

Recommended for ages 16+ / Year 11 and 12

The production runs for approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes with no interval.

The Questions is set “present day-ish” in the apartment of the character “The Resident” or ‘Res’. The play follows Res and “The Visitor” or ‘Vis’ on a blind date, where it becomes clear quite early on the two characters are not compatible. As Vis is going to leave Res’s apartment, an outside catastrophe and “shelter in place” lockdown order forces these polar opposites into the longest first date ever, with an audience of a neighbouring rock band to watch as they rehearse. Desperate to end the constant bickering, they turn to “The Questions”, a real-life psychological questionnaire researchers promise can build intimacy between anyone...The play explores modern intimacy in a hilarious and unsparing manner.

Scripted dialogue contains description, mention, reference to or staging of the following:

**Coarse Language:**

There is occasional use of the words ‘fuck’, ‘bullshit’ and ‘shit’ throughout the play. The words ‘bitch’ and ‘cunt’ is used once.

Characters also speak derogatorily to each other e.g. “You vindictive, incandescent MOLL!”, “dickhead”, “crazy bitch”.

**Sexual Content:**

There is reference to having sex in public within a song: “We were waiting at a bus-stop and he said “let’s do it here!” There is some partial nudity in that Res “removes his trousers and shirt”; “one of the band tears his shirt off in despair”; and “the band are so excited, they take their shirts off.”

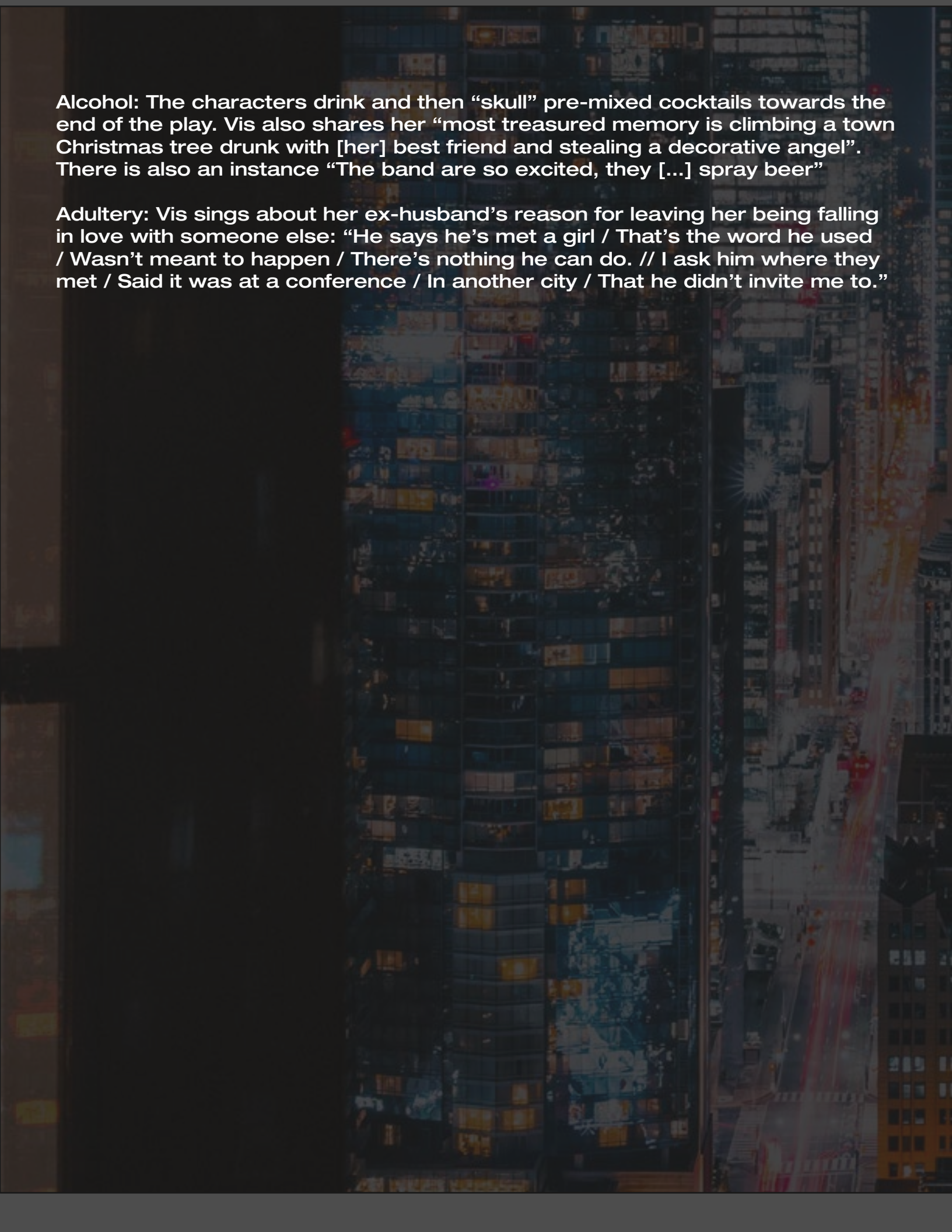
There is a passionate onstage kiss between Res and Vis towards the end.

**Adult Themes:**

**Stressful situations:** The play revolves around the shelter in place/lockdown due to an emergency - characters use gas masks to go outside, only eat rations, talk of police, helicopter and drone presence, and vocally wonder “if it’s all gonna end in a flash, or we’ll burn up. Or they’ll just lock us in without food and wait for us all to eat each other.”

**Cancer/death:** The character Res talk’s about his mother’s death from cancer: “She was diagnosed with cancer when I was just a kid. By the time I was 17, she was dying. I went to the hospital every day... until I didn’t. She had hallucinations, slurring words, and I –“ and “Mum died within an hour of me leaving the hospital.” He sings a song about the night his mother died which is quite emotive.

**Drugs:** The band are insinuated to be recreational drug users, evident in the stage directions “The guys in the band see it and presume they are hallucinating because they are high.”



Alcohol: The characters drink and then “skull” pre-mixed cocktails towards the end of the play. Vis also shares her “most treasured memory is climbing a town Christmas tree drunk with [her] best friend and stealing a decorative angel”. There is also an instance “The band are so excited, they [...] spray beer”

Adultery: Vis sings about her ex-husband’s reason for leaving her being falling in love with someone else: “He says he’s met a girl / That’s the word he used / Wasn’t meant to happen / There’s nothing he can do. // I ask him where they met / Said it was at a conference / In another city / That he didn’t invite me to.”