don't know

Is this where it starts or where it ends?  
I've been aware and I've missed the middle  
Now I don't know how it begins  
Where is the 12th anniversary? I know it's there  
but you are here  
— Like me, you've gone away, you've gone  
away  
Don't talk to me about remembering —  
I still feel the night of '79, never slept a day,  
But don't ask me about how things are, don't  
ask a thing  
I used to be happy, but now I'm wondering —  
Oh, no, let's just carry on, let's meet up at my  
place  
Let's bring the cards and the beer out and a  
celebration  
A familiar face, a familiar face

## Home Song

From Singapore, Kay Nee, Linda Elizabeth

CHORUS  
Nobody looks to the west  
Nobody writes second best  
No one takes anyone's best  
Then what do we do, do we always get  
Everybody look around you, not a face  
Not a single note of dissonance to be found  
in the place  
So let me tell you, although to me  
I see no reason for complaints  
It really isn't half as bad as what you always see  
(Repeat Chorus)

You know I very often wonder why no one's  
cared  
I guess there must be many reasons  
To guard them, well I wouldn't try  
So make the most of what you have  
You're lost it's only in your head  
And when it really gets to you just think of what  
I said  
(Repeat Chorus)  
You've got to be well within yourselves  
To find the answers nothing else will tell you  
Yeah, home is where it's gonna stay  
Oh, yeah, fate is coming from your hearts

The Lion City Streets  
Trench, Bethesda, Dick Lee  
Dance, Tony Zoo  
Bus, Remi Shari  
Guitar, Shih Yee Teoh  
Saxophone, Osman (Herald)

The Lion City Streets  
Trumpets, Olegario, Larry  
Trombone, Cheong  
Saxophone, Lee Fernandez

Photography, Willie Tang  
Make-up, Cecilia Chan  
Thank you all  
Plus lots thanks to  
Linda, the book,  
Jimmy for the opportunity  
I appreciate  
Esp and Lin for the song  
Dedicated to the book  
and especially  
Linda

**DICK LEE      LIFE IN THE LION CITY**

• FLOWER DRUM SONG • CULTURE • INTERNATIONAL LAND •  
• I NEED YOU BACK • OLD CHINATOWN •

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