LIST OF CHARACTERS

ACTOR 1:
ANDI, the story revolves around this person’s experience - ANDI lives through a whole life, age is dictated by each scene
EMILY DICKINSON, the poet

ACTOR 2:
CHELSEA, an almost evil soul, still craves connection and love
MARK, an actor named Mark

ACTOR 3: DOUG, A simple landscaper, a giver of love
BIG BAD BILL, an ice cream truck driver

ACTOR 4: ERIC, unrequited love
ROBIN WILLIAMS, the actor

ACTOR 5: RABBIT, a murdered baby rabbit
SAMARA, the girl from The Ring

ACTOR 6: PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE, a doll come to life

** ALL ACTORS will be asked to create through collective movement.
scene 1

the stage is bare, a blank canvas.

pre show speech, the lights dim and the sound fades.

lights up.

ANDI stands alone.

inhale. exhale.

ANDI takes in the surroundings as it’s the first time she’s seeing.

ANDI sees the audience, looks at each one of them and takes them in. this might take a while. no judgement, just a child- like curiosity.

ALL REMAINING ACTORS enter humming a monotonous tone. they take in their surroundings like ANDI did but in less time.

ALL ACTORS become fireworks, random exploding bursts of energy. the fireworks show starts slow, maybe one to two people at a time until the big finale.

it is madness.
and then it is not.

ALL ACTORS breathe together. they rest. they just did a lot of work for your amusement.

the lights shift and they help each other get up.

ALL ACTORS leave, except ANDI.

ANDI lies down.

scene 2
a bedroom

ANDI sleeps.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE emerges from the darkness.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE

By the sweat of your face
You will eat bread,
Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE fades into the background.
CHELSEA holds ANDI’s hands underwater.

ANDI
release stop pointless murder.

CHELSEA
innocent worthless garbage drowning nasty invisible life.
meaningless. grip harder.

ANDI
slow heartbeat. magic rabbit frozen water rewind rewind
please rewind
still lifeless

CHELSEA
love sad death. endings release beginnings. inhale forgiveness
exhale hatred rewind life.

ANDI
evil senseless asshole take take take lifelong innocent garbage
water burial drowning alone wet lifeless fragment

CHELSEA
guilty. sorry.
sorry.
sorry? sorry!
...sorry...
sorry sorry sorry
sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry

ANDI
dizzy intense meaningless
forced drowning guilty
release
devastating lifelong scar release
cancel rewind stop release

magic rabbit basement garbage fragment release fast slow rewind
heartbeat regret sorry forced helpless guilty alone

basement rabbit lifeless

RABBIT


Alive. Dead.

Hands. Water.


scene 4
ALL ACTORS enter from every part of the stage.

hailing a cab on a busy new york city street: reimagined.

a dance of sorts.

they breathe together when they are done.
A landscaper sits down to take a breather. The sun is hot. He needs water but a rest will do.

DOUG

Sun’s hot. It’ll do. Gotta get a nice tan before I go on vacation. Maybe people’ll think I’m always on vacation. Ha! That’d be nice. (There’s cloth in his mower) Ah shoot, got something stuck in the mower. I raked before— damn it. (he pulls out shredded fuzzy material from the mower.) this better not have ruined my equipment— damn kids. (he attempts to start the mower, it doesn’t work.) Guess I’ll have to stop working forever. Ha! Could you imagine? Living as if I’m on vacation! Maybe I’ll do just that! Live on an island! Maybe have some kids of my own. Maybe I’ll do just that! (He starts the mower, Doug continues to mow and day dream.)
ANDI and ERIC sit in a makeshift blanket fort. They are young, 10/11.

ERIC
I want to kiss you.

ANDI
Your lip is bleeding.

ERIC
I want you to taste my blood.

ANDI
It’s your mom’s blood and your dad’s blood and your sister’s and brother’s blood too.

ERIC
Tastes like metal.

ANDI
I’ve never tasted my spoon when I eat. At least I’ve never thought about tasting my spoon when I eat. Does a spoon taste/like blood?

ERIC
Do you want me to kiss you?

ANDI
I do. I think.

ERIC
Don’t think. Just do.

ANDI
Ok.

they kiss.

ERIC
So?

ANDI
Mmmmmm.

ERIC
What?
ANDI
Metal taste nice. My body’s tingling.

ERIC
You taste like coconut.

ANDI
My Mom and I made a coconut pie. I got to lick the spoon. But I didn’t taste the spoon. Or at least, the spoon didn’t make me tingle.

ERIC
Let’s kiss again.

ANDI
Let’s kiss forever.

...

scene 7
CHELSEA sits at a very long table, alone.

a large goblet sits before them.

CHELSEA drinks from the goblet. chugs, really, until the goblet is empty.

CHELSEA gets red liquid all over their white shirt.

CHELSEA cleans up the mess slowly, deliberately.
a backyard.

d this is a shared memory, split between ERIC and ANDI. it should be performed as if they are one person and not.

ANDI

touch football,

ERIC

reason to touch,

ANDI

tackle,

ERIC

wrestle,

ANDI, ERIC

on top of each other, exploring each other as we touch down.

ANDI

22, 36, 48, 57,

ERIC

hut hut hut.

ANDI

We race each other to the end of the field, waiting for a ball that travels far less than our legs anticipate,

ERIC

we race for the ball, run with each other, our hearts racing as we jump into each other.

ANDI

We land in a mangled mess, 20 yard line, Eileen and Pat take the ball,

ANDI, ERIC

our ball. are we working together or against each other?

ERIC

the rules make no sense. it’s not fun playing defense

ANDI

but we’re always on defense so we decide to have fun.
ERIC
twirl till we fall down, land on our faces, laughing.

ANDI
your dad doesn’t laugh.

ERIC
he’s mad.

ANDI
he might hit you, not when i’m around,

ERIC
won’t happen again. he promised.

ANDI
not when I’m around, so I’ll never leave you.

ERIC
we get up, brush ourselves off, ready to take this seriously,

ANDI
I catch the ball, run as fast as I can, Pat hits me in the face, i’m bleeding, your dad’s happy, Pat got a touch down, dancing, i’m missing a tooth, touch down,

ERIC
dad’s happy,

ANDI
you’re happy, dancing. i’m bleeding and i lost. touch down.
double negative.

ANDI goes to ERIC.

ANDI
i will never leave you.

ERIC turns away.

scene 9
alone in the woods.

RABBIT
Forever. Lonely. Freezing. War
a shelf.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
It’s a wonderful thing, to collect dust.

It’s as if once everything forgets you exist,
you can start LIVING.

The things I heard sitting on that shelf were... abominable... exciting.

The fighting, the screams, the last breath, the transition from life to death.

It had been decades since I had been touched. I was beginning to think I would be washed away in a far-off flood. Forgotten.

But then Flower died and everything changed.

Her body was left to rot on her bedroom floor for ten days.

Maggots lined the linoleum, eating away at her deteriorating corpse.

And I was gifted memory.

A creaky swingset, a musty basement, three dead rabbits, twenty-five cent ramen, a copper penny, a tomato bath, painted muslin, a lover’s kiss, a ferris wheel ride, the smell of roses, say cheese, hi how are you, polaroids, laughter-

I was gifted language

and thought

and feeling.

The heaviness of the dust did not escape me.

I needed life. I needed breath. *(deep inhalation of breath)*

scene 11
a conversation.

ROBIN WILLIAMS
Her father faked his suicide by overdosing just the right amount. He is a brilliant pharmacist. He was sent to rehab in lieu of jail on the day of her fifth grade graduation.

EMILY DICKINSON
Her father stole prescription drugs from work and faked his suicide to escape jail—causing him to miss her fifth grade graduation.

MARK
Her father was in rehab the day of her fifth grade graduation because he plead addiction and insanity instead of going to jail for theft.

SAMARA
Her father overdosed and went to rehab on the day of her fifth grade graduation.

ROBIN WILLIAMS
I see myself in him. Or I see him in myself.


(cartoon voice) Her father overdosed.  
(new cartoon voice) Her father overdosed.  
(new cartoon voice) Her father overdosed.

And missed her fifth grade graduation.  
It wasn’t about her  
But that was the problem  
Her father overdosed  
It wasn’t about her  
Her father overdosed  
and missed her fifth grade graduation  
and missed  
and missed  
Her father overdosed

MARK
I am an actor. I play Barney. My name is MARK.  
I wear a Barney costume  
and my Barney costume has a visible zipper.

I wear a Barney costume
And I walk like Barney
   Talk like Barney
   Think like Barney

I love you
You love me
We’re a happy family

My name is MARK
   I am an actor and
   I wear a Barney costume
   and my Barney costume
   has a visible zipper.

We’re a happy family
We’re a happy family
   family
   family
   family

Her father missed her fifth grade graduation.

EMILY DICKINSON
I’m nobody who are you

ROBIN WILLIAMS
I’m Robin Williams

BIG BAD BILL
I drive an ice cream truck.

MARK
I’m Mark. I’m an actor. I play Barney but my name is Mark. I love you, you love me, you love me, you love me, you love me, you love me, you love me, you love me,/ 

SAMARA
I’m Samara, the girl in the 2002 film, The Ring.

EMILY DICKINSON
I’m nobody who are you
   Who are you? Who are you? Who are you?
I’m nobody.

Her father overdosed and missed her fifth grade graduation
   I’m nobody.
Who are you?
Are you nobody too?
Ssh don’t tell. They’ll banish us--

Who are you?

SAMARA
Don’t watch the video tape.
Everyone who watches it dies in seven days. Seven days.
Horse guts color the water.
Innocent blood.
Seven days.

Her father overdosed and missed her fifth grade graduation.
I was trapped in a well.

She had her mother, her mickey mouse graduation cap, her pride.
I was trapped in a well.

Alone.

Her father missed her fifth grade graduation in a well filled
with horse guts and she was PROUD.

MARK
My Barney costume has a visible zipper
a visible zipper

ALL X MARK
His Barney costume
has a visible zipper.
He is an actor.
His name is Mark.

MARK
My Barney costume
has a visible zipper.
I am an actor.
My name is Mark.

ALL ACTORS
Her father faked his suicide to go to rehab to avoid jail and
missed her fifth grade graduation.

BIG BAD BILL
Big Bad Bill’s the name, ice cream truck driving’s the game.
I knew her father well.

Her father moved to Florida and doesn’t remember any of this
shit.
He’s happy.
He’s sober now.

He has friends and he raises butterflies and eats a serving size of dairy free ice cream every night and he enjoys long walks on the beach/ and casual sex and

ANDI
ok. we can move on.

RABBIT
can’t you just let him be happy?

ANDI
yeah. ... I think I can.

ERIC
don’t think. just do.

ANDI
ok.

ERIC
So?

ANDI
mmmmm.

ERIC
What?

ANDI
letting go tastes nice. my body’s tingling.
scene 12

the actor’s become a field of sunflowers.
there is wind and there is stillness.

a bullfrog can be heard in the distance.

white sheets dry on a rack outside.

CHELSEA AND ERIC stick needles to water balloons.

blood pours from the balloons onto the white sheets, covering them completely.

the calmness of the field is not interrupted.
scene 13

the same field.

CHELSEA

I am not good.
I am not bad.
I just am.
I make mistakes. I feel bored.
I can’t believe this is all there is.
I’m frustrated.
I feel angry.
I want you to hear me.
I hear you.
I see you.
I want you to see me.
I am not only what you think I am.
I am much more than you give me credit for.
I want to make you happy.
I am not happy.
I am doing what you want.
I am your puppet.
I am not satisfied.
I feel ignored.
I feel lost.
I don’t know what will happen if I fail.
I am falling.
I am drowning.
I don’t know what I want.
I know what you want.
I want you to feel happy.
I want to be happy.
I wish you’d listen to me.
I have lots of ideas I’d like to share.
scene 14

A landscaper sits down to take a breather. He needs water but a rest will do.

DOUG
I look at people’s hands and think boy oh boy do I need a vacation.

Wouldn’t that be something! A vacation! Now that’s a gas! I could sit on a beach somewhere, wearing a loose fitting caftan with a sailor striped budgy smuggler drinking a dry martini, no ice, day dreaming about work! Ha! Day dreaming about work, that’s something.

He starts up the lawn mower but it doesn’t work.

I look at people’s hands and think I should have proposed to Anna when I had the chance.

I’m so sick of being alone.

I could write for the rest of eternity about how much I hate being alone.

The mower doesn’t work again.

I look at people’s hands and think about the passage of time.

Again

I look at people’s hands and think

Again

I look at people’s hands and think

and again

I look at people’s hands and think about where their fingers have been that day. Not in a gross way but like maybe one pointer finger got stuck in a jar of green olives. Or a pinky resting just to the side of a cold glass, enjoying the space away. A thumb nestled into a belt buckle. A wedding-ring finger enjoying a little time away from the weight while washing some dishes.
Again

I look at people’s hands and think

Again

I look at people’s hands and think about how I am alone and I am not okay. I am suffocating. I try to remove the grip on my neck but it gets tighter as it cuts off circulation and I faint and wake up to bright light and cookies and santa clause and the clock ticks away taunting me with its rhythm. I never learned to dance because I have no rythym hell I can’t even spell rhythm.

one last time

I look at people’s hands and think I need a vacation.
scene 14

a dining room.

CHELSEA and ANDI sit across from each other at the very long table. they are distant but the tension is palpable.

CHELSEA climbs onto the table, crawling closer.

ANDI climbs onto the table crawling closer.

they meet. it is magic.

ANDI offers CHELSEA a whole pomegranate

CHELSEA takes it all in. smelling it, tasting it.

CHELSEA cuts open the pomegranate, eats the seeds, letting the juice spill onto their white shirt.

CHELSEA leaves.

ANDI stands alone.

and after a long while

she cleans up the mess.
scene 15

Give.  
DOUG

Take.  
ANDI

Give.  
DOUG

Take.  
ANDI

Give.  
DOUG

Take.  
ANDI

everything.  
DOUG

always.  
ANDI
scene 16

RABBIT
Thick soft black fur covered in thicker than water
deep red blood
inquisitive sad eyes quickened breath
tufts of sticky gooey fur stuck to the newly paved tar like gum on the bottom of a shoe
can’t escape it

the wheels on the bus go round and round round and round
the wheels on the bus go round and round over the friendly black dog
such a good boy
who’s a good boy
you’re a good boy
dying slowly painfully alone
scene 17

a bedroom.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE appears from the shadows.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE looks into a mirror, examining itself.

It takes off a shoe, examines the shoe and then its foot. It doesn’t make sense.

It takes off the next shoe. Less interesting this time.

It stretches at its impossibly large, loudly patterned pants. You could fit a whole bus in there.

It takes them off, plays with them—what is around that its pants can fit?

It notices the big, round, colorful buttons on its blouse. It rips them off, one by one. Covers its eyes with them or swallows them or crumbles them into tiny bits.

It tears its blouse off. Now it is wearing all black and clown makeup with a wig.

It takes its time with its wig.

It wipes its makeup off.

It cries.

It grieves.

It smiles.

It lives.
scene 18

a white room covered in numbers. language has changed, emotion has not.

RABBIT
Always give lost time. Thankful imperfect fuck up. Want need crave love. Want need crave connection.
want need crave give take give take give give give. Unworthy approval. Willing give give give.
Thankful happy overjoyed always amazing.
come back. come back. come back. come back. give give give. come back. come back.
Strong chain constraint.
come back.
trying honest truth.
come back.
leave nothing give nothing take nothing.
n o t h i n g.
fuck up.
unworthy.
worthless.
undeserved.
yearning love connection.
soul undeserved.
crave want need give take.

ANDI
why unconditional? how unconditional? Mine?

DOUG
Yours. unconditional always. always unconditional. Because.

ANDI
Lost time, hours lost.

DOUG
Unconditional time thankful. Lose yourself.

ANDI
Worthless animal crave connection.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
Lost, dangerous blackhole, undeserved. Help unworthy, help. Want connection worthless connection need unconditional love.
RABBIT
Resilient human strength. Yours, lost undeserved.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
Mine overjoyed thankful. Mine!

DOUG
Want heart happy.

ANDI

DOUG
Love unconditionally. Lose yourself, imperfect perfect.

ANDI
Dangerous blackhole, lost, truth undeserving.

CHELSEA
Don’t do that. No reason, because.

ERIC
Who, what, where, when, how?

CHELSEA
Nonsense. Resilient, need, want crave approval. Lose yourself, leave.

DOUG
The moon rises, the moon falls, free, find yourself, imperfect perfect lost time.

ANDI
Heart yearning, painted rock, scribbled note, breakfast in bed. Permission to fuck up, help me give back. Take, take take- give back. Unworthy, lost, weird.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
Take, take, take, happy.

RABBIT
Leave love. Honest human, come back, help.

ERIC
Fuck up! Screw up!
PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
Take, take, take. Exciting tears bond wild constraint. Take!

RABBIT
Unexplainable angry.

DOUG

ANDI
Because?

DOUG
Because.

Because.

ACTOR 6: PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
(Grabs RABBIT)


RABBIT
Lost time.
Crying sadness tears.
Funny imperfect nothing.
Sweet unexplainable mindfulness.
Lost time.
The moon rises blackhole learn nothing. Give.
Lose yourself.
scene 19

the field.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
Will you, won’t you, will you, won’t you
and again and again and again and again and again and again and again
Gently smiling jaws curve downward
Tea tray in the sky serving newly formed clouds
Mimsy, miserable, useless, depleted
Wonder will you, won’t you, will you, won’t you

RABBIT
Twinkle, twinkle, little farmer’s and everyone in between. The clown is here to brighten up your day.

ERIC
By the waters of the Nile, who the hell are you?

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
’Twas Brillig and the rabbit, dear-

CHELSEA
Shut up, old crocodile, you cost me a golden scale!

CHELSEA AND DOUG dance in unison to their own rhythm. Grand, big gestures.

ANDI
The day was done.

ANDI dances along.

DOUG
Join the dance!

RABBIT begins to dance, but PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE intervenes.

RABBIT
You are old, Father.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
There’s a porpoise close behind us.

CHELSEA
Will you come and join the dance?
RABBIT
Do you think at your age it is right?

DOUG
He did his very best to make-

CHELSEA
The turtles all advance.

ERIC joins the dance. It is now ANDI, CHELSEA, DOUG, and ERIC dancing in unison. Their gestures become more grand with every movement. They are summoning the gods or the universe or whatever life force you believe in.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
The sun was shining on the sea.

ERIC
How cheerfully he seems to grin!

RABBIT
Don’t let his gently smiling jaws fool you—Father is a fraud— a fake— a mimsy excuse for a— a—

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
It’s very rude of you—

RABBIT
The turtles all advance—

RABBIT dances, unlike the rest. She is moving quickly, without much thought or grace. It’s a mess. A beautiful mess.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
How I wonder where you’re at!

RABBIT
Why, I do it again and again.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE joins RABBIT but what it is doing is so wrong, it is offensive.
RABBIT
Um, you’re treading on my tail.

The unison dance stops. The summoning is done. PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE has embarrassed everyone.

PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE
No, no, keep going—the turtles all advance!

CHELSEA
We’ve been waiting for you for ten years or hours or minutes—

DOUG
Time is a construct.

CHELSEA, DOUG, ERIC
The turtles all advance!

ANDI, CHELSEA, DOUG, ERIC
The turtles all advance!

ANDI, CHELSEA, DOUG, ERIC, RABBIT
The turtles all advance!

ALL ACTORS advance to PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE.

There is a moment. A pause. A shared breath. They eat him alive. It is a gory, bloody, messy final supper.

When PLASTER CLOWN FIGURINE is consumed, all actors but RABBIT and ANDI exit the stage.

RABBIT and ANDI take a frame from the ground and assume the “American Gothic” by Grant Wood position.

They stay like this until the audience leaves.