A GREAT BIG SKY
by Jiréh Breon Holder

Cast:

Mali
Tony
The Doctor
The Monk
The Senator
The Teacher

and last but not least--

Horton the Elephant, eldest of than them all

MALI stands leaning way back as she stares up, straining to see..

We wonder what she is looking at.

Then a LARGE CLOUD lowers from the sky. (You may want to use a blanket in your living room production.)

MALI wobbles, trying to stand directly beneath the cloud as it falls.

TONY shouts from far away (another room, perhaps) holding binoculars (his hands.)

TONY

To the left.

MALI wobbles to the left.

Too far.
I meant just a little to the right.

MALI

We better not lose this one.

MALI wobbles back to the right.
We won’t.
A little more.

This is literally where I was standing two seconds ago.

Just scoot, we need this one!

I know that.
You’re the one with the binoculars.
Just help me line this up right.

More!

It’s coming.
Almost got it.

Got it!

That’s the last one.
Omg, you got the last one!

Mali, you okay?
Talk to me.

I can’t believe it.
You are holding the very last cloud in the sky.

And I’m kind of freaking out.

You did it.

Let’s tell everyone!

Wait.
Let’s just have this moment.
The two of us.
Working together.
We did it.

I love you.

I love you, too.

Mali and Tony hold hands.

Let’s go tell the others!

Mali and Tony sit on the cloud and fly into the air.

The cloud moves like a ripple through time disappearing in waves.

A Doctor, a Monk, a Senator, and a Teacher sit twiddling their thumbs when Mali and Tony arrive, dragging a Massive Collection of Clouds.

I told you they’d come through.

I can’t believe it.
I'll be the judge of that.

SENATOR

Don’t be a hypocrite.

TEACHER

We’ve held up our end of the bargain. Are you ready to hold up yours?

MALI

I always keep my promises.

SENATOR

I took an oath.

DOCTOR

I am forever faithful.

MONK

We will keep our promise to you both.

TEACHER

So you’ll really do it? You’ll really take us to him?

MALI

You’ve proven yourself to us.

MONK

Tested and true.

DOCTOR

We can’t think of a worthier pair.

MONK

Than you two.

TEACHER

The DOCTOR, the MONK, the SENATOR, and the TEACHER approach the clouds.

Magically, wonderfully, surprisingly—

THEY dive into the clouds and disappear.

MALI and TONY stand in disbelief.
But from within the clouds, they begin to hear a snoring sound.

HORTON

Zzzzzzzzz.

You hear that?

MALI

Zzzzzzzzz.

Sounds like...snoring?

TONY

HORTON, an elephant with very wide ears and a very long beard, is indeed snoring.

MALI

I'm not gonna wake him.

TONY

Well, I'm not gonna wake him.

HORTON

Zzzzzzzzz.

Why don’t you do it?

MALI

Why don’t you?

TONY

You’re both doing it.
I’m old not hard of hearing.
These old ears never fail me.
But my eyes do.
Come closer.
Closer!

HORTON

MARI

Hi...
Are...you...

Mali.

And you must be...

Tony.
Wassup.

HORTON sits up in bed.

Could it be true?

Mali nods.

Every single the clouds in the sky, you say?

Every single one.

That *might* be enough!

Enough for what?

Enough to go!
We’re going!

We?

You didn’t think I’d go up there alone, did you?
Help me stand.

Mali and Tony stand on either side of Horton and help him up.
HORTON

AHH!!!

MALI

Ahh, what?
What is it?

HORTON

Oh, sorry did that sound like I was scared?
I mean it more like “Ahhhh this is so exciting!”
Ever since I found Whoville, I wondered—
Am I just a spec on a flower, too.
So, I stared into the sky and yelled at the top of my lungs.
HELLO, IS ANYBODY THERE?
HELLOOOOOOOO0000000000?
But no one replied.
I thought maybe the clouds were in the way.
I waited until the middle of the night.
Nothing but birds between me and those thousand shiny stars.
HELLLLLLLLLLLOOOOOOOO?!?

HORTON opens his ears wide, listening.

MALI and TONY open their ears, too.

HORTON

See?
Nothing.
But my mind wouldn’t stop wondering.
If I could just gather all of the clouds in the sky, maybe I could float.
Float far away.
Far above.
And see for myself if we’re just a tiny spec on a grain of sand on the shore of time.
Don’t you want to come?
Don’t you want to see for yourself?!

MALI and TONY pull each other into a huddle.

MALI

What do you think?

TONY

You’re not seriously considering it?
Of course I am.
I never turn down an adventure!

TONY
I know you don’t, but this is different.

MALI
How?

TONY
We have no idea where this one will lead!

MALI
When have we ever known where our adventures will go.
Get a grip.
This is amazing.
I’m going.
You can come or stay, but I want to know what’s up there.

MALI takes HORTON’s hand.

MALI
Count me in.

HORTON
to TONY
You’re welcome to stay.
I’m sure it’s safe here.
I’m an old elephant.
You’re a young human.
There’s plenty to see here.

HORTON and MALI climb aboard the clouds.

The DOCTOR, the MONK, the SENATOR, and the TEACHER hands out to wave ‘bye’ to Tony.

The CLOUDS begin to lift into the air.

MALI
I’ll tell you all about it when I come back.

TONY
And I’ll tell you the adventures of earth.
I'll be watching you from way up.

Mali

I'll be watching you from far down.

Tony

The clouds rise higher and higher.

Tony

Watch your head.

Mali

Mali ducks a star as it whizzes by.

Mali

Mind your feet.

Tony and Mali are farther and farther apart.

They have miraculous adventures.

Curtain.