

BEAT OF YOUR OWN DRUM

Written by

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SMASH CUT TO:

INT. IRIS'S HOME - NIGHT

BLACK AND WHITE

IRIS, mousy beautiful, sits alone in her dimly lit apartment, and struggles to find the perfect pitch.

IRIS  
(off-key)  
Do. Re. Mi. Fa. So. La. Ti Do.

Iris moistens her lips, closes her eyes.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
(off-key)  
Do. Re. Mi. Fa. So. La. Ti Do.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - NIGHT

BLACK AND WHITE

DAVID, sensitive and eccentric artist, sits alone in his dimly lit apartment. He holds a pair of drumsticks, poised above a ten-gallon paint bucket on the floor, which he holds with his feet.

He STRIKES the bucket's top with an inconsistent rhythm.

David's foot fumbles as he lifts, then sets down the bucket.

With determination, David unleashes his full energy and BEATS out a terrible set on the makeshift drum set.

INT. IRIS'S HOME - NIGHT

BLACK AND WHITE

Iris gives it all she's got as she sings.

IRIS  
(off-key)  
La. Ti Do.

The sounds of PASSIONATE INTENSITY drift from the neighbors apartment, while Iris gazes off into the distance, as if she attempts to connect with the sounds of companionship.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - NIGHT

BLACK AND WHITE

David taps his sticks a few times and then stops, but quickly loses interest.

The sounds of LAUGHTER AND MUSIC drift from the neighbors apartment, while David gazes off into the distance, as if he attempts to connect with the sounds of companionship.

INT. IRIS'S HOME / INT. DAVID'S HOME - SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

BLACK AND WHITE

Iris walks over to a wall, fixated on it, while various items on a row of shelves RATTLE and framed pictures TAP in response to the neighbors' passionate sounds. Simultaneously, David approaches the window and peers outside as the neighbors' lively party continues.

David places his drumsticks on the windowsill and sits against the wall, as he expresses solitude. Simultaneously, Iris slumps down to the floor with her back against the wall, and mirrors David's sense of isolation.

Both look defeated and alone.

EXT. MANN'S CHINESE THEATER - DAY

BLACK AND WHITE

SOUNDS OF THE CITY mixed with INDISTINCT MURMUR

INCONSISTENT BUCKET DRUM BEAT

The Manns Chinese Theater towers above TOURISTS, as they snap pictures, while LOCALS hurriedly pass by the monument. A diverse array of characters occupies the space, from FAMILIES that pose with POP CULTURE ICONS to DERELICT INDIVIDUALS.

David, disheveled in gym attire and holds drumsticks, sits on a paint bucket, another placed between his legs. A sign before him reads: "I MAY LOOK HUNGRY, BUT FREEDOM FILLS MY BELLY," accompanied by an overturned cup with a dollar inside of it.

The drumsticks STRIKE the bucket's top with irregularity.

David's foot fumbles as he lifts and sets down the bucket.

With utmost determination, he beats out the terrible set. He sets down his sticks and surveys his surroundings.

A YOUNG COUPLE strolls hand in hand, and LAUGHS as they pass David. He watches them with a tinge of sadness in his eyes. Certain elements of the city turn to COLOR, as he grabs his drumsticks and breaks into a solid BEAT, which begins to sync up with the couple's stride and the city's vibrant energy.

David freestyles as the YOUNG COUPLE turns the corner, but the rhythm becomes inconsistent, and the world returns to BLACK AND WHITE.

INT. BAR - DAY

BLACK AND WHITE

MUSIC PLAYS

Random PEOPLE populate the area around a GROUP OF GIRLFRIENDS, who raise shot glasses together with Iris. Unbeknownst to the girlfriends, Iris discreetly empties her shot glass onto the floor, then pretends to have taken it.

The Girlfriends are lost in their own world as they INDISTINCTLY CHAT. Meanwhile, Iris drifts off, zones out, and gets absorbed in the music. Certain elements of the bar turn to COLOR. However, when GIRLFRIEND #1 grabs her attention, everything reverts to back BLACK AND WHITE as she's pulled into the conversation.

EXT. MANN'S CHINESE THEATER - DAY

David sets down his drumsticks and looks down at his hands, as if he searches for something that's off. He looks up, and notices an OLD MAN who appears to be lost.

David approaches the Old Man and engages in an INDISTINCT CONVERSATION, which continues as they begin to walk down the sidewalk. David speaks and the Old Man listens intently. An OLD WOMAN approaches and claims the Old Man, and certain elements of the world turn to COLOR.

The Old Woman and Old Man exude love as they walk away, but as they fade into the distance, everything but the couple reverts to BLACK AND WHITE.

David returns to the bucket and DRUMS consistently well as, still in COLOR, the OLD COUPLE walk away, but the beat becomes inconsistent as they turn the corner.

His foot fumbles as he lifts and sets down the bucket.

David gives it his all as he beats out the terrible set.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME - DAY

BLACK AND WHITE

INDISTINCT MUSIC

Iris walks down the sidewalk.

IRIS  
(off-key)  
Do. Re. Me. Fa. So. La. Ti Do.

Up ahead, the MUSIC plays out of a storefront's speaker. A MOTHER, vagrant, sits against the wall and begs for change, accompanied by her DAUGHTER, dressed in charmingly eclectic fashion, who is visibly bored.

Iris is off-key as she SINGS along to the MUSIC, which captures the attention of the Daughter. Iris stops, gazes down, and locks eyes with her.

DAUGHTER  
Do.

IRIS  
(off-key)  
Do.

DAUGHTER  
Re.

IRIS  
(slightly off-key)  
Re.

DAUGHTER  
Mi.

IRIS  
(slightly less off-key)  
Mi.

DAUGHTER  
Fa.

IRIS  
(slightly less off-key)  
Fa.

DAUGHTER  
So, la, ti, do.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
So, la, ti, do.

Iris and Daughter playfully exchange SCALES, and create a delightful harmony. The world around them begins to burst into vibrant colors.

However, the Mother abruptly grabs her Daughter and pulls her away, and the world swiftly reverts to BLACK AND WHITE.

Iris is off-key as she resumes her song.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
(off-key)  
Do. Re. Me.

EXT. MANN'S CHINESE THEATER - DAY

BLACK AND WHITE

As Iris strolls along the sidewalk toward David, her SONG finds harmony.

IRIS  
(off-key)  
Do, re, me --

David's DRUMBEAT begins to match Iris's rhythm.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
(slightly less off-key)  
-- fa, so, la --

With each step, Iris's VOICE grows stronger and more in tune, and David's DRUMBEAT syncs perfectly.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
-- ti, do.

As they meet, their music blends in a beautiful harmony. David DRUMS a solid beat and Iris bops between scales with perfect harmony. The world is in FULL COLOR.

Lost in each other and the moment, the world around them tunes out.

SILENCE

Their eyes meet, and a radiant smile illuminates their faces.

**THE END**