

New Title: **Behind Tower Hill**

Behind Tower Hill is a community arts and theatre project for all age groups involving the Lake School community, and the local communities of Tower Hill, Crossley, Killarney and Koroit.

The show is to be created and rehearsed in six days Jan 2-7 from a detailed scene and character breakdown and some songs written in advance. It is to be performed at Crossley Hall on the evening of January 7.

It paints a portrait of a coastal village in summertime which is situated under an imposing physical element – Tower Hill. A few days in the life of the village are enacted and the dreams of the villagers are told by reference to Tower Hill, which appears to be the keeper of their imagination, their memories, their love lives and their hopes and aspirations.

The cast is made up of a few major characters, and a number of minor characters.

Songs:

Time Stands Still Behind Tower Hill
Lament to the Fisherman
The Ballad of Young Johnny
Summertime On The Coast
Finale – All Is Forgiven

Scene Breakdown

Part 1

1 Time Stands Still On Tower Hill.

The Young Woman sings on Tower Hill as the day begins. We see the town come to life.

Although there is no reference to it in the lyrics we see **The Major** organizing the installation of a piece of public sculpture – A memorial to **Young Johnny**

2 The Birthday Party

The Eldest Sister puts her father **The Old Man** on the balcony for the day. She rather neglects him and is unaware that with his acute sense of hearing - the winds carry sound a long way in these parts, he hears and knows just about everything. **The Eldest Sister** is helping one of **The Seven Sisters** prepare a birthday party for one her nephews. **The nephew** has invited all the children in the town to the birthday party. **The Eldest Sister** and the other sister argue because **The Eldest Sister** is trying to take over and make the party more about her **Spoilt Son**.

3 Gossip and rage

The Widow rejects an application from a prospective tenant to rent a room in her house. She gives her reply to **The Postman**. **The Postman's Wife** gossips about **The Widow** and something about the Major, and but the gossip is washed away by **The Eldest Sister's** rage that **The Young Woman's Boy** has kicked and trampled on one of her other sister's boys at school. **The Eldest Sister** leads the outrage against **The Young Woman**, and plans to make demands on **The School Teacher** and the Education Department to get retribution.

4 The Lament For Young Johnny

The Priest is writing a **Lament** for **Young Johnny** (although **Young Johnny** might not be mentioned in it by name). He has learnt from a confession that there someone with **Young Johnny** when he died. Was **Young Johnny** murdered? He is unable to write the final verse

5 The Young Woman tells of her lover – Young Johnny

The Young Woman cleans the floor of the Shire Hall and muses and tells **The Young Woman's Friend** about the events that have lead to her boy being suspended from school. She reveals to the audience that she was secretly in love with **Young Johnny**.

6 The Young Woman's Son is not welcome

The Eldest Sister, leading **The Seven Sisters**, tells **The Young Woman** that her boy is not welcome at the birthday party.

7 The Widow wants no part of the statue

The Mayor visits **The Widow** to make plans to unveil the statue. **The Widow** however declares she wants no part of the ceremony and suggests **The Musicians Wife** be the sponsor (**The Musicians Wife** runs a surf clothing shop)

8 While the fisherman sing, the kids give The Major an idea

Children's birthday party where the children gossip about weird things and people they have seen at Tower Hill. The adults brag about their children, and the children compete to impress with party pieces. The episode gives **The Mayor** the idea to get **The Musician** to write a song for the opening of the statue, and to form a choir to sing the song. Down in the Pub The Fisherman who won't go

out because its too rough. Its always too rough and they sing the shanty, **The Ballad of Young Johnny**

Part 2

9 The New Man meets the Young Woman

The New Man visits the Shire Hall where the Farewell for him before he left for the war was held.

He is interrupted by **The Young Woman** and her **Son**. She tells him that she is too scared to send her son to school at the moment because of **The Eldest Sister's** threats. After listening for a while **The New Man** leaves hurriedly in the direction of Tower Hill. She calls after him, "Who are you?"

10 Summertime (not Springtime) on the Coast

To the derision of the choir, **The Musician** tries to base his song on Younger than Springtime (from South Pacific) but a choir member suggests the word summertime, and the musicians re-works his song into **Summertime On The Coast**

11 The Confession about the New Man

The Young Woman confesses to the Priest her problems and how she is outcast. She mentions the New Man.

The Priest questions her about the New Man but she can't give him any definite answers, although she says she saw him headed towards Tower Hill.

12 The Priest looks for The New Man but finds a book

The Priest goes to Tower Hill where there is a man living in a rain water tank on its side. The Man is not home. The

priest finds a book of Celtic Tales on the man's table and borrows it.

13 The Young Woman's Son is saved by the New Man

The Young Woman is looking for her son who is lost. The boy is being taunted by the other children in the town, but is rescued from the teasing by the New Man. **The Young Woman** accuses **The New Man**, but **The Young Woman's Son** then tells her **The New Man** saved him.

14 The Eldest Sister stirs up a storm

At a family meeting **The Eldest Sister** stirs her family into a fury at the news that **The School Teacher** is not taking any action against **The Young Woman's Son** and are re-instating him at school. **The Eldest Sister** exhorts **The Mayor** (her husband) to call public meeting, and exhorts her sisters to complain as a bloc to the Education department. **The Old Man** however tells her to stop being so stupid...**The Eldest Sister** becomes even more cruel to **The Old Man**

15 Was God with Young Johnny when he died?

The Priest reads the book about Celtic traditions, and finds inspiration to write the final verse of his song that - God was beside Young Johnny when he died. But he is not so sure...

16 The Young Woman hears the New Man's Tale

The Young Woman finds the New Man. She asks him where he is from. He confesses that he is a soldier who was thought to be dead. He says he has been unable to reveal himself because he was present when the Widow's husband died, and it was an unfortunate tale.

17 **The Rehearsal of the Unveiling of the Statue**

The afternoon rehearsal for the unveiling of **Young Johnny** is underway. The choir sings with gusto **Summertime on the Coast**.

18 **Is The Major the father of Young Johnny?**

While the six of **The Seven Sisters** are making pancakes for the unveiling of the statue the gossip is flying that **The Mayor** is the father of **The Young Woman's Son**. The Sisters ask themselves - How are we going to tell the Eldest Sister?

19 **A Boy was With Young Johnny**

The Priest visits **The Man in The Rainwater tank**, and **The Man** tells him that there was a boy who was with the Young Johnny when he died. **The Priest** interrupts **The Man** when there is obviously more to tell. **The Priest** is now able to write another verse of his song. A tragic tale in which the boy dies with his father.

20 **The Young Woman and New Man Embrace**

The Young Woman convinces the new man to go and speak to his Father, The Old Man. The Young Woman and the New Man embrace.

21 **The School is Closed**

The school has been closed by **The Minister for Education** because of a dispute about **The Young Woman's Son**. **The Eldest Sister** petitions **The Minister** to exclude **The Young Woman's Son** from the school, which would allow it to re-open. **The Minister** refuses.

22 **The Boy Lives**

The Man in the Rainwater tank seeks out **The Priest** and tells him the news that he neglected to tell him.

The boy with **Young Johnny** survived and lives in the town.

23 Pancakes and accusations are flying

The unveiling of the **Young Johnny** statue by **The Mayor** is upset by **The Eldest Sister** who throws a pancake in the face of her husband, **The Mayor**, and accuses him of fathering **The Young Woman's Son**. **The Priest** speaks up that the father of **The Young Woman's Son** might have been Young Johnny. The sisters faint and are then revived. **The Young Woman** speaks up and confirms that **Young Johnny** was indeed the boy's father.

The sisters faint again and are then revived.

The Eldest Sister throws a pancake at the Young Woman and says its not true...**The Young Woman** throws a pancake back saying, "Its true, and I'll tell you something else that's true...!" They all look down the road.

The New Man and **The Old Man** (who are father and son) slowly walk towards the ceremony. The New Man is welcomed by his family and **The Seven Sisters**, who faint again. The Young Woman announces that **The New Man** and she are getting married. **The Seven Sisters** faint yet again

24 All Is Forgiven

The wedding - **The Young Woman** and **The New Man** get married by **The Priest**. At the wedding reception, **The Eldest Sister** asks forgiveness from **The Young Woman**, and is resolved to the fact that **The Old Man** has moved in with **The New Man and the Young Woman**. Cast sings **All Is Forgiven** as **The Man In The Rain Water Tank** smiles benignly

