

ENCHANTED LANDS

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A Play in Several Scenes  
Based on Tales from Around the  
Globe

By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE CREATION:	<i>Gucumatz, Tepeu, Ensemble</i>
RUMBLINGS IN THE FOREST:	<i>Orpheus</i>
THE MULE THAT WON'T WORK:	<i>Grandfather, Boy, Stump, Mule, Dog</i>
MOUSE'S BRIDEGROOM:	<i>Daughter, Father, Mice</i>
SLEEPING PRINCE:	<i>Storyteller, Strange Person, Sleeping Prince, Rival Princess</i>
CATERPILLAR AND THE WILD ANIMALS:	<i>Storyteller, Hare, Caterpillar, Jackal, Leopard, Rhinoceros, Elephant, Frog</i>
PRIDE OF A DESPERATE FROG:	<i>Storyteller 1, Storyteller 2, Frog, Animals</i>
A NEAR MISS:	<i>Eurydice</i>
FLING-A-MILE:	<i>Anansi, Fling-A-Mile, Hog, Goat, Monkey</i>
BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS:	<i>Storyteller, Ass, Dog, Cat, Rooster, Robber 1, Robber 2</i>
RABBIT SHOTS THE SUN:	<i>Storyteller, Squirrel, Jackal, Turtle, Rabbit</i>
GREAT FLOOD:	<i>Great Spirit, Buffalo, Young Girl, Old Man, Spotted Bear, Hunter 1, Hunter 2</i>
THE WOLF'S REWARD:	<i>Storyteller1, Storyteller 2, Wolf, Young Person, Villagers</i>
FIRST KNOWLEDGE:	<i>Orpheus, Eurydice</i>
LUCK FROM HEAVEN AND LUCK FROM EARTH:	<i>Honest, Evil, Spouse</i>
MOLLY WHUPPIE:	<i>Storyteller, Poll, Betts,</i>

*Momma, Molly, Old Person*

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE: *Orpheus, Euridyce, Priest,  
Snake, Hades, Persephone,  
Fates*

ON THE ORIGIN OF DEATH: *Squirrel, Hare, Ensemble*

THE CREATION: PART TWO *Gucumatz, Tepeu, Ensemble*

A note on Production and Casting: *Enchanted Lands* is meant to be a malleable piece of theatre, structured to meet the needs of its director and ensemble. The storyteller roles may be divided or omitted altogether, with the lines distributed to internal characters and delivered directly to the audience. The play may be performed in its entirety or selectively.

Coldplay's "Talk" appears courtesy of Yellow BMG Music Publishing Limited (PRS). The rights to use this piece must be independently pursued by the producing party or a substitute may be chosen.

SCENE

A forest and various others.

TIME

Once upon a time...and not so long ago.

**The Creation**

*In Darkness.*

GUCUMATZ

Hellloooo! Tepeu, are you there? We really need to get started buddy! Tepeu! It's me, Gucumatz. Come out, come out, wherever you are! We're running out of time...I think.

TEPEU

*(amidst a crash O.S.)*

Owwwwww! That really hurt.

GUCU

Tepeu, is that you?

TEPEU

I really don't know what I tripped over, but it is killing my shin. We really need some light in here!

*Suddenly, Tepeu and Gucumatz are with lit glowsticks.*

GUCU

Whoa!

TEPEU

What...just happened?

GUCU

I don't know. You said we needed more light and then it...appeared.

TEPEU

You try.

GUCU

Okay. Do you think I need to hit my shin on something first?

TEPEU

Just do it.

GUCU

Uhhh, let there be light.

*He suddenly has another glowstick.*

Cool!

*The sound of wind.*

What's that? No no no, it's freezing in here.

TEPEU

It's because you said cool.

GUCU

What do we do to make it stop? I'm freezing!

TEPEU

Warm. I want it to be warm!

*The wind dies down.*

Ohhhh. Much better. So we have to watch what we say.

GUCU

No more saying things like "I'm starving" or "this stinks"...wait, those didn't do anything....

TEPEU

It must be because we didn't want those things to happen. Do you mean to tell me that whatever we think will come into being?

GUCU

That's what we were told, remember? But remember they said with great power comes great responsibility. We have a world to create in a very short time. You better have room for a lot of thoughts.

*Sound of Crickets.*

What was that?

TEPEU

Nothing. I was thinking...

GUCU

Well what do we need first?

TEPEU

That's easy Gucumatz. First we need a world.

GUCU

*(sarcastically)*

Thank you. And what do we make worlds out of?

TEPEU

Metals and rocks. So let's think hard here...I'll have some iron with a side of nickel. That will form our core.

*Starlike objects (glowsticks) move down the aisles and onto stage with each phase the two call out.*

GUCU

Oh we can't forget about the crust.

TEPEU

Oh that's right, the crust is my favorite part!

GUCU

So let's see, we'll have some silicon.

TEPEU

And oxygen! Lot's and lots of oxygen! Let's go, move it people, move it!

GUCU

Allright! We have a planet. Sort of.

TEPEU

This is so neat. Anything we think up comes into being. I wonder if I could think us up a pizza.

GUCU

Doesn't exist yet. We don't have the means.

TEPEU

Oh come on, all we need to do is make it hot enough in her to cook the-

*Sound of molten lava.*

What is that? Is that-

GUCU

Lava!

TEPEU

Oh owww! My feet! My feet!

GUCU

Think something up quick!

*Suddenly, the sound of a soothing rain.*

That's much better. Oh, I better think us up someplace for all that rain to go.

*The sound of oceans waves on a beach.*

TEPEU

Well done, I love the beach.

GUCU

So what now?

TEPEU

We are forgetting something...

GUCU

We're forgetting a lot.

TEPEU

Hey, you want to go for a swim in this ocean?

GUCU

I can't see very well. There might be sharks.

TEPEU

Oh sure, now that you thought about them there are sharks in there!

GUCU

Sorry, there's just something we're not getting yet. We're not seeing the whole picture... That's it!

TEPEU

A picture?

GUCU

No! We need more light. Lot's and lots of light. Can we get a sun please?

TEPEU

You know what that does though?

GUCU

What?

TEPEU

Don't sun's give life? Light gives life right? That's like third grade biology

GUCU

Yeah.

TEPEU

Well we haven't done a great job of controlling our thoughts so far. Who knows what we'll end up creating once we can see what we're doing?

GUCU

I'm willing to take that chance. Let's do it! Sun please!

*A Sun appears and begins moving down the aisles.*

TEPEU

Mmmm, that's pretty.

GUCU

Don't stare too long, you'll ruin your eyesight.

TEPEU

If I do, I'll just think it back into being!

GUCU

Let's not be irresponsible. Okay, so where are we going to put it?

TEPEU

Right here.

GUCU

I can't see you.

TEPEU

Don't worry, I'll put it here. You think about what needs to happen next. Sun! Sun, come here!

*over the*

*They attach the sun to a string, which lifts it and finally casts illumination whole stage.*



GUCU

Okay, let's get to work.

TEPEU

Wait! My mom always said to have music when you work, so the time will pass quicker.

GUCU

So you want me to think up a guitar for you?

TEPEU

Not even. Let's have some music!

*"Pirates Life for Me" begins.*

GUCU

Tepeu!

TEPEU

I have an active imagination. Let's try again.

*Music more appropriate to the task begins.*

GUCU

That's beautiful Tepeu. Let's get some animals in here.

*Noticing a bag.*

Hmm, what's this?

*A dove appears.*

A bird! Let's have it then. Lots and lots of birds!

TEPEU

And rocks, and trees!

*The storytellers begin entering, each carrying a rock, a stump, etc. Some as animals, most likely the animals they are to play later in the piece. They each add a branch to the TREE standing SC, a beautifully diverse centerpiece.*

*until it is*

And fish and giraffes and monkeys and fling-a-miles! Got to have some fairies thrown in there! Come on down!

*As each storyteller appears and adds items*

*to the stage, they may linger for a moment  
before stepping offstage.*

Now what?

GUCU

Let's see, we have earth, we have animals, we have trees and flowers and fish.

TEPEU

And sharks, no thanks to you.

GUCU

Yes, and sharks.

TEPEU

Sounds like it to me. Let's go get that pizza.

GUCU

Okay....no! Humans.

TEPEU

We forgot about humans!

GUCU

What are they going to do here though? Have we given them enough entertainment options? I don't think it's time to drop Ipods and Nintendo Wii's on them.

TEPEU

Don't they have to create those things for themselves?

GUCU

You're right Tepeu!

TEPEU

Thank you.

GUCU

So that's why we need to give humans imaginations! That's how they'll entertain themselves. Through stories they can learn about each other. They'll create tools to survive. We don't need to give them anything but an imagination!

TEPEU

Yeah, but ours didn't work very well there at the start.

GUCU

But that's my point. Whatever problems they create, they have to solve for themselves And the humans will be able to do that. The lessons they learn can be passed onto others and we don't have to troubleshoot a thing! It will give us the longest weekend in the history of the universe!

You're brilliant. TEPEU

Let's go get that pizza now. GUCU

Ummmm.... TEPEU

Oh, right. The humans. GUCU

*He snaps his fingers as they both step*  
O.S.

*END SCENE.*

**Rumblings in the Forest**

*This  
discovery of  
him. He  
as he*

*Amidst the harmonious sounds of a forest  
day, a boy, ORPHEUS, enters somewhat  
bewildered. He inventories his  
surroundings before noticing a strange  
musical instrument on the forest floor.  
he accosts and examines. The  
its noise is a startling accident for  
slowly begins to pluck it's strings  
walks O.S.*

### The Mule That Won't Work

*on hands*

*Four storytellers align themselves,  
with one playing a mule looking like  
it is eating hay and another  
and knees forming a STUMP.*

GRANDFATHER

An old man and his young grandson lived all alone out on a farm by themselves.

BOY

The boy was a good grandson, but he had a very lively imagination, and some days he made excuses for not doing his work.

GRAND

Grandson, what are you doing?

BOY

Slaying a dragon.

GRAND

*(sitting on the STUMP)*

There's nothing there my boy. You must be bored from lack of work. Go down to the barn and hitch up that old mule, and go plow the north forty acres of our land.

BOY

I'm a little busy slaying-

GRAND

Do it!

BOY

Okay...

*The BOY picks up a harness and  
journeys D.S. to the MULE, still  
fighting the dragon in his  
imagination.*

BOY

I'll get you dragon! With this harness...Okay Mule, let's go. Grandpa says to plow the north forty.

MULE

*(surprising the BOY)*

You go and tell your grandpa that I ain't going to work today!

BOY

*(running away)*

Ahhh! Grandpa! Grandpa! That mule told me he ain't going to work today!

GRAND

Are you just trying to get out of plowing the field? You go back down there and tell that mule that he *is* going to work today. I want you to use proper English, even when it's just your imagination talking.

BOY

*(swallowing hard)*

Allright Mule. Grandpa says you *is* going to work today.

MULE

You go and tell your grandpa that I said I *ain't* going to work today!

BOY

Grandpa! Grandpa! The mule says to tell you he *ain't* going to work today.

GRAND

You really don't want to do anything today do you boy? I'll go tell that blamed mule myself then! Come on pup!

*Whistling, GRANDPA summons his dog, who follows obediently to the barn.*

GRAND

Allright mule. Get your head up and look at me!

*He raps the MULE a few times with his cane.*

Mule, I say you *are* going to plow!

MULE

What is this, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade English class? I said I *ain't* going to plow!

GRAND

Ahhhh!

*They all three run back to the stump, GRANDPA comically leading*

*the*

*way.*

GRAND

*(sitting on the STUMP)*

I have never heard of such a thing as a talking mule!

BOY

Me neither.

DOG

*(proper English)*

I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it myself!

GRAND

Now the mule *and* the dog are talking?!

STUMP

I don't believe any of you!

*END SCENE.*

### **The Mouse's Bridegroom**

The parts of the various mice in this piece may be divided as befits the cast. I have not

delineated numbers for each of them to purposely accommodate varying cast sizes for the piece.

*Mice stand onstage in a group, eating cheese, chasing each other, when one very special mouse walks onstage. Every mouse, save one, stops what they are doing and ogles her. She is disgusted by the scene.*

DAUGHTER

One mouse had a very beautiful daughter.

*All nod their heads. FATHER MOUSE comes forward from the group.*

FATHER

I want to marry my daughter to the greatest person in all Japan! Anyone who wants to discuss this matter may come forward now!

MOUSE 1

The sun is the greatest thing in all Japan!

FATHER

Then I shall marry her to the sun.

*FATHER begins climbing to the "sun". He of course struggles.*

MOUSE 2

But the sky is higher than the sun; the sky is the greatest of all.

FATHER

*(resuming his climb even more vigorously)*

Then I shall marry her to the sky.

DAUGHTER

But-

MOUSE 3

But the sky is sometimes covered by clouds are the greatest thing of all.

FATHER

Then I shall marry her to the clouds.

DAUGHTER



What about-

MOUSE 4

No, no matter how many clouds there are, the wind can blow them away; the wind is greatest of all.

FATHER

*(trying to capture the wind)*

Then I shall marry her to the wind.

DAUGHTER

Listen to me!

MOUSE 5

When the wind blows, no matter how much it blows, and no matter how much rain falls, the river banks do not move; the greatest thing in all Japan is the river banks.

FATHER

Oh, well then I shall marry her to the-

DAUGHTER

No! No. No matter how strong and mighty the river banks are, mice can make holes in them, so the greatest thing in all Japan, no matter what one says, is a mouse.

FATHER

You want to marry a mouse?

DAUGHTER

We may not be the strongest-

MOUSE 5

We may not be the smartest-

MOUSE 6

Or the mightiest-

DAUGHTER

Beings, but we are the greatest beings in *our* world.

*END SCENE.*

**The Sleeping Prince**

*We open on a tableau of a father(or mother)  
and daughter traveling through the woods.  
A storyteller addresses us.*

STORYTELLER

There once lived a King who wished to marry off his daughter, a Princess. One day the princess was traveling through the forest when she came upon a strange person.

STRANGE

Hello your highness! I suppose you are out looking for a knight in shining armor to carry you off you your “happily ever after” ending.

PRINCESS

Not really. I was just trying to avoid doing homework by getting a drink.

STRANGE

I hold the secret to your magical prince, would you like to know it?

PRINCESS

No dude, I’m like 10 years old. The last thing I want to do is get married.

STRANGE

Since you beg me, I will tell you. Your prince lies sleeping under a spell cast hundreds of years ago by an evil stepmother. Would you like to know where?

PRINCESS

I’ve got better-

STRANGE

I’ll tell you! Since you beg me. Walk four kroodads East toward that fairy cloud on the horizon and hang a left at the enchanted castle. He’s maybe two loompuks down on your right hand side, right between the White Castle and the Wal-o-greens.

PRINCESS

Thanks, but I-

STRANGE

Stop crying girl. I will tell you how to wake him up. It’s going to take more than just a kiss!

*(Pulling out a fan)*

You must fan him...with this!

PRINCESS

Fan him?

STRANGE

Yes. You must fan him vigorously until he wakes up and kisses you. Thereafter you shall ride off into the sunset with him and live happily ever after! Isn't that wonderful?

PRINCESS

What's the day after like?

STRANGE

Quit dallying girl! I can give you these magical hints for free, but I cannot control your destiny.

STORYTELLER

And with that, the strange person disappeared. Feeling bored and having nothing better to do, the Princess went to find her prince. But not before stopping at Wal-o-greens for a Gatorade.

PRINCESS

*(sitting down next to her PRINCE and drinking her drink)*

Allright buddy. If this takes more than five minutes, I'm out of here.

*(she fans him)*

Aren't you supposed to be kissing me as I lay asleep in a wood somewhere? My aunt had seven, count 'em, SEVEN little men taking care of her when she was under a spell. You don't say much do you? Ah well. Let's get the hard part out of the way; I'm the princess. I'm a Vertigo who likes long walks on the beach and slaying dragons, MYSELF mind you, so you don't need to worry about that. What's your name?

*(does a ventriloquism routine on him)*

"I'm Prince Harry." Ohhh, Prince Harry, what an awful name you have. "The better to bore you with my dear" Ugh. Got that right. You don't happen to have a bathroom around here do you?

*A Rival Princess arrives.*

RIVAL

Oh my love! My darling! How could they do this to you? My beautiful prince! Who are you?

PRINCESS

I'm the uh, royal princess.

RIVAL

Well I'm a princess too! What are you doing fanning him? He's my prince! Oh how I love you, darling!

PRINCESS

You've met him before?

RIVAL

No, but I'm certain to fall in love with him. That's how true love stories always work out.

As the princess of Richwick, he is rightfully mine!

PRINCESS

Well as the princess of Merwich, he is apparently mine. Some strange person told me so. So I'll do all the fanning here until he wakes up.

RIVAL

But you don't love him the way I love him! No story has ever been written that captures the depth and nature of my love for this Prince, uh, Prince...Whatshisname. Why is your leg twitching?

PRINCESS

Because I really have to go to the uh, little princess's room.

RIVAL

What?

PRINCESS

I have to pee.

RIVAL

Oh. Must be all that nasty Gatorade. If you don't watch it you'll pack on the calories and he will never fall in love with you. Hey, why don't I hold the fan for you and then you can resume fanning him when you get back?

PRINCESS

I thought you didn't like me.

RIVAL

No, it's just that I can see you are uncomfortable in this situation.

PRINCESS

Got that right sister. Here, hold this.

*(Running offstage)*

Oh sweet relief, here I come!

RIVAL

*(sitting down and fanning him after Princess leaves)*

Oh darling. What did that wicked girl do to you? How I love you.

PRINCE

*(waking)*

...What happened to me? Oh...hello.

RIVAL

I am your princess!

PRINCE

Did you fan me this whole time?

RIVAL

For years. That's how much I love you, my darling schnookum wookum pumpkin cake. Isn't this romantic? Now where's your white horse and your shining armor?

PRINCE

Speaking of that horse and armor, you're going to have to clean them. They're both a little dusty I'm sure from lack of use. Since you fanned me all these years, I'm sure you don't mind. I'm going to go get a shower and some sliders at White Castle. See you in a bit.

*The Rival Princess is stunned.*

STORYTELLER

So our princess lived happily ever after. And the moral of the story is, when faced with the choice of serving a boy for all eternity or going to the bathroom, always go to the bathroom.

*END SCENE.*

**The Caterpillar and the Wild Animals**

*The HARE'S HOUSE may well be a rehearsal block or some other diminutive structure. Either way, it sits just SL of C.*

STORYTELLER

Once upon a time a caterpillar entered the house of a hare when the owner was absent.

*The HARE returns with a grocery bag full of carrots and perhaps fiddling with car keys. It stops, noticing the CATERPILLAR'S marks in the dirt.*

HARE

Who is in my house?

CATERPILLAR

*(in its best booming voice)*

I am the warrior son of the long one who can touch both sides of this continent with his two fingers. I crush the rhinoceros to the earth and make cow's dung of the elephant! I am invincible!

HARE

What can a small animal like myself do with a person who tramples elephants like cow dung?

STORYTELLER

On the road, the hare met a jackal.

HARE

Oh Jackal! Am I sure glad to see you!

JACKAL

That's odd. I usually eat creatures like you. Are you depressed? Why on earth would you want to see me?

HARE

Because there is a creature so ferocious living in my home that only one so smart and sly as you can get it out.

JACKAL

Well, I have a dentist's appointment at 10:30, so I've got some down time. Let's see what I can do.

STORYTELLER

And so the hare brought the jackal back to his home.

JACKAL

Who is in the house of my friend, the hare?

CATERPILLAR

I am the warrior son of the long one who can touch both sides of this continent with his two fingers. I crush the rhinoceros to the earth and make cow's dung of the elephant! I am invincible!

JACKAL

Ohhhh, look at the time! I have to go have that tooth pulled. See you later hare!

STORYTELLER

So the hare had to find another to help. On the road, the hare came upon a leopard.

HARE

Oh Leopard. Am I glad to see you!

LEOPARD

Chill dude. Can't you see I'm sunbathing right now?

HARE

But I really need your help. There is a creature so ferocious that only one as quick and skillful as you can fetch it out.

LEOPARD

Well...since I have done absolutely NOTHING today except read that new John Grisham book, I guess I can come help.

STORYTELLER

And so the hare brought the leopard to his abode.

LEOPARD

Who is in the house of my friend, the hare?

CATERPILLAR

*(bellowing)*

I am the warrior son of the long one who can touch both sides of this continent with his two fingers. I crush the rhinoceros to the earth and make cow's dung of the elephant! I am invincible!

LEOPARD

If he crushes the elephant and the rhinoceros, he will do the same to me!

HARE

But-

LEOPARD

No buts about it Hare. I've got some serious relaxation to get to. Sorry dude.

STORYTELLER

And so the hare went back to the road, where it eventually found a rhinoceros bathing in a stream.

RHINOCEROS

Ahhhhh! Don't you knock?

HARE

Sorry Rhino. I have an emergency.

RHINOCEROS

Well I am bathing, if you don't mind! This isn't a peep show!

HARE

I really need your help. There is a creature who claims he can crush one so large as yourself.

RHINOCEROS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...I am on Jenny Craig.

HARE

One so strong as yourself. He claims he can crush one so strong as yourself.

RHINOCEROS

Hand me that bath towel then.

STORYTELLER

And so the hare brought the rhinoceros to his abode.

RHINOCEROS

Who is in the house of my friend the hare and has the audacity to claim he can crush one so strong as I?

CATERPILLAR

*(more musical)*

I am the warrior son of the long one who can touch both sides of this continent with his two fingers. I crush the rhinoceros to the earth and make cow's dung of the elephant! I am invincible!



RHINOCEROS

What! He can crush me to the earth! I had better go away then.

HARE

But-

RHINOCEROS

Look I just bathed Hare. No need to get dirty just this minute. Sorry.

STORYTELLER

So the hare hit the road again, this time approaching an elephant eating peanuts.

ELEPHANT

Hit a home run!

HARE

Elephant-

ELEPHANT

Not now Hare, the baseball game is on.

HARE

But-

ELEPHANT

It's the Giants versus the Cardinals. Come on!

HARE

Speaking of giants, there is one living in my home right now. That's why I need your help. It claims to be able to make cow dung out of elephants like you.

ELEPHANT

I'll make my own cow dung, thank you very much! Where is he? I'll shoot peanuts at him through my nose!

HARE

This way!

STORYTELLER

And so the Elephant had its chance to bring out the caterpillar.

ELEPHANT

Allright you dumbo. Come out here and prove that you can best me!

CATERPILLAR

*(annoyed)*

I am the warrior son of the long one who can touch both sides of this continent with his two fingers. I crush the rhinoceros to the earth and make cow's dung of the elephant! I am invincible!

ELEPHANT

Now that's a little scary.

HARE

But-

ELEPHANT

Have you ever *smelled* cow's dung? I like my own cologne, thank you very much.

STORYTELLER

But just then a frog was passing by and the hare asked him if he could make the man who had conquered all the animals leave the house.

FROG

Who is it that occupies the hare's house like a cuckoo bird?

CATERPILLAR

I am the warrior son of the long one who can touch both sides of this continent with his two fingers. I crush the rhinoceros to the earth and make cow's dung of the elephant! I am invincible!

HARE

Please don't go frog! There's nobody left!

FROG

*(stepping closer to the home)*

Interesting, but you should know that I, who am strong and a great leaper, have come. My tongue is like a whip and God has made me vile.

CATERPILLAR

Oh no! That's terrible.

FROG

And I am coming nearer!

CATERPILLAR

Okay okay! I am only the caterpillar.

FROG

The caterpillar?

CATERPILLAR

Yes.

*contemplating*

*The animals all return and pull the CATERPILLAR out of the Hare's house. They stand menacingly above the CATERPILLAR, its fate.*

CATERPILLAR

Are you going to hurt me?

ELEPHANT

YES!

FROG

No. Bullies deserve to live with their lies. You will return to your hole and bother us no more.

*The CATERPILLAR slinks off.*

JACKAL

*(to the FROG)*

Leaping contest?

ELEPHANT

No! The game's still on. I can't believe the Cardinals can beat the Giants.

RHINOCEROS

And I have a pool!

HARE

I'll get my swim trunks.

ELEPHANT

Hey is that some kind of insult?

FROG

No, no. That's just what they're called.

ELEPHANT

Oh, you know sometimes I think I have peanuts for brains.

FROG

Even if you did, they would be larger than that bully the caterpillar's brains.

*END SCENE.*

### Pride of a Desperate Frog

The storytellers in the following scene may be played as animals who address the audience.

*amidst  
a  
over us  
  
step forward out*

*We hear the sharp crackle of  
lightning and thunder  
the darkness. The sound of  
great torrent washes  
and tapers a bit. Two  
storytellers  
of the darkness.*

#### STORYTELLER 1

The flood plains of what is now Kenya had a great rainfall after a long famine. The rainfall brought a lot of water in streams and rivers and filled the ridges surrounding these water bodies.

#### STORYTELLER 2

Many animals were carried by the water downstream.

*They*

*The torrent resumes in full  
force. Several storytellers  
use rain sheets to do a flood  
dance across the stage.  
continue to do this as the  
sound abates and FROG  
appears, immediately swept  
up by the flood.*

#### STORYTELLER 3

There was a one small frog who spotted a tree on the shoreline and jumped to a branch to avoid drowning!

*dance  
grazing in*

*Frog leaps into the tree, SC,  
as the floods slowly subside  
and give way to the  
harmonious sounds of a  
summer on the plains. The  
storytellers who were  
performing the flood  
turn into animals  
the sunlight.*

#### FROG

I am out of food to eat...and there is no water way up in this tree. Help! Hello! You there, the one with the fur! Help me down!

STORYTELLER 1

But the other animals kept on grazing.

STORYTELLER 2

Frog knew he had to jump a height he was not used to. This scared him.

STORYTELLER 1

He knew, however, that he had to make this great leap in order to survive and time was not on his side!

FROG

One...two...oh, I can't do it.

*Frog suffers several false starts before finally summoning up the courage to leap, and this he does with growing joy. The Storytellers may elongate this theatrical leap by carrying Frog on their shoulders around the stage as he comes to enjoy the sensation of leaping. eventually does land, however, and takes a moment to survey his/her surroundings. Frog accosts several animals, but none of them say anything to him.*

*Frog  
moment*

FROG

Well, even if no one congratulates me for jumping, at least *I* know I have jumped from a high place!

*END SCENE.*

**A Near Miss**

*forest*  
*the sound*

*A girl, EURIDYCE, enters somewhat bewildered. She breathes in the fresh air before coloring her senses with a flower's touch. She is startled by of a string instrument in the distance. Entranced she follows its sound to the source.*

**Fling-A-Mile**

ANANSI

One day, Anansi was walking along the riverbank looking for something to eat, when he noticed a strange hole in the riverbank.

*Reaching his hand in, it is grabbed by something very strong.*

Who's got a-hold of me?

VOICE

Not me.

ANANSI

Not me who?

VOICE

Not me Fling-A-Mile

ANANSI

I don't believe you can fling-a-mile. Show me so that I can see.

*Suddenly, Anansi is pulled in an ever faster circle until he is flung very far. He lands on his face and comes up spitting grass.*

Interesting...

*He walks back to the hole, whistling as he goes, and sticks his hand back in the hole.*

What's got a-hold of me?

VOICE

Not me.

ANANSI

Not me who?

VOICE

Not me Fling-a-Mile.

ANANSI

Ohhhh that's good! Fling me a mile so that I can see!

*This happens, and Anansi lands in*

*the exact same spot as before.*

The same spot....

*returns*

*He momentarily goes O.S. and with a sharpened stake, which he fastens to the ground. He sets out a fork, spoon and plate next to HOG soon comes by.*

*it. The*

ANANSI

Hello, Hog.

HOG

Hello Anansi.

ANANSI

Are you hungry my friend?

HOG

Absolutely.

ANANSI

Let's walk along the riverbank and catch some fish.

HOG

Okay let's go!

ANANSI

Oh what a fine hole before us. Reach in and see if there's anything to eat.

HOG

*(reaching in)*

Something's got a-hold of me!

ANANSI

Ask it what has a-hold of you!

HOG

What's got a-hold of me?

VOICE

Not me.

ANANSI

Ask him "not me who?"

HOG



Not me who?

VOICE

Not me Fling-a-Mile.

ANANSI

Tell it you don't believe it. Make it show you so you can see!

HOG

Show me so I can see!

*Fling hurls the Hog in the  
direction of Anansi's stake.  
Anansi runs after and returns with  
a slice of ham. Just as he finishes,  
GOAT comes along.*

*a*

ANANSI

Hello Goat.

GOAT

Hello Anansi. My you smell awkward today. Have you been eating meat?

ANANSI

Nope. Just muenster cheese. I'm a vegetarian remember? You know how muenster is supposed to satiate the herbivore's desire for meat... That must be what you smell on my breath. Let's walk along the riverbank and eat some greens.

GOAT

Oh yes I'm starving. Let's go!

ANANSI

Oh what a fine hole for you. Reach in and see if there are any river greens inside.

GOAT

*(reaching)*

Something's got a-hold of me

ANANSI

Oh no! Ask it what has a-hold of you!

HOG

What's got a-hold of me?

VOICE

Not me.

ANANSI

Ask him “not me who?”

HOG

Not me who?

VOICE

Not me Fling-a-Mile.

ANANSI

Tell it you don’t believe it. Make it show you so you can see!

HOG

Show me so I can see!

*The Goat is flung in the  
direction of Aanansi’s stake.  
Anansi runs after and returns  
eating leg of lamb. Along  
MONKEY.*

comes a

ANANSI

Hello Monkey.

MONKEY

Hello Anansi

ANANSI

You look hungry. Let’s walk along the riverbank and eat some bananas.

MONKEY

Yes, we’ll go.

ANANSI

What a fine hole before you. Reach in and see if any fruit fell in there.

MONKEY

No something might grab a-hold of me.

ANANSI

Nothing’s going to grab ahold of you. Reach in!

MONKEY

There's no fruit in that hole. You come reach in.

ANANSI

*(barely putting his hand in)*

See? Nothing's going to grab you.

*MONKEY grabs a-hold of ANANSI'S hand and puts it further in the hole.*

Something's got a-hold of me!

MONKEY

Ask it what has a-hold of you!

ANANSI

No, no, no. That just winds it up. Don't ask the question "what's got a-hold of me?"

VOICE

Not me.

MONKEY

Ask him "not me who?"

ANANSI

*(weakly)*

Not me. Don't fling me...

VOICE

Not me Fling-a-Mile.

MONKEY

Tell it you don't believe it. Make it show you so you can see!

ANANSI

Don't...show...me...anything...

*(beginning to spin)*

Oh Monkey, I have some cutlery down on the riverbank. Would you go and take it home for me and PULL UP MY ROASTING STAKE?

MONKEY

Yes, I will go!

*Off Monkey goes, not*

*run all the way, and instead sits  
down at the plate and fork. Anansi  
goes flying by...*

*END SCENE.*

**Bremen Town Musicians**

*DONKEY,  
STORYTELLERS*

*A table and chairs are set D.S. to denote the  
robber's house. We open on an  
looking despondent. The  
address us.*

STORYTELLER 1

A certain man once had an ass, which worked hard for many years carrying sacks of flour to the mill.

STORYTELLER 2

But one day, the asses strength gave out and it could no longer work.

STORYTELLER 1

Hearing its master start to talk about how to get rid of the animal, the ass took off down the road to Bremen.

ASS

There, in Bremen, I shall become a town musician.

STORY

He had not traveled far before he came upon a dog.

ASS

Why are you panting so loudly, Growler?

DOG

Because I am old, and everyday I get weaker, my master started to talk about how to get rid of me.

ASS

I had a similar experience, but I refuse to take failure so I am going to Bremen to become a town musician. I can use your company. I will play the lute, and you can beat the kettledrum.

DOG

Boom...boom...boom?

ASS

Yes

DOG

That sounds wonderful...I will come with you.

## STORYTELLER 2

The two began their journey, but it was not long before they came upon a cat sitting in the road with a long face.

## ASS

Why are you so sad, Whiskers?

## CAT

I am getting along in years and I now prefer to sit by a nice warm fire and purr instead of hunting after mice like my master wants. She started to talk about how to do away with me.

## ASS

I have a suggestion. We are on our way to Bremen, to become town musicians. You cats are great at serenading. Why don't you come along with us and take part in the music?

## CAT

I guess I haven't anything better to do.

## STORYTELLER 1

So the three began their journey again, and it was only a few steps before the dog and cat were fighting. It was not long before they came upon a farm with a rooster proudly crowing.

## ROOSTER

Cockadoodledoo! Cockadoodledoo!

## ASS

You are so loud! It's wonderful, but alarming. What is so wrong that you need to shout like that?

## ROOSTER

What's the matter? Why I predicted wonderful weather on Sunday. Even as I told this to everyone from the top of a barn, my mistress has ordered the cook to make me into soup...soup...CHICKEN SOUP!

## DOG

There, there now. I think we have an idea!

## ASS

Yes we three are on our way to Bremen to become town musicians. We sure could use a voice as fine as yours.

## CAT

So why don't you come along?

ROOSTER

Alright.

STORY

The group left and walked heartily, but they still could not reach Bremen by nightfall.

ASS

We will not make it to Bremen tonight.

CAT

*(yawning)*

Leeeeeet's just stay here tonight...

ROOSTER

I see a light ahead! Dog, cat, ass, I see a light! It must be a house.

DOG

If there's a house, there's a bone.

CAT

And maybe some tuna.

*Robbers enter, or if seen in the opening tableau they "unfreeze" at the dinner table.*

ASS

Very well. Let's be very quiet.

CAT

Perhaps I should look in the window before we just barge in there.

HOUND

Watch out.

*The Cat crosses and pantomimes looking in a window, before returning.*

ASS

What did you see?

CAT

What did I see? I saw a table with delicious food and drink, and *robbers* enjoying it.

ROOSTER

If only that were us...

ASS

It could be. Listen, we can form a triangle under the window, putting the rooster on our backs and through the window. All four of us can perform our music and scare these robbers.

CAT

Oh sure, sacrifice the bird.

ROOSTER

I'll do it, but I don't ever want to hear you refer to me as a 'chicken,' understood?

ASS

Let's go.

*The foursome make their triangle and the ass "brays", the hound "barks", the cat "mews" and the rooster "crows", follow the rooster through the window. The robbers jump at the terrible noise and flee from the cottage.*

STORYTELLER 1

The animals quickly went to the table and began indulging in a great meal. After supper, they all lay down for a rest, just as the robbers plotted their strategy.

ROBBER 1

We were saps to run out like that. We hadn't even finished our meal! One of us has to go back there and get those cursed animals out.

ROBBER 2

That's right. Good luck. I'll wait here for you.

ROBBER 1

Ugh. You are such a chicken.

STORYTELLER 2

And so the robber crept inside a broken window to strike a light and do away with the animals. But he mistook the cat's glowing eyes for coals.

CAT

Ahhh!

*All of the following are acted out as the actions are spoken.*



STORYTELLER 1

The cat flew at the robber's face, scratching him deeply.

STORY 2

But he could not escape, for as soon as he backed up, his leg hit the dog who immediately bit his leg.

STORY 1

Turning to run, he received a healthy kick from the ass just as the rooster cried out.

ROBBERS

*(fleeing)*

Ahhhhhhh!!!! Let's get out of here!

STORY

And so the four Bremen Town Musicians were very pleased with their new home, and they never had to leave it again.

*The animals sing, like a barbershop quartet.*

ASS

Heehaw.

CAT

Meowww.

ROOSTER

Cockadoodledoo!

DOG

Woof, woof!

*END SCENE.*

## Rabbit Shoots the Sun

*A band of nomads travels wearily down a hot road. Two STORYTELLERS addresses us.*

### STORYTELLER 1

Not long after the earth was created and all the creatures in it, seasons followed. In the height of summer, called Hadotso, the sun beat down from a blue and cloudless sky all day long.

### STORYTELLER 2

Everything was so hot and dry, even the rose-red cliffs of the canyons and mesas took on a more brilliant color than before. The animals drooped with misery, as did the humans.

### SQUIRREL

I am so hot....

### JACKAL

I am so hungry...

### TURTLE

I'm so thirsty...

### RABBIT

This is so frustrating.

### SQUIRREL

What's that you say, Rabbit?

### RABBIT

Twice today I've seen mirages of cool ponds and shady trees. As soon as I walk toward them they disappear. Our fur is caked with dust and every one of us is suffering out here.

### TURTLE

That's the way the world and the sun were created, Rabbit. There's nothing we can do about it.

### RABBIT

But why does it have to be so hot? What have we done to deserve this torment?

*(to the Sun)*

Go away! You are making everything too hot!

### JACKAL

...I don't think he noticed you are mad.

SQUIRREL

Yup. Those beams just keep coming.

RABBIT

Sun needs to be taught a lesson. I have a good mind to go and fight him. If he refuses to stop shining, I will shoot him with an arrow!

TURTLE

Aren't you too tired to do that?

RABBIT

Not anymore. I'm too angry to be tired!

JACKAL

*(yawning)*

We'll see you when you get back.

RABBIT

None of you will run with me to the edge of the world? Fine. I will save us by myself.

STORYTELLER 1

As she ran, she practiced with his bow and arrows and, to make herself brave and strong, she fought with everything which crossed her path. She fought with the gophers and the lizards.

STORYTELLER 2

She hurled her throwing stick at beetles, ants and dragonflies. She shot at the yucca and the giant cactus. She became a very fierce rabbit indeed.

STORYTELLER 1

Rabbit raced as fast as she could in order to catch the sun just before it rushed out of sight. In those days, the sun rushed up over the horizon and into the heavens in a mighty bound. He left each day with the same speed.

RABBIT

*(aiming his arrow)*

You cannot escape me.

*She shoots the arrow at the sun.  
Immediately, thereafter, the sunlight  
waned and flickers.*

RABBIT

*(celebrating)*

Wooohooo! I'm the bunny! Oh yeah, I'm the bunny!

*(stopping short)*  
RABBIT (CONT'D)

Oh no.

*With a mega-rush, the Sun sets the earth  
ablaze. We only hear and sense the  
force.*

*(running)*

Ahhhh!

STORYTELLER 1

Suddenly it seemed as if the whole world was ablaze with the Sun's rage. Flames shot up and rushed towards Rabbit, crackling and roaring.

STORYTELLER 2

None of the plants would agree to hide Rabbit since She had brought down the sun's fury upon the earth.

STORYTELLER 1

Until a shrub called out to Rabbit. She cowered in its branches, pulling her ears and legs close and closing her eyes...

STORY 2

...just as the sheet of flame leapt overhead, with a thunderous roar. The little bush crackled and sizzled. Then, gradually, the noise receded and everything grew quiet once more.

STORY

Rabbit raised her head cautiously and looked around. Everywhere the earth lay black and smoking, but the fire had passed on. She was safe!

*The other animals return.*

JACKAL

What *was* that?

SQUIRREL

Oh Rabbit, you are okay!

TURTLE

You're a little sun-burned.

JACKAL

Are you all right?

RABBIT

I-I think s-s-s-so...

SQUIRREL

Let's get you to some shady forest.

STORY

Rabbit never recovered from her fright. Where once she was brave, Rabbit now runs and hides at the slightest noise.

STORY 2

As for Sun, he too was never quite the same. He now makes himself so bright that no one can look at him long enough to shoot an arrow and he always peers very warily over the horizon before he brings his full body into view.

*END SCENE.*

## The Great Flood

**A note:** To honor the folk tradition, ensemble nature of this piece, and underscore the theme of unity which this piece expresses, all storytellers onstage should say the words “**and the waters rose**” in unison every time they are spoken.

*and the animals  
speakers  
tableau.*

*A plain full of people and grazing  
buffalo. It is a harmonious scene of  
brotherhood, with the people  
touching the buffalo  
completely unafraid. The  
step forward out of this*

### GREAT SPIRIT (V.O.)

These animals are your brothers and sisters. Share the land with them. They will give you food and clothing. Protect them, especially the buffalo, for as long as you have buffalo to give you shelter from the cold, heat, and rain, you will never suffer.

### BUFFALO

For many winters, the people were at peace with the animals.

### YOUNG GIRL

When they killed a buffalo, they thanked the Great Spirit, and they used every part of the buffalo. It took care of every need.

### OLD MAN

Then other people came. They did not think of the animals as brothers. They killed, even when they did not need food. They burned and cut the forests, and the animals died.

### BUFFALO

They shot the buffalo and called it sport. They killed the fish in the streams with their wasteful ways.

*The animals and people separate in  
a melee. The struggle fells several of  
the animals.*

### OLD MAN

So the Great Spirit sent rains to put out the fires and destroy the people and their wicked fires.

*The great flood of every faith*

*flourish of*

*tradition ensues, a chaotic human and animal bodies being swept up by the raging waters. The cacophony is deafening.*

*A group of humans separates, called D.S. by Spotted Bear, a great shaman.*

#### SPOTTED BEAR

The Great Spirit has told us that as long as we have the buffalo, we will be safe from heat and cold and rain. But there are no longer any buffalo! Unless we can find a buffalo and live at peace with nature, we will all die.

*As the YOUNG GIRL says the following, we see a few hunters accosting animals who at first flee, but slowly become trusting once more.*

#### YOUNG GIRL

Still the rains fell, and the waters rose. The people moved from the flooded plains to the hills. The young men went out and hunted for the buffalo. As they went, they put out the fires. They made friends with the animals once more. They cleaned out the streams.

#### OLD MAN

Still the rains fell and the waters rose. The people moved from the hills to the mountains. One day, two young men came back to Spotted Bear.

*Two HUNTERS approach SPOTTED BEAR and any remaining people, with a hide in hand.*

#### HUNTER 1

*(running on, exhausted)*

We have found the buffalo!

#### HUNTER 2

There was a cow, a calf, and a great white bull by a river! The cow and calf climbed up to the safety of the mountains. They should be back when the rain stops

#### SPOTTED BEAR

Why are you so sad then?

#### HUNTER 1

The riverbank caved and the bull was swept away by the floodwaters. We followed him

and pulled him to shore, but he drowned. He was a white buffalo.

SPOTTED BEAR

*(taking the hide, ruefully)*

Many people have been drowned. Our food has been drowned or carried away. But our young people are no longer destroying the world that was created for them. You are rebuilding. You have found the white buffalo. It will save those who are left.

*The following lines are acted out by our storytellers as they are spoken by the narrators. The narrators too seek cover under the fully unfurled "buffalo skin."*

BUFFALO

Still the rains fell, and the waters rose. The people moved from the flooded mountains to the highest peaks.

OLD MAN

And Spotted Bear spread the white buffalo skin on the ground.

YOUNG GIRL

As if one, the people scraped and stretched it, scraped and stretched it...scraped and stretched it. Still the rains fell, and the waters rose.

OLD MAN

They stretched the buffalo skin out over the village. All the people who were left crowded under it.

BUFFALO

Still the rains fell, and the waters rose.

YOUNG GIRL

And each day the people stretched it further and further until all of Yellowstone Valley was covered by the white buffalo skin.

BUFFALO

Though the rains fell above, they could not touch the Yellowstone Valley.

OLD MAN

The waters sank away.

BUFFALO

Animals from the outside moved into the valley, under the white buffalo skin. The people shared the valley with the animals.



## YOUNG GIRL

But the rains still fell. So Spotted Bear and the people raised the west end of the buffalo skin to catch the West Wind. The wind rushed in and was caught under the buffalo skin, forming a great dome over the valley.

## BUFFALO

And the Great Spirit saw that the people were living at peace with the earth. The rains stopped.

## ALL

And the sun shone.

*rainbow on  
furiously in  
lines*

*As the following occurs, the  
storytellers turn over the great white  
cloth to reveal a painted  
its underside. It quivers  
the 'wind'. The ensuing  
grow progressively quicker...*

## YOUNG GIRL

As the sun shone on the rawhide, it began to shrink!

## BUFFALO

The ends pulled themselves out of the people's hands as the West Wind moved even stronger!

## OLD MAN

With a rush, the earth cracked, and a great arch of color stretched across the valley until...

## YOUNG GIRL

In the distance. If you really look...

## BUFFALO

You will see a white buffalo and her calf.

*and her*

*The great white cloth is pulled away  
and we see a white buffalo  
calf grazing on the land.*

*END SCENE.*

## The Wolf's Reward

*A forest scene. A  
STORYTELLER addresses us  
as a YOUNG PERSON enters  
with an axe.*

### STORYTELLER 1

Long ago in a certain place, there lived a young person. One night she had to go to the village on the other side of the mountain to have her axe repaired.

*young  
We hear  
forest,  
made by  
the*

*The other storytellers make  
up a menacing forest,  
through which the  
person must pass.  
Sounds of a haunted  
many of which are  
the human voices of  
storytellers.*

### STORYTELLER 2

The night was very dark and in the mountain pass there were areas where the trees made the path so narrow not even a mouse could have comfortably made his way.

### WOLF

*(in agony)*

Mmmmmmmhhhhhhua.....hghhhhhhhhhhhhdaaaa!

### YOUNG PERSON

*(afraid)*

That must be the badger playing tricks again.

### WOLF

*(like a rumbling growl)*

Nnnnnuahhhhhh! Hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhghghgh...

### YOUNG PERSON

Although I've never heard a badger make that noise.

### WOLF

Hnnnnnnnnngahhhh...

### YOUNG PERSON

The badger must be snoring! I'll give him a scare.

*realizes  
At this  
for*

*Young person accosts  
the animal until she  
it is a menacing wolf.  
realization, she recoils  
an instant.*

YOUNG PERSON

I have no mind to get eaten tonight!

WOLF

*(bowing and opening its mouth)*

Nhhhhhhhhha.

YOUNG PERSON

Oh. Do you need help?

*The WOLF bows as if  
begging for help.*

YOUNG PERSON

*(looking in Wolf's mouth)*

You have something stuck in there. Here, I'll take it out for you.

STORYTELLER

Slipping one arm out of his/her kimono, the young person put a hand in the wolf's mouth and pulled out a big thick bone.

YOUNG PERSON

*(noticing the Wolf's relief)*

After this you must be more careful when you eat big bones like that! Take care, friend.

WOLF

*(making the Japanese wolf call, softly and in gratitude)*

Khun...khun....

STORYTELLER

Several days passed and the young person was invited to a harvest celebration on the other side of the mountain.

*scene.*

*there*

WOLF

Khuuuuun! Khuuuuun!

*The remaining storytellers  
open into a celebration  
Pastoral music plays as they  
dance gaily. Suddenly,  
is a great growling.*

ALL

*(in mass panic)*

Oh no! What do we do! A beast at the door! A beast!

YOUNG PERSON

Stop! I have an axe. I will go and see what it is.

VILLAGER 1

Don't! What if you can't kill it with your axe?

*Young person goes to the door and notices the Wolf, who immediately stops growling and becomes quiet, licking the Young person hand as it pets the Wolf.*

YOUNG PERSON

Oh, hello friend. Are you so happy about what I did for you that time?

*The Wolf drops a giant pheasant at the Young person's feet and then slinks off.*

VILLAGER 1

It was just a pheasant?

VILLAGER 2

That's one large pheasant.

VILLAGER 3

That's one sick pheasant!

YOUNG PERSON

No. This pheasant was a gift from a wolf I once saved.

VILLAGER 2

You helped a wolf! They eat our sheep!

VILLAGER 3

They are dangerous!

YOUNG PERSON

We are only afraid of those creatures we do not understand. I did not need to understand that wolf to help it. I only needed to know that I am human to know that I needed to help that wolf.

VILLAGER 1

But what about our sheep?

YOUNG PERSON

*(holding up the pheasant)*

I doubt that wolf will be eating our sheep anymore.

*END SCENE.*

**First Knowledge**

yearning  
view.

the

*Orpheus enters, having gained great skill at his instrument, playing a song of and laughter. A snake slithers into his For a second, Orpheus is tempted to go to it, but resists and departs. After a moment, snake follows him. At just this instant, Eurydice enters in earnest. The music is gone. She is confused and goes off in a direction different from that of Orpheus.*

## Molly Magoo

*Two STORYTELLERS step forward.*

### STORYTELLER 1

I reckon living in North Carolina you've all heard about Jack, the boy who climbed a beanstack and outsmarted a giant and all.

### STORYTELLER 2

I bet you know about that skinny little string bean Cinderella. But you ever hear of a girl named Molly Magoo?

### STORYTELLER 1

Didn't think so. See, she lived waaaaaay back in time. Waaaaaay back in the mountains too. With her mommy and her daddy and her sisters Poll and Betts. Well, they're names are really Polly and Betsy, but those names save some time.

*POLL and BETTS accost their mother.*

### POLL

Mama, it's time for us to go have some fun.

### BETTS

Yeah it's too boring up in these here mountains.

### MOMMA

Well I reckon you two are old enough to go find adventure for yourselves. I'll have to give you some journey cakes for your trip though.

### POLL

What's journey cakes?

### MOMMA

Journey cakes are what people in folktales eat when they go on a trip. Don't ask stupid questions! They're like a biscuit but with a little pinch of magic added, and not so much flour.

### MOLLY

*(entering)*

I want to go too!

### POLL AND BETTS

Oh no you ain't!

BETTS

You're no bigger than a smidgen.

POLL

Yeah, you'd lose a fight to a squirrel!

MOLLY

*(throwing a mighty tantrum)*

I'm not liiiiiittle! I wannnnna goooooooooo!

MOMMA

Molly Whuppie, you hush that right now! I'll let you go, but first you have to fetch a bucketful of water from the creek so I can make more journey cakes.

*Molly takes the bucket O.S.*

POLL AND BETTS

Don't let her go with us Mommy!

POLL

She'll ruin the whole trip.

BETTS

If she goes, I ain't going.

MOMMA

Hush. She ain't a-going. That bucket's full of holes. She can't carry water in that. You two go on now before she gets back.

*They take off. Molly re-enters with the bucket.*

STORYTELLER 1

So everytime Molly dipped that bucket in the creek, sure 'nough the water spilled right back out.

STORYTELLER 2

Do you know what she did then? A little bird perched on a limb above her head and told her to daub that bucket with moss and stick it with clay so she could carry water away.

*Molly takes the bucket to her mother.*



MOMMA

Well Molly, this here bucket is full of water. I always told you girls that you have got to do what you say you'll do. Looks like I have to give you some journey cakes and send you on your way!

*Molly takes the cakes and runs after her sisters.*

MOLLY

Poll! Betts! Wait up!

STORYTELLER 1

Poll and Betts tried their darndest to get ahead of little Molly, but she could run so much faster than them, she caught up with her sisters in no time.

STORYTELLER 2

The two sisters spotted Molly's journey cakes, having eaten all theirs before they even left the house.

POLL

Molly, you can come along if you give us a bite of your journey cakes.

MOLLY

Well I dunno...

BETTS

Otherwise we'll just ignore you the rest of the way.

MOLLY

Okay fine.

STORYTELLER 1

And so the three girls munched on those journey cakes until there wasn't a crumb left.

STORYTELLER 2

The problem was, the further they got into those woods, the hungrier and the colder they got too.

POLL

I'm so hungry I could eat tree bark.

BETTS

I'm so hungry I could eat a squirrel.

MOLLY

I'm not that hungry!

POLL AND BETTS

Ugh...

BETTS

Hey, who is that up ahead?

*An OLD PERSON hobbles onstage.*

OLD

The question is, who are you and what do you want on my property?

BETTS

We're just three little girls out lost on the road.

POLL

*(pitifully)*

We're wore out and close to starvation.

OLD

Tell you what. I'm a wealthy old sod and I will give you my entire penny collection if you chop me some firewood on this cold evening. Do that, and you can also stay the night in my house, atop this here mountain.

POLL

Fine.

BETTS

We can chop firewood. We're all grown up. No problem!

POLL

You might as well give us the money now!

*Old person leaves.*

MOLLY

Chop the firewood with what?

POLL

What did you say Molly?

MOLLY

We don't have a darn thing to chop down a tree with.

BETTS

Don't you think we know that?

POLL

Yeah, there's an axe out in the forest. Do you think we're dumb or somethin'?

MOLLY

No, I was just-

POLL

Let's go.

STORY

And so the girls did go, and go....and go. Until finally...

BETTS

I can't walk no further. My legs are as tired as a dog in summer.

POLL

Let's just sit down a minute...we're all wore out. We're so lost.

MOLLY

And still nothin' to chop that firewood with.

*A rumbling O.S.*

BETTS

What's that?

MOLLY

What's what?

POLL

Over there. In the trees...

BETTS

Fiddlin' fiddlesticks, it's a giant!

*Poll and Betts run O.S. The sound of the giant grows nearer.*

STORYTELLER 2

And so Molly's sisters left her alone, in a thick forest...with a giant rumbling through the trees.

MOLLY

What'd you say?

STORY 2

'scuse me?

MOLLY

You there. What did you just say about this giant?

STORYTELLER 2

That it's rumblin' through the trees.

MOLLY

That's it!

*MOLLY hurls a pebble O.S. at the Giant, who pursues her, knocking down trees along the way.*

*(Running away)*

I'm gonna be rich! Filthy rich! Haha!

STORYTELLER 1

And so that's how Molly Whuppie felled an entire forest of trees, without touching a one of them. And proved herself brave enough for the next adventure in Appalachia.

*END SCENE.*

## Orpheus and Euridyce

*Orpheus resumes playing his yearning tune as he continues to search for the one who picked the flower. He looks up and she is there.*

*Coldplay's "Talk" begins to play. In the airy intro, the two are entranced by each other. As the song begins, they slowly, meticulously walk toward one another. As they get close, the very idea of touching hands gives them pause and they spin, palms facing each other. As the chorus hits for the first time, the two grab hands, the other Storytellers rush onstage, and we are at their wedding. The two are wrapped in white cloth, out of which Euridyce spins and walks D.S. in blissful contemplation.*

*The snake enters and enthralls Eurydice. Orpheus enters just as she is bitten on the foot. The storytellers rush back on as Hades' henchmen, surrounding Eurydice. When she is lifted above their heads, she is covered in a red cloak. They take her O.S. as Orpheus is left alone, distraught and unable to even touch his dead bride.*

*The song stops for a moment and a booming, echoing voice comes to Orpheus from above:*

ZEUS (V.O.)

Orpheus...Orpheus...be not afraid. It is I, Zeus... You want to have her back amongst the living?

*Orpheus agrees.*

Then you must go to the underworld, to the infernal world of Hades...to the abode of the shades of Hell to find Euridyce. Hades will return her to you, but you must go there on your own power, and when you find her, you must not look at her until you are again amongst the living...Go Orpheus...go...

*The song resumes as Hades, Persephone attend their throne room, replete with fates and deathly guards, who claw at Orpheus as he pleads for the life of his love. With a flourish, Hades and Persephone separate, allowing Eurydice, still cloaked in red, to see Orpheus.*

*In a determined hurry, the two depart, but as they weave through the dead, they start to grab onto Eurydice's hands, forming a chain that extends across the playing space, until Orpheus and her can move no longer. In an instant, he looks back and her hand comes free. As soon as the others disappear, Orpheus is left in the forest, alone, with the*

*harmonious sounds of the birds and breeze as his only company.*

*END SCENE.*

**The Origin of Death**

*All the STORYTELLERS return to the stage at once, celebrating wildly. A SQUIRREL accosts a HARE.*

SQUIRREL

Hare! Hare!

HARE

Here I am. The fastest runner and the strongest warrior.

SQUIRREL

You are the one who shot the sun?

HARE

Many years ago I shot an arrow into the sun.

SQUIRREL

The moon requests to speak with you at once.

*As Hare steps D.S., the storytellers all*

*freeze.*

MOON (V.0)

Hare, you who tried to cast an arrow into the sun. I want you to go to mankind, who I love so much I painted the stars in the night sky that they might look upon me and be joyful, and tell them this for me:

As I die, and dying live; so you shall also die, and dying live.

HARE

I am a great runner, Moon and will relay the message.

*As Hare breaks back U.S., the celebration resumes, until the Hare gets an audience with the other storytellers.*

I am sent by the Moon to men, to tell you that as she dies and dying perishes, in the same manner you also shall die and come wholly to an end.

*The crowd is stunned. The Hare breaks  
back D.S. and the storytellers freeze.*

Moon! Moon! Oh I have done well- I told mankind the following:

As the Moon dies and dying perishes, in the same manner you also shall die and come wholly to an end.

MOON (V.O.)

I did not say that. I said "As I die and dying live, so you shall also die, and dying live"  
Do you dare tell the people a thing which I have not said? Mankind will forever believe  
what you have told them here, but that is not the thing which I have said. I have said:

As I die and dying live, so you shall also die, and dying *must* live...

As I die and dying live, so you shall also die, and dying *must* live...

*And with decrescendo until...*

*BLACKOUT.*

**Creation: Part Two**

*Tepeu and Gucu re-enter in darkness, save for the sun. A thin pool of light illuminates them, against the silhouetted tableau of the people and animals from the end of the previous scene, "Origin of Death."*

TEPEU

What happened Gucu?

GUCU

I don't exactly know. The moon was very sad. I think the humans didn't listen to her.

TEPEU

They think they're going to die?

GUCU

They will die Tepeu. The question the moon cared about was, how do they live?

TEPEU

You mean we put all that work into creation only to have a bunch of mopey creatures take it all back? I didn't work that hard for them to be this sad!

GUCU

No, no Tepeu. You know how everything you and I thought of happened instantaneously when we created all this?

TEPEU

Yes.

GUCU

The humans also have freedom of thought. Just like us gods.

TEPEU

What good is freedom of thought if they are just going to live lives without mystery and excitement?

GUCU



That won't happen to them.

TEPEU

Why not.

GUCU

They have each other. That's why not.

*The two gods explore the tableau as the  
lights slowly fade to...*

*BLACKOUT.*

*END OF PLAY.*