

NEW/ADVENTURES

# EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

VISUAL GUIDE

# Introduction

This visual guide is designed for any audience members who want to familiarise themselves with what to expect from Edward Scissorhands before they get to the theatre. The story is told entirely through dance and music with no speech, so this guide should help you follow the along.

It contains images and information about the characters, story and the production in general. We hope this resource makes your visit more enjoyable.

If you have any comments, please get in touch at [office@new-adventures.net](mailto:office@new-adventures.net)

# Show Notes

## Themes within the show

- Individuality, Young Love, Bullying, Being an Outsider

## Please be aware

- Edward Scissorhands is approximately 2 hours long, including a 20-minute interval.
- The age guidance for this show is 5+
- There is a loud thunder crash at the start, and some other loud noises and lighting effects throughout. If you need more information, please email [office@new-adventures.net](mailto:office@new-adventures.net)
- The dancers playing the characters in this guide may not be the same dancers on the day you see the show, but the character costumes will be the same.
- The audience will clap during the show, for example when a big scene ends. You can join in if you want to.

## Trigger Warnings

- There is a clown mask used in a scene at the start of the show, which has a scary face and tufts of red hair.
- There are set pieces, lighting effects and music which create a sinister atmosphere at times throughout. This is intentional but there are also lots of light and comedic moments as well.
- Sometimes, Edward accidentally cuts other characters with his Scissorhands. He never means to harm people, and the dancers are not really hurt.
- Other trigger warnings for specific scenes are in **bold** throughout this guide.

# Meet the Characters

The story centres around

- Edward
- Kim Boggs

There are lots of other characters in the story too who make up the families of Hope Springs.

# Edward

Edward is the son of an inventor father. He suddenly dies by being struck by lightning while holding a pair of scissors. Years later, his father brings him back to life.

The Inventor dies on Halloween as boys from Hope Springs break into his home and he suffers a heart attack, leaving Edward alone until Peg Boggs find him.



# Kim Boggs

Kim is the oldest child of Bill and Peg Boggs, and sister of Kevin.

Kim is the perfect all-American 'girl next door' and is dating troublemaker Jim Upton when we meet her.

When Peg Boggs brings Edward into their home to stay, he and Kim become close.



# The Families of Hope Springs



**The Evercreeches**

**The Gaibrighths**

**The Boggs**

**The Uptons**

**The Covitts**

**The Monroes**

All the families have their own distinct costume colour palettes and styles so you can remember who is who.

# The Story

If you don't want to know what happens in the show, stop reading now!

*“Once upon a time, there was a boy called Edward.”*



With a **thunder crash** and **lightning flash**, we travel back in time...

An old lady enters with a walking stick. A young Edward is playing a paper game in the grounds of a large gothic style mansion. Suddenly young Edward is struck by lightning and falls to the floor as The Inventor, his father, rushes out from the mansion but is too late to save his son.



A small crowd, gathers around the **grave** at the boy's **funeral**. The lonely, distraught figure of The Inventor places some flowers on the grave of his son. Slowly, the other mourners leave until he is left alone at the graveside. Aware that he is now alone, he takes from out of his pocket a large pair of scissors... the very ones that Edward had been using when lightning struck. Suddenly inspired, he turns and strides upstage, back to the mansion on the hill.



## *Many Years Later...*

Inside the mansion, The Inventor, now older, works frantically at his sewing machine. He begins attaching limbs to a body obscured by a tattered sofa. Lastly, he brings over the scissors to attach to the body's arms.



With a clap of thunder, the body rises from the sofa.  
Edward has come to life.

# *Halloween*

The Inventor is teaching Edward how to walk, sit and stand as a group of teenagers in **Halloween masks** decides to cause trouble by trespassing in the grounds of the mansion.

The teenagers creep around the mansion and eventually encounter The Inventor, pouncing on him to **scare him** and causing the old man to have a **heart attack**. As The Inventor falls to the floor, the boys encounter Edward and scatter, leaving Edward alone and lost.

The teenagers run to their houses in Hope Springs, with the ringleader being revealed as Jim Upton, the Mayor's son.



# *The Sun Rises on Hope Springs*

**An alarm clock rings**, and we are introduced to the small town of Hope Springs, its inhabitants, and a day in the life of this suburban community.

Each of the families has distinct characteristics and we see them each going about their daily business - meeting and greeting each other, the teenagers hanging out, and mothers waving at each other from their doorsteps. They drive their cars, which is show my dancers holding steering wheels and moving together, pretending to be in a car.

As evening falls, husbands return home after work, empty milk bottles are put on doorsteps and street and house lights switch on.



## *The Kindness of Peg Boggs*



Edward appears in the night, bedraggled and confused having run out of the mansion chasing the teenagers and not knowing his way back.

Hiding in the shadows, he sees Jim Upton knock on the Boggs' front door to pick up his girlfriend Kim Boggs for a camping trip. Kim's parents, Bill and Peg, appear at the door and while Bill lectures Jim on the ground rules, Peg spots Edward near their trashcans.

She goes over, and they are both startled by one another. But after a moment, seeing that Edward is scared and alone, Peg persuades Edward to come inside.



## *Meet The Boggs*

Inside the Boggs' family home, Edward is brought to Kim's room.

Bill, Peg and their son Kevin fuss around him to make him feel as at-home and comfortable as possible. Edward awkwardly responds as best he can to this newfound affection. Finally, he is left alone, in oversized pyjamas, tucked up in bed, looking around at Kim's room.



He gets out of bed to explore his new surroundings, clumsily he opens things, breaks things and discovers his own reflection in the dressing table mirror. As Edward looks at the posters on the wall of Kim as a cheerleader, he imagines that they come alive, and Edward is mesmerized as a trio of Kims dance around him.

# Gossip

It's the start of the weekend and Hope Springs is a hive of activity. The townsfolk are happily exercising, lounging and gossiping about the odd new arrival at the Boggs' house.

Peg leaves the house followed by Edward in shorts, sweatshirt and dark glasses, through which he can't see. They go about the town as if nothing is unusual. Edward becomes interested in the Boggs' garden and creates his first topiary masterpiece.

Everyone is waiting for Peg to introduce Edward, but she exits, re-entering sometime later followed by Edward laden with shopping bags, wearing a baseball cap. He and Peg go straight into their house, followed by the neighbours queuing at the shut front door ushering each other to ring the bell. Peg gives in, opens the door introduces Edward.



# *Welcome Party*

In the Boggs' back garden, the people of Hope Springs have gathered for a barbeque and swim party to welcome Edward to the town. Decorations are strung up and Edward shows off his topiary skills once more to great applause.

Though everyone is still wary of the odd new boy, they make an effort for their friends Bill and Peg. As the festivities continue, the older kids return from their camping trip, including Jim and Kim who get up and dance together.

When the party is over and the guests have left, Edward watches Jim and Kim say goodbye, and Jim is cruel to Kim because he is jealous. Edward imagines a world in which he has human hands and dances with Kim. In this scene, the topiary comes to life, portrayed by dancers in leafy green costumes which **cover their faces**.



# Interval

The interval will be **20 minutes**.

You can stay in your seat or leave the auditorium.

You might want to buy a drink or snack or use the toilet in the interval.



## *Edward's Salon*

The effect that Edward has had on Hope Springs is clear to see – the neighbourhood is peppered with topiaries of varying styles and shapes, all the men want to dress like Edward, and the women have all had their hair styled into outlandish shapes by Edward himself! When he cuts people's hair, you can hear **slicing scissor sounds**.



This newfound popularity has made Edward proud of his hands and his talents. Reporters have even shown up, wanting to take Edward's picture and tell his story. **Cameras are held up, but the flash will not go off.**

But there is still one person whose affection he hasn't secured – Kim Boggs.

## *Joyce Monroe*



One of Edward's neighbours, Joyce Monroe, has taken a liking to him and **tries to seduce him**. She leads him into her house and a **bean bag falls from the ceiling**.

While Joyce is in the kitchen seducing Edward, her husband is oblivious and, in the background (outside the house), tries to get his lawnmower to work. The lawnmower won't come on for a while and when it does is is a **very low rattle sound**.

Edward finally escapes Joyce's clutches and runs home.

# *Christmas*



**Trumpets sound.** Time has passed and the town prepares for Christmas, with carol-singing, skating and Christmas shopping in full swing. The novelty of Edward has worn off for most of Hope Springs, but Kim has now grown fond of her caring houseguest.

Wondering what he can do to get Kim's attention, Edward has an idea! In the Boggs' back garden, he works on a life-like ice sculpture that looks very much like Kim. He has climbed safely up to the top (he won't fall off).

When Kim enters the garden, dancing in the snow, she sees the sculpture and sweeps Edward up in her movement. It seems as if a kiss is inevitable, when Peg interrupts from the back door - it's time to leave for the Christmas Ball.

As Kim goes back inside, we realise that Jim has been watching all this intently from the shadows. He comes over to Edward looking like he might do him some serious damage! The mood breaks as Jim puts an arm around Edward and in mock friendship leads him inside... there is a sense of unease in the air.

## *Getting Ready for the Ball*

Kim and her girlfriends are getting ready in her bedroom when Jim and the boys burst in, dragging Edward along. Edward is nervous to join the party, but Jim persuades him to come in, but he is still **teased** by some of the kids.

While they all get ready, all the **boys spike Edward's drinks** without him realising, so when they finally leave the house for the Town Square, he is almost falling over **drunk** (the dancer is pretending).



# *The Christmas Ball*

The Town Square is alive with dancing and music as the Mayor and other VIPs arrive for the ritual lighting of the giant Christmas tree.

Jim and his friends push Edward to the front of the crowd to do the honours, and Edward beams and thrusts his scissors into the air in victory as they lift him onto the podium. He lights the tree to cheers and is surrounded by the crowd who are encouraging him to perform for them.

Edward lunges around in a kind of crazy, eccentric dance of many styles that he has picked up in Hope Springs. He is even more drunk than when he left the Boggs' house, and by the end of his solo he is dangerously out of control, careering off into the crowd.

He collapses in a heap in the middle of the dance floor, much to Bill and Peg's embarrassment.



## *The Bubble Bursts*

All Edward wants to do is watch Kim and be close to her, but his attentions have become worrying for Bill and Peg. On top of this, Brad Covitt, who is jealous of Edward's relationship with Joyce, is now pursuing him too.

In the final moments of the Swing Dance, Edward accidentally takes Jim's place and finishes the dance with Kim. **Jim wades in violently and pushes Edward aggressively** until he collapses into the Christmas tree.

His scissorhands connect with the open circuitry. **Sparks fly** but the tree does not fall over. **People scream and rush about.** Kevin urgently tries to help Edward but **accidentally gets cut by the scissorhands** as he whips around.

A moment's silence. The mood changes. Everyone winces at the sight of **blood** and **hysteria erupts.**

## *Running Away*



Edward runs through the neighbourhood, **chased away by the town.**

He is angry. He thinks his hands are the problem. They're what keeps him from being normal, from joining in, from being one of the gang, from being with Kim. If he had regular hands everything would be fine.

As he runs, he cuts up the tuxedo suit he is wearing to become, once again, the “naked”, leather clad Edward.

# *The Cemetery*

Guessing this is where Edward might be, Kim finds Edward at the cemetery, cowering behind the **gravestone** of The Inventor's son. He comes out of his hiding place but cannot look Kim in the eye. The situation is useless. How can he stay in this place and, more importantly, how can he be what he wants to be to Kim?

Kim is full of love for Edward and moves in close. She kisses him. They realize that their love can never be, but, for Edward, just knowing that Kim loves him too is enough.

Suddenly Jim and the **vigilante mob** appear at the cemetery gates. **In a rage of jealousy, he pushes Kim away from Edward, knocking her to the floor.** Edward is enraged to see Kim treated so violently. **A terrible fight follows, and Jim is accidentally stabbed by the Scissorhands. Blood appears on his shirt.** His injury is not fatal.

In the confusion, Edward somehow vanishes into thin air and all that is left of him are the original scissors from which he was created.



# *Snow*

As the townspeople slowly leave the cemetery, thinking about how they have treated Edward so harshly, Kim is led away by her father.

The old lady from the start of the show returns, searching for something. She turns away pulling from her pocket the scissors that she has kept with her all these years. We realise that this is Kim Boggs as an adult.

Suddenly, a few flakes of snow start to fall, then more and more, until the whole stage is full of a beautiful snowstorm. We recognise the memory of that night with the ice sculpture in her eyes.

Behind her, a familiar figure appears through the storm... It is Edward. He looks exactly the same. Kim senses his spirit is present, and she is happy. Raising up her arms she attempts a few steps; a reprise of her dance from so long ago.

The set floats up as the show ends.



# The End

When the show ends, there will be loud clapping and cheering.

People may stand up as the performers take a bow.

When you leave the theatre, you might want to talk about what you've just seen or take some time to quietly think about it on your own.