

New opening sequence to **The Musical McCoy**

Cast minimum: 8- Band of 4

April, 2020

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 aviatrix, 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!

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 MCCOY

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 the train 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!**