

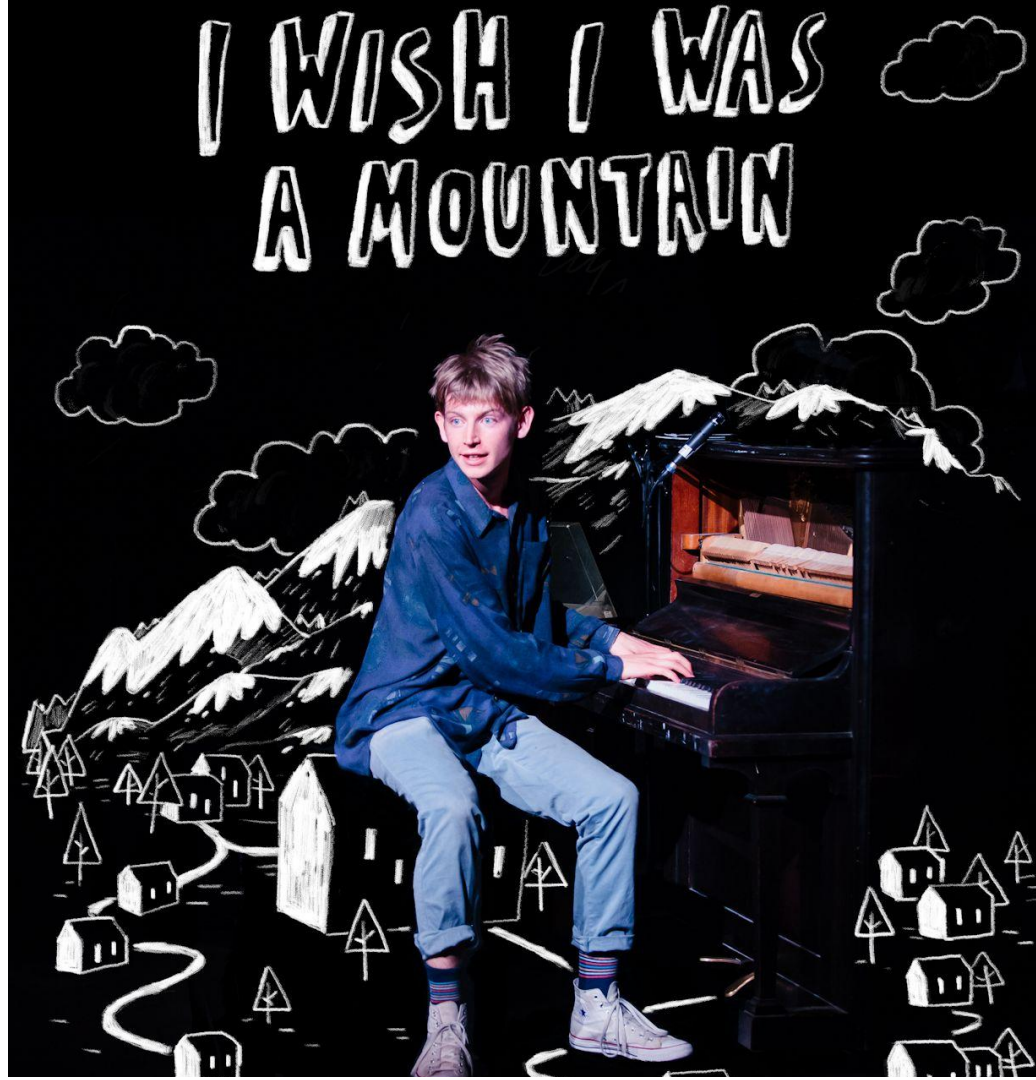


Visual Story for I Wish I Was A Mountain

Monday 26th May - Sunday 1st June

at Performance Works on Granville Island

A visual story helps people prepare for a new experience or decide if this show works for them



What information is in this visual story?

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Schedule / Important times

These times will be a little different for every performance.

The doors to the theatre open 15 - 30 minutes before the show,
before that you can wait in the lobby.

The performance is about 45 minutes long.

There is no intermission.

The Stage

Here is a picture of the stage with Toby Thompson, the performer



The Performer



Toby Thompson tells the story and pretends to be different characters throughout the play. He also plays piano and talks to the people in the audience.



The Curtain Speech

Before the show starts, someone will come to the stage and talk. It might be a little bit different, but these are the things they often talk about:

- The indigenous land we are on
- Thank you to sponsors and donors and volunteers
- How you can donate to the festival or help in other ways

This is a short speech
between 1-3 minutes

[Click here to read the speech](#)

In this photo, someone is doing a curtain speech.
When you go, it could be another person.

About the Story

Every year, the town of Faldum has a fair, but this year there is an unexpected visitor, a wanderer who grants a wish to anyone who wants one. It doesn't take long before the city is all changed, mud huts are changed into mansions, and beggars ride around in horse drawn carriages. One man even wants to be turned into a mountain.

Toby tells the story and he pretends to be different characters as he tells it.

He speaks directly to people the audience and gives them things. You don't have to answer if you don't want to or take anything, he will give it to someone else.

There will be music, Toby plays piano and sings, he also plays records and cassette tapes.

Toby also moves things, like the little houses. Some of the little houses will light up and Toby opens some of the houses.



Low sensory show

That means that the sounds and lights in the show are not intense to most people because the show is about listening to the story Toby tells and listening to the music.

To find out more about the lights and sounds in the show, go to the next pages.

Sound

There won't be sudden unexpected sounds, the show is not very loud.

There is a lot of music, live and recorded music. Toby sings and plays piano, he also plays records and cassette tapes and often plays along on his piano.

Sometimes there is background music. Some of it has bells and a gentle, but high pitched sound from a sound bowl.

If you'd like to listen to the songs before you see the show here is a list so you can look them up:



Seasons Change - King Britt

Pearce Piece - Bill Evans

The African Queen - Horace Silver

The Girl from Ipanema - Antonio Carlos Jobim

Khumba Ice-Fall - Henry Wolf & Nancy Hennings

The Homeless Wanderer - Tesege Mariam Gebru

Rainbow Light - Henry Wolf & Nancy Hennings

White Light - Henry Wolf & Nancy Hennings

I Wish I Knew How it would feel to be free - Billy Taylor & Dick Dallas

The Name of the Fela will always stand for freedom - Jessica Lauren Four

Lights

There will be no strobes or flashing lights.

The changes are not sudden.

The stage will be lit with warm yellow tones.

For the magical moments the lights get darker and become blue and purple.

The windows in the little houses on the stage and shelves light up sometimes.

Here are some pictures to see what it looks like:





Audience Interaction

- Toby speaks directly to everyone in the audience for the whole show.
- There are moments where you can join but you don't have to.
For example: Toby will play "I spy with my little eye"
- Toby gives things to some people in the audience when he pretends to be different people who are at the market in Faldom.
This happens about 20-25 minutes into the show.
If you don't want him to give you something just shake your head.
 - When he pretends to be the fruit vendor, he gives fruit in paper bags to some people
 - When he pretends to be the mirror seller, he give some people business cards with mirrors



SPOILER ALERT :
Don't read this unless you
want to know everything
that happens.

Everything that happens

When the show starts, Toby is playing the piano, playing along to the music. Toby stops the music and asks the audience if they want to hear a story. Toby picks a story from a book and puts on some music and Toby begins to tell a story about a town called Faldom.

While Toby talks about how excited everyone is about the fair, he lifts up a house to move it and underneath is another one, and underneath that one another, like a Russian doll, there are four houses that he puts around the stage.

Toby tells us more about how everyone dresses up for the fair and the games the kids play. Then he picks up one of the houses and pours sand out of the chimney to make a path between the houses. Toby puts on some music and sets off on the 20 minute walk to Faldom. On the way he plays eye spy with the audience. Toby gets bored and speeds up the music to get him to Faldom faster.



Toby arrives at the Faldom fair, it's very quiet except for a lone figure which Toby describes. As Toby talks the lights fade to a dark purple and the windows in the little houses light up. Music plays through the speakers and Toby goes back to the piano and the lights go to normal. Toby tells us about all the things you can do and buy at the festival. Toby pretends to be a merchant and gives out fruit to some people the audience.



After Toby tell us more about how busy the Faldom Festival is, he changes the music and the stage becomes darker again. He pretends to be a mirror seller, wearing a sparkly scarf and gives mirrors to some people in the audience.



Toby pretends to be different people from the town who make wishes to the mirrors. Toby then asks the audience what they would wish for. The lone figure from earlier comes and tells everyone that he will grant them one wish. Everyone in the town gets their wishes granted, only two people remain, a violinist and his friend.



Toby tells us that the violinist and his friend reluctantly visit the wish granting stranger, at first they say that they are content and don't wish for anything. Finally, the first friend wishes for a violin that would create the most beautiful music in the world but as he plays he begins to disappear, becoming the music. Toby shows this by dissolving a tablet in water.

The violinist's friend is upset about his friend disappearing and decides he doesn't want to be a person anymore, he wishes he was a mountain, his wish is granted.

Toby tells us that the story jumps forward 50 years. Everyone in Faldom has grown old, the Mountain is still happy with his wish. More time passes till only the Mountain is the only one left. He has become unhappy and doesn't remember who he is.



The Mountain sees a vision of his old friend the Violinist and hears music again. The lone figure who granted the wishes comes back one final time and tells the Mountain he can make one final wish. The Mountain makes his wish silently and crumbles as the sea rushes in. Toby tells us that the Mountain's silent wish was to know how it feels to be free. Toby sits down at the piano and plays along to the music. The stage becomes darker and the windows in the little houses light up. The end.

Credits

This Visual Story was created by [the Egg Theatre](#) and [Toby Thompson](#) with the help of a template created with the input of many consultants, patrons, artists and fellow arts organizations.

Special thanks to:

the Vancouver International Children's Festival and the members of their Youth Council on Relaxed Performances, Intrepid Theatre, Vancouver Writers Fest, the Gateway Theatre and Jake Anthony.

Want to create a visual story for your show, event or venue?
Email Anika Vervecken and she will share the template: access.activator@gmail.com

We also welcomes all feedback!