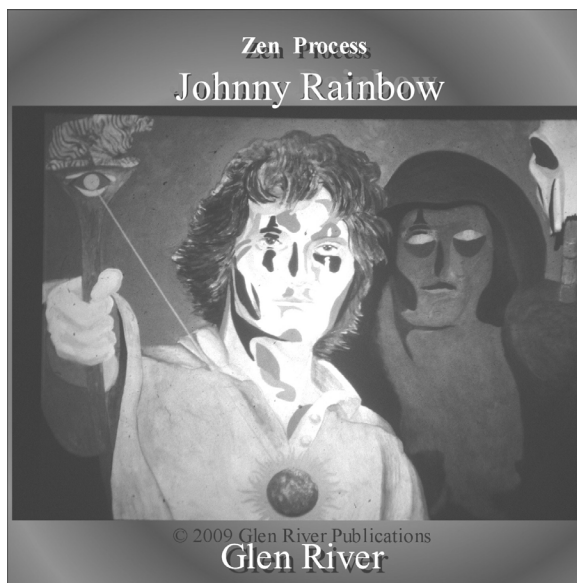


Johnny Rainbow

A Musical Drama by Glen River



Also adapted for film and Rock Operetta.

Working Script V1.09

More available at:

<http://glenriver.com/rainbow>

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About the Play

In every culture stories of magic center on a hero who faces the powers of creation. The hero's success earns his tribe a continued place in the future. As the human spiritual crisis becomes more evident, so the need for the magic necessary to heal the tribe rises to the surface. This is a story of that magic.

Act 1.

Johnny Rainbow Scene 1

Trickster: Welcome to my tapestry. My web is the vessel for your consciousness. My task is the illusion of your aloneness. My goal is the Sovereign state of your responsibility, of, for, and to yourselves. My gift is a mirror cloaked in dreams.

(The Trickster holds a mask on a rod. One side is a mirror, the other a painted mask. The mirror is only briefly flashed when spoken of. These voices should appear to come from the Trickster.)

(Male Profound Voice On Tape) In the process of each individual life the full journey of evolution unfolds. So here tonight a part of that passage is captured in the drama of a few lives in their quest to discover the truth of our existence. This mystery which has eluded science, inspired poets, and herded millions into belief systems professing knowledge of the meaning of life, occupied the imagination of our hero, Johnny Rainbow.

(Female Profound Voice On Tape) Johnny is the lead singer, songwriter and inspiration of a rock band called "Path." They are on their way to recognition, but industry professionals are worried about his maverick reputation. It is said he is guided by what he calls spirit.

(Business Man's Voice On Tape) The band never plays any of their songs the same way twice. They cancel performances if they don't feel right. Many of their performances are free concerts. As a business investment, they are risky.

(Child's Voice On Tape) ETHERA is Johnny's spirit guide. She warns him when danger approaches. She leads him to places where spirits dwell. She commends him to the Muse. She shows him love. She teaches him ... "The Savage Art."

(Johnny & band enter towing equipment and instruments past Velvet. Orlando watches as Velvet walks away. From stage right, an excited girl, Susie who sings harmony, runs over to Johnny jumping into a hug.

Susie: Johnny!, Johnny! You made the cover of *Scream Magazine*!

Bobby (the Bass man) laughs: *Scream!* That's a cheap rag.

Orlando: Ya, that's low tide.

(Susie playful mock vamp)

Susie: Oh boys, don't you want the girls to think your cool? Don't you want all the other guys to wish they could be cool too? Don't you want'a live on easy street? Tell me the truth Bobby. Don't you want success just a little... ?

Bobby: Yeah, I could buy my Mama a pink Cadillac, or a new house in Jersey.

Orlando: I could buy my girlfriend a diamond ring, or I could buy Lola!

The Band: Eeowue.. Oh man! Get a life! Really!

Silver: Let's sing it. Count us in Joe.

(SONG: 1 Easy Street ... Joe drums on a guitar case & sticks, Bobby plugs in his bass to a mini amp. Johnny picks up his acoustic guitar.)

Susie: Did you hear, Johnny? They called you our fearless “ladder.” Our ladder to success.

Silver: What sayith the Intellectual? Words man?

Joe: The machinery of this age is set at seducing our senses at the expense of our esthetic virtue.

Bobby: Hey Silver, what did he say?

Silver: He said, screw em!

Bobby: That's what I thought he said. Ya, ... screw em!

Silver: See you later Johnny.

(all but Johnny leave)

Johnny to audience: My friends joke about their fate. All their lives they have been bombarded by a multi billion dollar industry dedicated to convincing them that their self-worth is measured by their ability to spend. Still, I tell them that money can't be a priority for our music, and they not only believe me, they agree with me. So we are guided by spirit. My educator to the understanding of spirit is ETHERA. She has taught me that the universe can heal by simply being in harmony with it. Sometimes the band and I poke a little fun at the world and sometimes we just try to express the harmony of spirit.

(Spot on Johnny goes dark, spot opens on poker game other side of stage)

Scene 2: The Poker Game

Nathan: I've seen better cards at a girl scout taffy pull.

(He throws down his hand.)

Drench: You've never been to a taffy pull in your life.

Billy: If words were cards Nathan, you'd be a rich man.

Nathan: I hear the only one who isn't under Boss D's thumb is Johnny Rainbow.

Cid: Ya, and we all know why Boss D's boys leave him alone, don't we Billy?

Drench: This thing with Johnny, ... about the spirits... I've seen spooky things. OK, so there is stuff beyond the visible world, but what can he really do?

Cid: It's true he can do things. I mean heal people. I've seen it. Personally, I don't get it. He says it's vibrations.

Nathan: I saw him break up a fight once, too. Vibrations. He did what he calls a power trance. He rolled out a big alpha wave. The guys who were at it suddenly stopped. They looked sort of embarrassed, like they'd been caught doing something stupid. They laughed it off and walked away.

Drench: So if he has this power, how come he isn't running things?

Billy: Ya, Johnny running things. How come you do whatever the maître d' tells you to do?

Nathan: Cause if I don't, Boss D will send Jack to put a bullet in my head.

Billy: That's why Johnny Rainbow don't run things.

Nathan: Where's Lou tonight?

Cid: I don't think we'll be seeing Lou around any more.

Billy: They say Flash-eyed Jack left his tracks next to a few drops of blood. Drench: Louie got behind in his payments to Boss D.

Nathan: Cheez! This is getting bad.

Drench: What do Ya stick up for that mutton headed songbird for? Ya know your stickin yer neck out.

Cid: Drench's right. Boss D'll send Jack out after you one of these days.

Nathan: Johnny and his music are the best thing that ever happened to this town. You know that, Billy.

Billy: Do you really think Jack is going to come out after little ole Billy Diamond? (Billy taps his lapel) Now Jack is a cold-blooded killer, but he isn't a fool. Lets give the Devil his due.

Cid: All right, Billy. Everyone knows your the most dangerous man in town. But why do you back up Johnny Rainbow? There's no money in it for you.

Billy: Look at us. We're all a bunch of parasites. Nathan you run your numbers, Drench runs her girls, Cid runs his drugs, and we all give a cut to Boss D. 'cause he runs the town. Johnny Rainbow's something else. He's not running anything. He's trying to be part of something, I don't know what it is, but I know it's good for all of us.

(Billy shows his cards)

Billy: Read them and weep. The exalted lady smiles again.

(Aces & Queens)

Drench: Cheez, Billy, you may own this town yet.

(Villain signature music... From the other side of the stage a following spot opens on Jack, as he speaks. He approaches the poker table.)

Jack: Own this town? Everyone knows Boss D owns this town.

(Billy boldly stands with his right hand just under his lapel.)

Billy: Mr. Flash-eyed Jack. Out on an errand for your boss? Or are you just out to see how free people waste their lives.

Jack: What's the game?

Drench: Game's over.

(Drench & Cid scoop up the cards in the tablecloth, pick up the table and leave.)

Scene 3

Billy: Interested in a game of chance, Jack?

Jack: Why, Billy Diamond do I detect a note of hostility in your voice? Is that any way for a brother to act? I don't take chances, you know that.

Billy: Brother? We're no brothers.

Jack: Brothers of a kind.

Billy: Do you happen think that because we both have a pile of dead bodies, that makes us brothers?

Jack: I do.

Billy: You're wrong Jack. My pile of dead bodies is better than yours. Mine all earned it. Yours just happened to be in the way.

Jack: You're quibbling over details. Whatever I am, I'm no hypocrite, So shake my hand Billy and we'll be friends.

Billy: It's true you're no hypocrite, and I believe your word is good... But I won't shake your hand, Jack, 'cause I don't know what you've been learning to do with your left hand lately. But take this.

(Billy tosses a wad of bills Jack catches it.)

Jack: What's this?

Billy: My contribution to your pension fund. I hear you may be out of a job soon.

Jack: You heard wrong. But thanks for the donation. Here's a tip for you. Tell your friend Johnny Rainbow to get out of town. The Boss won't sit tight forever.

Billy: So long, Jack.

Jack: So long, Billy.

(They each back away from each other till off stage.)

Scene 4

Orlando: If I could just get my girlfriend to ...

Girls: Orlando!

Rita: He keeps trying to tell us about things he wants his girlfriend to do for him,

Girls together: And we don't want to hear it.

Rita: One things for sure... he really loves her.

Silver: So tell us, Orlando, what do they say about love?

Orlando: They say that love is a sweet song which fills the heart with joy. To be with the one you love... that is the joy which can truly set you free.

Susie: So Orlando, has love really set you free?

Orlando: Yes!

SONG: 2 "They Say That Love"

(The girls chase off Orlando so they can talk)

Rita: Can you believe that Orlando? Susie: He's horny all right!

Rita: If he wasn't in the band I'd let him park his shoes under my bed.

(Silver & Susie give her a look of disapproval.)

Rita: Oh come on, he's a fox!

(They all giggle.)

Susie: All right, what do you want in a man?

Silver: Sex. I can get everything else from women.

Rita: You could get that from women, too, if you weren't so fussy.

Susie: I'm tired of playing the mindless songbird. I want a man who's my equal. I want to stand shoulder to shoulder with a partner I can be proud of. For a man like that, who could inspire my true passion for life, I'd trade passion for passion and give my best to him.

Rita: Your best sex?

Susie: My best everything.

Silver: Oh, you make me tired. Men are just toys. Play with them! For pity's sake lighten up. You'll give yourself a hernia.

Rita: Have you never been in love?

Silver: Love! What is love? A summer rain. Sensation which overcomes your reason. Flush with feelings in confused collision, it makes stammering fools of us. Soon the light of day shines on us and love evaporates. It's a madness we indulge for the ecstasy of sensation. Lets be honest. The electrochemical surge we feel is biology. Then, like a tail on a donkey we pin it on some passerby and go mooning after them like our life depended on it. Give me a break. I'll take my boy toy.

Susie: You're going to fall hard.

Rita: Sometimes, girls, I feel like a man is trapped in my body.

Susie: Creeps!

Silver: That might not be so bad. Then you could make love with yourself. That would solve everything.

(They all laugh)

Susie: Now that we've solved our love life, all we have to do is figure out how to save Johnny from Boss D.

Rita: Ya. Boss D acts like butter wouldn't melt in his mouth, but he frightens me.

Silver: He should.. He's a homicidal sociopathic with an obsession for controlling everything. Sooner I think, rather than later he'll snap. I'd rather not be around when that happens.

(They walk off stage talking)

Scene 5

(Open spot on Boss D accompanied by desk on rollers pushed by Lola with two bodyguards. Follow opening more illumination to center stage.)

Boss D: "I am the monarch of the sea" I love that. It reminds me of myself.

I am, after all, a ruler of sorts. A leader responsible for the well-being of so many.

(Phone rings)

Get that turkey off the street! And teach him a lesson he won't forget. This town used to be in sorry shape before I took over. There were vagrants, random crime, it was pure chaos. Jack had a little gang, but really nothing to speak of. He had guns.

(Boss D holds up an envelope filled with cash, he playfully slaps Lola with it.)

This is the power, not guns. I know how to use this power. The politicians! They are great guys. We have the best government that money can buy. And the cops, I own them, too. Ha, ha! I own everybody!

Fido: Except Johnny Rainbow.

(Boss D scowls at Fido, then turns back to the audience with a smile)

Now, Johnny Rainbow is a fine fellow. Talent that just won't quit. But boys like Johnny need to learn the meaning of discipline. We can't have chaos, that would lead to anarchy.

Fido: Anarchy?

Boss D: Yes Fideo, anarchy. That's when nothing is organized. It's very bad. That's when people are at their worst. Now that! would be uncivilized. So you see for the sake of civilization... Johnny must conform.

Fido: Ya, Boss, conform.

SONG: 3 “Conformity “

Boss D: So, here's the plan. We'll have a concert! Johnny won't be able to resist that. Go on Fido. You go see to the arrangements. I'll see to a few special arrangements of my own.

(Fido exits, Boss D waves over one of his bodyguards.)

Boss D: Get together a few of the boys. After the concert you grab Johnny Rainbow. We're going to teach that crooner the meaning of conformity.

Scene 6 : Velvet

(Red Velvet is a man with a deep voice who happens to enjoy the appearance of a desirable woman. She stands by a lamp post.)

Velvet: What are you up to, Fido?

Fido: I'm not up to anything. I work for Boss D. I only get down to things.

Velvet: O.K. then, what are you down to then, Fido?

Fido: The Boss want's an event. He's putting up big rewards as part of a Battle of the Bands.

Velvet: So what's getting down about that?

Fido: It's a setup!

Velvet: I see. Well if Boss D's in it, it got to be dirty.

Fido: Ya, down and dirty. He's trying to grab that Rainbow guy so he'll have to play ball.

Velvet: Johnny Rainbow won't play ball.

Fido: Ya, that's what I've heard. Too bad.

(Fido shuffles off)

Velvet: The drudgery of this town could drive anyone crazy. The Boss says earn more, spend more... Johnny says love is forever.

SONG: 4 "Crazy"

(as song is being sung Rita comes along joining in.)

Rita: That was pretty good, Velvet. I didn't know you could sing.

Velvet: Oh, most people can sing. Finding the courage to do it, that's the hard part. Johnny's teaching all of us to sing.

Rita: Cool.

Velvet: I'm glad you came along. There's something you should know about.

(They walk off together)

Velvet: I was just talking to Fido....

Scene 7

Johnny: Ethera, are you here?

(Voices of ETHERA)

(Johnny spreads his arms, spot from above showers him in light. Past Life song mixes with voices of ETHERA)

ETHERA: Your dream's a part of the journey. Your music will light the path. Your love is a doorway for spirit.

(Light and music fade, Billy Diamond enters, aping Johnny calling ETHERA)

Billy: Ho Johnny! ... Johnny, are you there? Talking to the spirits again huh?

Johnny: Ya, at it again.

(Johnny laughs pulling out his hand in the shape of a gun.)

Billy: Well spirit this!

(Billy lunges at Johnny with a knife. Johnny skillfully flips Billy over his shoulder disarming him. As Billy is getting up Johnny flips the knife over and hands it back to Billy.)

Billy: Not bad, spirit man. You could have been one tough hombre. Together we could have conquered the world.

Johnny: The world doesn't need to be conquered again, ...It needs to be saved.

Billy: I've been hearing rumblings that your ass is what needs saving. You better take your show on the road for awhile.

Johnny: I'm not afraid of Boss D.

Billy: I know that Johnny. That's the trouble. Everyone knows that. What you are lacking isn't courage, it's respect.

Johnny: You're telling me I should respect Boss D?

Billy: No, of course not. Respect the damage he can do. Don't let him do it.

Johnny: Your asking me to run.

Billy: I'm asking you to win. A lot of people who believe in love and don't want to live in fear are influenced by you. You won't do anyone any good if you let Boss D's greed put you in a pine box. I'm telling you it's coming. You better get ready for a fight.

Johnny: Look Billy, I'm not a fighter. I don't want to be a fighter. This Tae Kwon Do you've been showing me,... it's just dance to me. I just want to learn the spiritual healing. Not the ways of destruction.

Billy: I didn't learn how to fight for fun. It's not sport and I don't recommend it to anyone, but I believe in it, just as you believe in your spirits. You believe that through the spirits you can change the world. May be you can. I 'm not asking you to take up the gun.

Johnny: What then?

Billy: First of all, tell me about the warrior spirit ETHERA introduced you to.

Johnny: The Immaculate Warrior?

Billy: Right. And why was it you gave back the gifts of power?

Johnny: It was a drug which clouded my perception. I chose to see clearly at the price of remaining vulnerable. Everything has its price.

Billy: Then Boss D's insulated by his power and doesn't see things so clearly?

Johnny: He suffers from major delusion. No one is as weak or as corrupt as he believes. He has failed the warriors creed. He is not brave. He strikes at possible enemies out of fear.

Billy: And why did the Warrior offer you the power?

Johnny: He thought I might be worthy.

Billy: You are. You were never meant to accept it. The gift of the warrior was never a gift; it was a test. This is your savage art. Facing these powers of creation and remaining worthy.

Johnny: What are you suggesting, Billy?

Billy: You'll do your healing. But first, you'll stay alive. This is my idea.

(They walk off together talking)

Scene 8

(Andorra comes out of hiding)

Andorra : Did you see that! That man is everything I've ever hoped for. Who is he?

Rita: That's Johnny Rainbow.

Andorra : I'm in love! I want him.

(Andorra walks off calling Johnny)

Silver: She's in love! She wants him! She's a Hoochie Coochie if I've ever seen one.

Rita: When I feel something, it threatens to explode inside of me. So, I must tell about it.

Susie: What are you talking about?

Rita: Hoochie Coochie.

Silver: You're feeling your Hoochie Coochie?

Rita: Ya ... I'm feeling brave and it makes me want to sing.

Silver: Then sing it girl!

SONG: 5 “Hoochie Coochie”

Susie: Don't worry, your man will come along.

Scene 9

Boss D: “I am the Monarch of the” ... world! Remember hearing about that brief rebellion in the 60's. They claimed that property was a crime! Now we know better. Poverty is the traitor in our society. The poor should be put in jail. Hard-working crooks should be respected. OK, they can't play by the rules, but they are part of the working class. We are a nation of consumers. I am a faithful servant! I am the maître d'. I make sure the loyal consumers are cared for. I am the unsung hero of our age.

(Fido comes in Boss D is momentarily distracted)

Boss D: I heard about you shooting off your mouth to Red Velvet. Are you an idiot?

Fido: I'm sorry, Boss.

Boss D: It doesn't matter. It won't change a thing.

Fido: I.. I wasn't thinking.

Boss D: That's the understatement of the century! Now if I were Monarch of the World. There would be no more war or strife. That would be bad for business. Everyone would get along. Everyone would conform.

Fido: Would Johnny Rainbow conform?

Boss D: Get out of my sight, you incompetent idiot.

(Boss D chases Fido off stage)

Scene 10

Trickster: Everyone knows that things are wrong. The needs which seemed so real to each individual at the time, have driven the community into indentured servitude of one kind or another.

(Woman's voice from Trickster) Everyone had mouths to feed, families to care for. What's a little corruption between friends?

(Business-man's voice) Lofty ideals are a great thing when you've got a good job and lots of security.

(Child's voice) Johnny has reminded everyone of all the good things they let slip away in their hurry to grab a piece of the pie.

(Boss D's voice) The one town official who perceived the problem was assassinated by his own men. There's always work for guys like Jack. Bullying a few cowards is easy.

(Child's voice) No one is sure of what to do. They say the town needs a hero.

SONG: 6 "Hero"

Scene 11: Agent

Trickster: Not everyone can be a hero, but that's what Johnny Rainbow wants. Someone who sees a more practical side to things is the band's agent. What he sees is trouble brewing.

Agent: Johnny, think what you're doing here. You can't sing "Crossroads" and "Beggars" at the concert.

Johnny: Those are the only songs I can sing at the concert.

Agent: This is Boss D's concert, and you're going to sing, "everyone's a wage slave, and the Boss he don't care"? Johnny! You're going to sing, "You'll find profit in injustice, trickery and hate, stupidity in government?" Johnny what do you think you're doing. You can't sing this song. Not at Boss D's concert.

Johnny: "Truth is beauty" and you know as well as I do that this town needs beauty in the worst way.

Agent: I won't argue that but this will tip him over. He'll hire a hundred guys with guns and Billy Diamond won't be able to stop them.

Johnny: Billy understands, so does the band. More to the point, I think the people of the town are beginning to understand. You can't have a society for the people unless it's by the people. They have to face their responsibility. They have to face the music. We all do.

Agent: Ok then, I see you've made up your mind. Just remember this. Boss D's a lot quicker out of the gate than the people. You better find a place to hide.

Scene 12 : Poker

Velvet: Boss D's crime isn't ruling the underworld, its injustice.

Drench: I didn't hear that!

Nathan: You've been winning big lately Billy. You going ta open up a casino?

Billy: No, just pay off a few debts.

Velvet: Fido says the concert is a set up to trap Johnny Rainbow.

Drench: I didn't hear that!

Cid: Think I'll fold.

Nathan: I'm done too.

Drench: Game's over.

(They clear away the table in the usual way.)

Scene 13

Billy: This is Johnny's ticket out.

(He places a compressed air tank with mouthpiece in the equipment case.)

Silver: Gotcha!

Billy: When it's all clear, one of my messengers will bring the news. The messenger will carry Boss D's cane.

Silver: Cheez! ... You better be careful. Boss D will have his guard up.

Billy: It's worth the gamble. After all, all of life is a gamble. We are all just dice rolled across the table of our fate.

Silver: I don't approve of you. Especially your methods. But if you get through this in one piece, you'll have more friends than you ever imagined possible.

Billy: A kind word from the Queen of Romance. I am impressed.

(Silver rolls off with the case, Billy heads off in another direction.)

Scene14 : The Concert:

(Center stage is a platform for the band. In front a mike stand for the Master of Ceremonies, The Trickster, stage right is a box with the poker group, stage left a box with Boss D's group.)

Master of Ceremonies : Whom you all know and love,

Path!!!

SONG: 7 "Crossroads"

(At the words "everyone's a wage slave & the Boss he don't care," Boss D grimaces, glances at his guards and puts on a strained smile)

SONG: 8 "Beggars"

Scene 15 : Leaving the concert

(From the stage door, Boss D and his entourage come out. He speaks to two of his men who are staying behind.)

Boss D: You boys stay here and grab Johnny when he comes out. I want that guy tonight.

(After Boss D departs Billy comes out. While he talks to the boys, Velvet, disguised as a roady, rolls out a pile of equipment.)

Billy: Hi, boys. What are you hanging around here for?

Guard: Oh, we're just waiting for Fido. I think he got lost again. He should be along soon.

Billy: OK, guys. Have a good night.

(Billy strolls off)

Guard: When will the band be coming out?

Velvet: Soon as they finish their backstage party.

Guard: You're not staying for the party?

Velvet: No. I'm just a working guy. No party for me.

Guard: Ya, we understand. No party for the working guys.

Trickster: Our evolution has unfolded to this crossroads and now fate will bring our story into a magical place. While I am an agent of spirit, in the Enchanted Forest others rule. ETHERA will be your guide. Take your rest. When we return, my web will be unraveled and all questions will be answered.

END of Part 1.

INTERMISSION

SONG: 15 Far Away (softly)

Johnny Rainbow Act 2.
A Musical Drama by Glen River

END INTERMISSION

Scene 1

Trickster: We have seen the stage of human folly where my arts are sure. Now we've traveled to an enchanted forest where spirits dwell. I have no power in this domain. I am but an onlooker.

(As ETHERA approaches The Trickster shrinks away, almost cowering.)

SONG: 9 "Tribe"

ETHERA: I am ETHERA. My power is communication. I am a voice. I am many voices. I speak for the spirits. I speak for you. As I see the unseen beings of spirit, so I also hear the unspoken thoughts of your hearts and mind. With these voices I make a path for you so you may travel safely through the Enchanted Forest. I am your guide. Here comes our weary travelers. Johnny Rainbow hears me well. The Ranger hears me dimly as a whisper on the wind. This is an enchanted day in the Enchanted Forest. By dawn all will hear me clearly. Here they come.

Johnny: Hello there!

Ranger: Hello! Welcome to Enchanted Forest.

Band: Hi!, Hello...

Rita: Don't you get lonely out here all by yourself?

Ranger: I am a simple man. My companions are the creatures of nature and the voices in the wind. These woods are filled with wonder. Every

day I learn a lesson of life.

Susie: Poor Ranger, all alone.

Ranger: Don't "poor Ranger" me. Life is an open sea. Your heart is the star, your mind the tiller, and what is a ship without a star or tiller but lost? So don't poor Ranger me. Save your sympathy for yourselves. It's plain to see you are the ones lost. "poor Ranger" indeed.

Johnny: So we are. It's our tiller, not our star.

Susie: We're looking for a campsite. Maybe one with an A.C. outlet, shower, and a porta potty, and...

Ranger: Whoa! There's nothing like that around here. I'm afraid you will have to do some real camping.

Silver: Hi there, big boy. What's your name?

Ranger: Roger.

Silver: Well, Roger, I like roughing it. Is there a good spot to pitch my tent? Maybe by a stream?

Ranger: That we have.

Rita: Oh, I hope this camping business isn't going to give me a rash.

Susie: I hope our spot isn't too far.

Ranger: The stream isn't very far. It's a nice spot. you'll like it.

Bobby: How are we going to rehearse without electricity?

Joe: Yo man, you never heard of unplugged?

Bobby: Yo man? What is this? The intellectual goes ethnic?

Scene 2: Poker

Nathan: Those cards have been awful good to you Billy. You must have a powerful need for money. I never thought I'd see you pull a card with your little finger.

(Billy gives Nathan a sharp look)

Nathan: Isn't that what happened to those big city dandies?

(Billy turns to Nathan as if to challenge him)

Nathan: Take it easy, Billy, I'm a friend. If you need money just say so.

(Nathan puts a big money sack on the table.)

Drench: I don't see this.

Cid: Neither do I.

Drench: Game's over.

Scene 3

Boss D: What do I have to do to get a little cooperation?

Agent: Honest, Boss, I don't know where Johnny is! He just disappeared. You know I'd tell you if I knew.

Boss D: Yeah! I know you would. So much for loyalty! You are a worm.

Agent: He just disappeared!

Boss D: Then you better disappear, too. Your business is now dead. You won't find any friends in this town. If you don't find Johnny Rainbow, then you'll be just like your job. Find Johnny! This is your last and only chance.

(To Jack)

You go with him. If he fails, you know what to do. If you find Johnny Rainbow, you know what to do.

Jacks: Yeah, Boss. I know what to do.

Scene 4:

Agent: How'd you ever get to working for Boss D?

Jack: I was a crook without a plan. Boss D had a good plan, so I got on the program. I am the law where there is no law.

Agent: Nothing more noble than revenge, heh?

Jack: Revenge is nothing. My killing Johnny isn't revenge. It's order. I get paid to maintain order. So what's your story?

Agent: Which story?

Jack: How many stories are there?

Agent: Lots. There is the true story, then the unabridged story, then the scandal about the story, then the story of the cover-up, then the story of the confession, the behind the scenes story, the real story as told by an insider, the uncut story, the untold story, and finally the story edited for television. Stories are my business.

Jack: I thought Johnny Rainbow was your business.

Agent: Telling his story is my business.

Jack: Ok so tell me the story as told by an insider. What is the Johnny Rainbow story?

Agent: Johnny is the antidote to the "Big Shiny."

Jack: "Big Shiny"?

Agent: Ya, that's the false dream sold by Flash Fools.

SONG: 13 Flash Fools

Agent: Long ago artists like Johnny were doctors, psychiatrist , priests,

and wise men all rolled up in one. They wore their paintings and taught the tribe new songs. They were visionaries who walked among spirits and spoke with the powers of creation. You know Johnny is different. He's not just a singer in a band. I don't know if he is some kind of throwback, or if he is something new. Whether from the past or from the future he's here with us now. I don't know exactly what my job is as his agent. Clearly he does not want to be famous. The rest of the band wants what he wants. They are more like a tribe rather than a rock band. I try to get them enough gigs to pay the bills without screwing up their thing. That's the unabridged, truth, behind the scenes, as told by an insider story.

Jack: I've heard some of those spooky stories about him. Could be it's all a bunch of crap you spin out to cover up the sad fact that he can't cut it in the big time. Maybe he's just a loser, out of excuses.

Agent: I guess you'll find out soon enough.

Jacks: You better hope so.

Agent: You're not big enough to kill Johnny.

Jacks: You're getting brave. Must be this clean country air.

Agent: I'm not brave. You may kill me. I guess you probably will. I'm just getting used to the idea.

Jacks: That's a good goat. You just stay docile.

Agent: Fate has mocked me, so shouldn't I mock fate?

Jacks: Bah!

Scene: 5

(Rita strolling through the wood comes upon Velvet gathering firewood.)

Rita: Aren't you a little far from your corner?

Velvet: The town is in an uproar. It seemed like a good time for a vacation.

Rita: Well since we are here alone, I've been meaning to ask you, what are you?

Velvet: You mean, why am I? It must be obvious what I am.

Rita: Not that obvious. You dress like a woman but you make no effort to act like a woman. In fact you remain very masculine. No one has ever seen you with a lover of any kind. I don't get it.

Velvet: A friend once told me that love was loss of fear. But that never lasted long. It soon turned to insecurity and jealousy. Jealousy is a crime, it's ruthless, brutal blackmail and manipulation. I won't have anything to do with it! Sex is pure confusion. None of it is so simple as it might appear. I wear my confusion for all to see. At least by my willingness to see things for what they are, I may have a chance to someday sort things out.

Rita: You are right about the confusion. I feel a force within me, and it looks a lot like a man.

Velvet: I discovered my inner woman, so I set her free.

Rita: After all, what is a man?

Velvet: What is a woman?

Rita: Love is a cruelty, and yet' I would enjoy that cruelty if I believed that love were lasting and true.

Velvet: Sex: pure confusion!

Rita: Let's be friends

Velvet: All right, friends!

SONG: 10 "Friend"

Scene 6: A Circle of Friends

Bobby: What happens when ETHERA takes you to the spirits?

Johnny: I become very small. I move out of time. My shape drifts apart and I am carried away on tides of energy and light. Somehow I remain whole.

Orlando: What do you mean - move out of time?

Johnny: We live within our time and so we understand time as being all encompassing. The place where we meet the spirits exists outside the vessel of time.

Orlando: So how do we know how long we've been at this place?

Johnny: We don't.

Bobby: major disorientation.

Silver: People could actually have an experience and not remember or understand it?

Johnny: Yes, I think it happens a lot.

Joe: If this is a universal phenomenon commonly experienced, then there would be many different descriptions all talking about the same thing.

Rita: Sort of like one song sung by many different voices.

Susie: Is this what people call visions?

Johnny: Yes

Rita: You know, I've had some strange sensations lately. Sort of like someone else was living inside of me.

Joe: Could be you experienced something in that timeless place and just assumed it was inside of you.

Orlando: So what did ETHERA say we were going to find here?

Johnny: Our place in creation.

Silver: Is that all? I thought it might be something important .

Johnny: The universe loves multiplicity. It is filled with everything. Somehow we have developed the idea that the universe is filled with nothingness. Within this nothingness we believe that ourselves and the things we are able to perceive exist. Somehow, anything beyond our field of vision just doesn't exist.

Susie: What do you see?

Johnny: Harmony.

Bobby: Whoa. You mean hear it, don't you?

Johnny: No. I mean experience it. Hear, see, feel, all at the same time. At the speed of light, sound and sensing compressed into a single moment of knowing.

(A quiet moment of reflection)

Silver: Cool. I'm ready. I always did want everything right away.

Johnny: Well, you'll have it, but you might not remember it all.

Joe: You mean the experience of good & evil is a polarized event of a whole? To gain the knowledge of good & evil we have to de-fragment the local phenomena.

Bobby: Dig me! I'm a fragment.

Susie: You're a fool. This is serious stuff Bobby.

Johnny: He's right, Susie. We are all fragments. And we have this urge to be whole again. The experience of being reunited with totality is what we call love.

ETHERA: Here we are, our bold adventurers testing their comprehension by entering the unknown. While the only one who can see me is Johnny, all will soon hear my voices and feel my presence. My voices are simultaneously cast to each individual. Each hears a message suited to each individuals ability and imaging system. There is only one message, but many are experienced. The spirits are the all, the many, and the individual, all at one time. The human experience through the Trickster's spell, is alone. Now through Johnny I undo that spell. They are alone no longer.

SONG: 11 Ethera

(ETHERA dances)

Orlando: Did you hear that?

Susie: Ya.

Rita: A beautiful musical voice!

Joe: More like singing.

Silver: A whole chorus!

Joe: I feel like I have been a shadow man, living in an anti-Utopia. The darkness made my cynical outlook seem natural. All the while glorious nature has been overflowing with the music of creation, while I in my dark room have struggled for a few notes. Now I know. The journey is not what you seek but what you find. We are not the masters but the servants of creation.

Susie: Like leaving your child in trusted custody. If the custodians heart is true, they understand the honor; if false then they see only a chore.

Silver: This is no dream, but, I feel that I am dreaming.

Orlando: Strange circles in my mind like orbiting planets offer visions of love and life, more like love and lives. Too many to count, they cling to each other making a spiral of connected lives spanning thousands of years of time.

Joe: Now here in this consciousness, my understanding rests. Which is the dream, which memory, which distorted vision, which is the true perception of sweet reality? Is this the Divine grace of creation or the dark subterfuge of X-Utopia? Surely all things must be. And yet if all things are, then one must be the greater and another the lesser.

Trickster: My spell is discovered.

Rita: What did he say?

Susie: He said he's disoriented.

Rita: No, I mean about the lesser & the greater?

Bobby: Man, I see colors! Beautiful bright colors!

Joe: I felt I was a spinning disk hurtling through space. Captured by an orbit which was life, I was moving in circles but my momentum pushed forward creating time. My whole idea of where I am just got blown into a whole new place. Time is the basket holding together all we know.

SONG: 12 "Past Life"

Scene 7: Death of Boss D

Boss D: Doesn't a dog love its master? And if his master is a villain, then isn't a villain loved?

Fido! Say you love me.

Fido: I love you, Boss.

Boss D: I am forced into a villainous role by undisciplined children who will not conform to their fathers wisdom. There must be an example. Playing favorites and letting one undisciplined child have his way will only make trouble for everyone. Wasn't all the trouble in heaven about God's favorite refusing to conform? History repeats itself. So now I am the villain because everyone likes the way Johnny Rainbow sings a song. All right then, I'll play the villain. There will be no more singing. Johnny

Rainbow will die! Did you hear that boys!

(From behind the screen Billy steals up to bodyguard 1 putting a gun to his head. With his other hand he gives the bodyguard one of the envelopes. The bodyguard accepts the payoff and carefully gives Billy his gun. The bodyguard slinks off.)

Remaining bodyguard: But Boss, ... Billy Diamond.

Boss D: You don't get it boys. Billy Diamond dies too! This is the start of a new age. The age of Boss D's world!

(Billy does the same with bodyguard 2.)

Boss D: This will be a good time. Everyone will conform. Business will be good. Everyone will be better off. Things will run smooth. What's the loss of a song or two, after all were talking about security. Everyone will be taken care of. So that's how it will be. I get to be God, and there will be no more singing.

(Cowering in the corner, Fido starts to gesture toward Boss D but stops. He witnesses the death of Boss D.)

Boss D turns to see the approval of his boys. They are gone. Seeing Billy Diamond he goes for his gun.

(5 shots deafen the stage. The Boss is dead. Lola runs off stage.)

Billy: No words from or for the villain, just an overdue end.

(Billy turns to the audience.)

Did you think Johnny Rainbow and his spirits would clean up this mess?

(Billy tosses the guns down by Boss D's body. He picks up Boss D's cane. He twirls it as he walks off stage.)

(As Billy is leaving...)

Fido: Oh, you wicked people. You play out your deeds of cruelty and

revenge. You make me the accomplice of your ambitions! You burn memories in my mind which will haunt me forever.

(He calls after Billy.) You made me watch the murder of my own master.

(Fido picks up Boss D's body in his arms.) I did your errands. I helped you build your empire of fear and greed. Even in my evil tasks I was the betrayer, warning Johnny Rainbow. Now my betrayal is finished in your death. I did not warn my own master.

(Billy returns, he puts a hand on Fido's shoulder.) If you want to do something right, go to the Enchanted Forest. Find Flash Eyed Jack. Give him Boss D's Cane and this envelope. Tell him what happened.

Fido: Oh no Billy, Jack will kill you.

Billy: No, he won't Fido. He only kills for money. There's no profit in killing me. Tell him what happened. He'll leave Johnny Rainbow alone.

Fido: O.K., Billy, if you say so.

Scene 8 (back at Enchanted Forest)

Rita: Where is your dress?

Velvet: I've discovered my inner woman and she turned out to be a man.

Rita: My God, but you are a gorgeous hunk.

Rita: I think I might like this.

Velvet: Your inner man isn't offended by my re-emerged masculinity?

Rita: No! Not at all. In fact I discovered my inner man is gay.

Velvet: In that case.

(He puts the scarf around Rita's neck, they kiss. Velvet & Rita go off hand in hand.)

SONG: 2 "They Say That Love"

Scene 9: Fido & Jack

(Fido brings Boss D's Cane and Billy's money to Jack.)

Fido: Jack!

Jack: Fido, what are you doing here?

(Fido holds out Boss D's cane.)

Fido: Billy killed him, Jack. I saw it.

(Jack takes Boss D's cane.)

Jack: I never thought it would happen.

(Fido holds out the envelope.)

Fido: Billy told me to give this to you.

(Jack takes out a note while eyeing the money.)

Jack: What happened to Curly & Slim?

Fido: They ran off.

Jack: Before or after?

Fido: Before.

Billy used their guns to kill the Boss.

Jack: Always the poet. And a prophet. I'm out of a job.

(Jack hefts the money.)

Billy pays well. Now what will you do Fido?

Fido: I'll have to find another master.

Jack: How did you ever get that name anyway?

Fido: I have the brains of a dog. The Boss gave me a dog's name. I ain't so smart.

Jack: We're all dogs, Fido.

SONG: 14 "Doggy Brain Blues"

Scene 10 Orlando & Susie

Orlando: I can't take it any more. After hearing the strange music, it's like Johnny said, I feel connected and I can't stand being apart from you any longer.

Susie: Oh, we're going to be in trouble.

Orlando: I don't care. It's wrong for us to be apart.

Susie: I know. It's been getting to me, too.

Orlando: You know I'm crazy about you.

Susie: I know. But I had to be sure.

Orlando: You're sure now, aren't you?

Susie: Yes, I'm sure.

Orlando: Let's go tell Johnny.

SONG: 2 "They Say That Love"

Scene 11: Billy & Jack

Billy: Mr. Flash Eyed Jack.

Jack: Hey, Billy. So it turned out you were right. Thanks for the pension

fund. It made it go down a little easier.

Billy: That was the idea.

Fido: Doesn't a dog love it's master?

Jack: You pay well, Billy. Take my hand and call me brother. As far as I'm concerned, you're the Boss now.

Billy: That's not what's happening, Jack. Johnny Rainbow will be running things now.

Jack: Don't make me laugh. Johnny can't run anything. Things will fall apart.

Billy: Maybe they will. But then maybe things need to fall apart.

Jack: What do you expect me to do?

Fido: Didn't I warn Johnny by telling Velvet?

Billy: Swear your loyalty to Johnny, and I'll call you brother.

Jack: Don't be a fool, Billy. You have the power.

Billy: I also have a brain. If yours is too stubborn to show it to you, then borrow mine.

Enter ETHERA

Billy: This is an end to fear.

Jack: You're kidding!

Billy: No. If you want to be part of it, Jack, you'll have to protect everyone's right to be brave.

Jack: Fear is respect.

Billy: When someone helps you in your time of weakness without fear of

what you will do when you are strong, that is respect.

Jack: You're saying I should give up my advantage?

Billy: Yes.

Jack: But I'll always be stronger.

Billy: Yes.

Jack: So, what's the difference.

Billy: You won't be a bully. Being strong enough to restrain yourself will win the respect you've never had.

Jack: Boss D respected me.

Billy: Boss D laughed at you behind your back because he could so easily play you.

Jack: Make it simple for me. What does it all come down to?

Billy: One brother.

SONG: 16 "Brother"

Jack: I've offered to be your brother.

Billy: No. We are all one brother.

Jack: You mean, everyone?

Billy: Everyone.

Jack: One brother.

SONG: 16 "Brother" - to the front

Fido: What message shall I take back to town?

Billy: For those who choose love as their star, tell them to celebrate ! The future is governed by Johnny Rainbow!

Music stops for an instant:

Jack: I felt something.

Fido: Yah ... I felt something too.

Jack: No. You don't understand. I've never felt anything before.

Fido: You never felt anything?

Jack: Never.

Fido: How could you ever be sure of anything, if you've never felt anything?

Jack: I just figure it out.

(He turns to Billy.)

Jack: Are you sure of Johnny?

Billy: I am as sure of Johnny's goodness as I am of your darkness. But even in you there is hope.

Jack: What hope could you possibly see in me?

Billy: Your word. The one thing you've never sold is your word. Look into that place where your word lives and bring that light out into your darkness.

Jack: You're sounding like a Johnny Rainbow preacher. You should remember who you're talking to.

Billy: O.K., Jacks.

(Billy puts his gun against Jack's heart.)

Billy: Cleanse your soul. Find the truth in your heart, or my bullet. Does that help?

(Jack smiles.)

Jack: Yah... That helps.

ETHERA: The dawn has begun. The darkest place in the darkest heart is aroused from it's abject aloneness. This dawn is not out of a rotation around the sun. It is out of a wider orbit who's path navigates the soul of creation. Now see the blossom of that dawn in fertile soil.

Scene 12:

Johnny: What has been going through your minds? You thought I'd be angry because you fell in love?

Susie: He's not angry.

Orlando: Why did we think he would be?

Susie: I was afraid. All I could see were obstacles and doubt.

Orlando: I was afraid, too. Afraid I'd be alone... without you.

(They fling into each others arms; Johnny hugs them both.)

Orlando: We were meant to be together.

Susie: We were meant to be together.

(They look at Johnny.)

Johnny: You were meant to be together!

(They fling back in each others arms.)

Orlando: Marry me in spirit

Susie: Marry me in body

Orlando: Marry me in mind.

Susie: Marry me.

Orlando: Marry me.

ETHERA: Make friends with your heart & mind. Serve them faithfully & they will become loyal partners in your life, as in a marriage. Allow spirit to pass through freely. Abandon fear as your star and clarity will usher in your age.

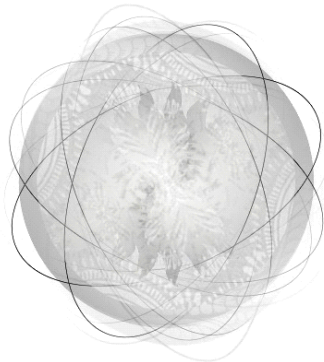
SONG: 17 “Your Age”

END

After cast has taken bows, all out front

SONG: 2 “They say that Love”

* * *



Special Thanks

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CD Demo Sketch

- 1 Easy Street
- 2 They Say That Love
- 3 Conformity
- 4 Crazy
- 5 Hoochie Coochie
- 6 Hero
- 7 Crossroads
- 8 Beggars
- 9 Tribe
- 10 Friend
- 11 Ethera
- 12 Past Life*
- 13 Flash Fools
- 14 Doggy Brain Blues
- 15 Far Away
- 16 Brother*
- 17 Your Age
- 18 Ethera 2

* not included