Oneness

Voice without form

The extraordinary life of Swami Vivekananda

a play

by

Alex Broun

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS PLAY SCRIPT HAS BEEN DOWNLOADED FROM https://alexbroun.online/

BY AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF https://alexbroun.online/ AND PAYING THE DOWNLOAD FEE YOU ARE PERMITTED TO PERFORM THIS PLAY ***ROYALTY FREE*** ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD FOR A PERIOD OF **12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF DOWNLOAD.**

IF YOU DO PERFORM THIS PLAY PLEASE VISIT OUR **RECORD A PRODUCTION** PAGE AND RECORD THE DETAILS OF YOUR PRODUCTION SO YOUR PRODUCTION CAN BE LISTED AMONGST THE THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTIONS OF ALEX'S WORK WORLDWIDE EVERY YEAR.

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR ON

info@alexbroun.online

© Alex Broun 2012

Alex Broun
61 Greenwich Road
Greenwich NSW 2065
e: info@alexbroun.online
m: + 61 408 268 043
w: https://alexbroun.online/
© Alex Broun 2012

Oneness - Voice without form

was first performed at the Playhouse of the Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia on October 17th, 2013 with the following cast:

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Tade Adepoyibi	**Kali, Mrs Johnson, Ensemble**
Shaheb Chatterjee	**Vivekananda**
Dana Dajani	**Margaret Noble/Sister Nivedita, Ensemble**
John Gomez Goodway	**Sarat Chandra Gupta, Turiyananda, Ensemble**
Sontaan Hopson	**Elizabeth Dutcher, Dancing Girl, Ensemble**
Isaro Kayitesi	**Sarada Devi, Emma Calve, Ensemble**
Julia Kennedy-Scott	**Kate Sanborn, Surendranath Mitra, Ensemble**
Suparna Mallick	**Bhuvaneswari, Raja of Khetri, Ensemble**
Bali Padda	**Naren, Ensemble**
Jerry Retford	**Professor Hastie, Professor Wright, John D Rockefeller, Ensemble**
Robert Rhode	**Ramakrishna, Ensemble**
Carlos Sivalingam	**Viswanath, Yogananda, Ensemble**

Musicians

Musical Director	**Dr Kim Cunio**
Musicians	**Babu Cunio, Olatunji Beier**
Singer	**Heather Lee**

CHILDREN

Daya Chadda, Rama Chadda, Arjun Chowdhury, Veronica De Ferrari, Alisha Koak, Krrish Maini, Neil Maini, Siddarth Mallick, Aditya Anand, Suchita Rao, Arpita Rao

DEVOTEES

Diley Alanca, Harita Dhankhar, Carolina Diaz, Belinda Elchaar, Jeremy Ghali, Sampa Ghosh Dastidar, Sage Godrei, Mona Grover, Melek Karakus, Neil Khare, Reena Koak, Susan Ling Young, Shounak Mallick, Tamara Meyer, Anja Meyer, Tanya Monahan, Shreehari Muralidhar, Shourya Nidhi, Mimi Parfitt, Ethieli Revell, Kimi Seage, Sankar Sekar, Thulaisi Sivapalan, Veena Sudarshan, Aoibhe Tobin, Shantha Viswanathan, Alizon Vosburgh, Louise Wildman, Sarah Ann Wiles, Kelvin Zhou

Artistic Team

Writer/Co-Director	**Alex Broun**
Co-Director	**Felicity Nicol**
Set/Costume Designer	**Tobhiyah Feller**
Musical Director	**Dr Kim Cunio**
Co-Producer	**Madhu Sen**
Movement Director	**Adelina Larsson**

Research Consultant	**Robert Grant**
Script Editor	**Swami Sunishthananda**
Stage Manager	**Jarrett Hope**
Production Manager	**Prasad Tadipatri**
Costume Manager	**Ambika Tadipatri**

PART 1: ENLIGHTENMENT

Shaheb Chatterjee as Vivekananda: "As the music and chanting reaches its high point the lights go up to reveal VIVEKANANDA seated upstage on a podium."



As the audience enter the theatre we hear MUSIC. DEVOTEES sit on stage CHANTING. The smell of incense fills the air.

The audience walks through a welcoming tunnel of SARI CLAD WOMEN holding lamps.

Once the audience is seated the house lights go down and the music and chanting on stage builds.

As the music and chanting reaches its high point the lights go up to reveal

VIVEKANANDA seated upstage on a podium.

DEVOTEES enter and in turn they place sacred symbols at a table near him - the Catholic Cross, the Jewish Tallit, a verse from the Quran, a small Buddha, the Hindu Om.

Suddenly a group of CHILDREN flood the stage. They sit at VIVEKANANDA's feet laughing and smiling.

They stand and take VIVEKANANDA by the hands. They lead him downstage.

The lights snap to a SPOTLIGHT on VIVEKANANDA.

1.1: SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1893 - PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS, CHICAGO

The CHILDREN and DEVOTEES run off stage. VIVEKANANDA is alone now, looking nervous, edgy.

We hear a VOICE from the darkness.

DR. BARROWS
Our next speaker is Swami Vivekananda, our Hindu Delegate from India.

Vivekananda looks up, prays with folded hands and eyes closed. After a pause he begins to speak.

VIVEKANANDA
Sisters and Brothers of America!

Thunderous applause.

LIGHTS DOWN on VIVEKANANDA.

1.2: 1877 - DUTTA FAMILY HOME, CALCUTTA

NAREN, the young Vivekananda, enters.

BHUVANESWARI
Come Naren. Your father will read to you.

NAREN
But mother, I already know those books.

BHUVANESWARI
Naren, your father -

NAREN
No. I must teach myself religion. What right has my father to put all sorts of nonsense in my head? How many beautiful things have been spoiled by this horrible idea of a *family* religion, a *social* religion, a *national* religion? I must discover my own truth.

BHUVANESWARI
Naren, listen to your father. He will not always be there to listen to.

NAREN
Why should I? What has he done for me?

BHUVANESWARI
Siva! Siva! Siva! A son such as this. Must I hold your head under the cold water tap again.

VISWANATH
(ENTERING)
Narendranath - lord of men. How I regret giving you that name? Perhaps I have taught you all that I can.

BHUVANESWARI
Forgive him. He is just a boy.

VISWANATH
(TO NAREN)
Do you know why I read to you from those books?

NAREN
I must find my own god.

VISWANATH

And that is why I read to you from the Bible, the Quran and the Bhagavad Gita. Because I want you to find this god you are so desperate to seek.

NAREN

Yes father.

VISWANATH

I am not a stupid man Naren, just because I am not as smart as my own son. Naren, I am your friend. Not only your father. Why do you treat your friend so?

VISWANATH exits.

NAREN

There must be a God, a truth behind all this. I must find it. I must.

BHUVANESWARI

Do you know the day you were born?

NAREN

January 12th, 1863.

BHUVANESWARI

It was the day of Makarasamkranti. The great Hindu Festival. You were born just before sunrise, as if your birth was ushering forth the sun. Around the house millions of devotees had come to give worship to the holy river. Your first breath was taken when the air was reverberating with the prayers of thousands of Hindu men and women. I knew then you were a boon from Vireshwara Siva.

She kisses her son on the forehead.

LIGHTS CHANGE.

1.3: 1879 - DUTTA FAMILY HOME, CALCUTTA

NAREN

Mother, what's father up to? He is squandering all our family resources in meeting the needs of all sorts of lazy tramps. I found one of them indulging in smoking hemp.

VISWANATH enters.

VISWANATH

It seems some conspiracy is going on between mother and son.

NAREN

Father ?

VISWANATH

Come now, are you not your father's son? If you want to say something then have the courage to say it.

BHUVANESWARI

What Naren would like to know is why do you waste money in meeting the demands of any fool who happens to ask your favour?

VISWANATH

Son, in this world of suffering, if you can give happiness to a person even for a moment, know that much alone to be true.

NAREN

But father! As your son, what am I to inherit?

VISWANATH

What are you to inherit? Go, stand in front of the mirror. You will see what you inherit. (BEAT) I have no need to worry about my sons. They will make their own living; but these wretched ones have not that strength; they need help. (BEAT) I am raising you so that you can stand on your own feet.

NAREN

But then what is the difference between me and those lazy creepers?

VISWANATH

Just because a man has nothing does not mean he is lazy.

NAREN exits.

BHUVANESWARI

You see your son is growing up. How smart he is. Siva save me from an intelligent son.

VISWANATH

He may be smarter than I think but he is definitely not as smart as he thinks.

BHUVANESWARI

Are you aware that he has started smoking?

VISWANATH

No.