

CATCHING COMETS Synopsis

By Ransack Theatre, written by Piers Black

Sunday 22 July, 6pm – 6.30pm

On stage there is 1 young man in his mid-twenties. He wears jeans and a t-shirt. There is a microphone on stage. The rest of the stage is empty. He welcomes people into the room as they come in. He is friendly and a little bit geeky. His name is Toby.

When everyone is sat down Toby starts talking to the audience about The Simpson's episode called Bart's Comet. He then tells everyone that he has a part-time job at an astronomy observatory.

Toby starts to tell a story about going to his friend Emma's party where he felt out of place because everyone else at the party was a dancer and good-looking. The men are so tall and muscular that they intimidate him.

The story jumps to Toby's work life at the observatory. He plays out a conversation he had with a pizza delivery girl who got his order wrong. He ends up apologising to her. Toby introduces his colleague Steve. He doesn't like Steve. Steve downs energy drinks and crushes the can afterwards, but they share a desk. Toby discovers a comet which he thinks could potentially crash into Earth.

The story jumps back to Emma's party. Toby remembers being accidentally pushed into the middle of a professional dance-off, by a girl dressed in forest green, and being embarrassed. But the girl in forest green saved him by launching herself into the circle and dancing terribly with him. Once they stop dancing they talk very briefly, but Toby doesn't ask her name.

Toby tries to alert his bosses about the comet he has discovered, but they don't listen to him and Steve laughs at him for being pathetic. Toby is frustrated and wishes he was bigger, stronger and more heroic.

Suddenly Toby becomes a hero in his own story. He calls his bosses back and demands they listen to him. He warns them of the threat of the comet and begins to take action to save the world.

Toby remembers the time that he dressed up as Rambo to go to the cinema with his friend Emma to see the first Rambo. When he was there, Emma bumps into the girl he danced with at the party, but Toby decides to ignore the girl instead of saying hello. Regretting his decision, when she leaves, he runs after her.

The story jumps back to Toby playing the hero. He drives a motorbike to his boss' laboratory and breaks in. He finds everyone is dead, except for a crazy scientist.