THE BALLAD OF SMOKEY QUARTZ

By Ty Defoe

(Commission for The Public Theatre's, Play At Home)
CHARACTERS

The Quartz Family (rock band)

SMOKEY QUARTZ, teenager, leader singer and play rhythm guitar. Is emo rock star in the making.

CITRINE QUARTZ, Tamborine Player, (older sister) her hair is covering her eyes. Heavy on the eyeliner. Concerned. Empathic.

NIRVANA QUARTZ, Bass Guitar, (Mother), loves the thrift store and donuts with sprinkles. Caring.

LEMURIAN QUARTZ, Keys (Father quartz), who looks like KISS without the make up. He wears skinny pants. Never thought he would have a family, but does.

METAL ROCK QUARTZ, Lead Guitar (older brother), Long hair pulled back into a pony tail. Nails are painted black. Bull headed. Quick to anger.

SHRIMP QUARTZ, Drums (young brother), The smallest drummer you have ever seen. Has a tiny mohawk. Curious by nature, fearless.

OTHER CHARACTERS

PAINTED TURTLE, old wise cracking turtle, who comes from a long line of turtles. Full of great puns.

MYRA, a 7 year-old human, who wants to play all the time. She thinks everything belongs to her.

GRANDMOTHER, an older grandmother, who just wants her granddaughter to grow up being a good person.

TIME

Various locations: somewhere in the time spiral, on the back of the Painted Turtle Shell, in a quartz stone mine, on top of a mountain, Lunar Eclipse rock concert.

NOTE CASTING

Casting should reflect and show the vast variety of gem stones there are in the world and no solely depict one race or ethnicity. Open to also all genders to play any role. Comedic timing a must!

PRODUCTION

The reenactment scenes can be fun and the concert. This should be like we are at an actual rock concert. The tone is have fun! The idea here is anthropomorphize quartz crystals and their lives.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Ari Berk, Kate Freer, and Sugar during COVID-19
SCENE 1 | FORMATION

Near the earth. Near water. A very wise
PAINTED TURTLE walks with a staff a piece
of amber tied to the end. Speaks to the audience.

PAINTED TURTLE

Come closer, closer, closer.
I know, you want to know about Smokey, is that right?
Smokey, the quartz,
the piece of crystal from a family cluster
that went missing...
It was as if it was last week...
Or maybe it was twenty year ago
Or maybe it was yesterday.
I think, it was yesterday, now that I think about it.
I can’t be sure. ... All I know--
It was the year of the Eclipse Concert
At that time, things were different.
The songs were best I ever heard,
And I never get shell shocked.
The music and light were extra ordinary.
What made it most powerful was
Everyone on earth came together
just for a moment....

PAINTED TURTLE waves their staff in the air
to control the weather.

Lightening strikes! Cymbals crash over and over
again.

The Quartz Family were rocking out!.

LEMURIAN, (father quartz) on the keys. Older
dad, who looks like KISS without the make up.
He wears skinny pants.

CITRINE, (older sister) on bass, half of her hair
is covering her eyes. Heavy on the eyeliner.

NIRVANA, (mother), bass. Loves the thrift store.
SHRIMP, (younger brother), play drums. The smallest drummer you have ever seen. Has a tiny mohawk.

METAL ROCK (older brother), lead guitar. Long hair pulled back into a pony tail. Nails are painted black.

They all stop playing to end the song, except for SHRIMP, keeps on going crashing the symbols.

LEMURIAN

Shrimp!
Shrimp!
I said, Shrimmmmmp!

SHRIMP stops playing.

SHRIMP

Sorry Dad.
The music just doesn’t sound the same without Smokey.

CITRINE

Yah. I can’t even focus.

METAL ROCK

Yah I like, noticed.

NIRVANA

You know, I’m worried too Citrine.

CITRINE

You think we will find them before the Eclipse Concert?

SHRIMP

What’s an E-clipse again?

NIRVANA

It’s when the moon moves into the earth’s shadow honey.
CITRINE
Yah, we lay out in the moonlight with our crystal relatives and recharge.

SHRIMP
Oohhhh. Wooow!

CITRINE
It’s the reason why we need Smokey with us.

LEMURIAN
Listen. We looked. We searched. We sang our family song.
We are doing the best we can.

METAL ROCK
Yah, and we’ve been doing it for days.

CITRINE
I don’t think we tried hard enough.

LEMURIAN
And now, my girl, we have to start moving to the top of the mountain for the Eclipse Concert.

METAL ROCK
Well-- I’ve been waiting hundreds of years for this eclipse moment tonight dad.

CITRINE
You’re so selfish Metal Rock!

METAL ROCK
Look, we tried over and over again to call Smokey, he hasn’t responded to the song. If they were out there, we would have heard back by now. I’m not going to give up my possible one shot to play.

CITRINE
Dad, so that’s it? We stop trying? What kind of healing crystals are we if we give up?

LEMURIAN
We will have to at least try to play without Smokey.
SHRIMP
But we can’t poppa!

CITRINE
Smokey is part of this cluster too!

LEMURIAN
I know, I know.

NIRVAVA
Listen everyone. Let’s charge our powers together in the moonlight tonight and we can try one last time. If Smokey is trying to find us, it will be at the top of that mountain.

Mumbles from the Quartz family. They cluster together.

PAINTED TURTLE, holds their staff to the sky.

SCENE 2 | EXTRACTION

PAINTED TURTLE
Pardon my interruption.
I got the deets from my shell-phone on Smokey.
It’s like a smart phone but the information is much deeper.
That day near the mine.
That time.
On the mountain.
Near it...
I think that was the time.
I don’t know.
it was sometime.
I use spiral time.
I know, I was much younger then
and moved a little faster.
That’s when I went out for a turtle run.
That is also a time when was a little bit slimmer around the shell but eh,
All things change in time.

Just hours before the Eclipse Concert....

PAINTED TURTLE waves their staff.
Lightening strikes!
SMOKEY flags down PAINTED TURTLE.

SMOKEY

Painted Turtle! Help! Help!

PAINTED TURTLE

Smokey! What happened to you?! You’re a long way from home.

SMOKEY

I know. I’ll explain soon. I hear my family’s song I’m trying to get back to them. They are headed to the top of that mountain.

SMOKEY points to the top part of the mountain.

PAINTED TURTLE

You mean to Eclipse Concert? I can take you.

SMOKEY

Yes! You think we can make it in time?

PAINTED TURTLE

Absolutely. I was made for this. Turtles are really fast and smart. We got a bad rap based on some false bunny tale. I’ve been in training for a marathon my whole life.

SMOKEY hops on PAINTED TURTLE’S back.

SCENE 3 | TRANSFORMATION

They are traveling so fast! It’s like riding in a jeep, the winds blows everywhere! PAINTED TURTLE and SMOKEY are trying to still talk, but the wind blows hard!

PAINTED TURTLE

You are lucky those humans didn’t keep you and sell you on amazon!

SMOKEY

What’s an amazon?!
PAINTED TURTLE
It’s an on-line store where you can buy stuff!

SMOKEY
Like crystals?!

PAINTED TURTLE
Kinda. --But more like stuff!

SMOKEY
Oh!

PAINTED TURTLE
How did you end up way over here?!

SMOKEY
A magnetic pull!

PAINTED TURTLE
What?!

SMOKEY
A magnetic pull!

PAINTED TURTLE
Oh!!

SMOKEY
It’s sooooo windy!

PAINTED TURTLE
What?!

SMOKEY
It’s windy!

PAINTED TURTLE
Yes, I’m a basically a wizard.

SMOKEY
I’m a crystal!
PAINTED TURTLE

We’re gonna make it.

Hang on! Get under my shell!

PAINTED TURTLE picks up speed. SMOKEY gets under PAINTED TURTLE’S shell and screams---

SMOKEY

Weeeeeeee!!!!!

SCENE 4 | REVELATION

At the Eclipse Concert on top of the mountain.

A sea of thousands and thousands of the crystal clusters families and painted turtles are gathered and are awaiting as everyone is dressed in concert graphic t-shirts.

The moon is beginning to rise closer.

Lightening strikes.

The Quartz Family is tuning up their instruments. CITRINE goes to the mic and speaks in it with her tambourine.

CITRINE

Okay everyone before my family and I play our last song we wanted to ask your help to bring our relative, Smokey Quartz back home.

The Quartz family begins with their hum. It’s vibrational. Then echoes of hums happen from the other crystals and painted turtles! Soon everyone is humming and singing.

The Quartz family picks up their instruments and begin to play to the hums and vibrations.
It’s a shell-o-copter!

PAINTED TURTLE flies in with a wing’d contraption and lands in the middle (much like a helicopter).

Everyone gathers around PAINTED TURTLE’S shell in a circle.

The hums and the vibrations grows louder and louder.

The illumination begins to happen from within PAINTED TURTLE’S back as the shell breaks open.

Smokey.

Smokey.....

Smokey?

Smokey.

It’s Smokey!

It’s time.

What happened to you?

SMOKEY grabs the microphone.

SMOKEY
Well. I encountered a human girl, named MYRA and she was about 7 years old. The weather was overcast.... The sky was just about to break with rain.
Images of MYRA appear as if projected on the back of PAINTED TURTLE’S shell.

MYRA
Oh, it is but such a hot day but it looks like it might rain.
Oh what is this?
It’s so bright! It’s so pretty. It’s so sparkly!
It’s mine!

MYRA’S GRANDMOTHER is near.

MYRA
All mine mine mine.
Mine mine mine,
Mine mine mine
All mine!

GRANDMOTHER
Myra!
What’s yours?

This rock I found.

SMOKEY
And I was like I am not just any old rock! I am a Smokey Quartz!
Then her Grandmother came over with these large eyebrows like caterpillars and said...

GRANDMA
Myra, you are not to take things that are not yours.
This doesn’t belong to you.

But I found it.

GRANDMOTHER
It belongs to the earth.
It is suppose to find you.
Okay.
I’m sorry shiny rock.

MYRA

MYRA places SMOKEY down to the earth next to PAINTED TURTLE.

A turtle!

MYRA

PAINTED TURTLE raises his staff.

Nope!

PAINTED TURTLE

You look angry.

MYRA

It’s turtle’s all the way down!

PAINTED TURTLE

Okay bye-bye!

MYRA

MYRA and her GRADNMOTHER fade away.

And that.
That is what happened to me.

SMOKEY

We hear in the distance.
“SMOKEY, SMOKEY” as a chant from the crowd.

The Quartz Family come together and hug.

SMOKEY

I wanted to dedicate this song to my family and all of you.
A CRYSTAL FROM THE CROWD

Look! The eclipse is happening!

SMOKEY

Let’s all charge together in this new moonlight!

Shrimp, count us in!

SHRIMP has their drum sticks hit them together.

SHRIMP

Five
Six
Five
Six
Seven
Eight.

SMOKEY has their guitar and plays. One by one the family joins in the song.

The lunar eclipse begins to happen.

SMOKEY

I KNOW I NEEDED TO FIND MY WAY BACK HOME
I LOST SO MANY THINGS I LOVE TO THE WIND
I DIDN’T LOSE THE SONGS WE MADE ON EARTH
MY FEAR BECAME MY SHADOW, I LOST MY WORTH.

WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, THIS IS HOME.
WHEN WE ARE TOGETEHR, I CALL THIS HOME.
THOUGH OUR SHADOWS TAKE US TO THE UNKNOWN
WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, WE ARE HOME.
SMOKEY

UNKNOWN CAN MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU’RE FALLING
FALLING DOWN WITHOUT A PLACE TO LAND
BUT, WHEN I HEARD YOUR VOICES CALLING
THE LIGHT IN MY HEART HOLDS YOUR HAND.

SMOKEY + FAMILY

WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, THIS IS HOME.
WHEN WE ARE TOGETERHR, I CALL THIS HOME.
THOUGH OUR SHADOWS TAKE US TO THE UNKNOWN
WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, WE ARE HOME.

SMOKEY

EVEN WHEN YOU’RE ON TOP, YOU CAN GET FALL
EVEN WHEN YOU’RE LOVED, YOU CAN BE ALONE
WE ALWAYS FIND THOSE DARKEST PLACES TO GO
OUR MINDS ARE POWER, AND USUALLY ROAM

SMOKEY + FAMILY

WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, THIS IS HOME.
WHEN WE ARE TOGETERHR, I CALL THIS HOME.
THOUGH OUR SHADOWS TAKE US TO THE UNKNOWN
WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, WE ARE HOME.

SMOKEY

ALL THE THINGS I TRIED TO TELL YOU
THE DAY I WENT AWAY
ALL THE THINGS WHEN IT GOES AWAY.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT GOES AWAY?
I’M HERE TO STAY!
UNDER THE MOON RISE TONIGHT.
WE STAY AND SING IT IS ANOTHER DAY!
WE CAN DO ALL THINGS.
I’M HERE TO STAY!

All the quartz crystal begin to join just like at a rock concert.
SMOKEY + FAMILY + ALL

WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, THIS IS HOME.
WHEN WE ARE TOGETEHR, I CALL THIS HOME.
THOUGH OUR SHADOWS TAKE US TO THE UNKNOWN
WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, WE ARE HOME.
WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER, THIS IS HOME.
WHEN WE ARE TOGETEHR, I CALL THIS HOME.

SMOKEY

EVEN WHEN WE ARE APART YOU ARE MY HOME.

Just as the new day begins from the lunar eclipse. The quartz stones cluster all together from all parts of the mountain top and being to illuminate at the same time. Charging. If you were to see this in person as a human, it would take your breathe away by the magnitude of love shared by all.

End.