

enVISION: Sensory Beyond Sight Script

Opening chaos section. DJ yells "STOP!! I'M BLIND!!" live on stage, pre-recorded text follows after that moment. Tempo of speaking should be glacial.

PRE-RECORDED

SHALEIGH

Are you okay?

DJ

Why's it so dark?

SHALEIGH

It's always dark in the beginning.

DJ

I live half in the light and half in the dark. And when the sounds get so loud, I can't find my way. Why can't people see who we are?

SHALEIGH

We see beyond the darkness and beyond the light. We see steps that we hear. We see darkness that we feel.

Here, you can give me your weight. If you fall, I'll catch you.

We need each other. Trust me.

Can we hold our hands on each other's hearts? When we do this, we can see each other.

The movement on stage reflects Shaleigh's last line, and as they continue moving together DJ begins to speak.

DJ

I'm standing here still trying to figure out what just happened. That was crazy. I was being pushed by the crowd. But I'm okay now. I'm here with you. I see your heart. It's beautiful. This is a moment of stillness. It helps to know that we are here together.

You place my hands over your ears, and you place your hands over mine. You are pushing away the memory of the sounds. Our foreheads touch. We begin to sway. This is a moment of safety. I feel peace. I feel love. I feel seen.

You're starting to turn around, and I feel the softness of your coat. You want me to lean on you and give you my weight.

You want me to trust you. You want to support me. I feel myself wanting to let go. You move my arms in curves like waves and as I let go it feels like we're flying.

Now that we're flying, we're back on our feet again. We turn to face each other pressing hand to hand. We can share this weight. We lean in. You have me. You support me. You know me.

I know there are others, just like us. I can feel their presence. Who's there?

DANCERS RESPOND

Hey DJ! Over here. It's Hannah. You're right. There are more of us. I'm here with ... and we are doing the same thing. We were there too.

It's Jonh! I'm with ... and we are sharing the weight of what just happened.

DJ, it's Kate! I'm with ... we're processing.

It's Lexi! I'm with ... and we are leaning on each other.

It's Alex! I'm with ... and we are just breathing together.

It's Mauri! I'm here too!

It's Kevin! I'm with Marco and Cindy! We're supporting each other.

Over here, It's Jesse. I'm with ... We're going to be okay. We're all going to be okay.

DJ

Who ever thought we would be right here? We were hand in hand when we lost each other. Now we are connected at the fingertips and the palms of the hands.

Our arms begin to rise like the sun bursting over the clouds. Like the silence above the storm, the calm inside the chaos. They reach up, and out, and come back in. It feels like hope.

Can we hold our hands on each other's hearts again? Can we all just breathe together? Let's Breathe In ... and out ... One more time, Breathe In ... and out ...

We have our hearts in your hand and you have our hand on your heart. I can feel the rhythm of your heartbeat. It's as if we know the same stories. I see your tears and your courage. I see your spirit. I bow to everything that appears within you.

SHALEIGH - PRE-RECORDED

Our stories are turning to memories.

That was how we all first met. The story of our bond. For a moment, we left you standing. We wanted you to let go of our hands, so we could all weave around you. Anxiety started to zigzag in your stomach. We didn't know how awkward that would be ... to leave you alone after all that. To be meeting more strangers. I thought you needed someone to tell you, I'll be here when you want me like a sound inside a shell. But you said you felt hand after hand reaching for yours and until that moment, you had no idea how many of us were there with you. And none of us knew how connected we all would be one day.

Dancers weave around standing audience members.

That moment made us feel so much. Finally walking out of that busy station together to the street with its pink sky. We didn't know then if we would be together again, remember? We all huddled up and started taking those group photos and the world just started melting away.

DJ

Come on everyone and I mean everyone here! All of you! Let's strike a pose, ready? One, two, three!

Sound of pictures snapping. Everyone moves into different poses along with the sounds of camera snaps.

SHALEIGH - PRE-RECORDED

Remember this photo? It's from the woods where we took that walk. It was fall. Cool crisp air. The sound of kids on the playground. A lone dog. Wind chimes from some distant porch. The smell of leaves after rain.

Autumn was just beginning. We missed our flight and suddenly had all the time in the world. So we sat you by that pile of leaves and just started swirling around you. That was the first time I told you, I'm going to tell you a story through my movement.

DJ

Of course! I remember!

SNOW GLOBE 3

SHALEIGH- PRE-RECORDED

When we landed, I just started making small talk. Something about the different resonances of raindrops on water than asphalt to avoid puddles, or the lull in traffic that helps us know when to cross the street. Then there was sound, its echo, and another sound that gave way to an endless procession of sounds. We felt tense in this new place. But then I handed you a flower

and told you to make rhythm out of the sounds to get our bearings and we began to dance right out of there. Whenever we took a step, the floor sang to us all the way to the exit.

TANGO CHOREOGRAPHY

SHALEIGH- PRE RECORDED

But the faster we went, the more I started feeling like a puppet being bound and tangled by the web of a dreamcatcher. When I went to reach for you, I missed you. And I fumbled around mixing up your elbow for your hand while pulling you around. And there we were, dancing in the nowhere of blindness. How the very concept of here and there began to empty itself of meaning. But we were still somehow supporting each other and we could feel a dim light growing over us, that beautiful nothing and nowhere with all its hope.

DJ

I can smell that dim light, it's going to rain again. The world is veiled until we hear it or touch it. Let's get our umbrellas.

SHALEIGH- PRE RECORDED

The rain is so generous, it reveals the totality of every object and surface around us. Do you hear that? The world is beginning to speak to us.

I hear the rain pattering on the rooftop behind us, dripping down a wall to the left and splashing from a drain to the right. Instead of worrying about where we are, the world is revealing itself. Some people think that our hearing is sharper, but we just pay attention differently. Let's sit here for a moment and just take in every single sound.

Under our umbrella it's deeper and steadier. The rain makes us feel like we are no longer isolated or lost in thoughts about what our body will meet next. Do you remember the time you said in the most sincere way, "You are so smart. You could do anything you wanted." I was so shocked by your tone of voice. Most people who gave encouragement in the past always sounded so hollow, so fake, but you sounded so real. It felt different. I knew at that moment that we would be friends for life.

DJ

I knew I wanted to give you something I always wanted to receive but never got:

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry the world makes you feel unnoticed and unappreciated. I'm sorry for the moments where your best went unnoticed. I'm sorry for the barriers that have limited your access and opportunities. I'm sorry they assume the positive and negative about your existence as a person. I'm sorry we live in a world that does not accept you for you and makes judgment calls

based on what they see. And more than anything, I am sorry they didn't put you as a person first and never tried to fully understand.

SHALEIGH- PRE RECORDED

You asked me once, when do I feel the most needed? After a long pause, all I could say is, I don't.

Before, I only understood my needs, not yours. This was the moment you finally offered me a chance to take care of you too, because I started seeing you and our hearts are not blind.

Carefully and gently I covered you with a blanket and started to wash away the imprints of panic we once felt. Sometimes only our body feels real, and bit by bit I wanted to finally give you a moment to experience the space and the soft cloth and the water all being there just for you. Something that moved towards you.

MOMENTS OF CARE CHOREOGRAPHY

SNOW GLOBE 4

SHALEIGH- PRE RECORDED

It was a warm evening in summer. The sun was nestling into the canopy of the trees, we were all together again eagerly getting ready. The aroma of perfume and cologne suspended in air, music from the distance floating through the window. You told us that dance or the desire to move happens as soon as you hear music, whether real or imagined. That it reminds us we are alive. In our minds we were already twirling and spinning with no fear of colliding with anything. We were entering a world where everything was an exchange of pressures that excited us and music was a vibration under our feet coursing through our bodies. It felt electric.

Even in this moment, we just think back on it and are together right there again. That room, those smells, the piano and the violin. The moon shining through the window. The floor under our feet. The sound of our toast to the night.

DJ

There is this saying that goose feathers are blessings that teach us we are all equal. Tonight, I propose a toast! May you never stop believing in your voice and what you have to offer this world! May you always feel seen and heard and understood! And may feathers fall from the wings of the night reminding you to never turn away from being you! Cheers!

WALTZ CHOREOGRAPHY

Dancers all cheer and everyone exits the stage except DJ who is sitting with his braille typewriter typing.

DJ-PRE RECORDED

This is why you will go on journeying, not through, but into. Not isolated but a part. Perhaps it's not significant if any of this really happened. True vision needs no eyes. You know you can see this clearly. From the world to you, I want to say thank you. Thank you for showing me a new world. Thank you for showing me a new perspective on life that is not often noticed. Thank you for showing me a new experience and a new way of embracing life beyond my own ideologies and agenda to help me to see the world for what it is. Thank you for helping me to take in the whole fullness of a person and not just part of a person. Thank you for not marginalizing me and thank you for making me feel important and included. It's amazing how you have a grasp on reality that is not fictitious reality but a reality that's built on immersion that is interwoven and interconnected. You always wanted to be thanked and so I will. You always wanted to be appreciated, and so I do. I write this now with a Salutation... Dear DJ.