

Touch – the Country Rock Musical

By Lyrics by Kenn Long, Music by Kenn Long and Jim Crozier

Song Windchild, words&music by Gary L Graham

Script by Kenn Long and Amy Saltz

Opened at the Village Arena Theater, NYC, November 1970

Original Cast Album on Ampex Records, April 1971

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Cast list:

AWOL – Tenor. Tom Dodds, AWOL from US Army

Guiness – Alto. Seeker (a little older than some of them).

Wyan – Tenor. Singer/songwriter from Texas

Melissa – Alto. Runaway teenager, been living rough on the street.

Mark – Bass. Lonely boy.

Roland – Baritone. Wall Street dropout.

Susan April – Soprano. Young girl, pregnant.

Alex – Bass. Vietnam Vet with PTSD.

and 4 in the ensemble playing hippies or townies as needed.

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Touch - Song order

1. Windchild - Chorus
2. Cities of Light - Chorus
3. I Don't Care - Melissa
4. Goodbyes – AWOL
5. Come to the Road - Chorus
6. Reaching, Touching - Chorus
7. Quiet Country - Chorus
8. Susan's Song – Susan April
9. Tripping - Chorus
10. Garden Song - Chorus
11. Watching - Melissa
12. The Hasseltown Memorial Squaredance - Chorus
13. Confrontation Song - Chorus
14. Alphagenesis - Chorus

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Cast monologues in Windwhild

Awol:

I got drafted. Seems I was needed to fight in the latest local non-war in Asia.

Well, I got myself conscripted, and uniformed, and yelled at, so almost programmed that I couldn't take it anymore.

Dodds, Tom, PFC C10006 is – AWOL. 5 months worth.

So I got to keep on the move.

Got to keep running.

Guiness:

My name is Guinness. I left the town I grew up in because it wouldn't allow me to breath or be free. Two months I've been bumming around now. If you want to know the truth, I don't really know what I'm looking for, but whatever it is, until I find it I've just gotta keep looking.

Wyan:

I'm from Texas. But, I got in some hassles with the law down there so I decided to head up North, headed for the mountains. I was thinking there I could settle down, do some thinking, and get my head in a good place – and write some music. Oh, my name's Wyan.

Melissa:

I'm 15. My name is Melissa and up until about 3 weeks ago I was in an orphanage. You see, it was like a prison there so one night I just split. It was really the only way, anyway my name's Melissa.

Mark:

I don't know why I left home really. Oh, my name is Mark. I mean I wasn't really having a hard time – I just started getting restless as hell – I wanted to feel, taste more of life! I'm lonely as hell – but there's nothing back home so I won't be going back there. I guess I'll just have to keep searching for something to hold on to.

Roland:

One afternoon I was sitting in my apartment thinking about my life, – I mean really thinking! Here I am, I'm 22 years old and my whole life I've done everything exactly the way everybody else wanted me to do things. Hah, I've never really done anything I wanted to do – so one day I just decided to split. I'm movin', Man! Like, without any real direction right now, but – ah – it'll come. Oh, my name is Roland.

Susan April:

I met a guy one night in the Village when I was stoned. After while things just started getting really rough between us – then he split for San Francisco and I haven't heard from him since – and, so I figured I'd go out there and try and find him – but I never quite make it. Oh, I'm pregnant, but that's not why I need him! Anyway, I'm Susan April.

Alex:

My name's Alex. I do dope.

Monologues in Come to the road.

Alex:

This place is such a drag so I'm just going to split and let it bore its self to death. Anybody got a cigarette?

Guiness:

I just kissed Sunnyfarms goodbye so I'm makin' like buffalo chips and hittin' the trail. Hasta la Vista!

Mark:

I've had it up to here with this place. I never did find anybody and it's getting to the point where masturbation just ain't no consolation. Bye Mom, I'll write from the next town.

Melissa:

This town sucks! And you're all lousy in bed, too!

Various cast ad libs hollered over the last choruses such as:

Hey, Where ya going?

Anywhere

State College

Where's that

I'm going to jail

Away from here

Oz

Where's Oz?