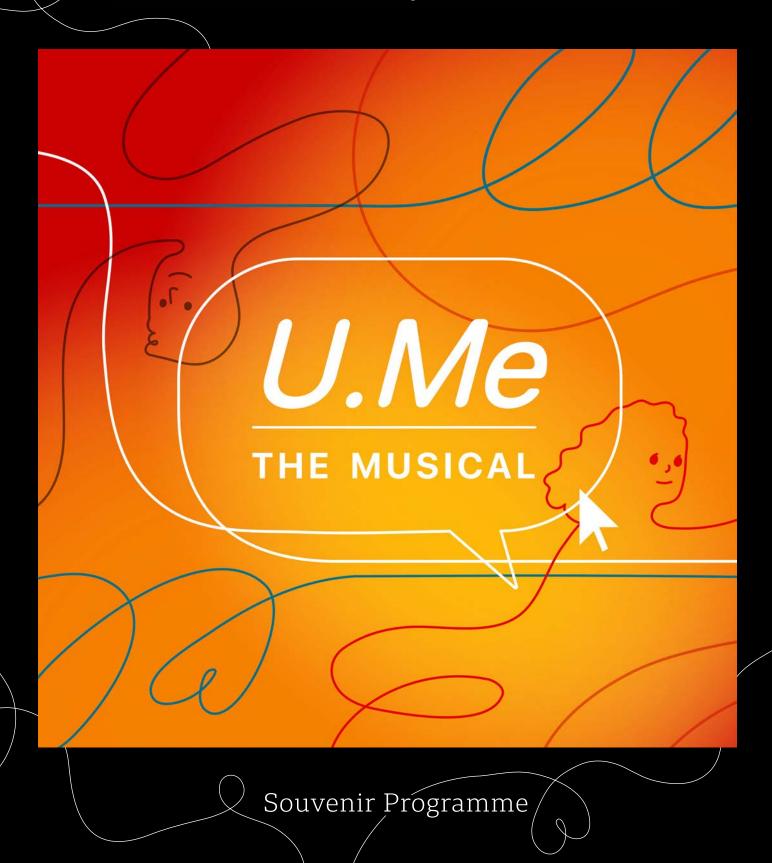
B B C NEWS | WORLD SERVICE









Narrated by Stephen Fry



WORLD PREMIERE
12th May 2021 //

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THE BOOK

Simon Pitts and Theo Jamieson

MUSIC & LYRICS

Theo Jamieson

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Steve Levine

CASTING

Will Burton CDG

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Jennifer Whyte

ORCHESTRATION

Callum Au & Theo Jamieson

PROJECT MANAGER BBC PHILHARMONIC

Beth Wells

DRAMATURGY

Ali C Smith





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Introduction

More than 300 years BC,

Aristotle was probably one of the first people to point out the wonderfully cathartic quality of every form of art; that ability it has to put our emotions through the wringer and leave us feeling comforted, uplifted and inspired. What would any of us have done during lockdown if it weren't for the music, images and stories that came into our homes to connect us to each other and give us hope?

Many of our storytellers were cut off from income streams during the pandemic, but leaving themselves vulnerable in every way is something they're used to. Many have continued to create, unpaid and in isolation, documenting these extraordinary times so that we, and those who come after, would be able to understand this moment in a way that is truthful, universal and profound.

Our century-long love affair with audio storytelling has continued into the digital age, with broadcasting, podcasting, streaming and audiobooks reaching millions of ears every day, whoever we are and wherever we go. We each create our own movie of what we're hearing in our minds, honing our imagination, and in turn allowing us to better innovate, adapt and empathise - attributes that are surely even more important right now than ever before.

Stephen Fry





ROSE Anoushka Lucas

RYO Martin Sarreal

KENJIKevin Chen

ALYSSANicole Deon

HIROMIMichelle Yumiko Payne

Act One

Rose is working from home during the pandemic lockdown when she meets Ryo online.

They find a shared passion and enjoy an unusual video date.

No Interval

Act Two

As maid of honour, Rose makes the final preparations for her best friend Alyssa's epic internet wedding.

Meanwhile, Ryo rushes to hospital in Kyoto.

No Interval

Act Three

Ryo examines his own life, and the time he's spent living other people's priorities.

Rose offers a most precious gift.







ANOUSHKA. LUCAS //

@s Rose

Anoushka Lucas was raised in a big French-Cameroonian-Anglo-Indian family, and studied Russian and Italian at Oxford. She starred as Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, as well as appearing in Faces in the Crowd, Chiaroscuro and Sparks.

Influenced by Carole King, Zadie Smith, Amy Winehouse and Billie Holiday, Anoushka has been writing songs since the age of 14, and her music has been championed by BBC Radio 2 and Jazz FM, with her debut album Dark Soul released in 2019. She has composed original scores for major touring theatre productions, winning an award for Best Musical at the Edinburgh fringe.

Her lockdown highlights include a Christmas of rom-coms in pyjamas with family, long strolls in the rain, nocturnal phone calls with Stateside friends and watching Buffy with her sister.

// MARTIN. SARREAL

@s_Ryo_

Born in Malaysia to Portugese-Filipino and Chinese parents, Martin Sarreal is an actor and filmmaker. He grew up in Hong Kong before heading to drama school in London.

He has trodden the boards at Shakespeare's Globe and the National Theatre, as well as playing roles in Sin and Romeo and Juliet. He has appeared in music videos and films such as Toof and The Dew.

Martin learnt valuable lessons during the pandemic: firstly, that the novelty of cycling everywhere wears off quickly; secondly, that running in the great outdoors is more fun than he thought; and thirdly, that it's important to be kind to each other. He learnt this when he got locked down with a brand new housemate after just one week; luckily, due to a shared quirky sense of humour, they still get on very well.





KEVIN. SHEN // ____@s_Kenji____

London-based Kevin Shen's previous theatre credits include Paper Dolls, Snow in Midsummer with the RSC and Yellow Face at the National Theatre. He has also worked in television, in shows like Criminal Minds and Eastenders, and films like A Christmas Prince: The Royal Baby. During lockdown he has rediscovered a love for playing the guitar and the piano, done some balcony gardening, recreated his favourite restaurant meals and gone a little carb crazy. He also hopes that the virtual movie-watching sessions that he has been enjoying with friends all over the globe continue post-pandemic.

MICHELLE. YUMIKO PAYNE //

@s_Hiromi_

Michelle Yumiko Payne is a Japanese-Australian entertainer who lives in Tokyo. She has presented on Japanese television and on HBO. As a singer she has performed on stages and screens all over the world, and she has recorded with artists including Robbie Williams. Experiencing the pandemic with her housemates has made them like family.



NICOLE. DEON // @s Alyssa

Originally from Manchester, Nicole Deon trained at the Hammond School, and her work includes roles in Standing at the Sky's Edge, Miracle on 34th Street at the Liverpool Everyman and West Side Story with the Estonian National Opera. During lockdown she ended up living with her parents, but was delighted to find that they got along like best friends. She loves hot baths with bath bombs, is learning Spanish on an app, and loves the rollercoaster of life as an actress. Her motto? You have to do what sets your soul on fire, so be persistent and believe in yourself.







THEO. JAMIESON

composer

Theo Jamieson is an award-winning composer, lyricist, musical director and pianist. He has worked on Everybody's Talking About Jamie, The Wild Party, Funny Girl, High Society, Here Lies Love and Treasure Island, and was the piano soloist in the Opera North orchestra for The Light in the Piazza. He has developed musicals at the National Theatre and Theatre Royal Stratford East, and his classical compositions have been performed by the St Paul's Sinfonia and the English National Ballet Orchestra. He was recently made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, and spent lockdown learning to complete a Rubik's cube in under three minutes.





STEVE. LEVINE music producer

Award-winning producer Steve Levine produced Culture Club's classic hits and all three of their multi-platinum albums. Other artist collaborations include Lemmy & Motorhead, Sigue Sigue Sputnik, Mis-Teeq, 911, the Clash and the Beach Boys. He produces and presents the acclaimed show The Record Producers for BBC Radio 2 and BBC 6 Music. Recent sessions include the debut album for Hushtones and music for the video game HyperBrawl with Apple Arcade. He is a director of PRS for music, and a LIPA Companion. During lockdown, he enjoyed the Tiger King zeitgeist and a well-timed video call with his friend Boy George.

STEPHEN. FRY narrator

Stephen Fry is an English actor, writer, poet. comedian, television presenter and film director. He formed a double act with Hugh Laurie after meeting him in the Cambridge Footlights, and together they wrote and co-starred in A Bit of Fry & Laurie, as well as playing the eponymous roles in Jeeves and Wooster. Fry's acting roles include an award-winning performance as Oscar Wilde, as well as roles in Blackadder, Kingdom, V for Vendetta, The Hobbit and Veep. Fry has written and presented several documentary series, contributed columns and articles for newspapers and magazines, appeared frequently on radio, and has written seven books. He has been an advocate of the rights of the LGBT community for 30 years, and is the president of Mind, Britain's largest mental health charity.



SIMON. PITTS creator 'U.Me'

Simon Pitts lives in London, and looks after arts, music and drama radio and digital programming at the BBC World Service. He has worked as an editor, producer and director on arts, news and factual programming, and has won awards as an independent film-maker. He fits in (occasional) piano practice around a busy life with a young family. He says that lockdown at home feels like winning the lottery as it affords precious time to be around his baby daughter.















CASTING

Will Burton has worked on West End Theatre productions, including Matilda, Heathers, Everybody's Talking About Jamie and Ghost. He has also worked on TV shows

The Voice, So You Think You Can Dance, and Disney films Mary Poppins Returns and Beauty & the Beast, as well as upcoming Netflix original musical Matilda.

Ally. C. Smith



DRAMATURG

Ally C Smith is an award-winning script writer and songwriter, and has seen her work performed on stages from London to New York. She has worked in

film. and for RADA, where she is currently Playwriting Tutor. During lockdown, she designed her own knitting patterns, and learned never to take a hug for granted.

Jennifer. Whyte



MUSICIAL DIRECTOR

Jennifer Whyte has played the piano in concert halls all over the world, as well as on the sets of blockbuster movie Les Miserables,

and hit show X Factor. She has directed the music in iconic musical theatre productions like Avenue Q and The Wiz, and orchestrated on Netflix sensation The Crown.

Callum. Au



ORCHESTRATOR

Born to a Scottish mother and a Chinese father. Callum spent most of his formative years in Blackpool before moving to London. He has written music for international artists

including Quincy Jones, Jamie Cullum and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He also arranged the big band numbers in the Hollywood movie adaptation of Cats.

Jack. Hymers



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ORCHESTRAL ARRANGEMENT PROGRAMMER

Jack Hymers graduated from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and now plays keyboards with the band,

China Crisis, and works as a sessions musician on stage, in studios and at festivals. He bought himself an amazing coffee machine to help him survive the pandemic and also, rather whimsically, signed up for a marathon.

Beth. Wells



PROJECT MANAGER, **BBC PHILHARMONIC**

Beth Wells worked for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra before running operations in South Africa for a charity, which included working on The Children's

Monologues with Danny Boyle. During the pandemic, she has been supporting musicians recording under duvets and in cupboards to continue making music. She also got married in a mask, with her parents as witnesses.

Joseph . Reiser



DIGITAL AUDIO EDITOR

Joseph Reiser is an audio engineer and producer based in Manchester. working both live and in the studio. His engineering/ production credits include

releases on Blue Note Records. Gondwana Records, and Tru Thoughts amongst others. He loves cycling so much that breaking his bike during lockdown broke him a little too.

Rocio. Cano



VIDEO PRODUCER

Rocio Cano is a producer and director who has worked on a range of popular programmes for the BBC and Sky Arts. In the past 19 years she has interviewed over

250 A-list celebrities, and her proudest professional achievement was running an ambitious scheme commissioning 50 art projects. She has spent lockdown infecting her children with her love of music.









<u>Musicians</u>

DRUMS & PERCUSSION

Joe Evans Dave Ormsby

ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRIC BASS

Richard Coughlan

ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRIC GUITARS

Danny Short Joe Smithson Jesse Eigen

ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRIC PIANO

Theo Jamieson

ENSEMBLE VOCALS

Sejal Keshwala Evie Rose Lane Jamie Muscato Tyrone Huntley Sophia Foroughi

REHEARSAL PIANIST

Jennifer Whyte

<u>Recording</u>

KEYBOARD AND SYNTHESISER PROGRAMMING

Steve Levine

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

Jack Hymers

DIGITAL AUDIO EDITORS

Django Holder Stephen Langstaff

MASTERING ENGINEER

Andy Wilson

DIRECTOR, **BBC PHILHARMONIC** Simon Webb

ORCHESTRAL PERSONNEL MANAGER

Helena Nolan

SOUND ENGINEERS BBC PHILHARMONIC

Lee Aston Jamie Birkett Samuel Jones

DIGITAL AUDIO EDITOR

Joseph Reiser

VIOLIN 1

Yuri Torchinsky Leader Zoë Beyers Leader Midori Sugiyama Assistant Leader Alison Fletcher Principal Kevin Flynn Sub-Principal Austeja Juskaityte Anna Banaszkiewicz-Maher **Martin Clark** Clare Dixon Julian Gregory Catherine Mandelbaum **Anva Muston Toby Tramaseur** Karen Mainwaring **Robert Wild**

VIOLIN 2 Lisa Obert Principal Glen Perry Assistant Principal **Rachel Porteous** Gemma Bass Lily Whitehurst Lucy Flynn Simon Gilks Sophie Hudgell Nigel Jay Christina Knox Rebecca Mathews

Alyson Zuntz

Claire Sledd

VIOLA

Steven Burnard Principal Kimi Makino Assistant Principal Bernadette Anguige Sub-Principal **Matthew Compton** Fiona Dunkley Alexandra Fletcher Nicholas Howson **Rachel Janes Ruth Montgomery** Roisin Ni Dhuill Cheryl Law

CELLO

Peter Dixon Principal Steven Callow Sub-Principal Jessica Schäfer Rebecca Aldersea Melissa Edwards **Elinor Gow** Marina Vidal Valle Elise Wild

DOUBLE BASS

Alice Durrant Sub-Principal **Ronan Dunne** James Goode Miriam Shaftoe **Peter Willmott Daniel Whibley Andrew Vickers**

FLUTE

Alex Jakeman Principal Victoria Daniel Jennifer Hutchinson Helen Wilson

PICCOLO

Jennifer Hutchinson

OBOE

Jennifer Galloway Principal Kenny Sturgeon

COR ANGLAIS

Gillian Callow

CLARINET

John Bradbury Principal **Fraser Langton** Colin Pownall

BASS CLARINET

Colin Pownall

BASSOON

Roberto Giaccaglia Principal **Bill Anderson**

CONTRA BASSOON

Bill Anderson

HORN

Ben Hulme Principal **Phillip Stoker** Rebecca Hill **Jonathan Barrett** Sam Yates **Jonathan Harris**

TRUMPET

Tom Walsh Guest Principal **Gary Farr**

TROMBONE

Richard Brown Principal **Gary MacPhee Tony Boorer**

BASS TROMBONE

Simon Minshall **Russell Taylor**

TIMPANI

Paul Turner **Principal**

HARP

Clifford Lantaff Principal



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LIVE EVENT PRODUCER

Edwina Pitman

LIVE STREAMING PRODUCER

Tessa Delaunay-Martin

LIVE COVERAGE

Amelia Butterly

DIGITAL PRODUCER

Stephanie Constantine

SOCIAL AND DIGITAL PRODUCER

Oliver Jarvis

DESIGNER

Alex Kessling

DIRECTOR

Simon Morris

BBC RED BUTTON

Richard Hassall

IPLAYER

Louise Burrluck

PRESS - LD COMMUNICATIONS

Doug Wright

Lais Martins Waring

Josephin Meyer

Animation Feature

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION

Naomi Otsu

ANIMATION BY

The Mighty Pie Creative Studio Ltd

LEAD ANIMATOR

Dan Masterton

ANIMATOR

Harry Fisher

ANIMATION PRODUCTION

ASSISTANT

Nicky Myers





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CONTROLLER

BBC WORLD SERVICE ENGLISH

Mary Hockaday

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NETWORK MANAGEMENT

Murray Holgate Paul Blythe

DIGITAL EDITOR

Anna Doble

WEB AND SOCIAL TEAM

Katherine Campbell Martin McCall

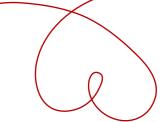
PODCAST TEAM

Jon Manel Alistair Riddell

PRESS

Esther Mulholland









With special thanks

LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS

Jon Thornton Head
Martin Isherwood Head

Head of Sound Technology Head of Music

Anya Weston-Shaw Georgia Whitehead LIPA Production Manager Management Assistant Sound Technician

Performers:

Oliver Priestley

Elizabeth Woodford Ellie McDonald Brittany Feeney Saskia Rudge-Thompson Cory Sapienza

MAGNUM OPUS BROADCASTING

Lewis Borg-Cardona

Magnum Opus Broadcasting Radio

& Podcast Producer

Nigel Dewar Gibb Lewis Silkin LLP
Ewan Billinge BBC Business Affairs

Felix Canetty-Clarke & Jack Robson

Sony Music Publishing

Rheana Forrester & Steve Cusack 3Tone Music

Ezra Meijer-Barnett Universal Audio

Bryan Borcherds *Arturia*Jamie Franklin *Roland*

Jeff Bloom Synchro Arts Ltd

Justin Myracks Native Instruments

Ian Bradshaw & team Korg

Jazz Lee & Jonny Solway and team *Dean Street Studios*

Sasha Regan Union Hire Rehearsal Studios

Billy Mahoney *Mahoney Audio Post*Kris McDonald *Keyhole Studios Ltd*'

Fergus Dudley Mathew Horne

Paul Christopher "Baby Bamboo" Beckett & Naoko Abe Beckett

Toku Creative Systems - Music Technology Specialists

(Studio & Live)

VIDEO CONTENT

Rocio Cano Video producer

Andy Dunn Freelance producer & director



Above, clockwise from bottom left: Brittany Feeney, Saskia Rudge-Thompson, Elizabeth Woodford, Oliver Priestley, Cory Sapienza, Anya Weston-Shaw, Ellie McDonald

Simon Pitts thanks Karen and Lily for their ideas and Mum for the extra pair of ears.

Steve Levine thanks Karen Levine, Jo Crocker and Louise Fennimore.

Theo Jamieson would like to thank Alastair Lyndsey-Renton and Helen Clarkson at Curtis Brown, Alex and Evie for encouragement and company through all this, to my family always: my mum, my dad, my sister, Gillian, and Martin.

Dedicated to my grandmother Danny. I love you and I miss you.

U.Me The Musical Programme

Designed by Rosie Levine Edited by Kate Ling-Davies

















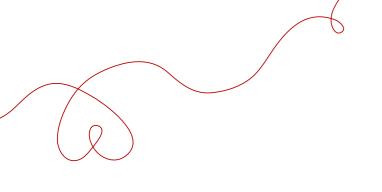


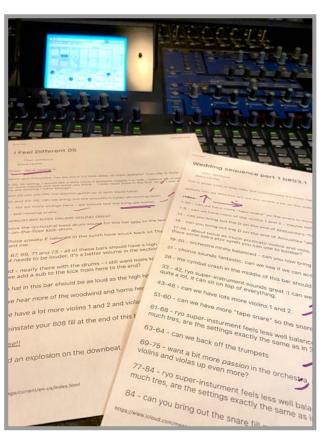


Top row (L-R): Anoushka Lucas (Rose), Martin Sarreal (Ryo), Simon Pitts (left) and Theo Jamieson (right),
Bottom row (L-R): Martin, Steve Levine (in his recording studio), Nicole Deon (Alyssa)

@ Dean Street Studios

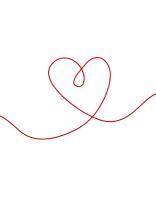
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Above: Steve and Theo's mixing notes @ Steve Levine's studio





U.Me
The Musical

THE COMPLETE LYRICS



Original cast studio recording available on all streaming platforms and www.3tonemusic.co.uk

All songs administered by Sony Music Publishing under an exclusive license



Performed by Anoushka Lucas

Oh my god this loading symbol - what is wrong!?
I've watched it absolutely freaking out for way too long.

What's the matter - no, look, it's getting slower, I swear! If the screen goes blank then I'm gonna yank out my hair Yank in, three... two....

Moved to London thirteen months ago today.
I always wanted to be part of it and I was finally here to stay.
My sister finished school, Dad said I've got nothing to lose
Drops me at the train, brought along the girls from my
Tuesday night football five-a-side
Everybody cried!
Kissed me on my way and here I am

So here I am. When everything stopped!

When the world stopped spinning!

And what I thought was a new beginning

Turned out to be a room and a screen and a ten-pack of sanitiser.

What do you do - when everything stops?!
When the system crashes
They close the shops! The siren flashes!
'Cause I've been here a year, spinning wheels, in this room smaller than a thimble
Desperate for more but my life is a loading symbol!

Nine-to-five online's exhausting, set me free.

I'd trade it all right now for bolshy crowds and buskers bumping into me

Working in my room, I end up feeling gloomy and dazed I need a hug a day, think that's just the way I was raised.

Now they're few and far between We're just waving on a screen Can't believe that life has come to this!

What do you do - when everything stops You arrive in London And then you watch as it all comes undone And all you do is digital meetings repeating indefinitely What do you do, when everything stops
When the world's best city
Has been turned off - and it ain't that pretty. And suddenly
the life that you want is on hold till a year or later
Feels like you stepped on an out-of-service escalator

And all the time, this voice is in my head... saying

"Rose, if you're struggling in London If it's too hard and you need to go home where everyone loves you

Then nobody would judge you." but I know If I give in

And go home

If I don't keep moving forward when I've waited till I'm twenty five years old

to start my life the way I want

If I don't stand my ground

However much home's pulling me

However much I'm tempted to go back

I'm going to stay and live my life and be myself but I am lonely!

I need to stick this out but I am lonely!

I'm making myself proud, I know it's only for a while

Patience is a virtue that comes hard to me

And though I've definitely improved this year it's hardly going on my CV

I'm not backing down, I'm staying till this town breathes again That's around the bend, I'll own my independence till then

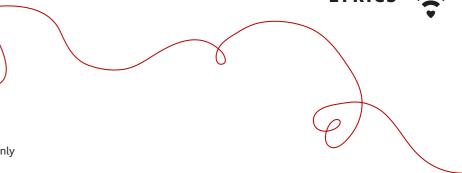
Cause that's what I said I'd do I'm brave, I'll see this through Stand my ground till life begins for real!

I'll wait it out! when everything -

Stops! When the life I wanted 'sback in the box, but I won't be daunted I've managed here a year so a few extra months will be childs-play

What do you do when everything stops?
When your life's beginning
And then it's not? When your world stops spinning?
You double-down on patience and praying for change any day
Mark the time because I'm sure my life can't be far away 'cause
that's what you do when everything

Stops.







The Poster

Performed by Anoushka Lucas and Martin Sarreal

On the wall behind you I can see a poster, well most of the corner anyway

If I'm not mistaken I think it's a band I stan called Phantom Holiday

Is that right?

Honestly I think that you're the only person on earth I've met who knows these guys

I am maybe slightly obsessed with them so if I'm over-excited I apologise in advance

Life in Lockdown

Performed by Anoushka Lucas, Martin Sarreal, Nicole Deon & Original Studio Cast Washing food. Disinfecting my food.

Ryo: I made a mask. My best-yet homemade mask.

Rose: Scrubbed my hands for twenty seconds, they've never been this clean before....

Friend left me a voicemail - don't know why but I ignored it...

Read the news and tried not to curl up in a ball on the floor

Chorus: Life in lockdown

Rose & Ryo: It's not the one

Chorus: Life in lockdown

Rose & Ryo: It's not much fun

Chorus: Life in lockdown

Rose & Ryo: It just goes on, and on and on, and on and on.

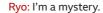
Ryo: So, why'd you move to London?

Rose: 'was my dream. Moving here was my dream. It's the best. I've always been obsessed.

It's just got everything, you know:

Vietnamese in Shoreditch. Kick-arounds in Regent's park. Galleries and theatres. Dancing crazy after dark. Living, laughing, loving. Making messes, making my mark.

Unfortunately, London isn't really London right now. So... yeah. Tell me about you!



Rose: Ha Shut up. But also. Tell me.

Ryo: There's not much to tell.

My sibs and I grew up and went to school in San Francisco, first-gen immigrants

Rose: Nice. Me too. Mum was from Cameroon. Where are your rents from?

Ryo: My folks are Japanese

They're like these world-famous high-flying doctors and terrifyingly great parents

(Mostly)

Ryo: Which means that I

Don't have much excuse for, what can only be described, as this quarter life crisis:

Packing up my life and leaving

San Fran for Japan one year ago and just ignoring what the sensible advice is

Oh, and just to twist the knife I think I'm

going to leave this job as well when I can get the nerve to and become a video artist.

Though somewhere deep inside, 'cause mom and dad are who they are, I don't quite feel like I deserve to,

but here I am regardless.

Standing on the edge...

Over-share?

Was that story an over-share?

Rose: Ha, no it's fine. Actually not miles from mine.

Sorry. I feel weird. Lockdown's sent me round the bend...

Ryo: Lots of people I know are struggling more than they pretend

Honestly I think it might help you if you called back your friend...

Chorus: Life in lockdown...

Life in lockdown...

Life in lockdown (it's not the one)

Life in lockdown (It's not much fun)

Life in lockdown (it just goes on, and on and on, and on and on, and on and on)

It's just begun!

It's just begun!

It's just begun!







Chair Dance

Performed by Anoushka Lucas and Martin Sarreal

Rose: Pick up that chair, Pick up that chair.

Ryo: Okay you too, Rose. Fair's fair.

Both: Pick up that chair. Let's dance them round the room...

Rose: It's kind of weird!

Ryo: Yeah, I don't care.

Rose: Admit it's weird!

Ryo: Okay yeah!

Rose: Forget the chair then -

Both: Pretend that it's me.

You're dancing with me.

I Feel Different

Performed by Anoushka Lucas, Martin Sarreal & Original Studio Cast Okay that was.

She is. Special.

That wasn't normal for me...

That was real.

That felt special.

I wonder if she'd agree...

Something started. Started nicely.

This is not my plan, precisely...

Okay, recap: why am I here -

I'm here to change the way I've been

Change the way I've always been

Here to wake up and shake off the borrowed life I've been

living in

I came here to get some space

Both in terms of time and place

Maybe I'm just falling for her 'cause that uncertainty is hard

Everything in my life has been within fifty miles of my child

hood address

First my degree from USC then job in tech, a monthly cheque I said enough, packed up my stuff, swapped the Golden

Gate for Japan and a mattress

Room to create - okay, that's great. Time to be me.

All right, let's see but

Something's different

Ever since she

I feel different

Something's different

Ever since she

Something has changed

I feel different!

I feel different

Ever since she

I feel different!

I feel different

Something cluttered

Has been rearranged

Ryo:Okay, "Hi Rose

How you feeling

So that was awesome last night

I think we should

Try a second

Rose: I think that you might be right

Ryo: Hi Rose, that's my favourite answer

Rose: Well, you're not a bad chair dancer

Ryo: That's 'cause I learned from the best

Rose: Ryo's turning out to be

Pretty lovely actually

Half a planet in between and he still flipped something

inside of me

Ryo: Oh my god I didn't wait

Didn't even hesitate

No idea if it's wise or not but we've got a second date...

Rose: Why did I start to spill my heart to, let's face it,

basically - just a stranger

I find it hard to drop my guard, but then last night, it just

felt right.

Ryo: Look at me diving in when I've barely weighed up the pros and cons and the danger

Is this too fast, and can it last? Hard to work out, but

there's no doubt that

I feel different

I feel different

This is something

Something different

Something happened

Not a mistake

This is different

Rose: (simultaneously) Who would've have guessed

This is different I feel different

This is real I feel different

Ryo:

I am different

And I'm awake

I feel different I feel different

I feel different

Ever since she I feel different

I feel different

Ever since we

I feel different

What if it's real?

something real?

it could be

he actually,

that in all this messy uncertainty

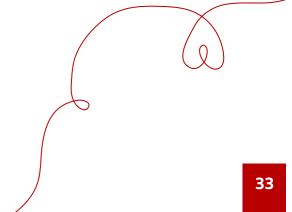
He was actually listening to me!

Instead of joking and relentlessly just flirting

And in a city that's not a a bit how it should be

Isn't it great to meet someone and find that

Something that's real I feel different



The Virtual Maid of Honour

Performed by Anoushka Lucas, Martin Sarreal, & Original Studio Cast

Rose: The first thing I agreed to sort as maid of honour for this Internet wedding is food

And that means organise four hundred plus deliveries of the meal, with a nice attitude

She wants to get married online

And it's her wedding not mine

But if it was me then I would wait and it be real

And maybe I'm a cynic

Maybe this could feel the same

But if it's not the absolute pinnacle of their lives I will not be to blame

I'll be cheering loudest, in a week when they tie the knot I love Alyssa so I'll give this a thousand percent of what I got

Ryo: The first thing I notice when I arrive at the hospital Is the nurse outside

How her face is marked

From her heavy mask

Then I go inside

And the second thing

Is that all of the orderlies pushing the beds are wearing

hazmat suits

Rubber boots

Worried looks

Rushing round

Scary fast

...I squeeze past

The third thing I notice when I arrive at the hospital

Is the interview

That they give to you

Has a different tone

Like, "Why are you here?"

"Do you need to be?"

And these questions don't come from a doctor or nurse,

they're from security

Put in place

Recently

Which makes sense

I don't know

Scary though...

Rose: The hardest thing to wrangle as the maid of honour

for this internet wedding's the squad



Rose: The girls from five-a-side, however ill-advised, will be the bridesmaids - so please help me god...

Make sure that they're not too obscene
Forget it's all just on a screen.

Still everyone seems convinced

Rose & Bridesmaids: Online will be amazing!

Rose: And maybe I'm just old school And the touchy-feely type But no matter how much I am told

Rose & Bridesmaids: "you'll get into it"

Rose: I don't believe the hype
But it's for Alyssa, who is basically my kin
So I'll be damned if I won't be the best virtual maid of honour
there's ever been

Yiiikes, it's already Monday... six days to go...

Ryo: The first thing I notice after Hiromi's on oxygen And they've made us leave Is that Kenji is Not himself at all

Nothing centres him Even video games...

And he jumps up ten feet in the air every time he hears

the telephone

And although

There's no news

He can't stand

Being here

He wants to be near her

She's gonna be fine Kenji, trust what you've been told!

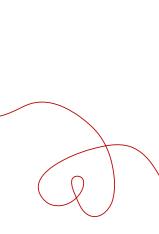
She's gonna be fine, she is thirty years old

She's getting the best care. That's why she's still there!

Kenji my parents are doctors and if they had someone her age as a patient then they simply wouldn't stop at anything

Everything

They do everything.



Still Life

Performed by Anoushka Lucas, Martin Sarreal, & Original Studio Cast

Bridesmaids: Tuesday

Rose: Compile the clips for the supercut video guest book I'm still waiting for some to be done and you can't believe how long the rest took

And dad isn't able to get through his take without crying, which isn't the best look...

Bridesmaids: Wednesday

Rose: I look for the name of the catering company's owner There are several last-minute menu adjustments to make so I phone her

Catering Company Owner: (through the phone) Hello?

Bridesmaids: Hi! So, half of the guests may have gone vegan since corona...

Catering Company Owner: (through the phone) Right...

Bridesmaids: Thursday

Rose: Mini-palm-tree delivery for the stay-at-home-honeymoon - I check the status...

Bridesmaids: Friday

Rose: Troubleshoot audio stuff for the Aerosmith impersonators...

Bridesmaids: Saturday

Rose: Signing off see ya laters
Then one final thing I've planned
Send out two thousand new internet wedding party
invitations and breathe....

Bridesmaids: Sunday.

Alyssa's wedding dayyyyyy!!!!!

Rose: And now I watch my screen fill up with squares containing every guest

Their webcams on as if it's real - done up in their wedding best.

There's my dad!

Forget I'm in the same room where the last twelve months have crawled along

Ignore how each time more than one guest tries to speak the sound goes wrong

But look - Alyssa's moved her furniture to make her wedding aisle!

And when her daddy walks her down it I can't help but crack a smile

There they go!

And just then when I'm going to embrace the online wedding

That's when the thing that we're afraid of, the thing we've been dreading happens

Something happens to her wifi, to her wifi, to her wifi And it stutters, and it hits me like a stomach punch...

Alyssa starts her vow the video freezes and a box says "error"

And every guest inside their square has frozen now and I just stare in terror...

And just as this glitch is confirming to me that they should have waited till life starts up again

That's when I see

How everyone's still smiling How they're frozen in applause

Then the timing makes me giggle Yep: the wedding vows, of course!

'Cause Alyssa just looks happy Like a painting, there on pause

She's a still life A still life

And that's when the screen unfreezes They say what they came to say I see that people are still people That that didn't go away

And Alyssa's still Alyssa This is still her wedding day

This is still life It's still life

Still love Still enough Still life

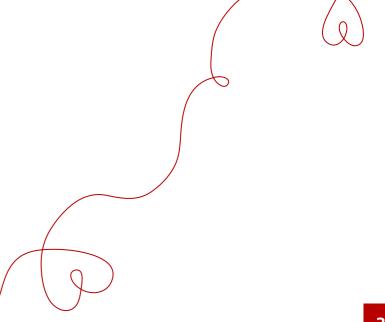
Ryo it's Rose I finished the wedding. I've got an idea. Call me or I'll get cold feet. Ryo it's Rose Okay I'll tell you I know this sounds mental Ryo, I think we should meet

I know that it hasn't been long
But I don't think my instincts are wrong
And when was it I decided life was on hiatus??

And maybe it's impulsive
And maybe it's the fizz
But that doesn't make this true or false, if it's true - and I think
that it is,
I think that we're real
And I'm hoping you might agree

0

So if I'm not making an absolute fool of myself hit me up when you're free... $% \label{eq:continuous}$



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Since the Funeral

Performed by Martin Sarreal & Original Studio Cast

Seven days since the funeral Kenji is starting to Feel it for real now And he's decided he'll move back in with his folks So he's packing up the house

Eleven days since the funeral All of the walls are bare Everything's packed away Kenji just drifts around and sits around and stares And Hiromi isn't here

And I binge the news until my eyes are sore Till I've no idea what anything I'm doing is for

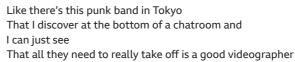
And before I know it I am drafting an email to my manager Saying "Sorry for the lack of notice but I'm leaving, effective immediately" And what's weird to me is I don't edit the language, I write "Sorry - but I'm thinking my life's way too short to be wasting it here in this job that is miles from who I want to be." And I end it: "Sorry if you're offended." And before I can believe what I'm doing I send it

Thirteen days since the funeral Kenji is going to Head home tomorrow. There's ten unread messages from Rose and I don't know how to answer them right now

Fifteen days since the funeral Kenji's not here now But I have been allowed To hang around a week But when the renters come Then I'm not sure what I'll do...

And I'm going to find my way there isn't any doubt If I keep my focus I know I can work it out

So all day every day I'm relentlessly Trawling the internet Dozens of deep dives and multiple tabs Look, there are so many different things that someone like me could be thinking of doing That could feel right



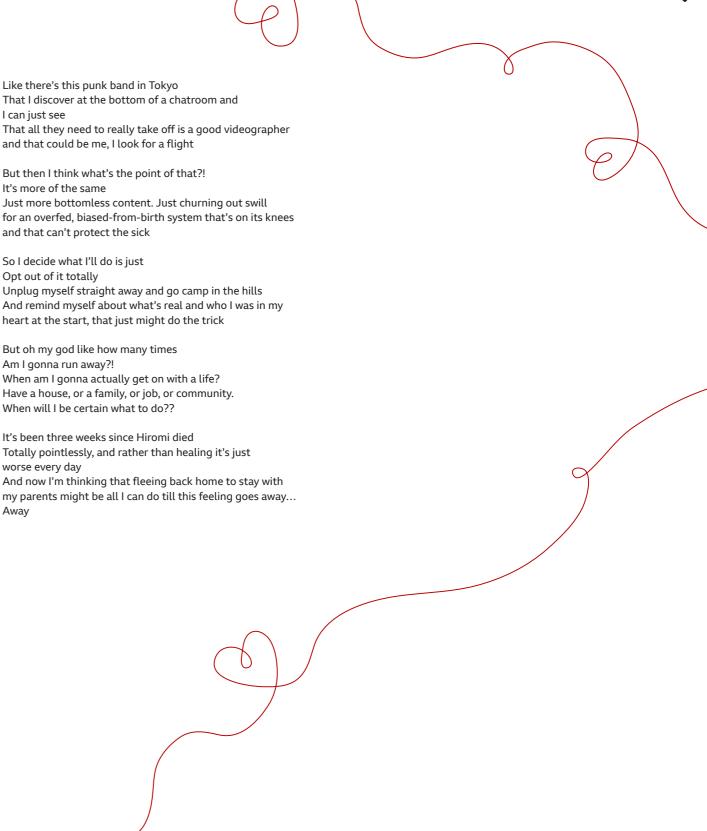
and that could be me, I look for a flight

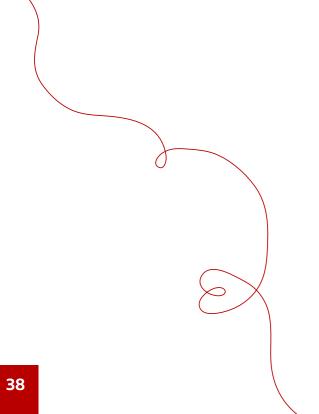
It's more of the same Just more bottomless content. Just churning out swill for an overfed, biased-from-birth system that's on its knees and that can't protect the sick

So I decide what I'll do is just Opt out of it totally Unplug myself straight away and go camp in the hills And remind myself about what's real and who I was in my heart at the start, that just might do the trick

But oh my god like how many times Am I gonna run away?! When am I gonna actually get on with a life? Have a house, or a family, or job, or community. When will I be certain what to do??

Totally pointlessly, and rather than healing it's just worse every day And now I'm thinking that fleeing back home to stay with my parents might be all I can do till this feeling goes away... Away







Choose

Performed by Anoushka Lucas

You've just got to choose 'Cause the less you let go of the more that you're going to lose

Pick

Close your eyes and just pick You can weigh up the pros and the cons till you make yourself sick

You've got one life and have you faced it If you're too careful - you might waste it Wait till you're certain: It'll pass you by

Choose

You've just got to choose Take a breath and jump even if you could end up with a bruise

Stay? Yeah

You could go, you could stay It's a game: flip a coin, draw a straw, just make sure that you play

'Cause you've only got one life One life One brief, blundering, blink-and-it's-gone life And you're the decision maker Make one, you'll see, you won't break apart Sometimes it's not a case of "follow your heart" Sometimes it's just that there's no way to know until you start

Choose

You just have to choose Because like it or not it's a choice even if you refuse Choose. Choose.

Realisation

Performed by Anoushka Lucas, Martin Sarreal, & Original Studio Cast

Ryo: What am I doing?? What am I doing?? Like, am I stupid? Am I stupid???

Okay that was -It's been years Since anything felt this right

Okay, scary But the good kind And now I'm booking the flight click.

Rose: Wow, what did I just agree to He wants to meet in person. Fine then, me too...

Both: Guess that we'll see how that goes...

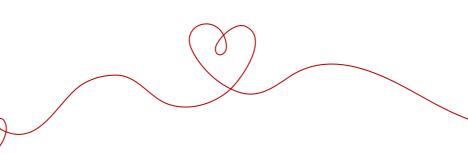
Ryo: Now I'm on the aeroplane A quarter-full aeroplane Wheels up in two minutes, and I am in my life again

Rose: One more sleep till he arrives Let's see if the chemistry survives One year of isolation now let's tangle up our lives

Rose: What will this be like?

Ryo: What will this be like?

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What Will It Be Like?

Performed by Anoushka Lucas, Martin Sarreal, & Original Studio Cast Ryo: What will it be like?

Do we meet in the same timezone and have no idea why, Why I'm flying fifteen hours through a giant empty sky With night on the left and day on the right, watching clusters of towns drift by

Rose: What will it be like?

Are we lucky and find we've still got a million things to say? Or will we get stiff, and boring, hit a wall and then give up and drift away?

Did we make the whole thing up to interrupt this year of grey?

Ryo: Do we bend the rules so much that we feel guilty? Do we find that we're too scared we're gonna make each other sick?

...But what if it's good pretty quick? And what if this is just a near miss? I mean - what are the odds lightning's gonna strike... What will it be like...?

Rose: What will this be like?

Rose: What if we're nowhere near as real,

Ryo: or we don't know how to feel

Both: like we felt on all the apps?

Rose: What if adrenalin pumps too hard,

Ryo: and I'm too guarded,

Rose: and I end up talking at him in all caps? What if I'm too afraid to be myself in case I make our house of cards collapse

Ryo: When I arrive

Rose: When he arrives

Ryo: we're wearing masks

Rose: we're wearing masks

Ryo: maybe I ask are you

Rose: are you

Ryo: are you

Rose: I'm Rose

Ryo: I'm Ryo.

Rose: And then we're off,

Ryo: that's how we start walking two metres apart

Both: can he/she hear the kick drum of my heart?

Ryo: I'm scared

Rose: so am I

Ryo: We agree I'll isolate for two weeks then we laugh and say goodbye

Rose: Then two weeks comes round pretty soon

Ryo: We choose a Sunday afternoon And she appears outside my room,

Rose: Do you fancy a walk

Ryo: And we're both totally relieved it still feels easy when we talk

Rose: We decide to form a bubble then we set off

Ryo: We repeat this once a week then every couple of days or more

And I notice how she looks different in the morning.

This is Rose in the morning.

This is her wearing giant headphones

This is her doodling on her hand!

Rose: This is him spilling coffee on himself.

This is him when he's shy.

This is him talking about his gran.

This is a tear in his eye.

Ryo: This is how she feels familiar. This is how she feels unique

Rose: This is how he's really listening, not just waiting for his turn to speak

Both: This is what it feels like

Ryo: with her

Rose: with him

Both: with you

actually physically next to me

Ryo: The real sound of your voice and of your footsteps as you walk

Rose: Footsteps as you walk

Ryo: beside me

Both: This is what it's like.

Rose: This is the actual warmth coming off of you,

this is your weight and how you feel

Ryo: Her eyes are dark almost black

Rose: His hands are surprisingly rough

Ryo: This is her playing with my hair

Rose: This is him kissing my skin

Ryo: Here's the tattoo above her hip.

Rose: The tiny scar next to his lip.

Ryo: These are her freckles

Rose: These are his arms

Ryo: These are her palms

Both: This is your touch

This is your touch

This is you

This is you

This is you This is you

This is you

You

You might be

My luck You

You might be My luck

My luck

My luck

My love

What will it be like? What will it be like?

What will it be like?

Choose.

