At Last, a "Return to Togetherness"

Don't miss 600 Highwaymen's "A Thousand Ways (Part Three)" at On the Boards during its final weekend.

by Chase Burns  ·  Mar 10, 2022 at 12:00 pm
I had a surreal and intimate conversation with a stranger on the phone about a year-and-a-half ago, during the lull before our first wintertime COVID spike. (Remember our "darkest winter"? I try to forget.) I say intimate because I hadn't spoken with a stranger in a long time, and also because we asked each other personal questions, like how we saw ourselves, who we loved, what our family history was like. And I say surreal because a robot facilitated the whole experience, serving us prompts and pushing along the conversation.

The conversation was the first part of A Thousand Ways, a now years-long performance collaboration between Obie Award-winning theater-makers 600 HIGHWAYMEN and Seattle's On the Boards. They designed this experience to play out in three parts, starting with this little bit of auto theater and gradually evolving into an in-person "return to togetherness," which happens this week.

After my phone call during the show's first part, I told Stranger staffer Jas Keimig how "I could run into that person" I spoke with on the phone "at a grocery store in 2022, and we'd have no idea that we had an hour-long intimate conversation, just us and a robot,
during the coronavirus pandemic." Now, I can't even recall details of that woman's voice. If I ran into her today or this weekend, I'd have no idea. But I think I'll keep remembering how that conversation made me feel.

**SUPPORT THE STRANGER**

More than ever, we depend on your support to help fund our coverage. Support local, independent media with a one-time or recurring contribution. Thank you!

**CONTRIBUTE**

This great big project will conclude this week at On the Boards. Participating in the first two parts isn't required. Just go, trust the strangers around you, and I bet they'll move you.

600 HIGHWAYMEN's *A Thousand Ways wraps up this Thursday through Saturday*. Tickets are limited, so act fast. See more top picks from The Stranger [here](https://www.the Stranger.com/slog/2022/03/10/68125807/at-last-a-return-to-togethermess).

To get this delivered to your inbox, subscribe to *The Stranger*'s Slog AM newsletter.
WHY THE LEFT WILL CONTINUE TO LOSE ON HOMELESSNESS

_The Stranger_ depends on your continuing support to provide articles like this one. In return, we pledge our ongoing commitment to truthful, progressive journalism and serving our community. So if you’re able, please consider a small recurring contribution. Thank you—you are appreciated!

CONTRIBUTE NOW

---

Chase Burns

https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2022/03/10/68125807/at-last-a-return-to-togetherness
Chase Burns is *The Stranger*'s editor. He's covered everything from gay luchadores to chemical weapons to Isabella Rossellini's favorite pets.

You might also be interested in these:

A "Dream Come True" for Washington's Film Industry
The state just increased its film incentive program by $11.5 million a year.
by Jas Keimig

**Slog PM:** Legislature Closes Up Shop, Cherry Blossoms Peak Next Week, Ukraine Still Going Through Hell
by Rich Smith

Why the Left Will Continue to Lose on Homelessness
by Charles Mudede
The New Tree Dasher 2

SHOP NOW
CRISIS IN UKRAINE
Send lifesaving aid now
Donate now
The New Tree Dasher 2

SHOP NOW