

THE WHO'S TOMMY

VISUAL STORY



The show starts in 2017.

Tommy is 70. He is struggling to come to terms with things that have happened to him in the past.

We go back in time to 1940.

Tommy imagines his mother meeting his father for the first time.



He pictures their romance and the pain of separation as Captain Walker leaves his pregnant young wife Mrs Walker to go to war.

Two soldiers arrive to inform Mrs Walker that her husband is missing in action. They are heartbroken.



Mrs Walker gives birth to a baby boy, Tommy.



We go forward in time to 1945

The war is over. Mrs Walker is celebrating her birthday with her new lover, Frank, when Captain Walker arrives back home.



Captain Walker and Frank start to fight, and 4 year-old Tommy walks in. Mrs Walker turns Tommy away so that he can't see the men fighting. But she turns him to a mirror and Tommy can see everything.

Captain Walker tries to take out his gun but as they fight Frank shoots Captain Walker dead.

Frank and Mrs Walker tell Tommy he must never tell anyone that he saw or heard anything. The police arrive on the scene to question Frank and Mrs Walker.



Tommy is visited by the spirit of his dead father who tells him they will be going on an amazing journey together.

In court, Tommy's parents are cleared of murder, but everyone is worried about Tommy who seems to be unable to communicate with anyone.



Tommy has lots of hospital tests and examinations to find out what might be wrong with him, but the doctors can't find anything.



It's Christmas and Tommy's family is celebrating with Reverend Simpson, the Reverend's wife, and their daughter, Sally. He doesn't open any presents, but can see his father.

Next, Tommy's mum and Frank are going out for the night and they are worried about leaving Tommy with Uncle Ernie.

They go out and Uncle Ernie abuses Tommy, but he stops when Tommy's mum and her lover return home early.

Tommy is comforted by his father again.



Cousin Kevin is looking after Tommy, but he soon gets bored. He takes Tommy to a youth club where he is bullied.



Tommy begins to play the pinball machine. He is very good!

Captain Walker appears to Tommy and Tommy's score gets higher and higher. Everyone is amazed.



Tommy is taken for more tests. But again, they find nothing.

A hawker arrives at Tommy's house and convinces Tommy's step-dad, Frank, to take Tommy to a woman he knows who can cure anything – the Acid Queen.



Frank is uncertain about what the Acid Queen intends to do. Is she going to give him drugs? Is she going to have sex with him? He pays her to go ahead, but at the last minute he changes his mind and takes Tommy back home.



At the end of Act One, it's 1958.

Tommy's pinball playing has made him a local star. He has become a Pinball Wizard!



We come back to Act 2

Frank has found a Specialist he thinks can help Tommy. Tommy sees the Specialist, but the tests come to nothing.



Back home, Tommy spends most of his time staring into the mirror in which he saw the murder.

His mum loses her temper with him and pushes him into the mirror.

The mirror breaks and Tommy relives the murder. Tommy's father appears before him again and tells him it is time to be free from the past.



To the amazement of those around him, Tommy tells them he is free. He is ready to communicate with the world.



Tommy's becomes a celebrity and everyone wants to cash in on his fame.

Uncle Ernie is trying to sell photographs of Tommy and even the Acid Queen tries to get a slice of the action.

As time passes, Tommy's fame grows and grows.



Tommy is everywhere! Everyone wants to see him play pinball. He is a hero!

Tommy starts to attract followers who come to join his community so that they can learn to be like him.

Uncle Ernie is making a small fortune selling Tommy products.

He has even invented an award for Tommy lookalikes.



Tommy is about to play a big gig and Sally Simpson, the Reverend's daughter, is desperate to go.

Sally's parents refuse permission for her to go, but she sneaks out.

At the gig, Sally manages to get up on stage and touch Tommy.



Before Tommy can react, she is pulled away by security guards and beaten up.

Tommy is shocked to see Sally beaten and cancels the gig. Tommy's followers are unhappy that the gig has been cancelled – they were hoping that tonight they might learn how they can be more like Tommy.



Their mood grows even uglier when Frank and Uncle Ernie distribute Tommy masks to turn them all into “deaf, dumb, and blind” kids.

When Sally asks Tommy what they need to do to be like him, Tommy tells her that he made a decision to stop communicating when he was a boy and all he ever really wanted was to be like them.

There's a fight and Tommy's family is badly beaten. Tommy is left cradling his mother.



We finish the show in 2017.

We come back to the present day as Tommy tries to finally move on from his past.