

Libretto

'I'm Your Man' – musical ballet

Dedicated to the lyricist and musician, Leonard Cohen

Length: 1 hour (60 minutes)

Style: story based

Libretto: Seraphima Bogomolova (copyright ©)

Choreography: Vojtěch Rak (copyright ©)

Music: selected songs and compositions by Leonard Cohen and Joe Hisaishi

Production: Seraphima Bogomolova (copyright ©)

Dancers:

The Young Man – Jakub Rašek

The Shadow – Vojtěch Rak

The Visitor – Tamara Kšírová

The Story line:

The story line of the musical ballet *'I'm Your Man'* is fashioned from life and inspired by the three internationally renowned artists and their work: the Czech writer Milan Kundera and his book *Unbearable Lightness of Being*, the late musician Leonard Cohen and his songs addressing the subjects of soul searching, passion, and love, and the creativity of the Japanese composer and musician Joe Hisaishi.

Characters of the Story:

The Young Man/ Jakub Rašek

A resident of Prague, The Young Man reaches out to the mysteries of the Old Town, searching familiar streets for the resonance with his longing for love and meaning of his life. His search leads him to explore the depths of his individuality.

His symbol is Rose.

The Shadow/ Vojtěch Rak

The Shadow is the darker side of The Young Man which pushes him to succumb to his secret desires and longings.

His symbol is a Bowler Hat.

The Visitor/ Tamara Kšírová

The Visitor is a young girl on vacations. She walks the streets of the Old Town, making plentiful Selfies against the backdrop of the tourist attractions. Documenting her life through frequent snapshots, she validates it, assigning the meaning to her existence.

Her symbol is Camera.

The story by the scene:

Part 1, scene 1

In the twilighted Prague a young man walks across the Charles Bridge. He is followed by his Shadow – the wise but controversial part of The Young Man. The Young Man is on the quest for true love and meaning of his life. In his walk, he comes to a café. When he is about to sit down, he discovers a book lying on the chair. Picking it up, he starts reading it.

Part 1, scene 2

At the same time a young girl – The Visitor - walks the streets of the Old Town. In her exploration, she comes across a camera. She picks it up and intrigued starts taking Selfies with it. Reaching a café, The Visitor spots a table and sits down.

Part 1, scene 3

In the café, The Visitor is attracted by The Young Man, sitting at the table opposite her. The Visitor lifts her camera and takes a photograph of The Young Man. The Shadow acknowledges The Visitor and, while The Young Man stays engrossed in his book, begins to pose for the girl. She enjoys taking photographs of him.

As the girl stands up and makes some steps towards The Young Man, he jumps to his feet. Annoyed at her intrusive attention, he tries to take The Visitor's camera away from her. After several unsuccessful attempts, The Young Man decides to change the tactic and, encouraged by his Shadow side, writes a note to The Visitor, inviting the girl over to his place.

Part 2, scene 1

While waiting for the girl, The Young Man faces his wise but controversial side - The Shadow. Having an inner dialogue with it, The Young Man tries to find meaning in his own actions. The Shadow convinces him to follow his desires.

Part 2, scene 2

Arriving, The Visitor takes more Selfies of herself but soon turns her attention to The Shadow, pointing her camera at him. Taking the camera from the girl, The Shadow encourages the Visitor to pose for him and takes pictures of her.

Part 2, scene 3

Falling for The Shadow, the girl spends a night of passion with him. As she leaves, The Visitor takes the bowler hat of The Shadow and puts it on, keeping it as a souvenir of the night.

Part 2, scene 4

As the girl leaves, The Young Man evaluates the romantic encounter with her. Finding the camera that the girl left behind, he starts looking at the pictures taken of her. Each photograph reminding him of the night they have spent together. The Young Man struggles to accept it. The Shadow tries to help him. Finally, The Young Man makes peace with himself and heads to the café to talk to the girl.

Part 3, scene 1

The Young Man is waiting for The Visitor in the café. He has brought her camera with him. When the girl arrives, The Young Man confronts her, explaining how he feels. Taking the bowler hat of the Shadow off her head, The Young Man gives the girl back what belongs to her - her camera. Receiving it, The Visitor points it at herself, but then, struck by a thought, turns the camera outwards.

Part 3, scene 2

The romantic encounter with The Visitor triggers The Young Man to realise that what he's been looking for in others has always been residing within him. Looking inwards, he discovers the beauty of true love and, opening up his heart, brings his Love out to share with others.

The end

