

**LOKSI' SHAALI'
SHELL SHAKER**

A Chickasaw Opera in Two Acts

**Music and Libretto by
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**Choctaw translation by
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Chikashsha/English

**Commissioned by Tianhui Ng and Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra.
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Loksi' (mezzo soprano)	Chickasaw Girl
Hiloha (tenor)	Chickasaw Boy/Lead Singer
Ishki' (soprano)	Loksi's Mother
Inki' (bass/baritone)	Loksi's Father
Ippo'si' (spinto soprano)	Loksi's Grandmother/Grandmother Turtle
Okhina' (baritone)	River
Loksi' Sipokni' (tenor)	Old Turtle
Chikashsha (tenor)	Chickasaw Brother
Chatah (baritone)	Choctaw Brother
Fani' (tenor)	Squirrel
Foshi' (soprano)	Bird
Issi' (mezzo soprano)	Deer
Shawi' (tenor)	Raccoon
Nani' (baritone)	Fish
People & Spirits (chorus)	SATB
Chipota Alhiha' (children's chorus)	SA

CHARACTER SYNOPSIS

Chikashsha (Brother) is the leader of the migrating Chickasaw family. Because the Sacred Pole is still wavering, he has decided that his family must continue to follow the Sacred Pole.

Chahta (Brother) is one of the leaders of the migrating families. He has decided that his family must settle just east of the Mississippi River.

Loksi' (Turtle) is an adolescent Chickasaw girl known for being a person who takes time with her thoughts and actions. She was given her name because the turtle is known to be a wise and thoughtful being. She is frustrated because her friends do what children do - find a way to tease about names. She is internally optimistic and loving and, like all humans, her struggle is to find peace and confidence with her identity. She represents all people and is the hero.

Hiloha (Thunder) is an adolescent Chickasaw boy and is known for his confidence and peacemaking. His personal challenge is that he is deeply drawn to Loksi's spirit but unable to directly express his love and care for her. So, he remains patient. His patience results in his ability to lead his people and become Loksi's husband.

Ishki' (Mother) represents Loksi's future confidence and peace with life. She was prophetically named Loksi' because she knew she was powerfully unique. She tries to show Loksi' the way by modeling a general patience and acceptance.

Inki' (Father) is the tribal liaison - a powerful peacemaker. He is a clear and stable force in Loksi's life. With very few words, he is able to convey his belief in her and his trust in family and Creation.

Ippo'si' (Grandmother) is a community sage and teacher. She departs wisdom upon all the people and is challenged with Loksi's resistance. Because Ippo'si' is family, Loksi' is a normal child by not listening to her. Internally, Ippo'si' knows that Loksi' will be okay and simply needs time and experience. When she appears to Loksi' in the second act, it becomes pleasantly clear that she is more of a sentient being living in both the physical and spirit world.

Okhina' (River) is similar to the Biblical burning bush, to whom people go in search of knowledge and guidance. It is known that Ippo'si' relies on Okhina' to help the community.

Loksi' Sipokni' (Old Turtle) is the first animal person that Loksi' meets. He is like a window into what the future version of Loksi' is to become. His first challenge with her, turning resentment into empathy, is successful and she becomes open to learning the ways of the forest. He becomes her mentor and dear friend. Loksi' Sipokni' eventually gifts Loksi' percussion shells that forever characterize an entire region of Muskogean culture.

Animal People: Fani' (Squirrel), **Foshi'** (Bird), **Issi'** (Deer), **Shawi'** (Raccoon) and **Nani'** (Fish). These characters are Loksi' Sipokni's friends and assistants in teaching Loksi' different aspects of woodland life and culture. Squirrel teaches her the speed and agility required to navigate the woodlands. Bird teaches her to have a larger vision by seeing the whole landscape and teaches her how to build her new home. Deer teaches Loksi' to have powerful, spiritual beauty. Raccoon teaches her creativity and survival. Fish teaches her the important ability to navigate Southeastern woodland rivers with canoes.

Chikashsha (Chickasaw Community) are Loksi's people. They are generally happy and busy with real life tasks, as are all global communities. Their positivity is anthemic to Loksi's spirit, but they are unaware of her struggle. They do not yet realize that such an unlikely person could transform their lives for the better.

The Forest is the archetypical place where the spirit world becomes alive. It is here that Loksi' is able to communicate directly with animals and ancestors, learn love and happiness, and find herself.

SHELL SHAKER takes place approximately 1000 years ago, in the old Chickasaw territory, now known as northeastern Mississippi, northwestern Alabama, as well as portions of Kentucky and

Tennessee. Two ancient families, now known as Choctaw and Chickasaw have been migrating from the West, for months, following the two brother-leaders, Chahta and Chikashsha. Through a vision, the two brothers were instructed by Aba' Binni'li' (The Creator) to migrate their families to a new land. During the migration a Sacred Pole was planted into the ground. Each morning, the two families followed the direction in which the pole was leaning, and they were instructed to do this until the pole finally stood still. After arriving at the Mississippi River, the pole still directed them to cross, and they did. In the process, their sacred medicine leader, The White Dog drowned, as a final sacrifice to show his people the way. After the families crossed The Sacred Pole was almost still, but slightly wavering. Chatah decided that the pole was instructing them to stay and create their new home, while Chikashsha disagreed and decided to move his family further northeast, forever splitting the two families and creating generations of discord. The one thing they had in common was that they were all in a new land. This was a time of chaos and confusion, in which neither family knew the new ways in which they were to live, nor which traditions to follow. Their songs and dances are fractured.

The opera begins in the morning when Chikashsha has decided to leave the Chahta.

SYNOPSIS:

There was once a Chickasaw girl who was not created like the other children. They called her Loksi' (Turtle) because she tried to run and play with them but was not able to keep up. Still, she was a hard worker and kept up with her mother while doing their chores. Even though her mother told her not to play with them she would say "But they are my friends!" As time went on, the girl began to lose hope and stayed at home more, helping her mother and grandmother with the chores.

Toward the evening of a summer day she was sent to get water from the creek. As she approached the water, she recalled her grandmother telling the young mothers to remember that when your heart is troubled you must go to the running river. "The water is one of the most powerful elements of the earth," Grandmother told them. "You must drink and look into the water and tell the water your trouble. If you shed the tears of your true heart, the water will carry your troubles away. And if you listen close, the water will tell you what you must do." The little girl followed her grandmother's advice. She waded into the water, took a drink and looked into the water, telling the water of all her troubles and how sorry she was for being the way she was - not able to keep up with the other children. She could not help the way life had been for her, and all she wanted was to be with the other children in their daily life.

The water was deeply touched. It felt her precious tears and heard her sweet voice. As the girl was crying, the water came to a standstill to listen to what she had said. The water spoke to her, instructing her to leave the village and to not tell anyone of her leaving. "You will stay away for four years, not to return within those years. Do not look back, for it will haunt you. You are to seek a vision while you are gone and learn what it teaches you. The little girl asked, "What vision?" The water answered, "You will know when it's time." The water fell silent and began to flow again.

She did as the water had said, packing up only a few things and quietly left that same evening -letting no one know. After a twelve-day walk, she came to rest. She was very alone and eating only what she could

find. She came to a spring to drink and it reminded her of what the water told her. She arrived at what looked like a good place to stay - a spring close by and vegetation and fruit trees. She made herself a hut and settled down for the winter. During the days she walked through the woods alone, gathering plants and fruit and patiently waiting for her vision. Two years passed and no vision had come.

One day, while walking through the woods she came upon an old turtle. Noticing that it was moving so slowly, she laughed at it and asked, "Where are you going in such a hurry?" As she laughed, she remembered how she had been treated in the past and felt remorse. She told the turtle "You are what my people call me." The turtle knew how she felt and wanted to hear

more from her and of her life, so, she picked him up and carried the turtle wherever she went. She told him all about her people and how wonderful her grandmother was in sharing her wisdom with the young women. When it was time for sleep, the girl made a place for the turtle beside her bed so she could watch him, every night as he drifted off. Each morning she went to the spring for water to give old turtle a bath - all the time laughing, playing and talking to her friend. She kept herself very busy and entertained him while working around her little hut and taking care of what needed mending. She forgot all about time and didn't notice that the fourth year of her journey had come. One evening, during the last winter month, the girl and turtle were in the hut singing and dancing. It was time to go to bed, so she picked up the turtle and gently put him in his place. She continued singing as she laid down on her side, starring at the turtle as she went into a deep sleep.

An old turtle woman came to her during the night and spoke to her as if she were awake. The woman said, "I have come for the old turtle as it is time for him to come home. I'm the caretaker of all the turtles of the earth."

When the girl woke up, her friend was gone. She looked all around the hut knowing it could not have gotten very far. She remembered her dream but would not give up looking for him. The evening of the fourth day the girl was quietly laying on her bed, starring at the old turtle's place. She went into a deep sleep and the old woman appeared again. She told the girl "When it becomes spring of this new season you must return to your village, as four years have passed. Because you were so kind to the old turtle, he has left you a gift." When the girl woke up the next morning, she was not a little girl anymore, but a beautiful young woman. As she arose, she looked where her friend once laid, and a set of turtle shells was in its place. She remembered that the old woman said, "When your people sing and dance you will always wear these turtle shells during the ceremony. You will keep the name Loksi', for the old ones are so pleased and will always be with you. The turtle is the one created closest to the earth. Always remember who you are and where you came from. Never to do others as was done to you and your people will follow you."

She journeyed back to the village and arrived during the first ceremony of the opening season. The stomp dance was going strong with the men singing and everyone dancing. She quickly strapped her new turtle shells to her legs and went into the circle behind the lead singer. As they started singing, Loksi' began her shell shaking rhythm by stomping as she danced. When the song was finished all the people came to greet her and tell her how beautiful she danced! The medicine man asked her name and

she said it was Loksi'. He said an old turtle woman came to his dreams and told him that a beautiful young woman, wearing turtle shells, would soon come to dance; that she was the new turtle clan mother and that all the women would follow her shell shaking.

Today you can hear the spirits of the young women and the turtles when the stomp dance is performed.

CHICKASAW PRONUNCIATION

The following pronunciation guide is a transliteration based on our most recent Chickasaw dictionary.¹ When singing, like any language, these rules will naturally relax to facilitate good vocal performance. They also relax within traditional Chickasaw music. For instance, it is not the composer's intent that a glottal stop should be able to be sustained. Vowel lengths will be dictated by the rhythm in the music. The extra details in this guide are to give a full perspective of the spoken language.

There is only one sound for each vowel. (There are no short nor long vowels.)

a = father
i = machine
o = code
u = hut
y = yes

Double vowels are slightly longer versions of the single vowel, only when the language is spoken. They sound exactly like single vowels.

aa = father
ii = machine
oo = code
yy = yes

Underlined vowels are pronounced nasally, as in French.

a = a pronounced nasally
i = i pronounced nasally
o = o pronounced nasally

á = accent or emphasis on a vowel, when spoken
a' = glottal interruption of the breath, when spoken

b (back), **f** (fit), **h** (hat), **l** (love) **s** (stop), **w** (way), **y** (yes) and **k** (keep) are pronounced like English.

m (man) and **n** (now) are called "nasal consonants" and are spoken with a bit of air released through the nose.

Double consonants are pronounced as a single consonant, just as in the word apple. (i.e. **chch** = ch, **kk** = k, **tt** = t, etc.)

lh = aspirated glottal "th" (This may be sung as a simple "th".)

p,t, and **ch** are pronounced a bit softer than in English.

When **k** occurs before **l, m, n, w** or **y**, it is softer and sounds closer to a **g** (snuggle).

When an **h** occurs before another consonant, it is generally pronounced subtly or sometimes not at all.

With different speakers, the word **tahli** (to finish) can sound like "tahali" or just "tali." Generally, one will hear something in between.

ACT I**Scene 1: Ancient Village**

Curtain rises with the community waking up to their first day in the new homeland. The people are ever grateful for a new day of life, but there is great uncertainty as Chahta and Chikashsha disagree about their fate.

Hopeful and optimistic music plays as the people try to begin a new life of chores and activity. There is an Elder, mentoring a group of youth, with a septet of assistants.

PEOPLE**Iláyya'sha**

We live here!

We are home!

Hashi', chokma'shki!

Sun, thank you!

Sun, thank you!

Hashi', yakkookay!

Sun, thank you!

Sun, thank you!

Hashi'at kochcha!

The sun has risen!

The sun has risen!

Aba' Binni'li', yakkookay, chokma'shki iichimanhi!

The One Who Sits on High, we thank you!

Our Creator, we thank you!

Music abruptly becomes dark.

MEN**Chikashsha'at ala**

Chickasaw is here!

Brother Chickasaw is here!

CHIKASHSHA**Anokfillit tahlili.**

I have finished thinking on it.

I have decided!

PEOPLE

Stunned.

Hapomanoli!

Tell us!

What have you decided?

CHIKASHSHA

Itti' Fabassa' Holitto'pa'at wáyya'a kati'mana hashhaakochcha' pilla iliyya makílla'chi.

The Sacred Pole is still leaning and we must go to the east.

The Sacred Pole is wavering and we must continue to journey northeast.

CHAHTA (in Choctaw)

Tvbi Holitopa akosh kanalli kiyo hosh hikinya, yohmi atukosh pakini il aiashashke.

The Sacred Pole is still, and we are to stay.

The Sacred Pole is still, and we are to stay.

PEOPLE

Aba' Binni'li' ma, hapomishkoboka'at ikittibaachaffo!

The One Who Sits on High, our leaders are not in agreement!

Creator, our brother-leaders disagree!

Ikchokmokiini.

It is very bad.

This is horrible.

Kanikshoot pisa'ka.

No one could see this.

No one predicted this.

CHAHTA (in Choctaw)

Ish kaniya he kiyo. Il ikhanachin hosh pako il aiasha makanashke. Yakni himmona ilappako il aiikhana.

You cannot leave. We must stay here and learn. We must learn on this new land.

You cannot leave. We must stay here and learn the new ways, quickly! We are vulnerable to this new land.

CHIKASHSHA

Onnakma Itti' Fabassa' Holitto'pa'at wáyya'a katihmakma anchokka-chaffa'at ayat taha'chi.

Tomorrow if the Sacred Pole is still leaning my family will go.

If the Sacred Pole cannot decide, I will decide for Him. Tomorrow morning, if it still wobbles, my family will continue.

INKI'

Chahta! Chikashsha! Hachinkana' saya. Ittinannayyachi' saya! Ilittibaachaffa'shki!

Chahta! Chikashsha! I am your friend! I am a peacemaker! We shall come to an agreement!

Chahta! Chikasha! I am your friend, your peacemaker! We can find a way together!

The three men retreat to an isolated part of the stage. Music turns optimistic again. The people are choosing to remain hopeful.

PEOPLE

Nanna móma'at chokma.

All things are good.

All things are good.

Aba' Binni'li'at kilimpi hapotobachitook.

The One Who Sits on High created us to be strong.

Our Creator made us strong.

Iwi'hacha ilaa-áyya'sha katihma. Hapokcháa.

We migrated and we are still here. We are all living.

We survived the migration - we will survive our new life.

Aba' Binni'li' ma, ponchokka-chaffa'at ittibáyya'sha'ni pobanna.

The One Who Sits on High, we want all of our families to remain together.

Please, Creator, keep our families together.

Okla' chokma'si' poya.

We are beautiful people.

We are beautiful people.

Ponchokka-chaffa'at kilimpi.

Our families are strong.

Our families are strong.

Aba' Binni'li', yakkookay, chokma'shki iichimanhi!

The One Who Sits On High, we thank you!

Our Creator, we thank you!

Nanna lawo iiyahmi makílla.

We have much to do.

We have much to do.

Iiyya'!

Let us go!

Let's get to it!

Ippo'si' is mentoring to a group of young women and men, Hiloha is her star pupil. Music is intense, emotional and romantic.

IPPO'SI'

Yaakni' himitta' iláyya'shahootokoot ithanat ishtiliyya'.

Given that we are here on this new land, let us begin learning.

Let us start our first lessons in our new home!

Antikba' chokma'si' alhiha ma!

My beautiful sisters!

My beautiful sisters!

Hachithanashla'chi!

I will teach you!

I teach you to lead with your hearts.

Hachishilombish chokma'at hachimokla abaawiili.

Your magnificent spirits lift up your people.

Your magnificent spirits lift up your people.

Anakfi' chokma'si'!

My beautiful brothers!

My beautiful brothers!

Hachishilombishat iknokwayyocha nanna ihollona ithanashli.

Your spirits are brave and loving and I teach them.

I teach your bold and loving spirit.

MENTEES

Hookya nanna lawa' ikilitha'no.

But we don't know many things.

But we are missing so much!

Katishchit ithanat ishtiliyya?

How do we begin to learn?

How do we even begin?

SEPTET (Eventual Animal Cast)

(Raccoon) Nanna ikilitha'nokyi?

We don't have knowledge?

Are we missing knowledge of life?

(Bird) Ihollo aaikshokyi?

Is there no love here?

Are we missing love?

(Squirrel) Taloowa' micha hilha' himitta'at ikshokyi?

Are there no new songs and dances?

Are we missing new songs and dances?

(Deer) Katishchit abokkol-anonka' chokma'si' himitta'at hapoithanacha'ni?

How can the new and beautiful forest teach us?

How do we learn from our new and beautiful forest?

(Fish) Shilombishat kilipicha okchaa.

The spirit is strong and living.

Its spirit is clearly strong and full of life.

HILOHA**Naaikpomokta'nokisha.***A vision has not appeared to us yet.*

We are missing a vision!

Toshpat ala'chi sayimmi.*I believe it will be here quickly.*

I feel, in my spirit, it is coming very soon!

Ihoyo makilla.*We must look for it.*

We must keep our hearts and minds open to it!

IPPO'SI'**Ii, Hiloha, ishalhpi'sa.***Yes, Hiloha, you are right.*

Yes, Hiloha, you are right.

Anompilbashsha ilimasilhha katihma'chi.*We will continue to pray.*

We will continue to pray.

Aba' Binni'li'at imalhtahakmat hapomanola'chi.*The One Who Sits On High will tell us when they are ready.*

Our Creator will tell us when He is ready.

Anompa shaali' pilacha'chi.*They will send a messenger.*

When the time is right, He will send a messenger.

Ikalhchibo'sokma okhina' ayala'chi.*Soon, I will go to the river.*

Soon, I will travel to the river.

Hapomokhina'at nannimponnacha lawa' ithana. Yammak hachinokfonkha'shki.*Our rivers are intelligent and know many things. You all shall remember this.*

Remember, our rivers have the knowledge of all times.

Hashimano'policha hanglekma, nannookya hashithana makillo hachithanacha'chi.*If you all speak to it and listen, everything that you all need to know will be taught.*

If you speak to it with your heart and listen, it will reveal what you must know.

Nanna hashyahmi makillaka ishchimanola'chi.*It will tell you about the things that you all need to do.*

It will tell you what to do.

Mako'no hachithanashla'chi.*But now I will teach you all.*

For now, I will teach you what I can.

MENTEES

Himmak nittaka hashi'at kochcha!

Today the sun has risen!

Today, the sun has risen!

Nittak himitta' ilayokpachi!

We welcome a new day!

We welcome a new day!

Aba' Binni'li', yakkookay!

The One Who Sits on High, thank you!

Our Creator, thank you!

The mentees continue listening to Ippo'si'. Loksi' is late getting up and bursts out of her home, full of optimism.

LOKSI'

Hashi', chokma'shki!

Sun, thank you!

Sun, thank you!

Hashi', yakkookay!

Sun, thank you!

Sun, thank you!

Nittak himitta'at alaka kanihka ishtasayokpa.

I am very happy that a new day has arrived.

I am so happy for my new day!

Chokmat salhpokonnatok.

I was dreaming in a good way!

I had a wonderful and colorful dream!

Abokkol-anonka' chokma'si', nannimilhlha' anompoli', taloowa' cho'ma ishtilhpokonnalitok.

I dreamt of a beautiful forest, talking animals and songs.

It was of a beautiful forest, talking animals and songs.

Himonalit ankana' ishtimanolili makilla.

I must quickly tell my friends about it.

I must tell my friends, right away!

Loksi' runs to the children playing in a different place from the mentees.

Ankana' alhiha' ma, ankana' alhiha' ma, nanno ishtilhpokonnalitokat ishhachimanolili makilla!

My friends, my friends, I must tell you what I dreamed about!

Friends, friends, I must tell you of my dream!

CHILDREN

Mahya! Ishpobaachokoshkoma' ki'yo!

Go away! You cannot play with us!

Go away! You cannot play with us!

Hiloha is with the mentees but hears Loksi' shouting her joy and breaks from the mentees to join her good news. Hiloha is a liaison.

HILOHA

Ank̄ana' alhiha' ma, hoohaklo! Loksi'at ilhpokonnatok.

Friends, listen! Loksi' dreamed.

Listen, friends, Loksi' has had a dream!

LOKSI'

Hattak kilimpi' ishtilhpokonnalitok!

I dreamt of a powerful being!

I dreamt of a powerful being!

HILOHA

Iholbatoka'nikya'sha.

Maybe it was a vision.

Maybe it was our vision!

CHILDREN

Iibaawihahma chisala'scha chisala'si katihma.

When we were migrating together you were slow and you are still slow.

You were slow on the journey here and you are slow now.

HILOHA

Ki'yo! Iholbatoka'nikya'sha. Loksi' iihaklo'!

No, maybe she had a vision. Let us listen to Loksi'.

No! Maybe she had a vision for all of us. Let's listen to Loksi'.

LOKSI'

Nannimilhlha'at taloowat hi'lhcha nanna lawa' sathanashtok.

There were animals singing and dancing and teaching me many things.

There were animals singing and dancing and teaching me all kinds of things.

CHILDREN

Ihpokonna ishtishanompoholi biyyi'ka.

You are always talking about dreaming.

You are always talking about your dreams.

Hapotikahbi. Haklo ikpobanno.

We are tired. We don't want to listen to you.

We are tired of them.

Pilla ishbachali.*You just keep talking about nothing.*

You keep wasting our time.

LOKSI'**Hookya yammak ıla - yammak chokma finha.***But this one is different, this one is really good.*

But this one is different - this one is special.

Naachokma' sapisashtok.*I was shown good things.*

I was shown important gifts for all of us!

Ankana' alhiha', hoohaklo!*My friends, please listen!*

My friends, please listen!

*The children make up a teasing song.***CHILDREN****Mahya! Ishpobaachokoshkoma' ki'yo!***Go away! You cannot play with us!*

Go away! You cannot play with us!

Mahya! Ishpotikahbichi!*Go away! You are tiring us!*

Go away! We are tired of you!

Chinchokka-chaffa'at Loksi' achihoochifochittook!*Your family named you after the turtle!*

Your family named you after the turtle!

Loksi'at sala'si.*Turtle is slow.*

Turtle is slow.

Loksi'at nannikimponno.*Turtle is dumb.*

Turtle is dumb.

Loksi'at pis-ikayyo'bo.*Turtle is ugly.*

Turtle is ugly.

Loksi' chiya!*You are Loksi'!*

You are Loksi'!

Loksi', Loksi', Loksi'!*Loksi'! Loksi'! Loksi'!*

Loksi'! Loksi'! Loksi'!

Hiloha has been trying to play along but cannot take it anymore. He clearly loves Loksi' and knows she is someone special.

HILOHA

Aaissachi, aaissachi!

Stop it, stop it!

Stop it, stop it!

Salaa'si ki'yo.

She is not slow.

She is not slow.

Nannáhlhi' pisa. Mako iipisa'ka ki'yo.

She sees real things. We cannot see those things.

She sees things that we don't see - what is real.

Hapoittimíla, chokmacha kilimpi.

She is different from us, she is good and powerful.

She is different from us, she is special and powerful.

Hoohaklo!

Listen to her!

Listen to her!

Iholba ishpomanoli banna.

She wants to tell us about the vision.

She wants to tell us about her important vision!

Hiloha is unheard and ignored. Loksi' is frustrated and stands perplexed.

Village Reprise: Children continue to play. Loksi' and Hiloha freeze as tableaux.

MENTEES

Minti ba', Hiloha!

Come Hiloha!

Come back and join, young Hiloha!

Chokmat ishithana. Achipihcha'chi.

You are learning well. You will be made a leader.

You are learning to lead us well.

The people crowd in between Hiloha and Loksi'. Hiloha is struggling to stay by Loksi' but cannot overcome the tide.

Nanna móma'at chokma.

All things are good.

All things are good.

Okla' chokma'si' poya.

We are beautiful people.

We are beautiful people.

Aba' Binni'li', yakkookay!

Creator, thank you!

Creator, thank you!

Ponchokka-chaffa'at kilimpi.

Our families are strong.

Our families are strong.

Nanna lawo iyahmi makilla.

We have much to do.

Ippo'si' has much to teach us!

Heloha reaches out for Loksi'.

HELOHA

Ookya nannahoot iksho.

Yet, there is something missing.

Yet, there is something missing.

Ishtilimanola' ki'yo.

We cannot explain it.

We cannot explain it.

Hookya nannahoot ikshoka ilithana.

But we know there is something missing.

But we feel it.

Loksi' haklo! Ithana'ni.

Listen to Loksi'! She might know!

Listen to Loksi'! She may have the answers!

PEOPLE

Haatoko Aba' Binni'li' anompilbashsha' ilimasilhlha.

So, we pray to The One Who Sits Above.

We pray to Our Creator.

Imalhtahakmat anompa shaali' pompilacha'chi.

When they are ready, they will send a messenger to us.

When the time is right, He will send a messenger.

CHILDREN

HILOHA

(In background mixed in with the orchestration.)

Loksi', Loksi', Loksi' chiya! Imalhtahakmat anompa shaali' pompilacha'chi.

You are Loksi'! Loksi'! Loksi'! When they are ready, they will send a messenger to us.
You are Loksi'! Loksi'! Loksi'! When the time is right, He will send a messenger.

•Scene closes with big music climax•

Village and children exit and leave Loksi' and Hiloha standing across the stage from each other, illuminated by individual lights, isolated in their thoughts in two separate worlds.

Scene 2: Two Worlds

Hiloha and Loksi' sing an intermingled but separated duet. They are across the stage from each other, unaware of each other's presence.

HILOHA

Loksi', sashilombishat ayoppa issabaabínni'likma.

Loksi', my soul is happy when you sit with me.

Loksi', you are light in my soul.

Antaloowa' chiya.

You are my song.

You are my living song.

Anchokka' lohma' minti.

Come here to my hidden home.

Please come to my secret home.

LOKSI'

Sashilombishat awaa.

My spirit is calling me.

Something in my soul is calling.

Yaakni'at wina'kachi.

The world is shaking.

The world spins around me.

Chonkash yohbi sabannahookya amaanokfila-at toklo.

I want a calm heart but my mind is split in two.

I want to be in the center, calm, but I am torn.

Aba' Bínni'li' ma, nanna ithánali makíllahō amanōli.

The One Who Sits Above, tell me what I need to know.

Creator, tell me what I need to know.

LOKSI' & HILOHA

Nanna yahmili makíllahō amanōli.

Tell me what I need to do.

Tell me what I am to do.

They look across the stage to each other.

Nittak fokhakma amalchíyyi'ba ki'yoka'chi. Anchokma'chi.

In the future I will not be lonely. I will feel good.

In time, I will not feel alone. I will be whole and complete.

Scene 3: Loksi's Home

Loksi's mother and grandmother are busy at home, laughing and thoroughly enjoying each other's company. They have decided to continue as if everything is going to be OK and that the families will stay together.

ISHKI'

Sashki', chibaabínni'likat ishtanchokma.

Mother, I enjoy sitting with you.

Mother, I love our time together!

IPPO'SI'

Saoshiitiik, chibaabínni'likat ishtanchokma.

Daughter, I enjoy sitting with you.

Daughter, I love our time together!

ISHKI'

Chimano'policha chibaa-ollalikat ishtanchokma.

I enjoy talking to you and laughing with you.

I love talking and laughing with you!

IPPO'SI'

Chimano'policha chibaa-ollalikat ishtanchokma.

I enjoy talking to you and laughing with you.

And I love talking and laughing with you!

ISHKI'

Nannilibaaikbi.

We make things together.

We make things together.

ISHKI' & IPPO'SI'

Iibaahilha.

We dance together.

We dance together.

ISHKI'**Lohmit ilí'shi.***We keep secrets.*

We share secrets.

IPPO'SI'**Shikonno'pa' ilittimanóli.***We tell each other possum tales.*

We share stories.

ISHKI'**Ayoppolachikat chimponna.***You are good at telling jokes.*

You tell the best jokes.

IPPO'SI'**Taloowa' chokma'si' ishtaloowa.***You sing beautiful songs.*

You sing beautiful songs.

ISHKI' & IPPO'SI'**Issollalichi!***You make me laugh!*

You make me laugh!

Issahilhachi!*You make me dance!*

You make me dance!

Ponchokka-chaffa' chokma'si' ilapiisahánci bíyyi'ka.*We are always taking care of our beautiful family.*

We take care of our beautiful family.

Poholitto'pa.*We are blessed.*

We are blessed.

Chokka' chaffa' kanihmihoot impállammikā ilithána.*We know that some families have it bad.*

We know there is confusion in the families.

IPPO'SI'**Hookya apoyoppacha pokilimpi.***But we are happy and strong.*

But we are happy and strong.

ISHKI' & IPPO'SI'**Ilachónna'cha'chi.***We will persevere.**We will persevere.***Ilibaa-áyya'shaka Aba' Binni'li'at kaniya' iliyya makilla'chika popisacha'chika poyimmi.***We are together and we believe that the One Who Sits On High will show us wherever we have to go.**We believe The Creator will keep us all together and that He will show us the way.***Pomoktana'chi.***A vision will appear to us.**He will give us a sign!**Loksi' burst into the house, like she did before with the village. Same melody, but dark.***LOKSI'****Sashki', Appo'si'!***Mother, Grandmother!**Mother, Grandmother!***Kan̄hka sanokhángo.***I am so sad.**I am so sad.***Ankana'at katihmita iksabaachokoshkomo?***Why won't my friends play with me?**Why won't my friends play with me?***Sasalaa'si salami aachi.***They say I am too slow.**They say I am too slow.***Ikalhpi'sokitaa?***Are they wrong?**Are they right?***ISHKI'****Ikchisala'so. Nannishtishanokfillicha yahmishanhi.***You are not slow. You think about things and you are careful.**You are not slow. You are thoughtful and you take time.***Chipota alhiha'at nanna kanihmikat ikitha'no.***The children don't know what they are doing.**The children don't know what they are doing.***Himitta' salamihootokoot ikakostini'cho.***Because they are too young they don't understand.**They are too young to understand.*

Himmako'sikano pomokla'at imilhla.

Now our people are scared.

Our people are scared.

Ihimo'nana chihángla'ni.

Wait on them and they may hear you.

Give them some time and they may hear you.

IPPO'SI'

Mako'no minti, Loksi'.

Now come, Loksi'.

Now come, Loksi'.

ISHKI'

Naaishtishilhpokonnaḡ ishpomanḡli.

Tell us what you dreamt about.

Tell us about your beautiful dream.

ISHKI' & IPPO'SI'

Nannimilhla'at chintaloowatok miya.

They said the animals sang to you.

We heard that the animals sang to you!

Loksi', minti!

Loksi', come!

Very big outburst.

LOKSI'

Loksi' hassahochifonna. Chipota'at sahochifot sayoppolachi.

Don't call me by the name Loksi'. Children call me by that name and tease me.

Don't call me Loksi'! The children tease me with that name.

ISHKI' & IPPO'SI'

Chipota alhiha'at chiholhchifo' aamintihḡ imalhkaninya.

The children are forgetting where your name comes from.

The children forget about your name.

Loksi', hiholhchifo'at chokma.

Loksi, your name is good.

Loksi', you have a great name!

Loksi has an outburst.

LOKSI'

Chikalhpi'so. Holhchifoashoot sanokhánglochi.

You are wrong. That name saddens me.

You are wrong! This name hurts my heart!

Loksi' looks around, desperately.

Asapila'ni sabannookya Anki'at iksho. “Loksi' hashibaachokoshkomo makilla'shki!” imaacha'ni sabanna.

I want him to help me but Father is gone. I want him to say to them “You all shall play with Loksi!”.
Where is father when I need him? He must tell the others to play with me!

Ippo'si' tries to console Loksi'.

ISHKI' & IPPO'SI'

Loksi', ishpopihli'cha'chika ithánali.

I know that you will lead us.

I can see you are our future.

Okhina' ootpi'scha nanno ishtachinokhánglokat imanoli.

Go see River and tell it of the things that you are sad about.

Please go to River and tell him your sorrow.

Nannookya yahma'chika ithána'cho.

He will know everything that will be done.

He will know what to do.

With deep love and compassion.

(May or may not add:)

ISHKI' & IPPO'SI' (Together)

Aba' Binni'li'at chinonkaka' anompoli!

The One Who Sits Above is speaking inside you!

Hear Creator's voice inside you!

Himmako'si'no chimanompoli!

He is speaking to you now!

He is speaking to you now!

Outburst.

LOKSI'

Okhina' akayyoka'chi. Chipota pistayala'chi.

I won't go to River; I will go see the children.

I won't go to the river; I will go see my friends!

Impa' ishtimonnala'shna sabaachokoshkomo hoobanna'chi.

I will take food to them and they will want to play with me!

I will bring them food and they will want to play with me!

Loksi' grabs some food and runs back outside to try to play again.

CHILDREN (fading in)

Loksi' chiya!.

You are Turtle.

You are Turtle.

LOKSI'

Ankana' alhiha' ma - impa' ishchimallali!

My friends, I have brought food for you here!

Friends, I have food for you!

CHILDREN

Loksi'at sala'si.

Turtle is slow.

Turtle is slow.

Mahya! Ishpobaachokoshkoma' ki'yo!

Go away! You cannot play with us!

Go away! You cannot play with us!

Mahya! Ishpotikahbichi!

Go away! You are tiring us!

Go away! We are tired of you!

Ishchokoshkoma'hi bíyyi'ka ki'yohootokoot chinchokka'ko ishaahopooni.

You can't play so you cook at your home.

You cannot play, so you cook at home.

Loksi'at pis-ikayyo'bo.

Turtle is ugly.

Turtle is ugly.

LOKSI'

Ankana' alhiha' ma, nanna lawa'at amáyya'shcha hachimala'ni. Hashhángla'ni sabanna!

My friends, I have many things and I can give them to you. I want you all to listen!

Friends, I have so much to give! I beg you to listen!

CHILDREN

Sala'si!

You are slow!

You are slow!

Chisipoknit tahacha chisalaa'si.

You are completely old and slow.

You are already old and slow.

Loksi' chiya!

You are Loksi'!

You are Loksi'!

Children exit. Loksi' huddles down and sobs. Inki' is in a meeting in a nearby gathering, but, Like Hiloha, he has been hearing the ruckus and comes to Loksi'. He takes time and consoles her with a shawl.

Scene 4: Loksi' & Inki'

INKI'

Loksi', nanna ishyahma'chika ithānali.

Loksi', I know what you will do.

Loksi', I see the future in you.

Ishnaakookya ishithāna'cho.

You too will know.

You will see it, too.

Chippo'si' iyimmili.

I trust in your grandmother.

I trust Grandmother.

Hapoyoksa kanīka.

She is very wise.

She is very wise.

LOKSI'

Anki', kanikshoot sahaklo. Amoktanitokat ithānali!

Father, there is no one who will listen to me. I know that a vision has appeared to me!

Father, no one will listen to me. I have had a vision - I know it!

INKI'

Ayimmi. Aya! Loksi'! Aya!

Trust in me. Go! Loksi'! Go!

Please trust me. Go! Loksi'! Go!

Tikbokhili' pitchokwaacha Okhina' ala.

Go into the mist and get to the River.

Go through the mist and to the River.

LOKSI'

Katishchi okhina'at anompoli?

How can a river talk?

How can a river talk?

Katishchi ishithāna hina' hayooshla'chika?

How do you know that I will find the path?

How do you know I will find my way?

INKI'

Okhina' ootpisa.

Go see River.

Go to the river.

Inki' holds a gentle hand up, signaling for Loksi' to stay, while he gently backs away. She watches him leave, obeying him, but unsure. Loksi' is doing her best to trust him.

INKI'

Chokma'sa'chika ithānali.

Father, my heart.

Father, my heart.

LOKSI'

Anki', anchonkash.

I know that it will be beautiful.

I know it will be beautiful.

Scene 5: To the River

SPIRITS:

Loksi', go to the river!

Loksi', go to the river!

Loksi' begins to walk down a path that leads away from the safety of the village. It is the path to River, which she has never traveled.

LOKSI'

Hashi'at ittola.

The sun is falling.

The Sun is setting.

Mahcha kapassa.

It is windy and cool.

The Air is cool.

Fochik pisali.

I see the stars.

I see the Stars.

Yaakni' ishtalhpisa' chohmitaa?

Are they like a map?

Are they a map?

Asaashaka'kq mahli.

Behind me it is windy.

The wind is behind me.

Salbakat fanalhchi' chohmi.

My arms are like wings.

My arms are wings.

Palhkit malilila'kataa?

Can I run swiftly?

Can I move swiftly?

Katishchi kanihmila'ni?

How might I do this?

How can I do this?

Okhina'at nanta ithána?

What does River know?

What does the river know?

Sala'st foyopali makílla.

I must breathe slowly.

I must breathe slowly.

Mahli, okhina'kọ ishtasaya.

Mahli, take me to the river.

Mahli (Wind), take me to the river.

Alalika imanoli.

Tell him I have arrived.

Tell him I am here.

Scene 6: The River

Loksi' arrives at the River and wades into the shallow. She lets her hair down and cries.

LOKSI'

Okhina' Imakkálo'si', sachonkashat hottopa.

Kind River, my heart is hurting.

Kind River, my heart is broken.

Pílla bínni't yaali.

I just sit here weeping.

My tears are all I have left.

River is touched deeply by Loksi's story. River stops flowing and speaks to her.

OKHINA'

Loksi', sahaklo.

Listen to me.

Listen to me.

Chimanompolili.

I am talking to you.

I am talking to you.

Abokkol-anonka' a'yacha ilachaffa'sit biniili.

Go to the forest and sit down, alone.

Go to the forest and be alone.

Afammi oshta'kọ ahánta.

Stay there for four years.

Stay there for four years.

Ishyaahookya achiyoppa'shki.

You are crying but you shall be happy.

Joy will grow from your tears.

Mako'si'no aya, “Chipisala'cho” aachinna.

Go now, do not say I will see you later.

You will leave now, but this is not goodbye.

OKHINA' & SPIRITS

Loksi', sahaklo.

Listen to me.

Listen to me.

Chimanompolili.

I am talking to you.

I am talking to you.

LOKSI'

Anki', sashki', appo'si', amafo'si'.

Father, mother, grandmother, grandfather.

Father, mother, grandmother, grandfather.

Amanompoli.

Talk to me.

Talk to me.

OKHINA'

Mako'si'no aya, “Chipisala'cho” aachinna.

Go now, do not say I will see you later.

You will leave now, but this is not goodbye.

Spirits call from a different part of the stage.

LOKSI'

Ki'yo! Yahma'ni ki'yo!

No, it cannot be like this!

No! This cannot be!

Kaniya' ayalikat akitha'no!

I do not know where to go!

I don't know the way!

Anchokka-chaffa'ko

“Hachipisala'cho” imaashli makilla!

I must say I will see you all later to my family!

I must say goodbye to my family!

OKHINA'

Sahaklo.

Listen to me.

Listen to me.

Ishyaahookya achiyoppa'shki.

You are crying but you shall be happy.

Joy will grow from your tears.

Mako'si'no ishiyyo makilla.

You must go now.

You must go now.

Ishpoiláncha'chi.

SPIRITS

Loksi', minti!

Loksi', come!

Loksi', come!

Iichipisa'cho.

We will see you later.

We will see you again!

CHIKASHSHA SPIRITS

Mako'si' finha abokkol-anonka' chokwaa!

Enter the forest now!

Come to the forest now!

Scene 7: Act I Finale

Big musical climax with cast and chorus, while Loksi' accepts her fate.

HILOHA

Loksi', issayoppachi.

Loksi' you make me happy.

Loksi', you are light in my soul.

Antaloowa' chiya.

You are my song.

You are my living song.

LOKSI'

Himmako'si ayali makilla.

I must go now.

I must go now.

Abokkol-anonka' chokwaali!

I am entering the forest!

I am going to the forest!

HILOHA

Anchokka' lohma' minti.

Come here to my hidden home.

Please come to my secret home.

ALL TOGETHER:

HILOHA

Loksi', issayoppachi.

Loksi' you make me happy.

Loksi', you are light in my soul.

Antaloowa' chiya.

You are my song.

You are my living song.

IPP'OSI'

Pollikma pitishno wa katihma'cho .

When we have passed, you will keep walking forward.

You are our future.

INKI'

Chokma'sa'cho

It will be beautiful.

It will be beautiful.

ISHKI'**Yahmishanha'shki.***Be careful.**You will need to take time.***SPIRITS****Loksi', minti'!***Loksi', come!**Loksi', come!***Iláyya'sha!***We live here!**We are home!***ACT II****Entr'act***Climactic musical recap with chorus.***CHIKASHSHA SPIRITS****Loksi'at iliwaaká hánglomankó.**

Loksi' has indeed heard our calling out to her.

Loksi' has heard our call!

Abokkol-anonka' ala!

She has arrived at the forest!

She has come to the forest!

Inchokka' himitta' a'lana kanisht yámmohmi ilithanacha'chi!

She has come to her new home and we will teach her the ways.

It is time to teach her the ways of her new home!

Scene 1: Forest Path

Loksi' has been traveling for many days. She is tired and trying not to give up.

The music is very emotional.

LOKSI'

Anki', Sashki', Appo'si', Okhina'!

Father, Mother, Grandmother, River!

Father, Mother, Grandmother, River!

Ilachaffa'sit áalina nittak lawa'.

I have been going along alone for many days.

I have been traveling alone for many days.

Nanna hassamasilhlhahq yahmilitok.

I have done what you all have asked of me.

I have done what you asked.

Anki', Sashki', Appo'si', Okhina'!

Father, Mother, Grandmother, River!

Father, Mother, Grandmother, River!

Ilachaffa'sit áalina nittak lawa'.

I have been going along alone for many days.

I have been traveling alone for many days.

Nanna hassamasilhlhahq yahmilitok.

I have done what you all have asked of me.

I have done what you asked.

Amanompoli.

Talk to me.

Please talk to me.

Hopobat amihlha.

I am hungry and scared.

I am hungry and scared.

Kaniya' ayala'nika hoosapisachi.

Show me where I might go.

Show me the way, now! Show me a sign!

Loksi' suddenly bumps into "something"! It is an old turtle! A dialogue ensues.

LOKSI'

Taa! Nantato?

Oh! What is that?

Oh! What is that?

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Taa! Nantato?

Oh! What is that?

Oh! What is that?

LOKSI'

Kata chiya?

Who are you?

Who are you?

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Kata chiya?

Who are you?

Who are you?

LOKSI'

Loksi' saya.

I am Loksi'.

I am Loksi'.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Loksi' Sipokni' saya.

I am Loksi' Sipokni'.

I am Loksi' Sipokni'.

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Katihmit saholhchifo'at chiholhchifo?

Why is my name your name?

Why is my name your name?

LOKSI'

Katihmit chitilofa'si?

Why are you short?

Why are you short?

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Katihmit chihaaha?

Why are you tall?

Why are you so tall?

LOKSI'

Katihmit chokchamma'li?

Why are you green?

Why are you so green?

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Katihmit chichonna?

Why are you so skinny?

Why are you so skinny?

LOKSI'

Chishkobo'at iskanno'si.

Your head is small!

You have a small head!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Chinoti'at hichito.

Your teeth are big!

You have big teeth!

LOKSI'

Chinonka'at ikkilimpo'so.

Your voice isn't very strong. You speak too loudly.

Your voice isn't very strong. You speak too loudly.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Ishanompoli kallo salami'.

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Loksi' chiya!

You are a turtle!

You are a turtle!

LOKSI'

Chisala'scha ishnqwa' ki'yo.

You are so slow and can't walk!

You are so slow and can't walk!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Kanḥkḥ chichaahacha chilbak illi'.

You are really tall and your hands are dead.

You are really tall and clumsy.

This music becomes the same song that the village children sang to tease her.

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Mako'sa pisala'ka!

I can see just now!

I see now!

Loksi' chiya!

You are a turtle!

You are a turtle!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Mako'sa pisala'ka!

I can see just now!

I see now!

LOKSI'

Loksi' chiya!

You are a turtle!

You are a turtle!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Ayoppolanna!

Don't tease me!

Don't tease me!

Sasipoknihookya sahapoyoksa.

I may be old, but I am wise.

I may be old, but I am wise.

Iksasala'so!

I am not slow.

I am not slow.

Mortified, Loksi' realizes what she is doing.

LOKSI'

Kii!

Oh, no!

Oh, no!

Issankashofa makilla'shki!

You must forgive me!

Please forgive me.

Chipotaat ayoppolatoka chiyoppolalitok chohmi.

The children teased me like I teased you.

The other children teased me like this.

Loksi' Sipokni' begins laughing.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Yammat Íla.

That's strange.

How strange.

Ollalili.

I'm laughing.

This makes me laugh!

The mood suddenly changes.

LOKSI'

Katihmit ishollali?

Why are you laughing?

What is so funny?

Kaniḷo ishchohmi!

You are like the others!

You are just like the others!

Loksi' Sipokni' consoles her.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Ki'yo, Loksi', issanokfokhachi.

No, Loksi', you are reminding me!

No, Loksi', you are making me remember!

Chichohmilitok.

I was like you.

I was unsure like you.

Yahna Aba' Binni'li'at sachokmacha sahapoyoksa amaachitook.

So, The One Who Sits Above said to me that I am good and wise.

Then The Creator told me I am perfect and wise.

Anaakookya sanokhánglotok.

I too was sad.

I was once sad, too.

Ingma asayoppatok!

So then I was happy!

Then I found happiness!

LOKSI'**Ano' ishchohmi.***You are like me.*

You are like me.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Ishno' chohmili.***I am like you.*

I am like you.

LOKSI'**Issapila'hi bíyyi'ka.***You can help me.*

You can help me.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Achipilala'hi bíyyi'ka.***I can help you.*

I can help you.

LOKSI'**Aba' Bínni'li'at aholla'hi bíyyi'ka. Aba' Bínni'li'at chiholla'hi bíyyi'ka.***The One Who Sits Above can love me.*

The Creator can love me.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'*The One Who Sits Above can love you.*

The Creator can love you.

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Mako'sa sashilombishat wakaa'chi.***My spirit will fly now.*

My spirit will fly now.

Anowa' taloowala'hi bíyyi'kakat akitha'nokitok.*I didn't know I could sing again.*

I didn't know I could sing like this.

*Suspended pause.***LOKSI'****Loksi' Sipokni', ankana' himitta'!***Loksi' Sipokni', my new friend!*

Loksi' Sipokni', my new friend!

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Himmako'si'kano nanta iikatihma'ni?***Now what might we do?*

What do we do now?

*Like a magician with new energy, Loksi' Sipokni' waves his hand. The forest opens and five Animal Teachers appear. They are the same folks as Ippo'si's helper septet from Act I.***LOKSI' SIPOKNI'****Loksi' Ippo'si' ishtilhkpokonnalitok.***I dreamt of Grandmother Turtle.*

Grandmother Turtle came to me in a dream.

Ishno'ako chithanashla'chika amaashtok.

She told me that that I would teach YOU.

She told me that, when the time is right, I would become a teacher.

YOUR teacher!

Akakostini'chokitokookya mako'si'no akostinishli!

I did not understand but now I do!

I did not understand then. But I do now!

Loksi', kanisht ishántaka ithánali!

Loksi', I know why you are here!

Loksi', I know why you are here!

Kanihsht abokkol-anonka' nannaayámmohmi iichithanacha'chi!

We will teach you the ways of the forest.

It is time to teach you the ways of the forest!

Yappakoot ankana'.

These ones are my friends.

These are my friends.

Fani', Foshi', Issi', Shawi', Nani'!

Squirrel! Bird! Deer! Raccoon! Fish!

Squirrel! Bird! Deer! Raccoon! Fish!

Nannimilhla' alhiha' ma - abokkol-anonka' nanno aakanihmi aayimmaqa Loksi' ithanachi.

Animals, teach Loksi' about what happens in the forest!

Animal friends, teach Loksi' about life in the forest!

Scene 2: Animal Teachers

FANI' (Squirrel)

Achiyoppachili, Loksi'.

I welcome you, Loksi'.

Welcome Loksi'.

Fani' saya.

I am Squirrel.

I am Squirrel.

Kanihsht haklo, pisa, toshpaat áa chithanashla'chi.

I will teach you the manner in which to listen, see, and go along quickly.

I will teach you to listen, see and be quick.

Nannakat chimponnacha chipalhkikat chilhakóffa'chi.

Given that you are intelligent and fast, you will be safe.

You will be safe with your new speed and intelligence.

FOSHI' (Bird)

Loksi', iiwakowa'!

Loksi', let's fly!

Loksi', let's fly!

Foshi' sa'yacha nannikbi' alhihahō chipisashla'chi.

I am Bird and I will show you the created things.

I am Bird, and I will show you creation.

Chifanalhchi' nota'kō yaakni' mōma'at aa-áyya'sha. Yammak pisa.

Below your wings is the entire world. Look on it.

Look at the world below your wings.

Yaakni' mōma' micha nannaakanihma'chiho ishpisa'hi bíyyi'ka.

You can see all the world and what will happen here.

You can see all the land and you can see the future.

Kanihsht chinchokka' himitta' ishikba'chi chithanashla'chi.

I will teach you the manner in which you will build your new home.

Ishilhakoffa'chi.

You will be safe from them.

I will teach you to build your new house and to be safe.

ISSI' (Deer)

Issi' sa'yacha sapisa chokma.

I am Deer and I am magnificent.

I am the magnificent Deer.

Ittinkānat ilittachokmalicho'si'.

Let us be gentle and kind to one another.

Let us learn to be gentle and kind.

Chipisachilikmā chichokma'sikat ishithāna'chi.

When I show you, you will know that you are beautiful.

I will show you your beauty.

Chokmat nōwat ishāa'shki.

You shall go along, walking in goodness.

You will walk, majestically and lead with love.

SHAWI' (Raccoon)

Shawi' saya!

I am Raccoon!

I am Raccoon!

Ishayaapahla'chō, ano' ishchohmi.

You will sneak up on them like me.

Sneak around like me.

Nannakat chimponnachi, ano' ishchohmi.

You will be intelligent like me.

Be clever like me.

Kanihsht chilhakóffa'ni chithanashla'chi.

I will teach you the manner in which you might survive.

I will teach you to survive anything.

Oklhili' ishínokshoopa ki'yoka'chi.

You shall never be afraid of the dark.

You will never be afraid of the dark.

NANI' (Fish)

Loksi', Nani' sa'yacha yopi chithanashla'chi.

Loksi', I am Fish and I will teach you to swim.

Loksi', I am the fish that will show you to swim!

Oka' ilokaachokoshkomo'.

Let's play in the water.

Let's play and learn the ways of the water.

Piini' ishisha'na'n.

You should get a boat.

You will need a boat!

Kanihsht oka' ishokaayáa chithanashla'chi.

I will teach you the manner in which you can go along on the water in a boat.

I will show you how to ride the rivers through all the land.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Loksi', chinkana' himitta'at chithanacha'chi. Abokkol-anonka'at chinchokka' himitta'.

Loksi', your new friends will teach you. The forest is your new home.

Loksi', your new animal friends teach you to master the forest - your new home.

Chimokla' ishithanacha'chihootokø hoolhakóffa'chi.

Because you will teach your people they will survive.

You will teach your people so they can survive!

LOKSI'

Loksi' Sipokni', nanna lawa' ithanala'chi.

Loksi' Sipokni', I will learn many things.

Loksi' Sipokni', I will learn so much!

Nannakpi'sokitokø pisala'chi.

I will see things that I did not see in the past.

I will see so many things that I did not see before.

Nanniksho'a amokla'at banna.

My people want something that is not there.

My people long for something missing.

Ihollot nanna ishtimallala'nikat ithánali.

I know that I can lovingly bring them something.

I know I can bring them love.

Mako'no nannimilhla'at abokkol-anonka' aayimmaka sathanachi.

But now the animals are teaching me about the forest.

Now, the animals are teaching me the knowledge of the forest.

Loksi' Sipokni', ishno'akoot nanta issathanacha'chi?

Loksi' Sipokni', what will YOU teach me?

Loksi' Sipokni', what shall you teach me?

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Loksi' ishíhímmo'na makílla.

You must be patient Loksi'.

Patience, Loksi'.

Chipisashla'chi.

I will show you.

I will show you when it is time.

Chôokma'chi chimaashli.

I am telling you that it will be very good.

It will be very special.

LOKSI'

Ihímmo'nala'cho.

I will be patient.

I will be patient.

Issapisacha'chi.

You will show me.

You will show me when it is time.

Iitáwwa'at ponoktála'chi.

We will be patient.

We will both take time.

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Nítak chokmatoká hashi'at ittola.

The day was good and the sun is falling.

The sun sets on this wonderful day!

•Musical grand finale, followed by silence•

Scene 3: Hiloha's Prayer

The stage is split, and we intercut to Loksi's village. Hiloha appears stage right as Loksi' is retiring for the evening.

It is evening and years have passed. Hiloha is a young Minko (leader) of his people and leads the village in prayer, anticipating Loksi's return. They are all missing Loksi' and look to Hiloha for guidance and faith.

HILOHA

Aba' Binni'li' ma - obyakma anompilbashsha' chimasilhlali.

The One Who Sits Above, this evening I pray to you.

Creator, this evening, I come to you and pray.

Nittak momaka chimanopolili sahofantikmat.

Every day I speak to you as I grow.

I talk to you every day as I grow older.

Amokla' intaloowala'nika issamissahootoko.

I can sing for my people because you've allowed me to.

You have allowed me to sing for my people.

CHIKASHSHA MALE SPIRITS

Loksi' intaloowa' pobanna.

We need Loksi's song.

We need Loksi's song.

HILOHA & IPPO'SI' (Together)

Loksi'at iksho.

Loksi' is gone.

Loksi' is gone.

Afammi oshtakaash abokkol-anonka' chokwaattook.

She entered the forest four years ago.

She went to the forest four years ago.

INKI' & CHIKASHSHA FEMALE SPIRITS (Together)

Aba' Binni'li'at Loksi'at falama'chika pomoktanichittook.

The One Who Sits Above gave us a vision that Loksi' will return.

Our Creator gave us a vision that Loksi' will return.

HILOHA, ISHK' & CHIKASHSHA FEMALE SPIRITS (Together)

Nanna himitta' ishpomalla'chi.

She will bring us something new here.

She will bring something new.

Ichiyimma'chi.

We will trust you.

We will trust you.

Minti! Loksi' Minti! Toshpa!

Come! Loksi' Come! Hurry!

Come! Loksi' Come! Hurry!

HILOHA & CHIKASHSHA SPIRITS (Together)

Loksi' intaloowa' pobanna.

We need Loksi's song.

Loksi' is the song we need now.

Ichiyimma'chi.

We will trust you.

We will trust you.

Ihímmo'nat anompilbashsha' iichimasilhlha'chi.

We will patiently pray to you.

We will be patient and pray.

ALL

Aba' Bínni'li ma, obyakma chimallat iichimasilhlha.

The One Who Sits on High, we come and pray to you this evening.

Creator, this evening, we come to you and pray.

Scene 4: Beautiful Life

Unaware of the time that four years have passed, Loksi' and Loksi' Sipokni' are playing in the home they built together. They are blissfully happy, healthy and well. It is a mirror of mother's and grandmother's home scene from Act I.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Pokcháaka chokma!

It is good that we are alive!

Our beautiful life!

Ponchokka'at chokma'si!

Our home is beautiful!

Our beautiful home!

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Pokcháaka chokma!

It is good that we are alive!

Our beautiful life!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Iittinkánaka chokma.

It is good that we are friendly with one another.

It is good that we are friends.

LOKSI'

Ponchokka' iholloli.

I love our home!

I love our home!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Pokcháaka chokma.

It is good that we are alive.

It is good that we are alive.

Ponchokka'at chokma'si!

Our home is beautiful!

Our beautiful home!

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Chiiki mishaash ilat tahattooğa ithánalihookya aa-atta billi'ya sabanna.

I know that we arrived here long ago, but I want to live here forever.

I know that we arrived here long ago, but I want to live here forever.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Aashoppala' ishchohmi.

You are like a light.

Ishchoklihilikmat issayoppachi.

When you smile, you make me happy.

LOKSI' & LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Ilittinkánaka chokma.

It is good that we are friendly with one another.

It is good that we are friends.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Pokcháaka chokma!

It is good that we are alive!

We have a beautiful life.

LOKSI'

Nannihollo' micha chokka-chaffa' nanna aayimmaka amanoli.

Tell me about love and family.

Tell me about love and family.

Issamanopolikma taloowat hilhala'cho.

While you tell me I will sing and dance.

I will sing and dance to your story.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Loksi', nannookya ishyahmittooka ishtasayoppa.

Loksi', I am happy about all the things that you have done.

Loksi', I am so proud of you.

And you have helped my spirit stay young.

Loksi' is being silly and trying to get Loksi' Sipokni' to dance.

•They sing a call & response Chickasaw Drum Dance. The music starts slow and awkward and speeds up to a frenzy, with alternating uneven meters. •

LOKSI'**Sabaahilha!**

Dance with me!

Dance with me!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Ki'yo! Ki'yo!**

No! No!

No! No!

LOKSI'**Sabaahilha!**

Dance with me!

Dance with me!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Hilhala'ka ki'yo.**

I cannot dance!

I cannot dance!

LOKSI'**Sabaahilha!**

Dance with me!

Dance with me!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Sasipokni salami'!**

I am too old!

I am too old!

LOKSI'**Sabaahilha!**

Dance with me!

Dance with me!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Satikahbi salami'!

I am too tired!

I am too tired!

LOKSI'

Sabaahilha!

Dance with me!

Dance with me!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Satilo'fa'si salami'!

I am too short!

I am too short!

LOKSI'

Sabaahilha!

Dance with me!

Dance with me!

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Saniha salami'!

I am too fat!

I am too round!

They finally stumble to the ground, laughing.

Out of breath, the mood changes. They both know that Loksi' Sipokni' is coming to the end of his time on earth. But Loksi' stays in her youthful optimism.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Hashi'at ittola.

The sun is falling.

The sun is going down.

Ifoha makilla.

We must rest.

It is time for rest.

LOKSI'

Chinannanoli' iholloli.

I love your stories.

Sahofantikmat ithanali.

As I grow up I learn.

They help me learn and grow.

Chaffo' anowa' amanoli.

Tell me one more.

Please tell me one more.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Kanġhka satikahbicha nittak mómaka tikáhbit ishmáali.

I am very tired, and each day I get tired.

I am so tired, and I get more tired every day.

Áhímno'na, Loksi'. Fohali makílla.

Be patient for me, Loksi'. I need to rest.

Patience, Loksi'. I need rest.

Onnakma Loksi' Ippo'si' ishchimanolila'cho.

Tomorrow, I will tell you about Turtle's Grandmother.

Tomorrow, I will tell you the story of Grandmother Turtle.

Loksi', chíhalbina' ishतालhi' sho'li.

Loksi', she carries your last gift close to her chest.

Loksi', she carries your final gift.

LOKSI'

Kanġhka ishtasayoppa pisala'chikat!

I am really happy that I will see her!

Oh, I am so excited to see her!

Chíhímno'nala'cho, kanġsht issathanachittooká.

I will be patient for you, in the manner in which you taught me.

I will be patient, like you have taught me to be.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

Anowa' sapila tashkila'chika.

Help me to lay down again.

Help me go to bed, one more time.

LOKSI'

Ho'mi, achipilala'chi.

Ok, I will help you.

Here you go, I will help you.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Okhili mómaka issantaloowa - yammak anowa' antaloowa.***Every night you sing to me - sing me that one again.**Sing the song that you sing to me every night.***LOKSI'****Anowa' chintaloowala'chi.***I will sing to you again.**I will sing to you again.***Chintalohówali billi'ya'chi.***I will always sing to you.**I will always sing to you.***Scene 5: Spirit World***Music winds down and Loksi' begins her traditional folk lullaby.***LOKSI' SIPOKNI'****Issantaloowakma ishtasayoppacha amaanokfil-at yohbi bíyyi'ka.***When you sing to me, I am happy about it and my mind is peaceful.**Your songs bring me peace and happiness.***LOKSI'****Chiholloli, ankana'.***I love you, my friend.**I love you, my friend.***Loksi' Sipokni'.***Loksi' Sipokni'.**Loksi' Sipokni'.***Chintaloowali.***I sing to you.**I sing to you.***Nosi.***Sleep.**Sleep.**As Loksi' begins to fall asleep herself, her song transfers to Grandmother Turtle, who gently appears, as if from a dream. Grandmother Turtle is really Loksi's grandmother. She is carrying two bundles of turtle shells.***LOKSI' IPPO'SI' (Grandmother Turtle)**

Loksi' Sipokni'*Loksi' Sipokni'.*

Loksi' Sipokni'.

Chiwaali.*I am calling you.*

I am calling you.

Okcha ba'.*Wake up.*

Wake now.

*Loksi' and Loksi' Sipokni' gently wake together.***LOKSI'****Appo'si'!***Grandmother!*

Grandmother, it is you!

Issabaa-aháya.*You have been going along with me.*

You have been with me the whole time.

Nannanoli' ishtaahlhi' ishithánatook.*You knew the final story.*

You are the final story.

LOKSI' IPPO'SI'**Loksi' Sipokni', tokсалit ishtahli.***Loksi' Sipokni', you have finished your work. I hear you, Grandmother, yes.*

Loksi' Sipokni', you have finished your task. I hear you, Grandmother, yes.

Mako'sa Loksi'at kilimpi.*Loksi' is strong now.*

Loksi' is strong now.

Chisipóngni'at chiwaa.*Your ancestors are calling to you.*

Your ancestors are calling.

Ishno'ako ishtikacha'ho.*You are the one they are lonely for.*

They miss you.

*Ippo'si' hands Loksi' a set of turtle shell bundles.***LOKSI' IPPO'SI'****Loksi', Loksi' hakshop ma ishi.**

Loksi', take these turtle shells.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'**Chihángloli Appo'si', ji.****Kanihka satikahbi.***I am so tired.*

I am so tired.

Ootpisala'chi.*I will go see them.*

I will go see them.

Chimokla' ishno' cho'ma iichihabinachi.

We gift these to you and your people.

These are our gift to you and your people.

Loksi' Sipokni' shilombishat fóyyokha.

The spirit of Loksi' Sipokni' is inside them.

They hold the spirit of Loksi' Sipokni'.

Chiyyi' atakchichicha ishthilha.

Tie them onto your legs and dance with them.

Place them around your legs and shuffle them to your songs.

Sapoktiik chokma'si chiya.

You are my beautiful granddaughter.

You are my beautiful granddaughter.

Yappat chintaloowa' himitta', chimokla'at holiito'pa'cho.

This is your new music, your people will be blessed.

This is your new music, and it will make your people who they are.

Abokkol-anonka'kq ishaaithanattook.

You learned here in the forest.

Here, in the forest, you have found yourself.

Chimokla anowa' ishpisakma Loksi' Sipokni' shilombishat chipihli'shcha chimokla hilha imaabacha'chi.

When you see your people again, the spirit of Loksi' Sipokni' will lead you and teach your people to dance.

When you see your people again, Loksi' Sipokni' and you will become one.

His spirit will guide yours and teach your people the dance.

LOKSI' IPPO'SI'

Ihilha' himitta' imaabachi. Appo'si', ii. Ootpisala'chi.

Teach them their new dance. Grandmother, yes. I will go see them. You have been going along with me.

And show them their new dance.

You are the final story. I will go see them.

You have been with me.

You are the final story. I will go see them.

You have been with me.

LOKSI' SIPOKNI'

ishithanattook.

Appo'si', ii. Ootpisala'chi.

Grandmother, yes. I will go see them.

Grandmother, yes I will go see them.

LOKSI'

Issabaa-ahaya.

You have been going along with me.

Nannanqli' ishtaahlhi'

You knew the final story.

You are the final story.

LOKSI' IPPO'SI'

Minti, Loksi' Sipokni', shilombish aa-ayya'sha'kq minti.

Come, Loksi' Sipokni', to the spirit world.

Come, Loksi' Sipokni', to the spirit world.

Chinchokka'kq minti.

Come to your home.

Come home.

Grandmother Turtle and Loksi' Sipokni' ascend to the heavens.

•Music gently rises to a vapor, ending on a soft and suspended string harmonic. •

Loksi' is crying and consoling herself by humming Grandmother's lullaby. The Spirits are humming with her. Loksi' is entirely alone. Stage is black, with one white special on Loksi'.

Scene 6: Return Home

LOKSI'

In a suspended and hopeless tone.

Himmako'sikano oklhili bíyyi'ka.

It is dark now.

It is dark now.

Foyopalikat kallo.

It is hard to breathe.

It is hard to breathe.

Sachonkashat yaháa.

My heart is crying inside.

My heart feels empty.

Ankana'at iksho.

My friend is gone.

My friend is gone.

With a rising realization of courage, she has learned trust. She gathers the new shells and, with great purpose and confidence, journey's directly home.

Ki'yo! Ki'yo!

No! No!

No! No!

Chaffa'sli ki'yo!

I am not alone!

I am not alone!

Appo'si'at ahollo saithanachitook.

Grandmother taught me that I am loved.

My Grandmother has taught me that I am surrounded by love.

Halbina' chokma' amatook.

She gave me this good gift.

She has given this powerful gift.

Hapoyoksattook. Sahapoyoksa.

She was wise. I am wise.

Her wisdom is now a part of me.

Asipóngni' mómá'at satikba'kọ taloowat hoohilhaká pisala'chi!

I will see all my ancestors singing and dancing in front of me.

I will see my ancestors singing and dancing in front of me!

Aba' Bínni'li'at nanna lohma'.

The One Who Sits on High is a mystery.

Our Creator is a mystery.

Ilakostinichi makílla ki'yo.

We don't need to understand them.

We don't need to understand Him.

Iiyimma'ni.

We can trust them.

We can trust Him.

Himmako'si naahalbina' ishtimonnala'chi:

I will now bring gifts to them:

I will now bring my gifts:

Nannihollo'! Nannithana'! Talooa' himitta'! Hilha' himitta'!

Love! Knowledge! New songs! New dances!

Love! Knowledge! New songs! New dances!

Yammakaash pomokla' ishtapilala'chi.

I will help our people with those things.

These will make our people complete.

Hashi'at to'mina nannanhili.

The sun is shining and I am hopeful.

I bring hope and sunlight.

Saokcháakmat apila miyala'chi!

If I am alive I will try to help them!

And as long as I am alive, I will try!

Chikashshaat apilala'ni banna.

The Chickasaws want me to help them.

Chickasaws need me!

Himmako'si'kano ootpisala'chi, fochik chokma'si' chohmi!

Now I will go and see them, like a beautiful star!

I go to them now, a wise and beautiful star!

CHIKASHSHA

Malili! Amalili!

Run! Run!

Scene 7: Arrival

Loksi' bursts into the village. The entire village was about to begin dancing, without shells, with Hiloha as lead singer.

The people turn around and see Loksi'. They are ecstatic!

LOKSI' & CHIKASHSHA PEOPLE (Together)

Hashi'at kochcha!

The sun has risen!

The sun has risen!

Nittak himitta' ilayoppachi!

We welcome a new day!

We welcome a new day!

HILOHA

Loksi', falamat ishla!

Loksi', you have returned!

Loksi', you have returned!

Polhpokonnohma Loksi' Ippo'si'at pomanopolittook.

When we dreamed, Turtle's Grandmother spoke to us.

Grandmother Turtle talked to us in our dreams.

Naahalbina' ishtishpomonna'chika pomanolittook. Posipongni'at naahalbina' pomattook.

She told us that you would bring a gift here for us. The ancestors gave us this gift.

She told us you would come with gifts from the ancestors.

CHIKASHSHA

Aba' Binni'li' ma yakkookay, chokma'shki iichimanhi.

We say thanks to you, The One Who Sits Above.

Thank you, Creator!

Scene 8: Shell Shaker (Finale)**IPPO'SI'**

Loksi'! Sapoktiik! Minti!

Loksi'! Granddaughter! come!

Loksi'! Granddaughter! come!

Chilhpokonnat taha.

You are done dreaming.

You have finished the dream.

Kaniya' iliyya makillaho popisachi!

Show us where we need to go!

Show us the way!

Loksi' shows the new turtle shells to her people!

LOKSI'

Antiik chokma'si' alhiha' ma!

My beautiful sisters!

My beautiful sisters!

Loksi' hakshop ma inonka' himitta' chohmi.

These turtle shells are like a new voice.

These turtle shells are your new voice.

Ishtashhilhakma tal-oshik anonka' áyya'shahoot ittichalhalhá'chi, omba chohmi.

When you all dance with them the small stones inside make a rattling sound, like rain.

They sound like the falling rain that gives all life.

Chimokla'at ittichalhalhá'chi hoohánglokmat ayoppacha'chi.

When your people hear the rattling it will make them happy.

When they hear the rattling, the sound will lift up your people.

Anakfi' chokma'si' alhiha' ma!

My beautiful brothers!

My beautiful brothers!

Shilombish himitta'at pontaloowa' fóyyokha.

A new spirit is inside our songs.

A new spirit is inside our songs.

Hookilimpa'chi. Anowa' hoopisa'chi. Hoohapoyoksa'chi.

They will be strong. They will again see. They will be wise.

It gives new strength, vision and wisdom.

Taloowa' himitta' hashtaloowa'shki!

You all sing these new songs!

Sing with this new and magnificent sound!

LOKSI' & HILOHA

Iibaataloowa!

We sing together!

We sing together!

Loksi' takes Hiloha's hand and joins him to lead the dance.

CHIKASHSHA

Hilohaat tikba' ishtaya'shki! Loksi', loksi' ishshaala'shki!

Hiloha shall lead the songs! Loksi', you shall carry the turtles.

Hiloha shall lead the songs! Loksi', you shall carry the turtles!

ALL

Iibaataloowa!

We sing together!

We sing together!

•Chickasaw Double Header Song•

(This is a fully orchestrated version of this very celebratory and traditional song.)

HILOHA + MEN

Vocables: Ho Wi Weh Yi Ha

ALL

Ittibaachaffat loittibaa-áyya'sha!

We are all together, in one accord!

We are all together, in one accord!

Chikashsha!

Chickasaw!

Chickasaw!