

ELIZA- BY MICHELLE SEWELL

Eliza walks into the spotlight on stage. She has Down Syndrome. The stage is scattered with petals and there is a keyboard.

Silence.

Eliza takes a breath to say something when -

The lights come up as-

KEYBOARDIST

Picture this-

ELIZA

Picture this-

Keyboardist sets up the keyboard with the amp.

KEYBOARDIST

It's England-

ELIZA

A cold grey night in London -

KEYBOARDIST

A cold grey wet night in London-

ELIZA

It's pelting it down-

KEYBOARDIST

Absolutely it's pelting it down -

ELIZA

And all the fancy people are getting wet-

KEYBOARDIST

Drenched.

ELIZA

And there's a flower girl out in the rain-

KEYBOARDIST

Yes- she's coming in from the rain. Big hat. Big dress.

ELIZA

Picture this- this flower girl with the big dress and the big hat and the big bunch of flowers is coming in from the rain.

KEYBOARDIST

She says to the people standing outside the theatre waiting for a cab-

ELIZA

Buy a bunch of flowers off a poor girl-

KEYBOARDIST

But she doesn't say it like that, does she Eliza-

ELIZA

Bui bunch a flowas eff a per grl...

KEYBOARDIST

That's Good. And she-

ELIZA

Makes me think of that song-

KEYBOARDIST

Song?

ELIZA

The song the song the song the song with the lady that twerks-

KEYBOARDIST

Miley Cyrus-

ELIZA

Miley - Yes- Miley Cyprus- Miley Cyrprus, Cirus...

KEYBOARDIST

Cyrus-

ELIZA

It doesn't sound like a word now-

It is a word- can we-
KEYBOARDIST

Get back on track?
ELIZA

Just a little bit-
KEYBOARDIST

She's sounding like Flowers by Miley Cyprus....
That's you're que.
ELIZA

Oh....Can I have the line again?
KEYBOARDIST

Twierking like Flowers by Miley Cyrpus-
ELIZA

**Keyboardist plays the piano cover of Miley Cyrus'
Flowers throughout the next bit.**

Bui bunch a flowas eff a per grl-
ELIZA

She goes round to everyone -
KEYBOARDIST

They shoo her away - They can bui their flowers from the local woolworths or coles-
ELIZA

They don't have woolworths or coles in England-
KEYBOARDIST

What do they have?
ELIZA

Tesco or Sainsbury's.
KEYBOARDIST

(Eliza laughs) Tes-c-O. That sounds silly.
ELIZA

Can we get back on track?
ELIZA

KEYBOARDIST

Absolutely -

ELIZA

They could get their flowers from the local Tesc-O. So no-one's buying flowers off a poor girl- not after Covid anyway.

KEYBOARDIST

And this posh English man bumps into her-

ELIZA

It's more like an absolute crash- he bowls her over and she's on her arse on the floor.

KEYBOARDIST

He asks if she's alright-

ELIZA

He doesn't even offer his hand- she's there arse bruised- flowers everywhere now and people are just trampling all over them and this /guy just -

KEYBOARDIST

This guy needs to run out into the /rain to get his mother and sister a cab-

ELIZA

This guy just leaves her there. And so she's there needing to get herself off the floor as she always does and picks up her flowers. And if they didn't want the flowers before, they certainly don't want them now.

KEYBOARDIST

She's mumbling -

ELIZA

She's talking to anyone who will listen- That ain't right to just bump into a girl tryen ta do an honest day's twerk- I mean, werk. Bunch a flowas all in the mud. Who's gona to pay for 'em.

KEYBOARDIST

No-one's got cash on them anyway-

ELIZA

Nah nah- she's got one of those card things. You know the square ones.

KEYBOARDIST

Oh.

Yeah.

ELIZA

And there's a man-

KEYBOARDIST

A real... A real man-

ELIZA

He's a bit of a piece of work-

KEYBOARDIST

Tall. Little Oliver Twist like cap. With an Oxford boy posh kinda accent that tends to make you weak at the knees.

ELIZA

He's a bit of a loner.

KEYBOARDIST

A lone wolf.

ELIZA

And he's writing down some things some thing some things-

KEYBOARDIST

Some things Eliza is saying in a teeny tiny notebook-

ELIZA

She sees him eyeing her-

KEYBOARDIST

She's uneasy-

ELIZA

She's absolutely uneasy- she's not been written down before, being eyed up by this lanky man-

KEYBOARDIST

He's broad in the shoulders though-

ELIZA

What?

KEYBOARDIST

ELIZA

That's what attracts her to him. He's got the broad shoulders. Not like other London boys. They tend to just be poles. No. He's got a V.

KEYBOARDIST

Right.
She's intrigued by this man

ELIZA

Oh... She's definitely intrigued.

KEYBOARDIST

She goes over to him -

ELIZA

Not in a prostitutey kinda way-

KEYBOARDIST

No- what? Of course not.

ELIZA

Just making it clear for everyone.

KEYBOARDIST

I think it's clear.

ELIZA

Some people think that when a woman walks up to a man, they will think she is going to whore herself out or something.

KEYBOARDIST

And this is important because-

ELIZA

Because that's not what's happening here.

KEYBOARDIST

What's happening here then.

ELIZA

Eliza is intrigued. Very intrigued by this figure.

KEYBOARDIST

And she says-

Whatchya writing down?
ELIZA

But he doesn't say anything.
KEYBOARDIST

He's shy-
ELIZA

He's British-
KEYBOARDIST

ELIZA
Eliza grabs his notebook- I can't read that- How am I meant to know what yer writing down- You could be saying anything about me!

KEYBOARDIST
Alright, alright- he says and he repeats her words- Bui a bunch a flowas eff a per grl.

ELIZA
You ain't got no business writing down me words.

KEYBOARDIST
And Eliza goes on/ and on and on and on and on and on -

ELIZA
She goes on- she makes a fuss- a real real fuss. Because Eliza is loud. At least. People think she's loud because she's different to them.

KEYBOARDIST
Everyone is now rallying around this man and Eliza like a a a a -

ELIZA
Like some buskers-

KEYBOARDIST
Eliza's thinking -

ELIZA
I could get some money out of this-

KEYBOARDIST
She's always got to be thinking about that-

ELIZA

It's not that she wants to think like that- it's that if she doesn't think like that then she doesn't know when the next meal is coming or if rent can be paid. Can she buy that pack of cigs or a little joint-

KEYBOARDIST

I don't think she does that-

ELIZA

Oh! Eliza absolutely does that-

KEYBOARDIST

I don't think she does. I don't think Eliza smokes -

ELIZA

She at least enjoys a joint- can we agree to that?

KEYBOARDIST

Vaping- Eliza could vape-

ELIZA

There's no way she's going into a blooming shop for a bloody vape. No. She's grabbing cigs off her mates in Covent Garden and she has a big old drag on a Saturday night.

KEYBOARDIST

Why would she do that?

ELIZA

Because she can't always be that Audrey Hepburn Eliza everyone wants her to be.