

# New opening sequence to **The Musical McCoy**

Cast minimum: 8- Band of 4

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Adapted by Vincent de Tourdonnet  
From Andrew Moodie's play-The Real McCoy

Music by Lal, Rosalind Mills, Nicholas Murray and Vincent de Tourdonnet

## ACT I, SCENE 1-(ENERGY)

*On a 19th Century proscenium stage, sits a modern 3D projector crossed with a Lumière Cinématographe: a kind of [steampunk](#) projector. It whirs into motion, and a man materializes, a black scientist meticulously dressed in a suit and hat of the 1880's. The Scientist verifies that his body is intact, then acknowledges the audience.*

### **DEMO #1- ENERGY**

*Inspecting other pieces of steampunk equipment- sound equipment- stretched across the stage, he pushes a button on the projector, and a scientist/band leader materializes, who walks over and begins to produce synth music with a Victorian computer/phonograph. ELIJAH bows to the band leader with gratitude and addresses the audience.*

**ELIJAH**

**ENERGY  
ENERGY MAY CHANGE MY FRIENDS  
FROM ONE FORM TO ANOTHER IT TRANSFORMS  
BUT IT MAY NEVER BE DESTROYED  
MY FRIENDS**

**ENERGY  
SONIC WAVES MADE ORDERLY  
IT'S MUSIC WHEN IT GOES  
IN LITTLE PATTERNS WHICH WE KNOW  
WHICH FOLLOW LOGICALLY**

**ELIJAH MCCOY  
INVENTOR: BORN 1844 NEAR WINDSOR, ONTARIO  
CLEARLY DEAD- SO WHY NOT REST?  
MY HEAD IS PESTERED BY ONE QUESTION  
WHAT... REMAINS?**

**ELIJAH**

**ENERGY  
I'M ASKING YOU TO WITNESS WITH ME  
THAT MONUMENTAL MOMENT IN A LIFE  
FOR WHICH WE NEVER HAVE A MEMORY**

*(ELIJAH's projector generates a very pregnant black woman carefully being guided along by her husband. She is faceless.)*

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

MY MOTHER- MILDRED GOINS-  
BORN A SLAVE IN KENTUCKY  
BUT LUCKILY ESCAPED TO SAFETY UP TO UPPER CANADA  
NOW- I'M AFRAID THERE 'S A SPACE  
WHERE HER FACE SHOULD BE  
BECAUSE I DIDN'T EVER KNOW HER  
SO I CAN ' T ... SHOW HER... I CAN'T...

*(ELIJAH fiddles with the dials on his projector)*

NOW THE FELLOW WITH THE FACE WOULD BE MY FATHER GEORGE MCCOY  
HE ALSO ESCAPED SLAVERY  
AND THEY DREAMED OF THE DAY THEY WOULD START A FAMILY-

But...

*(MILDRED GOINS goes into labour.)*

**NANNY HUBBARD**

Now, you just lie down... Oh no! George, go get the carriage!"

**GEORGE MCCOY**

But...

**NANNY HUBBARD**

Just go!... Alright, alright, she's on, let's go, let's go!

*(Horses gallop- Montage as NANNY HUBBARD tries to comfort  
MILDRED on the carriage along the rough road, evening falls.)*

**NANNY HUBBARD**

Now keep going George, faster!

**GEORGE MCCOY**

I can't just keep 'em running like this!"

**NANNY HUBBARD**

Now, stop, stop! ... I don' know if she's gonna make it!

**GEORGE MCCOY**

Mildred? Mildred!

*(Newborn baby Elijah cries. Mildred has died. ELIJAH watches in hor-  
ror as her body is carried off.)*

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

**ENERGY**

**ENERGY MAY CHANGE MY FRIENDS!  
FROM ONE FORM TO ANOTHER IT TRANSFORMS  
BUT IT MAY NEVER BE DESTROYED  
MY FRIENDS!**

*( ELIJAH'S projector brings forth other ensemble members: RANKINE, BURGESS and ANNA STEWART. They are joined upstage by GEORGE MCCOY and NANNY HUBBARD.*

*ELIJAH doesn't notice that the corpse of the actor who plays his mother -MILDRED GOINS - becomes DEATH-dressed as a young black aviator. She sneaks behind him, unseen)*

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

SO- THAT WAS MY BEGINNING  
WE'LL WATCH OTHER PARTS OF MY LIFE  
WITH SPIRITS I PULL OUT OF SENSORY MEMORY  
RUN BY ELECTRICAL LIGHT  
PLEASE-  
TRAIN YOUR THOUGHTS TO THIS REFRAIN  
WHAT...STILL.. REMAINS...

*DEATH sneaks over and pulls out a piece of his projector, (a capacitor) causing the projector to break down, the music to stop.)*

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

Well now what happened? What happened!

**DEATH**

Poor little Elijah, you've really got to learn to let go!

**ELIJAH**

You! Leave me alone!

*(DEATH hands ELIJAH the part she stole from the projector)*

**DEATH**

Here you go.

**ELIJAH**

Oh, well this is precisely the part that...thank you!

*(ELIJAH accepts the part from DEATH, although he's suspicious)*

**DEATH**

Anytime!

**ELIJAH**

This capacitor is completely burned out! *You* removed this and damaged it! And I have no spare.

*(DEATH gasps in mock shock )*

**DEATH**

Oh!

*ELIJAH takes out some tin foil and starts working)*

**ELIJAH**

Don't bother me!

**DEATH**

*(to the audience)* I am Death. That's right, Death. I wasn't invited. I seldom am. But don't worry. I'll bring this whole thing to an end. I do that with things. *(To one person in audience)* Including you.

**ELIJAH**

And... there! I have fashioned a temporary capacitor from cardboard and tin foil. Now if it is properly calibrated.... yes!

*(as ELIJAH is occupied with his machine, DEATH approaches planted AUDIENCE GUY)*

**DEATH**

**ENERGY**

**ENERGY WILL CHANGE, MY FRIENDS**

*(DEATH steals a smart phone from AUDIENCE GUY, who objects: "Hey!!)*

**YOUR GRAND CREATIVE SCHEMES**

**AND THE DEVICES OF YOUR DREAMS**

**DISINTEGRATE AGAIN** *(DEATH smashes the smart phone on the floor)*

**AUDIENCE GUY**

My phone!!

*(DEATH then rushes ELIJAH, who's busy ignoring her)*

**ENERGY**

**YOU KNOW YOUR LITTLE LIFE WILL END!  
SURE, GO BACK AND CLEANSE  
INTO WHATEVER SHAPE IT BENDS  
IT FALLS APART AGAIN  
APART AGAIN!**

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

**ARROGANT REAPER - YOU'RE BEING A CREEP!  
YOU HAVE NO CLUE OF WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO!**

**DEATH**

**OH, IF ONLY IT WERE SOMETHING NEW!  
"OH- I SO WANTED TO GO SEE HIM-  
DOWN AT THE DUSTY MUSEUM!  
THEY HAD THE LAST SPECK OF ELIJAH MCCOY!  
BUT SOME SCHOOL-BOY LEFT-  
WITH THE LAST SPECK OF THE GREAT INVENTOR  
STUFFED INTO HIS LUNCH BUCKET!"**

**ELIJAH**

**WHAT IF DEATH WENT AWAY?**

**DEATH**

**OH- I'D LOVE TO GO AWAY!  
BUT IF YOUR STORY HAS LIFE IN IT-  
I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO STAY.**

**ELIJAH**

**WELL FINE THEN  
STAND BY THEN  
BUT DON'T YOU TOUCH A THING!**

**DEATH**

**Oh, but I touch everything!**

**ELIJAH**

EXACTLY! WE KNOW THAT.  
WE DON'T NEED YOU TO SHOW THAT!  
YOUR ANGLE IS BORING, IT'S NOT AT THE CORE!

**DEATH**

SO TELL US, WHAT **ARE** WE WATCHING FOR?

*(ELIJAH addresses the audience)*

**ELIJAH**

SCIENTIFIC SERENDIPITY  
THAT MOMENT OF EPIPHANY  
WHICH MEANS THAT WE'RE SERVING A HIGHER ALLIANCE  
BEYOND OUR LITTLE LIVES

THAT MOMENT-IN SCIENCE-  
WHEN A RHYTHM OF DEFIANCE!  
STARTS A PATTERN OF KNOWING  
THAT'S BOUND TO KEEP GROWING  
BEYOND OUR OWN DEMISE

**DEATH & ENSEMBLE**

**ENERGY**  
**ENERGY MAY CHANGE**  
**BUT ALL THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU GAVE THE WORLD**  
**WILL HAVE THEIR DAY, THEN FADE AWAY!**

*(ELIJAH is running around getting all the machines and screens fully ready for the show)*

**ELIJAH**

**THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT REMAINS FROM ALL THIS ENERGY**  
**WE CRACK THE CODE OF LIFE ITSELF WHAT OF THAT ENERGY?**  
**WE STEAL THE SECRETS OF THE SUN- WHAT OF THAT ENERGY?**  
**THE INNOVATIONS- IMAGINATION-**  
**THE GREAT RELIGIONS**  
**WITH THEIR VISIONS OF ETERNITY?**

**DEATH**

Oh, I don't know anything about all that. I just do endings.  
*(DEATH sits down to watch, perhaps munching popcorn)*

**ELIJAH MC COY**

Alright then. Let's begin.

*The ENSEMBLE will be like a Greek chorus led by DEATH, integrated with the band, sometimes visible to the audience, but unseen by the players of the drama onstage. Each ensemble member steps downstage for acting or movement roles as required.)*

**DEMO #2**

**ACT I, SCENE 2- (THIS WORLD/TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION)**

*(ELIJAH projector flickers, an image forms like a 3D antique film - a nerdy YOUNG ELIJAH riding in a two-person carriage, his father GEORGE MCCOY driving the horse)*

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

And... yes! There! That's Pop driving...

**DEATH**

Oh, look at your father so young! And now he's even more dead than you are...

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

Quiet! There's me... Just done high school at age 15- headed for a train from Detroit to New York City, then a steamship to Edinburgh University.

**DEATH**

Such a little smarty!

*(the ENSEMBLE laughs)*

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

An open heart and mind ... bursting with hope...

**DEATH**

Oh, I'll take care of that.

**ELIJAH**

Why don't you just... listen?

*(DEATH shrugs.)*



**YOUNG ELIJAH**

I promise, Pop. This is not a mistake.

**GEORGE MCCOY**

I know that, it's just. this world-

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

I could not possibly be more well-prepared.

**GEORGE MCCOY**

Is that so?

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

I...I have never felt so attuned to the world...  
I feel that nothing is beyond my comprehension.

**GEORGE MCCOY**

Hunh!

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

**THIS WORLD  
IS WEEPING WITH HARMONY**

**YOUNG ELIJAH AND ADULT ELIJAH  
ITS MYSTERIES CRY**

*As they pull into the train station, YOUNG ELIJAH marvels at the  
modernity.*

**THIS WORLD  
REVEALS POSSIBILITIES  
OF A NEW WAY OF LIFE**

**GEORGE MCCOY**

You say your prayers, and you write home! You know your Nanny Hubbard will worry  
'bout you for sure.

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

Oh, I will Pop. I promise. I'm gonna make a mark in the world, Pop. You're gonna be  
proud.

**GEORGE MCCOY**

Well- I already am proud... you'll be alright, boy.

*(YOUNG ELIJAH marvels at the miracle of the steam train as he boards)*

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

BY THE FIRE FROM THE COAL  
PRESSURE FROM THE BOILER HOLE  
A PAIR OF PISTONS SPIN THE STEEL!

**YOUNG ELIJAH & ELIJAH**

TRANSFER TO THE DRIVING WHEEL-

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

IT'S A TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

**YOUNG ELIJAH & ELIJAH**

TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION!

**ENSEMBLE**

**TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION!**  
**TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION!**

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

LET A NEW HUMANITY

**YOUNG ELIJAH & ELIJAH**

BE POWERED BY STEAM-

**YOUNG ELIJAH**

BY THE MEANS OF MACHINES  
FOLLOW SOLOMON'S DREAMS!

**YOUNG ELIJAH & ELIJAH**

WHERE BREAD MAY BE DISTRIBUTED  
LET HUNGER BE PROHIBITED  
SEND THE SICK - QUICK- ON TRIPS!  
SO NO KID CRIES, WONDERING  
"WHY DID MY MAMA MEET UNTIMELY DEMISE?"

**YOUNG ELIJAH & ELIJAH**

TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION  
TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

*(YOUNG ELIJAH transfers onto a steam ship. He is so eager about the technology as he boards, that he doesn't even notice someone trying to hand him their luggage, mistaking him for a porter)*

**ENSEMBLE**

TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION  
TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION  
TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION  
TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

**DEATH**

*(DEATH moves unseen through the crowd on the ship, she may come right up to YOUNG ELIJAH's face but he can't see her)*

**OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!**

*(YOUNG ELIJAH gains entrance into the engine room of the ship, he is asking questions of the captain, THE ENSEMBLE are all shovelling coal, a steam-age montage)*

**DEATH**

**THE FASTER WE GO, BOYS  
THE MORE WE WILL THRIVE  
THE FASTER THAT WE MOVE THINGS  
THE MORE WE'RE ALIVE**

*(DEATH gets in the CAPTAIN's face, and in YOUNG ELIJAH'S face, but they don't see her)*

**BURN IT ALL UP, BOYS  
REACH FOR THE SKY  
CARBON IS INVISIBLE  
AND SO AM I!**

*(DEATH joins THE ENSEMBLE shovelling- infinite rows of blazing boilers and smoke stacks)*

**DEATH & THE ENSEMBLE**

**BURN IT ALL UP BOYS  
FILL UP THE SKY  
CARBON IS INVISIBLE**

*(directly to ELIJAH'S face)*

**DEATH**

**AND  
SO AM I!**