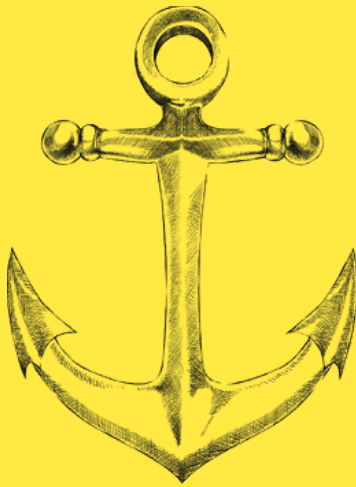


***Fishman!:***  
***The Musical***



A Musical Concept by  
Wyatt Bland and Pau Oliveres

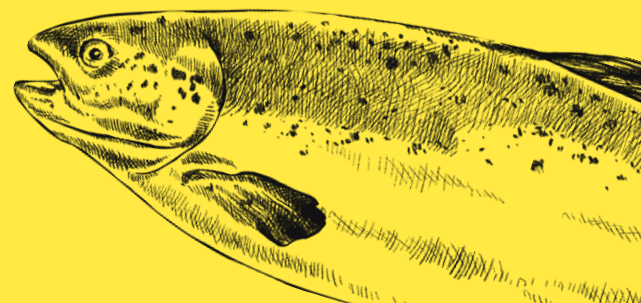
# OVERVIEW

*Fishman!: The Musical* is the harrowing tale of Joseph H. Fishman - a humble man who after receiving a magical charm and narrowly avoiding death gets turned into a part fish, part human beastly hybrid. In this two-act musical, we follow along with Fishman as he explores what he actually needs in life to do more than merely survive. Along the way, we meet an entire cast of characters from land and sea that help Fishman turn his life into an adventure worth living.

With inspiration from *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, and Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, *Fishman!* explodes as a wondrous fantasy interspersed with nonsensical comedy. The musical numbers span the genres of classic show tunes to glam rock to love ballads, but all carry the emotional heft of a fish-man undertaking a transformational journey of self-discovery.

This musical treatment covers the characters, synopsis, songs, and music and lyrics of Fishman's breakout number. We hope after reading that you understand the trials and tribulations of Fishman and embrace what it means to be a fish out of water.

## ***Fishman!:*** ***The Musical***



# THE CHARACTERS

## FISHMAN

Our main protagonist who reluctantly gets turned into part fish, part man. Initially, you're more likely to find him in his comfortable routine than in the bottom of the ocean.

## ADRIANA MORANIS

A fisherwoman who comes to find her own journey alongside Fishman.

## VERUCA

One of the chief antagonists who wishes ill upon Fishman.

## BILL

Veruca's buffon boyfriend.

## RILEY THE GOLDFISH

Fishman's "Rosebud" - a long lost childhood pet that was flushed away many years ago, only to return as a gigantic friend-to-the-rescue.

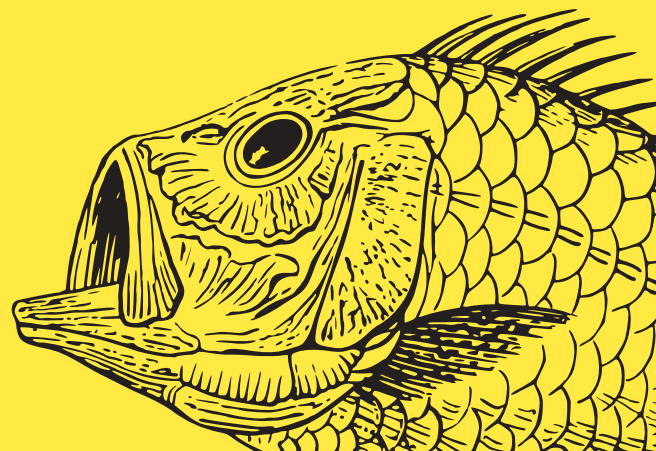
## LIONFISH

An invasive fish that is known for his tricks as much as his grandeur.

## THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER

Mystery incarnate. Stylized after Leonard Strong's portrayal of the Hitch-Hiker in *The Twilight Zone* (1960).

# *Fishman!:* *The Musical*



# THE STORY - ACT I

In the opening of Act I, Joseph H. Fishman wakes up in his run-down apartment and begins another lackluster day of work. He runs into his landlords Veruca and Bill who constantly remind him of his mediocrity. On his way back home past the wharf, Fishman sees the local fisherwoman Adrianna winning a fishing competition. As he works up the nerve to talk to Adrianna, she makes it clear to him that they come from two completely separate worlds.

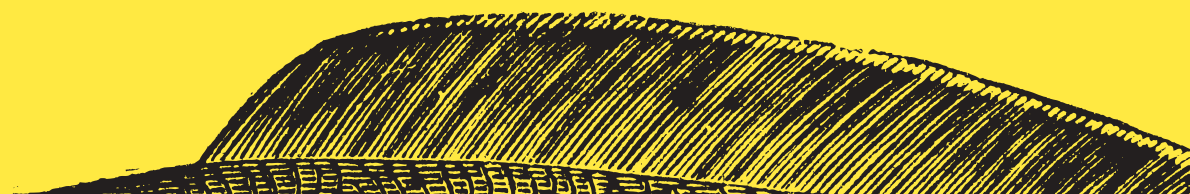
Feeling depleted, Fishman comes across a man about to be hit by a car. Risking his own life, Fishman runs into the middle of the street just in time to save this stranger. This man, who simply wants to be called The Mysterious Stranger, expresses sheer gratitude to Fishman and bequeaths him with a magical charm. He informs Fishman that this charm can grant him one wish, as long as he really means it when casting it. Fishman doubts the charm's magical powers until he starts to see it change in front of his eyes. Fishman then contemplates what, if anything, he would do one with one wish.

Now charged with a new outlook that the sky is the limit for him, Fishman naively thinks he ought to learn how to fish to prove Adrianna wrong about him and overcome his mundaneness. While alone on the docks attempting to fish, Fishman falls into the open waters and begins to drown. With the magical charm in his hand, he wishes that things do not end this way. In a flash, Fishman transforms into a fish-man and sinks to the bottom of the ocean.

While in utter shock by his new reality, Fishman discovers that he is in a place called New Fish City with talking, anthropomorphic fish. He is greeted by Lionfish, who promises Fishman that he has the power to turn him back into a human. But rather than help him, Lionfish tries to kill him. In the nick of time, an oversized goldfish comes to Fishman's rescue. The goldfish takes Fishman to safety through underwater pipes and then reveals himself to be Riley, Fishman's childhood pet that he flushed away many years ago.

Fishman now wants to find The Mysterious Stranger, as he believes that he can turn him back to being a human again. Fishman comes up with the idea that if Adrianna catches them, they can get back to shore. Riley and Fishman are captured by Adrianna, but Riley reveals that land is no place for him and encourages Fishman to go to the surface world without him. Fishman explains what happened to him and convinces Adrianna to help him out. Adrianna reluctantly agrees to help, and they set sail on a quest to find The Mysterious Stranger.

During the voyage, the Lionfish seeks revenge with a group of sharks. Adrianna and Fishman successfully fight them off, shortly before arriving to The Mysterious Stranger's island. After all this time searching for him, The Mysterious Stranger reveals that Fishman can only get one wish.



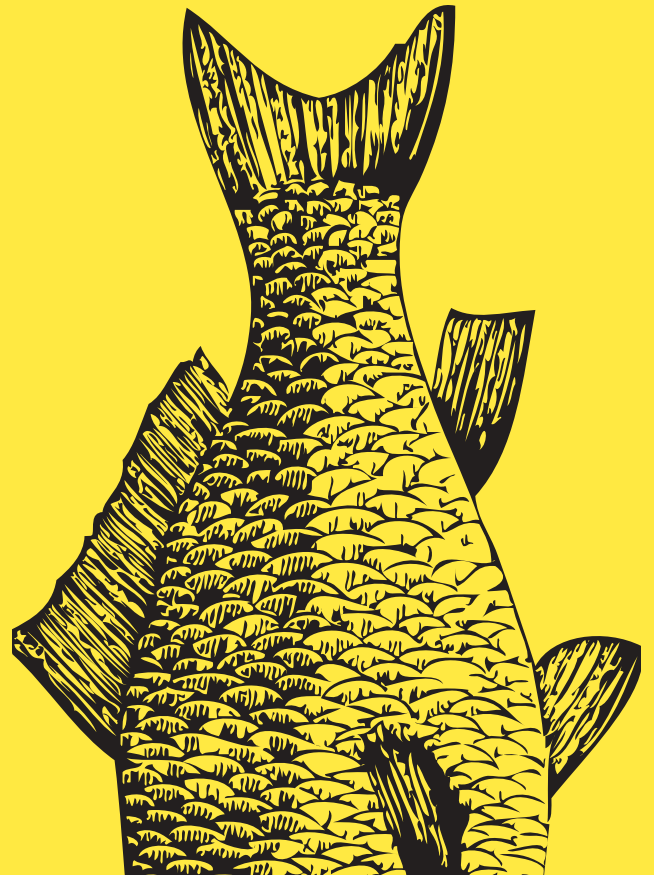
# THE STORY - ACT II

At the start of Act II, Adrianna thinks that she could still ask for a wish to help Fishman. Fishman explains how he got his wish only because he saved the life of The Mysterious Stranger. So together they concoct a plan to stage a life-saving moment like before in order to get another magical charm from The Mysterious Stranger. They prepare and devise the plot, with nothing but the best of intentions.

On the other side of town, Veruca recounts to Bill what she heard had happened to Fishman. Together they decide to also stage a life-saving plot in order to get a wish from this stranger. Due to the chaos of two simultaneous plans going on at once, they all accidentally kill The Mysterious Stranger instead of saving his life. While spewing his final breaths, The Mysterious Stranger curses them all and turns Adrianna, Veruca, and Bill into fish-people as well.

Fishman, Adrianna, Veruca, and Bill are cast away to New Fish City. Veruca and Bill find themselves in the midst of Lionfish's conniving grasp and follow him for the false promise of becoming human again. While Fishman feels horrible for what had happened to Adrianna, they accept their new fate so long as they have each other. With Riley the Goldfish now by their side again, Fishman and Adrianna decide to live at peace and at sea.

## ***Fishman!:*** ***The Musical***



# THE SONGS - ACT I

## SWIMMING UPSTREAM

*Opening Number:* Fishman is human, wakes up, and has another normal, mundane, uninteresting day while on his way to work.

## OIL AND WATER

*Adrianna's Song:* On his way home, Fishman sees Adriana winning a fishing competition and she confronts him.

## I'M AFRAID (OH I'M AFRAID)

*"I Want" Song:* Fishman saves the life of The Mysterious Stranger, who bequeaths him with a magical charm that grants one wish.

## FROM MAN TO FISH

*A Brief Musical Interlude:* Fishman decides to fish to prove Adrianna wrong, and then he falls into the water and begins to drown. With his magical charm in hand, he wishes that things don't end this way.

## WELCOME TO NEW FISH CITY

*Villain Song:* Fishman sinks to the bottom of the ocean and meets the Lionfish, who promises to turn him back into a human.

## YOU CAN'T FLUSH LOVE

*Riley's Song:* The Lionfish betrays Fishman, but the noble and timely Riley the Goldfish saves Fishman and reveals to be his long lost pet.

## YOU CAN'T FLUSH LOVE (REPRISE)

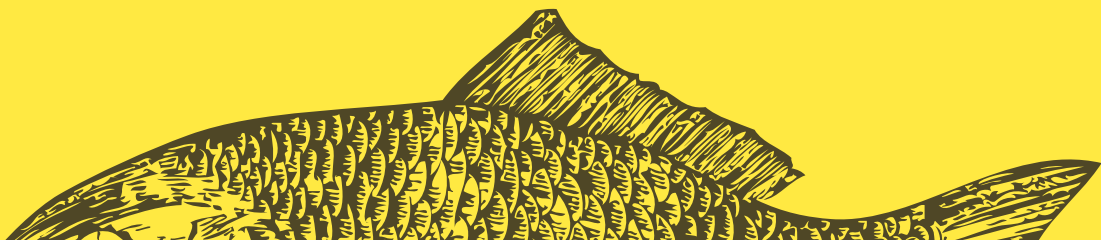
*Reprise:* Fishman wants to find The Mysterious Stranger to turn him back to human. Fishman and Riley concoct a plan to have Adrianna rescue them from the bowels of the sea.

## CHARTING WATERS

Adrianna catches Fishman, but Riley decides to stay behind. Fishman convinces Adrianna to help him out, and they set sail on a quest to find the mysterious stranger.

## YOU ONLY GET ONE, KID

*End of Act I Number:* After an adventure at sea, Fishman and Adrianna find The Mysterious Stranger who informs them that Fishman can only get one wish.



# THE SONGS - ACT II

## I HAVE A PLAN

*Act II Opening:* Adrianna and Fishman devise a plan to stage a life-saving moment to fake an accident with The Mysterious Stranger in order to get another magical charm. Veruca and Bill serendipitously decide to also stage a life-saving plot in order to get a wish.

## I HAD A PLAN (REPRISE)

*Reprise:* Due to the chaos of two simultaneous plans going on at once, they all accidentally kill The Mysterious Stranger instead of saving his life.

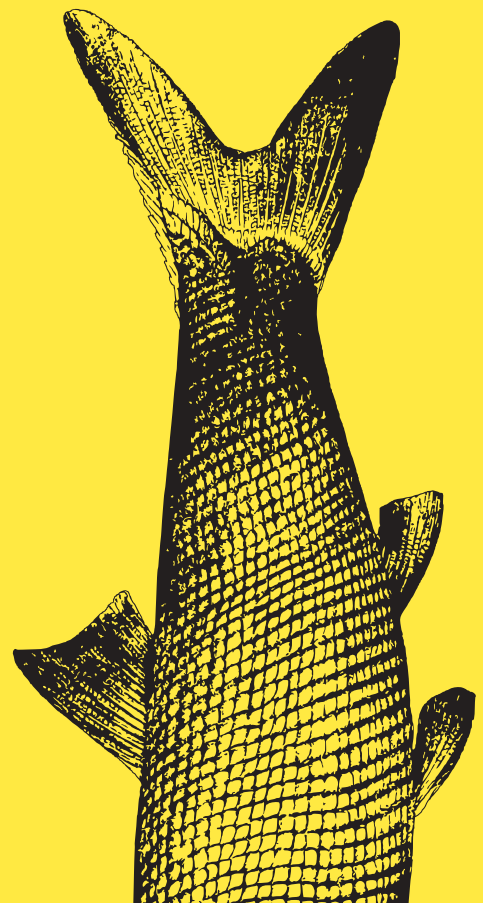
## I CURSE THEE TO LIVE IN THE SEA

*11 O'Clock Number:* With his final breaths, The Mysterious Stranger turns Adrianna, Veruca, and Bill into fish people.

## I WISH UPON A FISH

*Closing Number:* The characters return to New Fish City, where Veruca and Bill fall for the Lionfish's original scheme. Meanwhile, Adrianna and Fishman accept their fate as long as they have each other.

# *Fishman!:* *The Musical*





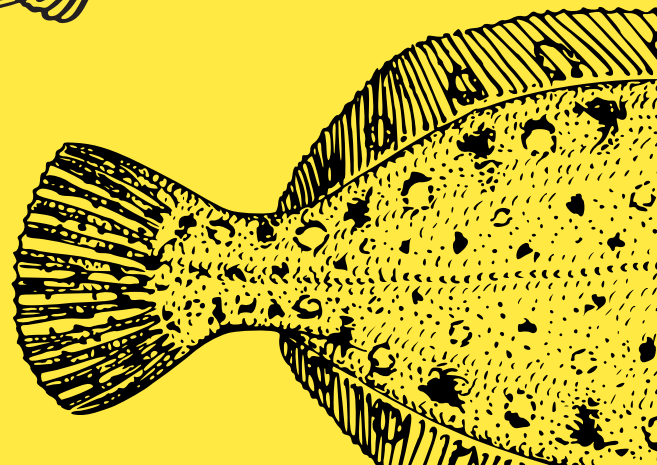
# SONG CASE STUDY: I'M AFRAID (OH I'M AFRAID)

In this "I Want" song early in Act I, Fishman just received the magical charm from The Mysterious Stranger for saving his life. He is ambivalent at best and highly skeptical at worst that this charm could actually grant him one wish. When he goes to throw away the charm, it begins to glow and hum. Entertaining his desire that this charm could actually offer him something, Fishman contemplates what he would do if he had a wish in life, leading into "I'm Afraid (Oh I'm Afraid)". By the end of the number, Fishman is ready to embark on a new journey (although he is about to go on one he could never have dreamed of).

Click or scan the code below to listen to the song:



***Fishman!:***  
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# I'M AFRAID (OH I'M AFRAID)

## LYRICS

What could a wish be?  
What would it mean for me?

Nine to five, 10 to Six  
The clock ticks and ticks  
From breakfast to dinner  
From dinner to dawn  
It's all just a yawn

Until today  
When I finally got my say  
And saved a man of mystery  
Without a thorough history  
And what did it get it me

A wish I wished I didn't get  
A wish I should forget  
Yet a simple wish could change my life  
And help me start again

But I'm afraid, oh I'm afraid  
That dreams may not come true  
Not even a few  
This I've realized though

I've tried, oh I've tried  
Of forgetting what I'm missing  
But maybe now I'll listen  
This strange ol' charm could bring me back  
to life

I could have anything  
I could buy that ring  
Be crowned a king  
And more's in store for me  
Nothing's out of the question  
There'll be no concession

I could go anywhere  
The devil may care  
Whatever I do  
It'll be good for me, not you

Things will be okay  
Forever for me  
I won't have to worry

I could be so free  
Flags on the sea  
Time to go on this journey

But I was afraid, oh so afraid  
That my dreams might just come true  
Now I know I gotta do  
Something new, feels so strange, my life's about to

Change, oh I've changed  
Through all this self-reflection  
I've found a fresh direction  
From now on, I won't be  
Anyone but me

# *Fishman!:* *The Musical*

