

A Traveller's Hat - working title

Traveller's Hat is the story of Canadian landscape painter Adelina Julenka's rise to prominence in the late 1960's told through the music of her grandson Jay's latest concept album. Jay travels across Canada with his band and through his music we are transported back to a young Adelina. These two stories are intertwined through music that speaks to the Canadian spirit. In the style of some of its most iconic artists (tragically hip, the guess who) and scenic views of each province as the band tours across the country, A Traveller's Hat will be a love letter to Canada. We aim to show its diversity with stories with stories and creatives that are part of under represented communities (LGBTQ+ AND IBPOC). Similar films A Star is Born, Once, and Walk the Line.

Addy (83) curses at the TV, so enthralled in the baseball game, she barely notices her grandson Jay (28) standing behind her. He's come to say goodbye before leaving on a cross country tour. Before their final goodbye Addy stops and gives Jay a hat to take on his travels. After all, a traveller needs a hat. As the first song on Jay's album begins to play Jay finishes packing for the tour, and we flash back to young Addy (26) tiptoes about trying not to wake her sister. Sneaking out as she usually does, Addy's getaway car wakes Patty (24) who reluctantly agrees not to tell. Back to current day, Jay and his band are kicking off their tour as Addy dances with her friends to their music. After the concert, Jay meets BRENNAN (31) and there's an instant spark. Since the death of his parents and the decline of his grandmother's health, Jay has had difficulty connecting with anyone. But something about Brennan's calm and gentle nature speaks to Jay. At his next concert we flashback to Addy's baseball game. The lyrics speaking to her deep desire to explore the world and make her mark. The music explodes as the game builds to its climax. Addy sends the ball flying into the stands where it's caught by SASHA (28). From then on Addy and Sasha are inseparable. Despite Patty's distrust of Sasha they marry and Addy follows him to Toronto. Before she goes, Patty places a hat on Addy's head. After all, a traveller needs a hat. The wind blows Patty's sundress, the image ingrained in Addy's memory as the last time she'd ever see her sister.

Addy arrives in Toronto to find Sasha working long and late hours. One afternoon she wanders into an art class and discovers a deepening of her passion for painting. A very pregnant Addy is beaming with pride as it's the first time an art gallery is showing her work. That is until she realizes Sasha has been in love with another woman. After a huge fight with Sasha, Addy runs to the rooftop where a gust of wind almost blows Patty's hat off her head. In the apartment below, Sasha gets a call that Patty has died of ovarian cancer. Heartbroken by Sasha and furious with her sister for withholding her cancer, Addy disappears into her painting. Now a single mom, she paints the places she wanted to see. Addy's unusual fantastical landscapes become known across the country.

After a night out, Brennan and Jay get in a huge fight and Jay quickly leaves. The band rallies around Jay, and though his spirits are temporarily raised, they can tell he's deeply hurt. While visiting Peggy's Cove a massive wind almost blows the hat Addy gave Jay right off his head. When he arrives back in town, Jay learns his Grandmother has died. Jay leaves the tour to go to Addy's funeral. While performing in PEI the band is shocked to find Brennan has flown in to try and win back Jay. The band flies home to check on Jay and tell him about Brennan. They promise regardless of what Jay decides, they always have his back. The final song begins as the band loads up the car before driving the great Canadian highway out to Newfoundland. The song is about following your passions and about moving where life and love takes you. As the song is ending Jay looks up and sees Brennan at the back of the bar. The two of them smile.

Working screenplay and full treatment available upon request.