

Solid Gold and the Rabbit Hole
An "Alice in Wonderland" Tale of Discovery

By Devin Berg

Cast of Characters

Mitch at different stages in his life.

Before Mitch: a younger man

During Mitch: a middle-aged man

After Mitch: an older man

Mama: Mitch's mom

Sasha: Mitch's wife

*All "Memory: ___ years old" are intended to be read in performance as part of the piece.

Solid Gold and the Rabbit Hole
An "Alice in Wonderland Tale of Discovery

Saga One: Before Mitch

Blackout.

We hear bloodcurdling screams interspersed with frequent cursing.

A mother is giving birth.

The cursing is bleeped out similar to a reality television show.

The mother ad-libs: Jesus Mother****ing Christ! Oh s****! Ah!

Lights up on Mitch #s 1, 2, and 3 seated in a diagonal line.

Before Mitch

Memory: 0 years old.

When I'm older, I'll find out that Mama didn't want me, but she'll tell me some bullshit story of how Jesus came to her and said I was going to be solid gold, so she decided to give me a shot. I'll spend the rest of my life thinking I'm precious.

During Mitch

Memory: 30 years old.

I hold my son for the first time and tell him he has a lot to live up to because, when I was born . . . I was solid gold.

After Mitch

Memory: 60 years old.

I wish Mama had never told me that bullshit story.

Before Mitch

Memory: 15 years old.
I ask Mama where Dad is:

Mama

You don't have a dad.

Before Mitch

Mama, I'm taking biology. They don't really keep that kind of stuff from us anymore.

Mama

You don't need science to know that you don't have a father. You can use your eyes.

Before Mitch

If I close them, I can imagine him.

During and After Mitch
appear.

MITCH

I bet he looked just like Prince Charming.

MAMA can't see them, but she
shoos them away.

Mama

Prince Charming is a sissy.

Mitch #1

Fine! Superman. Robin Hood*. George Clooney.

During and After Mitch appear
again to represent Before
Mitch imagination. During as
Superman, After as Robin
Hood.

(*Robin Hood as in the
English folklore, not
Batman.)

There is an empty spot where
George Clooney would stand.

I wouldn't know, because my mother insists I was an immaculate conception!

Mama

If you have to imagine someone,

Before, During, and After
Mitch all look toward Mama.

George Clooney will do.

Before Mitch grabs the dress
and trophy for During Mitch.

During Mitch pantomimes his
experience at the carnival.

Before and After Mitch become
his audience.

During Mitch

Memory: 7½ years old.

I wonder how Mama can hold her smile in when I get 2nd place in the costume contest at the elementary Halloween carnival. I am sure to emphasize the fact that I beat Carol Carson into the ground and her Dorothy costume was complete with the ruby-EST red slippers!

Before, During, and After
Mitch all look toward Mama.

During Mitch and Mama
pantomime their ride home.

She doesn't speak on the way home. I spend the rest of the night apologizing that I didn't get 1st.

Before Mitch and After Mitch
come forward as During Mitch
and Mama move back.

After Mitch

Memory: 15 years old.

I am apparently hanging out with my best friend, Bobby, too much:

They look.

Hey, Bobby.

Before Mitch (as Bobby)

Hey, Mitch.

They smooch from afar.

After Mitch

So Mama forces me to go to the movies with the neighbor girl, Sasha.

They look at each other.

She's pretty.

They look away and back again.

Her hair is pretty.

Sasha laughs giddily.

They look away.

And her skin is dark.

They look back again.

And I like her-

(Extending his hand)

-so I walk her to the door:

Sasha

Thanks for walking me to my door.

After Mitch

You're welcome.

Sasha

I think you're supposed to kiss me now.

Sasha leans into After Mitch.

After Mitch

I don't want to.

Before and During Mitch
audibly gasp.

SASHA disappears as After
Mitch's mind turns to a
whirlwind.

During Mitch at 7½ years old
twirls in his Cinderella
dress, singing "A Dream Is A
Wish Your Heart Makes."

Before Mitch at 15 embodies
Prince Charming and Robin
Hood.

Everything is suddenly
silent.

After Mitch

I didn't know why.

So I slammed my door shut and fell asleep, hoping it would
wash away.

After Mitch falls to the
ground.

During Mitch

I dreamt of Alice and the Cheshire Cat and noticed Mama's
eyes in line with it's smile.

After Mitch

I woke up in hot sweats-

Before Mitch

With the feeling that I was falling-

During Mitch

But opened my eyes just before I hit the ground.