

Albatross Auditions – January 2014 – Elsie

Act 1 Scene 10 - Paintings of His Soul

Elsie: *(Tap Solomon on the shoulder so he turns around)*
What do you think of Miss Jane? She's fun!

Solomon: *(In gestures)* Yes! She's good at drawing too!
(He goes over to the board, where Jane has drawn a picture of a boat)

Elsie: Can you draw? *(Knowing that he can as Mama F has told her)*

Solomon: Well... *(Looking a bit coy)*

Elsie: Oh go on draw me something.

Solomon: *(In gestures)* What?

Elsie: Um...a butterfly!

Solomon: *(In gestures)* OK. *(He starts to draw a really beautiful butterfly on the large blackboard. As he does so, the SONG starts with Elsie singing directly to the audience...)*

SONG 8 Paintings of My Soul

Elsie **He makes me wonder, what's in his mind**
To scratch his surface, what would I find?
I want to know him, and find out more
Will he show me his pictures?

Solomon: *(finishes his sketch and taps Elsie on the shoulder to show her he has finished)*

Elsie: It's beautiful Solomon, really beautiful.

Solomon: *(clearly pleased with the way this friendship is now going, hands the chalk to Elsie and asks her to draw something.)*

Elsie: What?

Solomon: *(In gestures)* Um...the Bishop!

Elsie: *(Laughing)* I can't do that!

Solomon: *(In gestures)* Yes you can go on, try!

(Elsie turns to draw – and it is not very good! Solomon now picks up the song...)

Solomon I wish she knew me, knew how I feel
I dream she hears me, could that be real?
My voice fails me, I cannot share
All the paintings of my soul

(As Elsie finishes drawing, Solomon turns around to see, and he is amused, but attempting to be complimentary at what is not a very good drawing)

Elsie: Well, I tried! You can draw much better than me!

Solomon Should I show her all the stories of my life?
Elsie I wish he'd show me all the pictures in his mind
Solomon I think I'll show her all the paintings of my soul
Elsie I wish he'd show me all the paintings of his soul

Key Change: E to F

(Then a pause as they both look at each other, and in a split second Solomon decides that he will, he grabs her by the hand and runs with her around the stage as if going to his room...)

Elsie: Where are we going?

Solomon: *(In gestures)* Come, I will show you; I will show you ALL my pictures!

(Solomon's 'pictures' of his family and home life before slave capture, appear)

Solomon These are the pictures, inside my mind
Elsie These are the memories, you left behind
Both We seem much closer, less far apart
This is the journey of your/my heart

Instrumental – Touch Your Eyes Theme - Humming

(When they come to the last one of the Albatross, the music changes slightly, albatross theme comes in, and so the song ends on a questioning note.)

Solomon These are the pictures, inside my mind
Elsie These are the memories, you left behind
Both We seem much closer, less far apart
Elsie This is the journey of your heart
Solomon This is the journey of my heart

After song ends, there is a loud bell, tolling, a chilling atmosphere after all this beauty. The pictures 'disappear' and Berah, Scoot, Wheelie and Stevie run in.

Albatross Auditions – January 2014 – Main Chorus

Scene – John De Conquer

Introduction to the scene: Elsie has disguised herself as a boy to secure a job in the galley kitchen on board a ship destined for East Africa. Elsie's true identity has just been discovered by the cook on the ship – he's furious to learn that HE is actually a SHE. Fortunately, a Bishop on board the ship takes pity on Elsie and offers her his protection and care upon arrival at Stonetown, Zanzibar.

(The sailors watch the Bishop go and then crowd round Elsie)

Sailor 1: Cor, you were lucky Miss!

Sailor 2: Saved by the albatross I'd say! (They all nod in agreement)

Sailor 3: Bit of good luck for you alright.

Elsie: My father told me about the albatross, about how the big white bird flies on the wings of the wind and follows the ships, bringing them good luck.
(Almost wistfully)

(Sailors begin to sit down on barrels etc, leaning on things, ready for a story telling)

Sailor 4: Your father was right Miss; to sight an albatross is the best luck of all.

Sailor 5: It means it's gonna be a safe and peaceful voyage.

Sailor 6: And you must never harm it. Them's magical ya see, bring wiv 'em special charms. *(Some sailors snigger at him a bit, nervously?)*

Elsie: My father said the African slaves believed that. They believed that an albatross flying alongside the sails of the ship meant that they would have a safe passage to America, it protected them.

Cookie: Told you quite a lot your father, didn't he?

Sailor 6: Leave her alone Cookie.

Sailor 5: We've heard those tales Miss, from Sailors aboard the ships.

Sailor 4: The slaves reckoned the Albatross was an African God from Mount Kenya, come

Sailor 3: He was called John de Conquer, and when he landed on the ground he became a man, and you could hear his feet like the beat of drums...

Sailor 2: And his voice, like laughter...

Sailor 1: And the slaves knew that all would be well.

SONG – John de Conquer:

(Some of the Sailors are imitating the Albatross, using a broomstick on their shoulders as wings, with buckets on their heads)

John de Conquer, of feather and flesh
Could walk on the waves of sound
He was a saviour, a symbol of hope
For the slaves in the ships that he found

His spirit would follow them, guide and protect them
From horrors that lay in store
He was an albatross, graceful and strong
And will be forever more

CHORUS

*Walking with wings, walking the waves
Walking the winds that filled the sails
Following silently, flying majestically
Hoping to rectify human betrayal*

REPEAT

- **This song can be heard on www.albatrossmusical.com**