

Oscar and Jim

by

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First presented at the High Tide Festival, The Cut, Halesworth, Suffolk 6th April 2007. The cast was as follows.

Emma: Charlie Covell

Gerry: Gareth David-Lloyd

Directed by Polly Findlay
Lighting by Lawrence Stromski
Sound by Steve Mayo

There was a reading of Oscar & Jim at the Soho Theatre on 16th July 2007. Emma was read by Charlie Covell. Chris Harper read Gerry.

Characters:

Emma: 20s.

Gerry: 20s.

ONE. CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

Music: "People are Strange" by The Doors. Fades out.

The Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Paris.

Leafy, quiet.

The dead at peace.

Gerry studies a map.

EMMA

Face it. We're lost.

GERRY

We're not lost.

Pause.

EMMA

We're so lost.

GERRY

We're not lost. You can't be lost when you know exactly where you are.

EMMA

And that is?

GERRY

Here.

He turns the map.

GERRY

No. Here.

Turns it again.

GERRY

No. OK. OK. Here.

EMMA

One of the above.

GERRY

No. Look. That's the Chemin Bernard. That's Chemin Leger. That's division 32. This is division 75. So we are - here.

EMMA

Where do we go from here?

GERRY

That way. No. That way.

Pause.

EMMA

Did you just look up at the sun?

GERRY

No. Yes. It's useful. I know where we are, it's just, which way are we facing?

EMMA

Brilliant. Now we're orienteering.

GERRY

Not a bad idea. There's a compass on my phone.

EMMA

Come to Paris for the weekend. And go orienteering.

Pause. Studies his phone.

GERRY

That way. No, that way.

EMMA

We're lost. Face it.

GERRY

We're not lost.

EMMA

We're so lost.

TWO. CEMETERY - LATER

Gerry studies the map.

GERRY

What does that sign say?

EMMA

"Avenue Transversale. Division 25".

GERRY

Why don't they lay them out straight? How hard would that be? Everything's higgledy-piggeldy.

EMMA

We are lost.

GERRY

We're here. See?

She looks at the map with him. They trace routes with fingers.

GERRY

Right here. You smell nice. Your hair.

EMMA

It's filthy.

GERRY

It smells great.

EMMA

I didn't want to use the hotel shampoo. I didn't want to touch anything in the hotel in case I caught something.

GERRY

It wasn't that bad. I thought it was - . Good value.

EMMA

Where's Oscar?

GERRY

Up here. Division 89. And Jim is down here. Division seven.

EMMA

So we go right and straight on - all the way up to Oscar.

GERRY

Even better, turn left and straight down and left again to Jim. And then back the way we came to Oscar. Your hands are cold. Are you cold?

Pause.

EMMA

I think we should go to Oscar first.

GERRY

Let's just get Jim out of the way. Then go straight up to Oscar. Here, I'll warm you up.

He takes her hands, rubs them.

EMMA

Oscar's right up there. Up Avenue Carette.

GERRY

Jim's just left down there. Avenue Morys.

Pause.

EMMA

Oscar's closer.

GERRY

It's much of a muchness.

EMMA

He's miles closer.

GERRY

I'd feel more comfortable if we could get Jim done.

Pause.

GERRY

I've got the map.

EMMA

Give me the map.

She grabs for the map. Laughing, he evades her.

GERRY

Better not.

EMMA

Why not?

GERRY

Well, you know. Maps and directions. Girls.

EMMA

Sexist pig! You got us lost. Give it to me.

GERRY

I think I'll just - hang onto it.

It becomes more serious.

GERRY

Emma! You'll tear it. It's not respectful! We're in a cemetery! Emma!

THREE. CEMETERY - LATER

Walking.

EMMA

This is ridiculous. I could get us to Oscar in five minutes.

GERRY

We're close.

He stops.

GERRY

We're very close. I can sense it.

EMMA

You sense the proximity of the skeleton of Jim Morrison? You have hidden talents Gerry, has anyone ever told you that?

GERRY

It should be here -

EMMA

Since when are you such a big Doors fan anyway?

GERRY

I'm not. It's what you're supposed to see. That's why people come here.

EMMA

The alive ones.

GERRY

He's very famous.

EMMA

I know that.

GERRY

"Riders on the storm"

(sings it)

"Riders on the storm. Riders on the storm. Something something born. Riders on the storm."

EMMA

"Something something born?"

GERRY

"Come on baby light my fire."

(sings it)

"Come on baby light my fire. Come on baby light my fire -"

Pause.

GERRY

"Come on baby light my - "

EMMA

Two songs and we're crossing the channel. On a pilgrimage to pay / our respects to a dead singer -

GERRY

There are more songs.

EMMA
Such as?

GERRY
Lots more. Anyway, it's more than that. There was a film. Oliver Stone.

EMMA
Have you seen it?

GERRY
No. But, he died didn't he?

EMMA
He died before you were born.

GERRY
He died young. That's part of it. There's a mystery too. Like with Elvis. Did he really die? Is that really him in there? Or is he in fact still alive, living quietly under an assumed identity?

EMMA
As a postman in Lincolnshire?

GERRY
That kind of thing.

EMMA
You want to find out? You didn't bring a spade.

Pause.

GERRY
He should be here. He should be right here.

Pause.

GERRY
What does that sign say?

EMMA
"Chemin des Chevres." Way of the goats. I just don't really understand why we're spending a significant - and growing - percentage of our weekend in Paris looking for the grave of Jim Morrison. He sang two songs which get used in adverts.

GERRY
"People are Strange."

EMMA
What?

GERRY
That's another one. "People are Strange."

EMMA
Three songs which get used in adverts. He died young. Or maybe not.

GERRY
There's more to it than that. Lots of people come here - thousands of them. It's not just what he did. It's who he was and how he lived. And died. And what he represents. Lots of things. The whole thing. (How did we get here?)

EMMA
What kind of things. I mean. For instance?

Pause.

GERRY
OK. For one. He used to get his cock out. On stage.

EMMA
Oh. OK.

Long pause.

EMMA
Why?

GERRY
I don't know, OK? This way.