

OUT OF THE BLUE

By Katinka Hurvig Møller

Draft: 3

Date: 04/01/23

Produced by *Assemble Theatre Collective*

Developed with the help from:

Carol Hayes

All the participants of our workshops

TeaterHuset

Note: Everything yellow marks where you have to make changes based off of fx. locations or other things that I can't determine beforehand.

SCENE 1 – THE GREETING

OBS: Premise presented; SANDRA's from CityDock and wants to sell them property/office spaces/rent out rooms etc. They'll join her on a tour towards the new part of Nordhavn.

The audience arrives at a planned spot at a planned time.

Atmosphere: Wide open, a natural "check point" like in real life tourist groups. A beautiful view of the harbour.

A person awaits them. She is in her 30's, a "together woman" - a "Karen" but in a nice way. She's friendly, firm, might have a clipboard of some sort. She knows what's up and how to guide people. She works at CityDock, a real estate company, and is the coordinator and operator of the event called "OPEN HARBOUR; homes, workplaces and culture". This slogan may appear on a cap or a t-shirt or something like that.

She's wearing a neutral pants suit (maybe with a logo?) and large, colourful earrings. She's the one you would love to have to do your taxes. Her name is Sandra.

SANDRA

Hello everybody! Welcome to OPEN HARBOUR! How are you, you? (*interaction*)

Thanks so much for coming! I'm really pleased to see so many of you showing interest. I know - you haven't signed anything yet, haha! I'm not here to put pressure on you, that's for sure.

It is pretty stunning though, right? The view right here, in this exact spot, is one of my personal favourites around the Copenhagen Harbour. (*a fun fact about the location*).

Well, look at me - already babbling! Let me tell you a few things about me - my name is Sandra, I'm 34 and I'm working at CityDock, as you know, the number one leading harbour-oriented real estate company. I've been with CityDock now for 4

years, and I simply love it. The harbour of our city is magnificent! It has such a rich history, I wouldn't even know where to begin to tell you all the folklore of the old harbour. But one thing is the history of our harbour - another thing is the future of it! These are exciting times, and I'm really looking forward to show you how this particular neighbourhood has grown for the past 10 years. This tour will focus on Nordhavn, the newest and most ambitious renewal of a neighbourhood in modern history - and it's actually where CityDocks main offices are located. For a reason! We operate all the way from South to North in CityDock and have many incredible buildings on our market, but I must say that Nordhavn has some spectacular locations.

Tonight, I'm here to present you to all these fantastic possibilities that we have on the Nordhavn market - that be housing options, office spaces or cultural institutions to be involved with; kayak clubs, for example.

I would like to hear a few things about you as well - and I actually do have a fun little idea! I always like to say something a little out of the ordinary when getting to know each other - say, we're going to be spending the next couple of hours together! So, I'm Sandra, 34, your guide for the evening and my favourite dessert is Crème brûlée!

Yes, I know, but play along with me here please. You? Do you wanna go?

(name round) Oh - and don't forget to include your profession also!

(mostly listens to their professions)

Well thanks a lot, I feel like I did get to know you all a little bit! I'm sensing maybe somebody is looking for a place to... *(depending of group, if someone's pregnant or seem to be in starting-family-age she'll say HOUSING and if someone's looking office-y she'll say that)*!

Well, let's get right started. We'll go this way along the dock, and I'll tell you all about our new exciting projects coming up.

(they walk alongside the dock from mid-marble church-and-opera towards Toldboden. They pass graffiti: LONG LIVE ARIANA. SANDRA and the group sees the graffiti. SANDRA knows who Ariana is but does not at all want to share that info)

Tsk tsk, not everybody has as much love for the harbour as I do, let me tell you that! Luckily we don't have a lot of this on our route tonight! Not a lot of festivity happening, it's close to the **embassies**, you know, it's very nice for office spaces. Solid concentration and quietness for the most part!

TRANSITION 1

Whenever they walk from one location to another they're being surpassed by someone on a christiania bike with a child and/or a speaker. The song is "Orinocco Flow" by Enya. This goes for ALL transitions.

They also pass by:

- *Someone on a raft/in a boat being super drunk and shouting/singing along to "Langebros" by Kim Larsen*
- *Someone pregnant slowly climbing down a ladder to submerge herself into the water*

SCENE 2 - THE SIBLINGS

OBS: We meet FRANCESCA and DAVID (in their 40's if we're lucky). FRANCESCA doesn't like strangers who don't care about the community/people/history of the palace and she thinks SANDRA is just this: An evil corporate machine. DAVID's trying to smooth things out. They're interrupting the tour, but SANDRA thinks DAVID might tell a good story about the neighbourhood to intrigue the participants to buy/rent. When she realises DAVID's not as "together" as she would have hoped, and maybe a bit inappropriate on an official tour, she leaves the siblings and continues the tour.

*Atmosphere: quiet/empty. Maybe **Toldboden after hours**. Somewhere people go to have a nice, rich time. Somewhere kind of fancy but juxtaposed with a park where homeless people could hang out/live.*

The walk past a type of sheltered area where THE SIBLINGS seem to have settled down for the evening. Not visible if they're staying for the night or just hanging out,

*but they seem pretty settled with blankets, books, (bottles,) pictures in frames etc.
We're very close to Toldboden.*

They're dressed nicely but their clothes are a bit dirty, haven't been washed for a long time. SANDRA and the group doesn't see them.

SANDRA

All right, here's what I'd like to show you first. If you could please gather around - there's a nice bench right here, take a seat thank you...

FRANCESCA *(From distance)*

Hey!

SANDRA

...? Can everybody hear me all right? So, what we're looking at now is (XXXXX, something about the history of a specific thing/building that CityDock could have helped build/renovate/etv)...

FRANCESCA *(From distance, maybe slightly drunk. Approaching slowly)*

What are you up to? Trying to sell tickets for the view, are you?

SANDRA

Excuse me.. Yes, hello? Can I help you?

FRANCESCA

I think not, lady, but I can help you get lost if you don't...-

DAVID *(approaching from distance as well)*

Francesca! Oh my lord, Franny, don't do that.

FRANCESCA

Sod off, brother, I've told you a thousand times to not call me Franny...-

DAVID *(to group)*

I'm so sorry, my sister's in a foul mood tonight...

FRANCESCA

"Franny", like I'm a dog or something...-

SANDRA

Oh, well, that's quite all right. I'll just get back to business, then...-

DAVID

May I ask, what business?

FRANCESCA

She's charging people to sit on a bench, David.

SANDRA

I'm sorry, I am absolutely not charging people for sitting on a bench, *(a little nervously)*, haha, all benches are public and free for everybody to use...-

DAVID

My sister's only messing with you.

SANDRA

Oh.

FRANCESCA

Looks like you are, though.

DAVID

I'm sorry for my sister, how can I make it up to you - well, I'm David! (*shakes her hand*). Hello everybody I'm David! I'm a resident of this area.

FRANCESCA

"Resident", holy christ...-

DAVID

I have actually lived here for most of my life.

SANDRA

Oh you have? That's wonderful. Which building?

DAVID

... Umm...

(*Francesca hides a laugh*)

DAVID (*to group*)

... I've been around a bit, here and there (*points to nowhere*), and it's an absolutely wonderful neighbourhood.

SANDRA

Oh! Well, there we go - we found someone else to do my job for me, haha!

DAVID (*blushes*)

Oh, well, I wouldn't say "job".

FRANCESCA

You hiring? My brother's in desperate need of some kind of purpose in life, so...-

DAVID

I do actually have great knowledge of the neighbourhood, so if you ever need anybody to, I don't know, give tours or share their knowledge...

SANDRA

Well, please! What can you tell our beautiful group about life living right here?

DAVID

Really? *(gets a grip, proud to present a story)* Do you see that fountain (XXX: or something similar) over there?

SANDRA

You mean the (official name of object/fountain/statue)?

DAVID

Yes... that! Well... once upon a time..-

FRANCESCA

Someone stop him.

DAVID

... the atmosphere around here was quite different.

It wasn't all markets and cuisines (XXX or something similar) - do you see the park up there? In the summer, we all used to hang out in the evenings, playing music and all. One night, I think 10 years ago, there was this one girl, she always used to be the partystarter, the center of attention, she was just marvelous and always making sure everybody had a blast. She's still like that, to be honest - her name is Ariana...-

FRANCESCA

Hey!

SANDRA?

Ariana?

DAVID

... one night, a bunch of young kids had been drinking in the park all afternoon. There were being quite loud and a little disrespectful, not really thinking of anybody else - and so, instead of telling them to be quiet or get lost, Ariana...-

FRANCESCA

What are you doing?

DAVID

Don't you think I...-

FRANCESCA

They don't know her. They don't care about her.

(SANDRA knows her but isn't showing that she does. she knows Ariana from her past with christian, but it doesn't make sense to her for this to be the same person as the Ari she knew was much older)

DAVID

Oh come on, they might if we...-

FRANCESCA

No, they don't know her. They're not coming tonight, Dave...-

DAVID

It's not about the coming tonight...-

SANDRA

Excuse me, this Ariana person...-

FRANCESCA

She's no one.

DAVID

No one.

SANDRA

I don't think anybody is going to "come tonight", we have a tight schedule as part of the "Open Harbour", so I don't know what...-

DAVID

I know, of course: And I'm only trying to treat them with anecdotes of the harbour life. So, this girl, well actually, this young woman, she was maybe 20 back then - she ran towards the group of kids, stole their bottle of vodka and jumped into the fountain! Haha, and she laughed "if you want it, come and get it!" and of course they wanted their liquor so they jumped into the fountain and then we ALL did! It was me, Fran and a bunch of the others - and Ari of course, It was ridiculous, no space for us all so everybody slipped and fell and we were soaking wet but the music was still going, so it ended up being just such a... what's the word? "wild"?

FRANCESCA (*smug, sets DAVID up to fail*)

"Rowdy", maybe?

SANDRA

(*nervously*) Oh, really?

DAVID

Yes, rowdy! God, we were the worst, singing, roaring all throughout the night... Then more people started to come and the police had to turn up...-

SANDRA

All right, I can see we're running a bit behind schedule, so if you'll please join me let's continue the tour.

DAVID

Oh?

SANDRA

Let's move towards the great entrepreneurship over here, you might have visited Tolboden, right? Anyone?

DAVID

Well, let me give you my phone number maybe, in case you ever needed somebody to share stories or give tours?

SANDRA

I really don't think that will be necessary, thank you, wonderful to meet you, all right everybody let's move onwards...

(SANDRA gets the group to leave, walking towards Tolboden while DAVID and FRANCESCA stay behind and keeps talking to each other)

FRANCESCA *(smug)*

Great job, David, scaring the poor tourists off with party anecdotes!

DAVID

Well, I was only trying to share...-

FRANCESCA

They don't care. They're not like us - they don't like people like us. Not you, not me, not Ari...-

(the audience can't hear them anymore)

TRANSITION 2

They pass by:

- *Someone collecting empty cans. He/she's dragging a bike with huge bags of empty cans. Sit's down on a bench next to the trash can he/she just emptied → takes a break.*

- *Two huge seagulls (to people in costumes). They're discussing the insane amount of tourists and how sick they are of Nyhavn being overloaded by Chinese people taking photographs (they're being very snooty and elitist/a bit racist).*

SCENE 3 - THE ENTREPRENEUR

OBS: In this scene we get to know Sandra more personally and learn that she had a relationship with Christian.

We also learn that Ariana's a different age than what we were told before and that she's leaving. Sandra doesn't seem to like Ariana very much and did not know about the party. She doesn't want to dwell on memories and is annoyed with Christian for telling the story - she continues the tour.

(SANDRA guides the group towards the next location. On the way she tells them about the neighbourhood. She falls behind at some point, an important call she has to take, and tells the group to "continue in that direction". The group is approached by CHRISTIAN)

CHRISTIAN

Hey! Hey there! I'm in desperate need of some help - do you think you could give me a hand? Thanks a bunch!

(is tangled into a bunch of fairy lights). That's right, I'll need to be untangled - haha, don't know how this happened, but it always sorts itself out somehow, am I right? Right, so *(guides the group on how to get him untangled)*. That's more like it!

SANDRA *(approaching)*

Oh, dear dock *(an expression she came up with herself and enjoys to use)*, what have we going on here? *(Sees Christian)*

Oh - Christian!

CHRISTIAN

Sandra? Oh wow, I didn't see you there. It's been years, hasn't it? *(realises the awkwardness of the group being right by them)* This lot was just - oh, is this a group of yours? *(to group)*: are you with Sandra?

(group interacts)

SANDRA

Yes, I'm hosting a guided tour.... It's a CityDock thing. *(to group)* this is Christian... / and old friend of mine...-

CHRISTIAN

/ ... ex boyfriend. Oh well... an old friend, yes. Sorry.

SANDRA

That's completely fine - *(to group)* we used to live together. Many years ago.

Christian owns a gorgeous house boat in Sydhavn, a neighbourhood very different from where we're headed towards.

Beautiful, it is, Sydhavn, but obviously not as...

CHRISTIAN *(smiles)*

... not as *new*, no. Sure is a fact.

SANDRA

No; charming, but one must welcome change, right? When it's for the better.

CHRISTIAN

So, what's the tour about?

SANDRA

Oh, sorry, I'm showing these wonderful people the neighbourhood headed towards **Portland Towers**. I'm showing them all our different facilities available, both housing and offices...-

CHRISTIAN

I bet having an office out here would be fantastic. I'm not just saying that - there are a few dope buildings out here, destined for creative thinking, that's for sure.

SANDRA *(pleased with his input)*

... Destined for creative thinking, very true. You don't live around here now, do you?

CHRISTIAN

Live here? God no - no offence. I'm good on the boat. I come here to work sometimes though - like now, I'm trying to see if I can find a final piece for this little creation of mine *(refers to the light bulb thing, the pieces outside the bulbs are made from stuff from the bottom of the harbour)*. *(to group)* Did you guys know that there's literally treasures underneath our feet? *(interaction)*

The bottom of the harbour is a literal treasure chest. Hundreds of years of people dropping things, getting rid of things, hiding things, tossing things... No bloody wonder no one wanted to touch the water before they cleaned it. *(to SANDRA)* You still didn't want to touch it! Do you remember the first time we went for a harbour swim?

SANDRA *(a bit embarrassed by the privateness of this)*

Oh, um... barely.

CHRISTIAN

You don't? *(jokingly)* You, the gatekeeper of progress, don't remember when you realised the water had actually been cleaned?

SANDRA *(under her breath)*

"Gatekeeper of progress, Jesus"

CHRISTIAN

Well I can tell you, it's been 10 years. *(to group)* We were living on my houseboat in Sydhavn, Sandra had just moved in - the city had built the underwater systems to keep the water clean back in the 90's, but for some reason Sandra was still scared of there being sewage water by our boat. I mean, I can't really blame her: We had both grown up with the water being *non grata*, if you know what I mean. But then one morning we were so hungover...-

SANDRA

Oh no I don't believe that's...-

CHRISTIAN

... maybe even still a bit drunk, and we had to get up early for something and I convinced her that the only way of clearing our heads was to jump into the fresh, cold harbour ocean - yeehaaaaa! *(mimes jumping into the water)*

SANDRA *(laughs)*

I don't believe that for a second!

CHRISTIAN

It's all true though!

SANDRA

What could possibly have been so important that I wanted to jump in?

CHRISTIAN

Well, it was...

SANDRA

What? *(gets the group to join her, jokingly)* we need to know!

CHRISTIAN

We had to get up to go to your sister's confirmation.

(SANDRA is quiet)

BUBBLES - they show up on the surface and everybody sees them. They make Christian feel like he should share and try to bring Sandra "back to life", to make her remember.

CHRISTIAN

But yeah, anyway, the water was clean of course. But just because it isn't polluted with sewage anymore it sure as hell doesn't mean that people don't throw all kinds of crap into it. Of course, I don't think it's crap. *(Eyes SANDRA who's still quiet)*. I actually started collecting things from underwater about that time. There was... someone I knew, an old friend of mine, s...- he had something horrible happen to him. Well, it wasn't to him exactly - there was an incident. His younger sister got into a horrifying accident with one of the tourist boats. She was about 17, having a swim like she always did. She was friends with this fantastic older woman, Ariana, who's lived here her whole life. She knows everything there is to know about the harbour because she's lived through it.

SANDRA

Except she hadn't really thought much about the boats, had she?

CHRISTIAN

None of us had. Ariana used to love taking my friend's little sister out for a swim - this was before they really came up with the confined areas of swimming, before the restrictions. The two of them went out there, and somehow a tourist boat showed up out of nowhere, going way too fast... Ariana made it without a scratch, but my dear old friend lost his baby sister. It was horrible. I didn't know how to help at the time but I tried my best being there for him.

(Pause)

He told me that she had worn these bracelets when it happened. Two of those thin metal ones, super cheap, she'd won them at Tivoli or something like that. They weren't that important, but the thing is when they... when they took care of her body the bracelets were gone. My friend was sure she'd worn them, and somehow it bothered him that they'd been lost. Like it hadn't really happened, or that he couldn't put a rest to the trauma. That's when I started looking for them. Bought a metal detector, which didn't do much good, found some old scuba gear I had from a leftover project, and I started to dive for them. Of course I didn't find them. The bottom's soft and they're tiny, but from time to time, when I was down there, I thought I'd heard them rattle together. Anyway, never found them, and my friend moved away from the area. Moved somewhere... *(pause)* new. Don't blame him, how could I? I didn't blame Ariana either, for the accident - it was horrible, but it was not her fault. *(Eyes SANDRA who doesn't seem to agree)*

But I continued diving because I started to find all kinds of other things. Coins, bikes, supermarket carts, but also gift shop souvenirs, pieces of machines and buildings, other jewellery, it's honestly endless. And I started making art out of it. That's what I do. Art and projects and just fun stuff around here for everybody to see or join. This one's for an event. It's tonight, actually. *(to group)* Are you going?
(interaction)

SANDRA

What event?

CHRISTIAN

Well... the party for Ariana.

SANDRA

Ariana's having a party?

CHRISTIAN

It's not really her throwing it, is it? Her leaving party, of course.

SANDRA

Ariana's leaving?

(pause)

CHRISTIAN

You didn't know? *(to group)*: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

SANDRA

Why now? She could have left a long time ago.

CHRISTIAN

... ruin your tour...

SANDRA

You're not ruining the tour - *(realising that she's been distracted and too much her private self, coming back to work-SANDRA)* the tour, sorry, I'm sorry, Christian, I do have a job to do and this is certainly not it. Thank you so much for telling that

wonderful story to these complete strangers, really making their night. Very uplifting material, I must say.

CHRISTIAN

I'm really sorry, I thought you knew...-

SANDRA

That some old woman is leaving? Well, why should I care. Come on, folks, let's get moving. I'm really sorry about this interruption, I thought he would have nicer stories to tell - but I guess the place to be really isn't in the Southern part of the harbour. Come, let me show you those rather fantastic office spaces he was actually right about.

(SANDRA rushes them off, leaves CHRISTIAN alone with the light bulbs)

TRANSITION 3

They pass by:

A group of winter bathers singing "I winter dive!"

SCENE 4 - THE GUARD OF THE HARBOUR

OBS: In this, we meet MARK. His idea of Ariana is more vague and less human-like. When he realises SANDRA is from CityDock and doesn't want to go to the party, he decides that the rest of the group needs to go - sends them off to NORA. Mark takes SANDRA with him to his "office" and calls Christian for assistance - he doesn't know about their past, but thinks that Christian could help make her less corporate-y and in general just help him de-escalate the situation and get her to join the party. We never learn what went on in the office, but it works and SANDRA opens her mind to the idea of going to the party after all.

The audience are on their way towards the next location. They're stopped by a man, MARK, running towards them. He's hectic - wearing a yellow vest over a suit, but in rubber boots. Very clashed stylings - like he's both a high-end manager and a janitor at the same time. Mark's secret biggest hope is to be hired by **By & Havn (or something similar, "the city", and become an actual "havnefoged"**. He sometimes lies about his importance. In real life he's in charge of something small like picking up trash in the area, making sure the chains don't rust etc.

MARK

Hey! You! You there, PAUSE! *(gets them to stop walking)* Yes, that's more like it. Well, what have you to say, did you not hear me? Whenever you see a poor man like me approach you, even running to do so, next time I bid you to stop immediately! *(catches his breath)*.

So - you're going in the completely wrong direction!

The ceremony is over THERE, not over THERE! Good thing you ran into me, I'll tell you that.

SANDRA

Excuse me, but who are you?

MARK

What do you mean, "who am I"?

SANDRA

I'm sorry, but I'm here on a tour with this group of people and I'm perfectly in control of where we're going.

MARK

You're here for the ceremony, right?

SANDRA

We are not here for anything that is remotely related to anything that has to do with anything but these gorgeous buildings. I am doing a tour on behalf of Cit...-

MARK

HEY! You! (to group: Wait here!) *(yells to someone a bit away from them. He's tossing trash next to the trash can. MARK runs towards him and is very upset (and a bit personally hurt) that he would do that. Mark hands the man his trash-collector-stick-thingy and makes the man pick it up to put it in the trash)*

MARK (suddenly very official)

You're giving a tour, you say? Are you permitted to do so? Can I please see your certificate?

SANDRA

My certificate? For giving a tour, here?

MARK

Why yes, you certainly need your certificate. Otherwise I can't let you continue your - very nice, I'm sure - tour.

SANDRA

May I ask, what is your authority?

MARK

Ha! My authority. Do you see that bridge over there? And do you know the other bridge? Inderhavnsbroen? And lille Langebro?

SANDRA (nervous laughter)

Yes, I believe we all know the basic bridges around he...-

MARK

Basic! Well I'll tell you, manoeuvring the buttons to opening and closing those bridges is not a basic task!

SANDRA

... You're the operator. You work at the Harbour Officials?

(Mark flinches. He doesn't but he wishes he did)

MARK

... that's exactly what I do.

(A woman with a guitar walks by them, sings aggressively at them)

I have told that young woman multiple times, if she does not stop I WILL have to fine her! With Ari leaving we simply must delegate some tasks, I can not be everybody's babysitter, do you agree?

Everyday, *everyday*, I tell you, I catch those students from Christianshavn Gymnasium throwing-cigarette buds-directly-into-the-harbour! *(waits for reaction)* Were they raised by pigs, you might ask?! I have told the Harbour Officers multiple times... I mean, I have spoken with my colleagues on multiple occasions, if they... We! ... do not maintain the cleanness of this harbour it WILL be lost, and forever this time, these people, these young students who have nothing else on their mind but partying and smoking, they will wreck the - extremely rare, in case you didn't know - state of our harbour! *(hands out pocket-ashtrays to everybody)*

It's *swimmable!* In the middle of the capital! And they're all just - oh, nevermind, just get going.

You might see Nora on your way there, she's late as always. She'll take you if you keep getting lost!

SANDRA

(Deep breath) I have no idea who Nora is. *(To group)* But I'm sure she's another fine participant of the Nordhavn Neighbourhood! Shall we get going? This way, dear folk!

MARK

Are you daft? I've just told you - it's THAT way.

SANDRA

What IS it that's "that way"?

MARK

Ariana's farewell ceremony, of course!

SANDRA

... *(is sick of being reminded of Ariana)* Oh, my God. *(to group)* People, let's move along. Lots of neighbourhood activities going on, as you can tell, we really do have a strong community out here, but unfortunately that's not where we're heading tonight. If you'll follow me...-

MARK

Wait - you're not going? To Ari's party?

SANDRA

No, we certainly aren't.

MARK

Are you mental?

SANDRA

Excuse me?

MARK

After all she's done? This area wouldn't be half the place it is without her!

SANDRA (*Suddenly determined to not leave but to engage in the argument*)

And what makes you say that?

MARK

Nordhavn? It's all her! Do you think this neighbourhood would have ever succeeded if she hadn't been around?

SANDRA

And what exactly has she been doing here, then?

MARK

She's been everywhere! Look at the architecture - the brick walls simulating the old part of Nordhavn, the buildi...-

SANDRA

What are you talking about? These are all designed by scholared architects from our company...-

MARK

Yes - and where do you think they found their inspiration?

SANDRA (*losing her patience*)

Oh, sure, an old lady had a talk with all of the architects, I'm sure.

MARK

What old lady?

SANDRA

And the architects all said, "We'll listen to this brilliant ancient person who has no relation to CityDock whatsoever...-"

MARK

CityDock! (*scoffs*)

SANDRA (*coldly*)

Yes, to CityDock. The company who owns half these buildings. The company of this tour I'm giving.

MARK

You're from CityDock?

SANDRA

Yes I am. This new Nordhavn wouldn't be anything without *CityDock*, not without *Ariana*. She has nothing more to do here, and to be frank, I think she should have left a long time ago. (*Mark is shocked*) Anyhow, to sum up; I'm from CityDock and these are our valued clients and potential buyers of property, so if you'll please let me get on with my tour...

MARK

A tour of what? Land Of No Souls? It should be called CityDeath! Ari's the only reason you haven't totaled our neighbourhood. She's what's given this place LIFE! You're just a bunch of suits, you are. And, may I add - license-less-suits. Can I please see that certificate I asked you for a million years ago?

SANDRA

What *is* this paperwork you're talking about?

MARK

I am talking about... the tourist/real estate hybrid pass of tours with commercialised interests.

SANDRA

The tourist/real estate hybrid...-?

MARK

Yes, oh well, if you don't have it I'm afraid you'll have to come with me, I have a very exciting looking office right over here... *(guides Sandra away from group)*

SANDRA

Excuse me? *(is confused by his official sounding words) (to group)*: This is highly unusual, if you just continue walking towards the Portland...-

MARK

NORA! *(waves towards a woman sitting far away.)* NORA! *(She gets up. Waves back)*
TAKE THIS GROUP WITH YOU!

NORA *(from far away)*

FOR TONIGHT?

MARK

YES! *(finds his phone and dials someone)*

SANDRA

Hold on, this group is here to participate in only CityDock related activities and sightings for the evening...-

MARK

Yes, and they'll continue to do so once you've signed the papers, follow me please
(takes SANDRA with him, group is sent off to NORA)

(in phone): Christian? Yes, I think I need your help for a second over here, can you please join me at my office? Yes, my office!

TRANSITION 4

They pass by:

- A group of young students, all sitting nicely and calmly reading in school books, perhaps smoking.. Not reckless like Mark just described them = the opposite.
- Someone with a metal detector, he/she has a buddy in the harbour trying to fish up old bikes/treasures

SCENE 5 - THE NOSTALGIC WINTER BATHER

OBS: We learn about Nora. We hear a point of view where Ariana's leaving isn't the worst thing in the world. We learn about communities (especially rowing and winter bathing) and the audience follows Nora to the party in the end, without Sandra.

(Note: Here is where we could potentially work on being a minority - a sense of (not) belonging. Maybe in the end, when she jumps in the water, she's joined by a minority group to do a fun activity of their choice or something like that.)

The audience walks towards Nora who's on a dock, in her bathing suit and winter bathing "coat").

She's mild, polite, calm, and has a sense of melancholia about her.

NORA

Hello! Are you guys ok? *(interaction)* That seemed very dramatic, what just happened - come sit down with me, please. Sit down, please. It's not much. *(they're invited to sit on a blanket/pillows/benches, somewhere comfortable but humble).* .

Thank you.

Mark asked me to take you to the ceremony tonight - is that where you're going? *(interaction)*

Oh, well... if that lady doesn't come back, I'll be sure to take you. If there's one thing I've learned about Mark, it is to better do what he asks, haha. He's a little eccentric but he truly does love the harbour. He loves Ariana too, but I think they

might have grown apart a bit. He's probably best off without her, actually; I don't think he can learn anymore from her, and I think he feels ready to take on some of her... gifts. It's not really a duty if you love it, is it?

How are you doing tonight? *(response)*

It must be strange for you to come here now, at this time, I mean. It's already so different. I've been coming here every night lately. Actually, I've been coming here for 30 years, but of course everything was a bit different back then.

BUBBLES - they show up on the surface and everybody sees them. They make Nora feel like she should share.

I think, now that we might have some time, I'd like to tell you a little bit about what this place was like. The ceremony doesn't start until **XX** so we still have some time. Is that alright with you? I'm sorry, I don't mean to dwell on the past, but if tonight's going to be the last time - oh my gosh, for you it might be the *only* time - we see Ariana, I think it would be best if we paid our proper respect. Don't you think?
(response).

So, I moved here from the other part of the country when I was 19. I had just finished Gymnasiet and I thought I wanted to become an architect. Or, actually, I *did* want to become an architect. At the time. I figured Copenhagen was the best option, so I moved away with a good friend of mine. I suppose I was a little bit naïve, but it was the best decision I've probably ever made.

I lived a few kilometres that way, in the beginning of **Amager**. I got a job at a storage facility **(there's a Pelican Storage between Østerport and Nordhavn???)**, and whenever we'd go to one of the top floors the view would be incredible. I worked a lot of evening shifts, as a night guard of sorts, and the sunsets on the water were just... splendid.

One evening I looked down to here, right here, and I saw a group of people rowing. I couldn't get it out of my head, so one morning, on my way home from the night shift, I went and I asked what they were up to. *(happily and gratefully, like she couldn't believe her own luck:)* It was a club! And it wasn't full!

I met two of my dearest, best friends there. They just celebrated their 20th anniversary a couple of months ago, I was the toastmaster at their wedding. The woman, Kristin, is the godmother of my daughter.

Here, I've got pictures.

(she shows polaroids of her two best friends, their wedding, her daughter, the club, etc)

Isn't she lovely? Just like the song, haha. Her name's Lou. She and Ariana have always gotten along so well. Lou really understands Ari, in a way I don't think many people do. She's very upset that Ariana's leaving. Many people here are, we can't really imagine what it's going to be like from now on. Of course, there are many things I never imagined - sorry, I didn't tell you what I actually do.

So, after I joined the rowing club, *The Harbour Sprinters*, we were called, I completely changed course. I still loved architecture, and I still do, but buildings became a bit... cold to me. So I became a teacher. History and social studies, and I taught in the club. I've taught the beginner's team for 15 years, yeah, right over there. In that building.

(the building is not a rowing club. It's closed, or it's a bar, something new)

Everybody there knows my name. Or, well...

It was closed 3 years ago. They closed it. Couldn't get enough funding, we couldn't, so the city decided it wasn't of enough use. Made room for "new entrepreneurship". I guess that's fine. We don't just row, you know. It's not really - well, it wasn't really ever about that. It was... going there. Every week. We created the most delightful traditions. You're probably wondering why I'm wearing this ridiculous robe, no? It's actually from winter bathing. Yeah - we'd go winter bathe together, the whole group. Tom, Kristin, the rest of them. I'd go with my daughter also, when she was a little kid she would wait on the ground and throw us towels once we got up. Later on, she joined! That has been the greatest joy of my life. To get to share the community with my daughter. For so many years.

When the club closed, it somewhat changed. No one relied on us anymore. There wasn't a set time and date to meet and go out on the water. Some of us tried to keep it going, I wouldn't say it was a failure or anything. But, you know, time goes

by and now it's been 3 years. Lou's still keen on going out rowing with me once in a while - and we always, always go winter bathing from the first day of November all the way through May, every Tuesday morning. By May, it stops being fun, and we stick to rowing. She's turning 16 now. Tom and Kristin recently moved to Roskilde. They have an incredible house, and I go there often to have dinner. At least once a month, I'd say. Sometimes even more often. Lou and I went rowing last week.

(pause) She's thinking of moving abroad to study. Not now, of course, she just started Gymnasiet, but at some point. She said a curious thing the other day: She said "mother, I think you should find another club to join". I said "Well, there isn't one," and she said "nonsense!", haha. *(pause)* I've looked. I've looked... many times. I think I must have missed the right time - the waiting lists are so, so long. *(pause. Long breath. It feels like she's given up)* Everywhere. Both rowing clubs and winter bathing clubs. I've checked. I'm not sure if there is a new club for me. If there's another chapter for me in here, in this book of harbour life. I had my time, you know. And I still do. As long as Lou's around, I'll make sure to go row and swim and... I've been sensing the departure of Ari for a couple years now. I'm not sure things will be much different than they already are.

It's not only for the worse, you know. I have more free time now. And I can always just sit here and look at the sunset. I don't have to go in... I don't think.

(pause)

Did you get a good look at the pictures? They're not bad, right? It was Ariana who taught me how to use a polaroid camera, back when she was part of the rowing club. There're not too many buttons to push or things to adjust, it's really very simple. I'm decorating the venue for tonight. Loads of us are helping, it's been a really great process. I have tons and tons of pictures of all of us, everyone who's ever met Ari. I'm creating this wall of photos, memorabilia, "wall of great" in honour of Ariana. Let me get one of you, please - that will make her really happy, I'm sure. Go on, get together, over there with the harbour in the background... *(takes the picture. Takes multiple. Has fun with it, interacts, loves the sense of belonging).*

Oh look!

(A little girl, MIRA, arrives. She's about 10)

MIRA

Hi auntie Nora!

NORA

Hello dear! How are you?

MIRA

I'm meeting mommy at the party!

NORA *(laughs)*

Well that's great! Are you going there right now, then?

MIRA

Yes. *(Suddenly shy, tries to hide from the group of strangers)*

NORA

Mira, these are our new friends! They're very lovely and they're going to be joining the - oh, wait... *(to group)*: You will join, won't you? I don't see your friend anywhere around here - oh please come!

MIRA *(Less shy)*

Everybody can come, Ari said so herself!

(interaction - NORA and MIRA persuades them to come)

NORA

Well that's wonderful! Mira, do you think you can take them? *(to group)*: It's really not a long walk from here, and Mira knows the way. She and Ari have spent hours at that place.

MIRA

But we have to go nowwww, my mommy's waiting!

NORA

Sure. Go on - I'll see you there in a bit. I just need to do a few things - need to wear something different for instance, haha.

(She gets them to go. Before they've all left, they sense that she's indecisive. Instead of changing/going home to change, she stands and looks at the harbour. Throws the robe, jumps in. The audience are leaving - maybe they saw her jump in, maybe they didn't. She's in her own world now, and doesn't notice them)

TRANSITION 5

They pass by:

- *Someone from across communicating - with flash lights or other kind of light*
 - *Someone surrounded by birds who do NOT want to feed them any of her/his cinnamon swirls*

6. THE CEREMONY

OBS: Sandra reunites with the group, led gently by Christian. She's not completely determined to participate and doesn't know how to feel about Ari leaving but she softens up during the ceremony.

We recognise that the other characters know each other.

We recognise that people feel differently about Ariana leaving.

We recognise that people have different memories of/with her.

Ariana shows up but she's nowhere to be seen - she might be **the bubbles** or completely invisible/a creature without a face (by that I mean that we don't want to

be able to put an age to her so if it's a real person I think we should hide the face and make it creature-like).

The audience interacts - they're being asked to help. There are also some non-interactive scenes that the audience will need to see without interacting - think of it as an installation and make sure that the other actors help the audiences look where the action's at.

THE GROUP arrives. DAVID and FRANCESCA are there to greet the audience.

FRANCESCA

You again! What are you doing here?

DAVID

Great to see you again, is what she means.

FRANCESCA

Did you lose that sightseeing-gal of yours?

DAVID

Where is your guide, we mean?

(Interaction)

DAVID

Oh well, she'll probably come around. It's all festivities tonight, who wouldn't want that? Did you bring anything? *(He sees their polaroid pictures)* Oh great, you've met Nora! Go on then, over there, put them up on the wall!

They're pointed towards the studygroup-teenagers who are finishing up the wall of polaroids. The group are engaged in the activities for a little while, being served a

drink/snack etc. Everybody is in character still, waiting for the last arrivals. The people they've seen on their ways around are there as well.

FRANCESCA

What the bloody hell, Christian? Do you know this woman?

CHRISTIAN, SANDRA and MARK arrive. CHRISTIAN is leading SANDRA who looks a little nervous and sceptical, but also curious.

CHRISTIAN

Hi, Franny! Great to see you. This is *Sandra*.

(Pause)

FRANCESCA

Well, shit. *(she feels bad, like she's an idiot. Both FRANCESCA and DAVID knows about the story of "Christians ex-girlfriend and her little sister" but they haven't met her before)*

DAVID

I'm such an idiot. Of course she is.

CHRISTIAN

Nah, you couldn't have known! Back then, I'd never even met you two loonies. But this is her - Sandra, you've met Fran and Dave already I assume?

SANDRA

Well... yes.

FRANCESCA slowly but surely decides to give SANDRA a hug. SANDRA is surprised.

SANDRA

Oh! ... Thank you.

FRANCESCA

We didn't properly introduce, I'm Francesca but you can just call me Franny, everyone-bloody-else seems to do so.

DAVID

Hello again, Sandra, nice to see you again. Did you have a good tour?

SANDRA

Yes, I did - or well, no, not at all - excuse me, so nice to meet you, I just have to go find my group for a moment, please...

SANDRA goes to the group. MARK, CHRISTIAN, DAVID and FRANCESCA all have a beer (MARK gets an elderflower juice) and hang out. CHRISTIAN keeps an eye on SANDRA and the group, making sure they're okay.

SANDRA *(to the group)*

Hello! I am so so sorry we were separated - what happened? Christian assured me that that Nora-woman wasn't dangerous or anything - what happened?

(Interaction. Audience fills her in. SANDRA is curious and very relieved to find out what they did in the meantime.)

SANDRA

I am so glad you're okay. This is not how I thought the evening would go - are you guys sure you're okay being here? We can leave anytime you want...-

CHRISTIAN *(interrupts)*

Hi there! Good to see y'all again. Wanna help me put that piece up? It's the final thing to do before Ari gets here!

The group - inc. SANDRA - helps Christian put the light bulb thing up. They don't light it yet. CHRISTIAN and SANDRA are being very warm towards each other - it's clear that there was once love. Whenever Ari's mentioned, SANDRA stiffens a bit and is visibly nervous. CHRISTIAN calms her down. Whether they're being just friendly or more than that is up for interpretation.

At some point NORA shows up. She's in a nice dress, arm in arm with her daughter, LOU. Many people know her and love her, and she loves them back. The people she hasn't met before she's very friendly to but a little shy/tired. When she sees the wall she's very moved. LOU asks someone to take a picture of the two of them and put it up on the wall.

A few more minutes pass by.

MARK dings his glass.

MARK (in mic/on chair/somewhere visible)

Everybody! I must ask you to stop whatever you're doing. I have just been informed that Ariana will arrive very soon. I'd like to take a minute to tell you that I am this evening's toast master - pointed out by the guest of honour - and I assure you, you are all in very capable hands...-

FRANCESCA

Come on Mark, let him do it!

MARK

(pretends he didn't hear)

An important information I'd like to brace you with is that this evening could potentially be chilly, and there are blankets...-

CHRISTIAN

Mark, you tosser! Just do it together already!

MARK (*Annoyed*)

All RIGHT - David, would you like to come join me on stage, please?

DAVID

Oh - oh, sure, yes!

DAVID is very honoured.

DAVID

Can I get one of those? (*MARK hands him his glass, a bit annoyed*).

DING DING DING! Haha, all right that's more like it - everybody WELCOME!

(Everybody cheers and laughs. MARK and DAVID are toastmasters for the evening - MARK thinks he's the best one and wants to give DAVID a lot of lessons, but DAVID's a natural (even though he might be a little too blatant and a tiny bit drunk). They get along well even though it's a bit of an older brother-little brother-dynamic. Maybe FRANCESCA joins in at some point to steal the mic and say something sweet about her "stupid little brother".

Before the speeches/songs/soundscapes from real life-workshop-people or whatever the beautiful creative team comes up with: The entrance and departure of Ariana:)

CHRISTIAN

All right, let's do this then, right? Do you wanna do it? (*He asks someone from the audience, someone he thinks would really love to turn the light bulb thing on. They go outdoors (if they weren't already) and towards the water. He brings the person to the switch and counts down with everybody. When they hit 0, the person turns it on*

and it's beautiful. At the same time, Ariana "arrives". She might be bubbles (see "OBS"). They all say one thing that's gonna be different now that she's gone, together while looking at "Ariana".

CHRISTIAN

I'll have to fight harder to keep the good spirit of the harbour up. I'll have to smile to more strangers. Difficult to get people smiling when I don't look half as good as you!

FRANCESCA

I'll fucking miss chasing seagulls at Ophelia Beach with you! Not looking forward to be doing that alone, I'll look like a nutjob, won't I?

DAVID

You have really made my life so much more fun, Ariana. You've managed to put up with me, an old hag, and brought some youth into my life. Don't even know where to begin, but it's gonna be a bit of a shitshow without you. No hard feelings though - I'll just have to put up with this nutjob sister aren't I?

NORA

I think I'd just like to say thank you. You leaving has... made me think. I've been thinking about moving. *(The people who knows her reacts, a bit shocked)* It hasn't been the same for the past years. Not that that's much to do with you, Ari, but... I'm not sure this is the place for me anymore. Thank you. It's been great to know you.

(CHRISTIAN gets SANDRA to say something, silently)

SANDRA

Ariana... it hasn't always been good. With us. But I hope you're going somewhere peaceful. I am glad to have known you even though... Bye, Ariana. *(CHRISTIAN gives her arm a squeeze)*

MIRA

I hope I'll find someone else to play with.

MARK

Ariana. You're so dear to me, and may I say, to everybody. You've touched a lot of people's hearts that I don't think you are aware of. I personally think it's a little foolish of you to leave in a time like this, but I am more than prepared for your departure. I want to let you know, it'll be alright. I assure you, the whole harbour will be alright. Different. Not exactly sure how we'll be handling this new reality without the... the *force* of you. No need to panic, though. People come and go. I wish you well, Ariana. I don't mean to say it's up to me to keep the harbour clean, safe and alive - even though I do have a few more tasks and responsibilities than the rest of you, I dare say - it's all of us' job. Let's see what new will come and what it will bring - and let's take it, as it comes.

These things may be the last thing before Arianas "departure". They could also be the beginning of more speeches/songs/contributions (below).

A general note for SANDRA: During the farewell to Ariana she learns to let go.

Maybe, later in the evening, she shares with the group that she needed to get away from Sydhavn, from the "old-ness" and that's why she has this job now - maybe she doesn't share it but CHRISTIAN for sure knows it. She finds some sort of peace with Ariana - isn't exactly sad to see her go, but forgives her and also remembers the memories she had with her before the accident. She realises that she missed a lot of time "running away" - that there are a lot of great people who are different from her, have different jobs etc, that live and coexist right by her/with her here in Nordhavn, that she's never met before; but now she can. She becomes more humbled. She asks the audience about personal things, opinions etc - less interested in selling them property now.

More things to include from the characters to Ariana:

A speech:

Ari, you've always kind of understood me - I think. That's my feeling, anyway. And despite popular opinion I do believe that feelings are valid. I've always felt that I could come to you. If anything happened, or didn't happen, if I ever just needed to. And I never have.

I thought about it multiple times. But I never did. And now you're leaving us. I'm not sure what you're leaving us with. There are so many things I already can't recognize and I sense the changing every minute you get closer to leaving us. And you're allowed to! I just don't know where to turn to now. Some things are just too late, I guess, and this is one of them. I've felt safe, not particularly happy or accomplished anything to be especially proud of, but safe. Thanks for that.

A song:

I don't want you to go home
I assume that's where you're off to
Because you told me it was somewhere important
I already feel alone
But you said it's what you're supposed to

I don't want to feel the winds
I'd like the air to be still as never before
I'd like the waves to flatten and the bridges to be down
I do remember my sins
I'd like to think of them no more

It's not like you were just a chapter
Darling, you were all of our's book
We submerged it all into your pages
And now you're moving faster
Not sure which route we took

It's all over in the time of a tide
Another sign in neon built by just another bank
I've known it for a while but now I need to let you go
I know I cannot hide
Can't leave our next page blank

.... And/or things like these. We'd like to have different senses of Ariana - most people love her and are afraid to see her go, some are indifferent, some are excited. Feel free to workshop these things with the creative group and/or real life harbour-people.

SCENE 7 - After the fiction

Arianas "departure": The bubbles fade away/they release the rope to Ariana's raft and she floats off/etc.

The party becomes something different → maybe everybody jumps in the water (not the audiences → the cast stands on the edge, takes a bow and jumps in and now the fiction is over or something like that).

The rest of Assemble (Carol and Kat fx) arrive and join. Maybe local people will join. Actors become themselves, everybody takes a group picture at some point.

THE END