

I Travel

a short play

by

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Cast

WARREN

CLIFF

TIM

STAN

Setting

A highway in the deserted outback.

Offstage left is a cliff, offstage right are trees. The road runs dead centre - upstage to downstage.

Time

Dusk.

I Travel

In darkness we hear music: I Travel - Simple Minds

Lights up. The four characters stand in a square facing outwards.

CLIFF Extreme Left, **TIM** on the road Downstage centre, **STAN** Extreme Right and **WARREN** on the road Upstage centre.

STAN is smoking a cigarette. Silence.

STAN drops the cigarette butt to the ground and stamps it out. Pause.

WARREN turns. He goes to **TIM** and gives him a cigarette. **TIM** places the cigarette in his mouth and **WARREN** lights it with a red lighter.

TIM takes a puff. **WARREN** returns to his position. Pause.

TIM: Long time, no see.

WARREN EXITS, RIGHT.

LONG PAUSE.

STAN: I've been thinking.

TIM: Yeah

STAN: These trees ... I ...

TIM: Yeah ?

STAN: They're tall.

TIM: Alright.

PAUSE.

CLIFF: Falling

STAN: Slowly ... Caught.

CLIFF: Almost.

TIM: Fuck !

PAUSE.

STAN: Ochre. What are you ?

CLIFF: Black.

TIM: Grey. (PAUSE) Lines.

STAN: Circles.

CLIFF: Squares.

TIM: Stretching.

CLIFF: Crumbling.

STAN: Swelling, pulsating, bleeding -

TIM: Enough.

LONG PAUSE.

CLIFF: This town ... An old man ...

TIM: Dying.

CLIFF: Smoked a pipe.

STAN: Still living.

TIM: Maybe.

CLIFF: Used to pack it with big brown wads of tobacco. Big, long, brown
- stretch forever - bits of tobacco.

STAN: While he sat outside the pub.

TIM: Kids playing.

STAN: Hopscotch ...

CLIFF: Marbles.

TIM: Doesn't matter.

CLIFF: Perhaps. (LONG PAUSE) Or ...

STAN: Hotel. Dingy hotel. Rust stained walls. Black scuttling cockroach on a scarred lino floor.

CLIFF: Stomp !

STAN: Stamp.

TIM: Stump.

STAN: Lump.

CLIFF: Pump.

TIM: Jump.

WARREN: (ENTERING RIGHT) Cunt !

SILENCE. **WARREN** THROWS A ROCK ON TO THE ROAD. HE HOPSCOTCHES OFF LEFT. PAUSE.

TIM: Runt.

CLIFF: Blunt.

STAN: Stunt.

TIM: Stunted.

CLIFF: Stunted old landlady.

TIM: Fat, stunted old landlady. Black buck teeth ... Spotted dress. Polyester sheen.

CLIFF: Rent high.

STAN: Quality low.

TIM: Not enough to show. Greasy food.

STAN: Scabby mice ...

CLIFF: Crusty lice ...

TIM: Feeding on unwashed -

TIM & CLIFF: Filth !

LONG PAUSE.

TIM: But -

CLIFF: Red, green, orange. Walk !

TIM: Walk !

STAN: Walk !

CLIFF: Hip to the beat. Excitement, dancing -

STAN: Thump.

PAUSE.

TIM: Sound.

CLIFF: Talking.

STAN: Fast.

CLIFF: Talking. Wheels.

TIM: Deals.

CLIFF: Shoes.

STAN: Stilettos.

CLIFF: Winkle pickers.

TIM: Sheer fishnet stockings.

CLIFF: Hi-heels.

TIM: Lipstick.

STAN: Stark white hairdos.

CLIFF: Cafes.

TIM: Coffee.

STAN: Poncey waiters.

CLIFF: “No tips thank you !”

STAN: Luke warm art on the wall.

CLIFF: Graffiti.

TIM: Colour. (PAUSE) Trains.

CLIFF: People.

TIM: Houses.

CLIFF: People.

TIM: Buildings.

CLIFF: People.

STAN: Too many.

STAN & CLIFF: Too many people.

TIM: Opportunity.

STAN: Chance.

TIM & CLIFF: Take it !

STAN: Might be raining.

TIM: Where ?

STAN: You know.

PAUSE.

TIM: Dust turns to mud. Mud turns to slush.

CLIFF: Children inside.

TIM: No games to play now.

STAN: That old man ...

CLIFF: Where he was.

TIM: Cold. Wet.

CLIFF: Drenching.

STAN: Cleansing.

TIM: Tough. Soggy newspaper -

CLIFF: Blurred.

TIM: No headlines.

CLIFF: Spattered tin can floats -

STAN: Like a boat.

TIM: Machine gun on corrugated iron.

CLIFF: Drowns baby out.

TIM & CLIFF: Lonely.

STAN: Home. (PAUSE) Whistling -

TIM: Hissing.

STAN: Wind.

CLIFF: To clear.

STAN: Sighing gum trees.

TIM: Cable.

STAN: Quenched thirst.

TIM: Dangling.

CLIFF: Just.

TIM: Isolated.

LONG PAUSE.

STAN: A leaf, on its own. Blown.

CLIFF: Lands ?

STAN: Easy.

CLIFF: Blue.

TIM: Shit !

WARREN ENTERS LEFT.

WARREN: (HOLDING UP WALLET) Wallet ! Long time, no see.

WARREN RETURNS TO HIS STARTING POINT. PAUSE.

THE SQUARE ROTATES CLOCKWISE ONE PLACE.

CLIFF IS NOW DOWN CENTRE, TIM IS EXTREME RIGHT, STAN IS UP CENTRE AND WARREN IS EXTREME LEFT.

TIM DROPS THE CIGARETTE BUTT TO THE GROUND AND STAMPS IT OUT. PAUSE.

STAN TURNS. HE GOES TO CLIFF AND GIVES HIM A CIGARETTE. CLIFF PLACES THE CIGARETTE IN HIS MOUTH AND STAN LIGHTS IT WITH A RED LIGHTER.

CLIFF TAKES A PUFF. STAN RETURNS TO HIS POSITION. PAUSE.

CLIFF: Long time, no see.

LIGHTS FADE.

MUSIC: I TRAVEL - SIMPLE MINDS.

END PLAY.