Visual Story for the Relaxed Performance of

Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story

Photo by Louisa Adamson

January 26th
1:30PM
Frederick Wood Theatre
6354 Crescent Rd, Vancouver
UBC

Download the venue visual story on our website
About Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story

Performance time

- There will be an introduction at **1pm**
- The performance will aim to start at **1:30 pm**
- The performance is about 1 hour and 20 minutes long
- There is no intermission
- It will finish around **3 pm**

Chill-Out Zone

- If you want to leave the Theatre at any time, there is a Chill-Out zone in the lobby you can visit
- An usher can help you go there
- There will be a tv so you can still follow the show
- You can go back into the theatre any time

What to expect

- The lights above you will always stay on, it may be a bit dark sometimes, but **never all dark**
- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise
- It is ok to react
- It is ok to use your electronic devices (on silent)
- BUT it is **not** ok to take pictures or make calls
- The lights in the foyer and washrooms will flash on and off a few times before the show starts: **10 minutes, 6 minutes, and 3 minutes**
- This is a reminder that the show is about to start
The Set and the Performers

Here is a picture of the set
(with all the performers)

Photo by Stoo Metz

This photo of the set includes all performers and musicians. Starting from the left, you have Chaim sitting and playing the clarinet, the drummer, the accordion and keyboard player, Chaya sitting playing the violin, and The Wanderer standing playing the guitar.
Here are pictures of all the performers

Ben Caplan plays The Wanderer

Shaina Silver-Baird plays Chaya

Eric Da Costa plays Chaim

Jeffrey Kingsbury plays Drums

Graham Scott plays Keys & Accordion
Here are some other people you may see
OR Here are some people who work behind the scenes

NOTE: These people work behind the scenes, so you might not see them.

Louisa Adamson
Stage Manager

Rory Howson
Sound Engineer

Christian Barry
Director/Co-Creator
About the Story

Short synopsis

This Klezmer-folk music-theatre hybrid is inspired by the true stories of two Jewish Romanian refugees coming to Canada in 1908. After losing everything, Chaim and Chaya have been given a second chance in the New World. It’s about how to love and find our shared humanity after facing the horrors of war. The story of Chaim and Chaya are told through a series of vignettes woven together by music and The Wanderer’s narration.

- **Violence**
  There will not be any physical acts of violence on the stage. You won’t see people get hurt. But they will describe violent acts of war.

- **Intimacy**
  There will be some kissing and a shirt being removed to reveal an undershirt. There will be no nudity on stage.

- **Laughter**
  There will be moments where people will laugh. Sometimes because of irony or because the Wanderer talks about sex and sometimes because people feel uncomfortable and they laugh because they don’t know how to react.

At 12.45 there will be an introduction where you get to meet the actors. They will talk about the intense moment and act some of them out. Please note the introduction will have a lot of spoilers.
Loud Sounds and Bright Lights

- There will be no flashing lights or fireworks.
- The lights will not be too intense.
- The show can be quite loud sometimes, please bring headphones if you need them.
  - Instruments used are: keyboard, accordion, flute, saxophone, clarinet, drums, guitar, banjo, violin, and megaphone.
  - Music builds. There are no sudden increases in volume.
  - Most intensely loud: when megaphone is used midway through the show during song.
Maybe you will like the play, and maybe not, that is ok. It’s alright to feel happy or sad or scared or angry after seeing a show.

At the end of the play, people will clap. That is a way to say thank you to the people who made the show. It is also a way to say you like the show. It’s ok to cover your ears if that is too loud. You can also wave your hands instead of clapping.
Old Stock Visual Story

SPOILER ALERT:
The visual story tells you everything that happens in the show.

At the beginning, the theatre is empty except for twinkly lights and a shipping container. Beautiful strange music plays.

A hatch opens in the top of the container and the Wanderer pops up. He starts singing the first song – Traveller’s Curse. During the song he pops back down and then he and a band member open the front of the container. The whole front is now open with a long door on each side, the inside of the doors become like walls. This is the only time Chaya comes out of the container. For the rest of the show, she and the other three performers stay in the container. The other three are Chaim, and two musicians.

In this show everyone plays instruments.

When the first song is done, the Wanderer introduces himself. He tells the audience this a music show about immigrants and Jewish refugees. The Wanderer sets the scene, saying it is 1908 in Halifax, in a room crammed with people who have just arrived on a boat.

Chaim and Chaya are standing in a line for medical inspections. They have just arrived from Romania. They introduce themselves. Chaya has come here with her large family. Chaim is alone and excited for his new home.

The Wanderer sings the song You've Arrived.

The scene changes to Chaya’s new home in Montreal. Chaim comes as tells her he would like to marry her.

The Wanderer tells the audience about Chaya’s past in Romania and how she was in love.

The wanderer speaks about the Bible, and how not all of the good things that God said were written down. He sings Truth Doesn’t Live in a Book.

Chaim and Chaya are getting married. She walks around him. They play their instruments. At the end, Chaim crushes a glass with his right foot. Wedding music plays.
The scene changes, and Chaim and Chaya are onstage alone with their wedding clothes. They are happy and excited. They kiss. Chaim accidentally offends her.

The Wanderer is celebrating their wedding with wedding music. After the wedding music plays, the Wanderer is talking to the audience.

The scene changes, and Chaya and Chaim are in their home. Chaim is talking about his new job while she is taking her hair down.

Chaya is doing dishes as Chaim comes in. Chaya isn’t looking up at him, and she continues with her chores as though he's not there. Chaim is holding a brown paper package. They are talking about each of their days and suddenly, Chaya started undressing him. She is telling him that she wants a baby.

The Wanderer sings Minimum Intervals, a song about a husband’s conjugal responsibilities to his wife according to Judaism. He repeats the song three times. He sings the song really fast during the last time and the orchestra is also very fast, in step, with the Wanderer.

The Wanderer is talking about Chaya and Chaim, and their marriage.

The lights shift, and the Wanderer is telling the unfortunate story of Chaim’s past to the audience. The story is about how he found his family members who had been murdered in the Pogroms.

The Wanderer sings Plow the Shit, with accompanying music. He picks up a megaphone and speaks into it over the music. He is talking about Canadian values and identity. He also talks about how foreigners from other countries are treated by the government. Music keeps playing.

As music plays, Chaya holds a wrapped cloth - a sleeping baby - and rocks it. They sing a lullaby.

The Wanderer talks to the audience about an old Jewish lullaby he recalls. The Wanderer starts talking about how Chaya lost her husband and her first child while she was living in Romania.
The scene changes and Chaya is holding the baby. Chaim hovers in the doorway, then tentatively steps into the room. They start talking about the name that they want to give their newborn son. They decide to name him Samuel. Chaim is holding his son and praying to him.

The Wanderer begins to sing a song called Fledgling. Then he begins to talk to the audience about how Chaim, Chaya, and their son finally became Canadians.

The scene changes and Chaim is holding a package of sugar. The front room is empty. Chaya is holding their son and he is sick. They are worried about him and they both look down at him. Chaya hands Sam to Chaim and he holds him so very gently in his arms. He whispers a prayer under his breath before seeking out a doctor for him.

The Wanderer starts talking about how Chaim feels in the situation. He explains why his son reminds him of his youngest brother, who had the same name (Samuel) and died in the hospital at a young age. Once Chaim is gone, Chaya holds Sam in her arms. Other than Sam, Chaya is alone. She rocks back and forth while she is praying. Again, emotion makes it difficult to speak. The Wanderer walks towards Chaya. Chaya doesn’t see him but as soon as the Wanderer is close to her, she feels his presence and speaks to him more directly from her heart.

The Wanderer takes off his Tallis and lays it around her shoulders. He looks towards her with great compassion. Though Chaya doesn’t see him, she feels his warmth.

The Wanderer begins to talk to the audience about the show to emphasize that it’s not just a show; its something real. He, then, begins singing a song in Hebrew.

The scene changes and Chaim is sleeping in a chair. Chaya comes down and kneels in front of him, waking him up to tell him that their son seems to be getting better. Chaim is telling her that she is a good wife but Chaya tells him that she doesn’t agree. She avoids looking at him.

The Wanderer begins to sing What Love Can Heartbreak Allow. Chaim begins to sing the song with him. Then Chaya joins them. They sing the song a few times.

The Wanderer tells a story to the audience about someone knocking on the door in the middle of the night, and receiving a note that is not written in English. He wonders: Should you open the door to a stranger?
The scene changes. Chaim comes home. Chaya gazes at her husband. There's a sexual charge to the gaze. Chaya makes a tiny motion towards him. Chaim goes to her and kisses her but then they don’t know quite what to do: awkward.

Chaya gazes at her husband. There's a sexual charge to the gaze. Chaya makes a tiny motion towards him. Chaim goes to her and kisses her but then they don’t know quite what to do: awkward. Then Chaya tells him he will be a father again. They are so happy.

The Wanderer talks to the audience about Chaim and Chaya’s four children. He is explaining what they did in their life, in terms of their accomplishments.

The Wanderer is talking to the audience about how Sam is awarded a Canadian Volunteer Medal for his service during World War II, who he got married to who, and how many children that he had. He goes further into discussing how his children became successful.

The Wanderer talks to the audience about when Chaya and Chaim passed away and how many great-grandchildren that they had. Then Chaya and Chaim turn and look directly at the Wanderer. The three of them smile at each other.

The Wanderer is giving his final speech to the audience. He thanks the audience for coming to the show. He is introducing the people who portrayed roles in the show. They dance and wave to the audience.