

PERFORMANCE GUIDE

TALES OF THE SUN AND MOON

BY REIKO HO



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**ALOHA FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
ERIC JOHNSON**



Aloha and welcome to Honolulu Theatre for Youth! We are delighted to share these resources with you. We believe wholeheartedly in the power of stories to bring us together across time and distance. When that happens we often find great similarities with our fellow humans that strengthen our sense of belonging, heritage and shared purpose. We also find profound differences which should be equally celebrated. Differences stretch our sense of self and tickle our curiosity for what is possible. Coming from a place that is both geographically remote and culturally diverse, we treasure stories in our community and are deeply honored to share this one with you now. If you would like more information on the company or our work, look us up at htyweb.org.

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OUR PARTNERS

We have been fortunate to work with generous partners and funders on the creation of this project.

The Freeman Foundation

Hawai'i State Department of Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Written and Directed by Reiko Ho

Assistant Director
Jack Romans

**Set, Lighting,
and Puppet Design by**
Chesley Cannon

Costume Design by
Iris Kim

Prop Design by
Eric West
Chesley Cannon

**Original Music
and Sound Design by**
Mattea Mazzella

Stage Manager
Sarah Danvers

Performed by
Serina Dunham
Annie Lokomaika'i Lipscomb
Emily Wright

**Korean Drumming and Dance
Consultant**
Mary-Jo Freshley

Korean Language Consultant
Sun Min Chun-Dayondon

**'Ōlelo Hawai'i Translation and
Hawaiian Culture Consultant**
Annie Lokomaika'i Lipscomb

Study Guide by
Reiko Ho

**National Core Arts Standards
compiled by**
Daniel A. Kelin II



SHOW SYNOPSIS

Join the Story Keepers on an epic journey. No matter where or when you live, all people look at the same sun and the same moon and every culture has their own tale about the heavens. This world premiere show explores celestial myths and legends from China, Korea, Hawai'i, and more. Told through language, movement and music these are stories to connect us all.

NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR REIKO HO



This play was inspired by the idea that it is important to remember that we are connected and that we all share the human experience. What is something that we all share everyday since the beginning of human times?

We all look at the same Sun and the same Moon. However, we look at the Sun and Moon through our own cultural and individual lenses. We all see things from our own unique perspectives, often shaped by where we live.

While the stories included in this play are all about the Sun and the Moon, they are also a window into the beautifully unique cultures that they represent and the different ways we all see and interpret the world.

This play is also a mix of Eastern and Western ideas from the script and performance techniques to the design elements. The team performing (and I) are also all of Mixed-Asian descent, a blend of East and West, that I hope is reflected in the storytelling.

The production includes a selection of stories from Hawai'i and Asia, as well as a foray into scientific theory, pop culture, and a fantastical journey with the Story Keepers. I hope the show activates young audiences with the charge that we must all be keepers of the stories, and that telling our stories is a way to shine a light for generations to come.

We are all in this world together.
We all look at the same Sun and the same Moon.
All of us.
Always.

TALES OF THE SUN AND MOON

Every culture around the world, from the beginning of human times, has their own myths and legends about the Sun and Moon. These stories were created to as way to understand the Sun and Moon--from providing heat and light to governing our daily cycles. We all have a relationship with the Sun and Moon. Here are the stories included in the show.

FROM HAWAII: HINA MOVES TO THE MOON

This story is about the Hawaiian goddess, Hina-‘ai-a-ka-malama. Hina is associated with motherhood, abundance, food plants, fishing, and making kapa (cloth made from bark). She is a goddess of the ocean, tides, and the moon. There are many variations of this story.

Hina fashioned the finest and softest kapa cloth in Hawaii. She made this cloth from the bark of the banyan tree. Because her cloth was so fine, it was in great demand. She worked long, long hours with little rest and eventually grew tired. She was also tired because her sons were unruly and her husband was lazy and none of them ever helped her. One day, Hina decided to leave Hawaii, so she traveled up a rainbow into the sky. She went to the Sun, but found it so hot and inhospitable that she could not live there. The next night, she climbed the rainbow to the Moon and was so pleased with what she found that she made it her home. The Hawaiian name for the Moon, “Mahina,” is derived from her name.

-text contributed from Paul Coleman, Ph.D., University of Hawaii, Institute for Astronomy
PDF of this Hina story: <https://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/moonPosters/Poster1/backg.pdf>

More about HINA: <https://papahanakuaola.org/moolelo-monday-202106/>

Video about Kapa Making: <https://youtu.be/Vo5xYBYdZew?si=mwp8EF6mHN1893u7>

FROM CHINA: CHANG'E AND THE TEN SUNS

This legend about Chang'e and her husband, the famed archer, Hou Yi, is the origin story of the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival. Chinese families gather and celebrate this harvest moon by eating round, “moon-shaped” fruits and cakes called “mooncakes” in honor of Chang'e and Hou Yi. Celebrating the Moon Festival is second only to celebratin the New Year in Chinese culture.

In ancient times, the Jade Emperor had 10 children who took the form of 10 suns. One day, the suns decided to rise all together and their combined heat was scorching the Earth. Hou Yi, a legendary archer and the husband of Chang'e, shot down nine of them, leaving just one Sun, and was rewarded with an elixir of immortality. As he did not want to gain immortality without his beloved wife, Hou Yi waited to consume the elixir and left it with his wife, Chang'e. While Hou Yi went hunting, his apprentice Pengmeng broke into his house and tried to force Chang'e to give him the elixir, so Chang'e drank the elixir herself rather than giving them up to Pengmeng. Then, Chang'e flew upward past the heavens, choosing the Moon to be her immortal residence as she loved her husband and wished to live as close to him as possible. Hou Yi missed Chang'e and made her favorite cakes to remember her. The Moon Goddess took pity on Hou Yi and Chang'e and allows them to meet during full moon, in the 8th lunar month.

Video resource about the legend of Chang'e and the Mid Autumn Festival:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMMU1YJadzE>

TALES OF THE SUN AND MOON

THE BIRTH OF THE SUN

This story is a dramatization of the scientific theory of the Solar Nebula and how our Sun and solar system was formed.

The solar nebula is a rotating, swirling disk of gas and stardust from which our solar system formed approximately 4.6 billion years ago. It was initially a large cloud of interstellar material, particles from other stars, that collapsed under gravity, possibly triggered by a nearby supernova explosion. As the nebula collapsed, it began to spin faster and flatten into a disk, with the majority of the material concentrating at the center to form the Sun. The remaining material in the disk then began to coalesce into planets, dwarf planets, and other celestial bodies.

What is Galactic Recycling?

The elements that make up our bodies, the Earth, and everything around us were once part of other stars that lived and died long before our solar system formed. This process of stellar birth, death, and recycling is a continuous cycle in the galaxy.

Sun Facts from NASA Science: <https://science.nasa.gov/sun/facts>

FROM KOREA: SISTER SUN AND BROTHER MOON

Many folktales about the Sun and Moon are about why the Sun and Moon live in the sky. In this ancient tale from Korea, the Sun and Moon are a brother and sister who must escape a tiger, and climb a magical rope into the heavens.

A tiger catches and eats an old mother who was returning from work at a rich neighbor's house. The tiger then disguises itself in the mother's clothes. It goes to the mother's house, where her son and daughter live, and tells them to open the door. The older brother and younger sister look out through the hole in the door, and, quickly realizing their visitor is actually a tiger, escape through the back door and climb up onto a tree. The tiger begins to chase them, so the two climb further up the tree. Reaching the top, the siblings pray to the Hanunim, the Sky God, who sends down an magical rope. Climbing the rope, the brother and sister became the Sun and the Moon, respectively.

In some variations, the Tiger falls back down into the sorghum field and stains the sorghum red with its blood, so the story is sometimes called "Why the Sorghum is red."

Video resource: [K-Story] The sun and the moon (English) | Korean Cultural Centre Canada
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnBm42J3TDI>



WHAT IS A TELLURION?



In our play, the Story Keepers travel in a magical Tellurion. Our set was inspired by a Victorian *orrery*. An *orrery* is a 3-dimensional mechanical model of the solar system that demonstrates the relative positions and motions of planets and other celestial bodies. It's essentially a clockwork device that allows you to visualize and understand the movements of planets around the sun. A *tellurion* is a French version of this clockwork device and is a specific type of *orrery* that depicts only the Sun, Moon, and Earth.



KARAKURI NINGYO



The Story Keepers travel with a clockwork mascot named Karakuri. This puppet character was inspired by *Karakuri Ningyō*, traditional Japanese mechanized puppets or automata, made from the 17th century to the 19th century--around the same time that orreries and tellurions were also being made in the West. The clockwork gears in the puppets were, in fact, inspired by ideas coming from the West, then combined with existing Japanese puppet traditions.

These clockwork puppet-dolls were the precursors of robots and used as source of entertainment. Some Karakuri Ningyō served tea, wrote calligraphy, or played miniature instruments. Some even shot arrows from tiny bows.

Check out this video about a Karakuri master:
<https://youtu.be/XU-kqpkZWjc?si=zGviu30-QWlS833Z>

PERFORMANCE TRADITIONS IN OUR SHOW

Our show is filled with references and inspiration from traditional Asian theatre forms, music, and movement styles.



Jingju or Beijing Opera is a genre of classical Chinese theater, *xiqu*, that emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries during the Qing dynasty. It combines music, singing, pantomime, dance, martial arts, and acrobatics.

Performers are trained into four main role types and sub-sets of these types. The performers are the only focal points in Jingju's almost bare stage. Dressed in elaborate costumes, they use speech, song, dance, combat, and props in movements that are symbolic and suggestive- actively engaging the audience's use of imagination.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Kung fu refers to Chinese martial arts also called wushu and quanfa. There are many forms of kung fu, such as Shaolin kung fu, Wing Chun, and tai chi, and they are practiced all over the world. In our show, there are references to Shaolin animal style kung fu and drunken tai chi.

Hula has been a part of Hawaiian culture since ancient times. Hawaiians used hula as part of their oral history tradition. It is an art that combines storytelling, dance, oli (chant), mele (song), and instruments. Hula is a way to share and remember stories or to connect with ancestors. In our play, you will hear a oli about making **kapa**, cloth made by pounding the bark of the wauke or paper mulberry tree. The sound of the accompanying instruments are the wooden beaters against the stone or wooden anvil. Hina is often pictured in the moon, making kapa.

Photo courtesy of Textileartcenter.com



Bongsan Masked Dance is a Korean traditional mask dance drama that originated in Hwanghae Province, now part of North Korea. It's known for its satirical humor, portrayal of commoners' lives, and commentary on the ruling class (Yangban). This lively performance combines dance, music, and drama, with dancers wearing masks to represent various characters including humans, deities, animals, and mythical beings.

Photo: Character from Bongsan Masked Dance, Wikimedia Commons

BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM



- *Legends of the Sun and Moon* by Tessa and Eric Hadley
- *Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky: An African Folktale* As Told by Elphinstone Dayrell and Illustrated by Blair Lent
- *Arrow to the Sun: A Pueblo Indian Tale* by Gerald McDermott
- *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me* by Eric Carle
- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, Illustrated by John Schoenherr
- *Sun and Moon Sisters* by Khoa Le (A Vietnamese origin folktale)

Books with Science focus for young learners:

- *Sun and Moon Take Turns*
By Lili DeBarbieri and Illustrated by Katie Wools
- *The Moon Book* by Gail Gibbons
- *The Sun Plays with the Moon: An Imaginative Introduction to the Lunar and Solar Cycles* by Alicia Mofford, Illustrated by Annie Wilkinson

WEBSITES AND VIDEOS

About the Sun

- <https://science.nasa.gov/sun/facts/>
- <https://space-facts.com/the-sun/>
- <https://www.teachstarter.com/us/blog/fun-facts-about-the-sun-for-kids/>

Video:

Facts About the Sun for Kids | What is the Sun? | Science Lesson for Kids | Twinkl USA-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Liq6yO5asAw>

About the Moon

- <https://science.nasa.gov/moon/facts/>
- <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/all-about-the-moon/en>
- **Hawaiian Moon Phases:**
https://www.wpcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Indigenous_Display-1.pdf
- **Full Moon Calendar for 2025:**
<https://www.astronomy.com/observing/full-moon-calendar-dates-times-types/>

Video:

Facts About the Moon for Kids | What is the Moon? | Science Lesson for Kids | Twinkl USA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4Bfb2GUGrQ>



POST SHOW DISCUSSION

**WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE MOON?
ARE THERE MOON STORIES FROM YOUR CULTURE?**

**SHARING STORIES IS AN IMPORTANT TRADITION IN
MOST CULTURES. DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER SUN AND MOON
STORIES THAT YOU COULD SHARE?**

**DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THE SUN WAS BORN?
DISCUSS WHAT YOU REMEMBER?**

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER AND HONOR STORIES
FROM YOUR OWN CULTURE AND FROM OTHER CULTURES?**

TEACHER NARRATED STORY – ACTING OUT

Dramatize your own tale of the Sun and Moon. Choose a one of the stories in the play or a book that you love. Read it aloud to the class, then guide your students to act out the characters and action as you tell it.

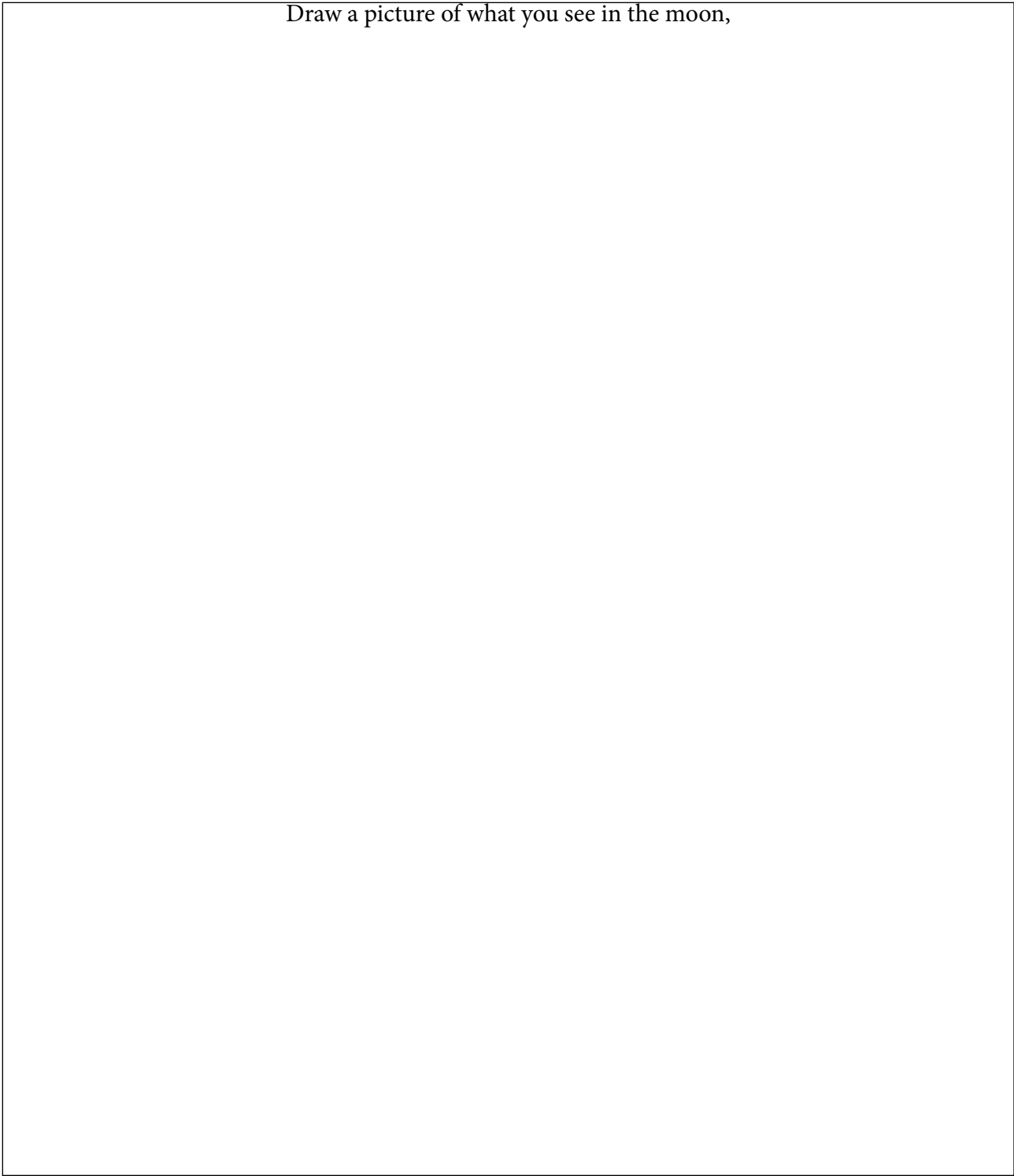
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|---------------|---|
| STEP 1 | Choose a story and read it aloud to your class. |
| STEP 2 | Prepare your students.
Assign characters to different students for them to act out or have them act out the actions of the story as a whole group or small groups. Multiple students may play a single character together, if desired, which may make it a little easier for the littlest ones. |
| STEP 3 | Prompts for Students
a. “I will tell the story and you will act out the action.”
b. “If I stop, please help me speak like the character, adding what the character might say.”
c. “How can you show what the characters look and act like?” |
| STEP 4 | Narrate the story
Allow the students to creatively improvise and perform the actions of the story as you narrate. Validate and note strong choices made by students as they enact the story and encourage students to add details that show the actions and reactions of their character. |
| STEP 5 | If time, go through the story again
Encourage more detailed exploration of the story and characters. Ask students to suggest other lines of dialogue that the characters might say. |



WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE MOON?

I imagine that there is a _____ living in the moon.

Draw a picture of what you see in the moon,





ABOUT HTY

Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY) is a theatre of place, deeply rooted in the cultures and people of the Pacific and dedicated to serving young people, families and educators across the Hawaiian Islands. Founded in 1955, HTY is one of the oldest professional TYA companies in the country and is recognized for its long history of innovative drama education programming and the creation of original theatrical works that celebrate the diverse cultures of Hawai'i.

OUR COMPANY

Eric Johnson
Artistic Director

Reiko Ho
Artistic Associate/Marketing Dir.

Moses Goods
Artistic Associate/Actor

Annie Cusick Wood
Artistic Associate

Artistic Team
Jarren Amian
Chesley Cannon
Sarah Danvers
Serina Dunham
Iris Kim
Lokomaika'i Lipscomb
Mattea Mazzella
Hermenigildo Tesoro Jr.
Eric West
Emily Wright

Daniel A. Kelin, II
Director of Drama Education

Tamara Smith
Drama Ed. Administrator

Jill Jackson
Teaching Artist

Lisa N.
Teaching Artist

Erin O'Hara
Teaching Artist

Kirsten Erickson
Teaching Artist

Joyce McCarthy
Administrative Asst.

Stu Hirayama
School Reservations

Brad DeCaires
Box Office

Lee Cataluna
Writer in Residence

Jian Gu
Accounting

Stephanie Conching
House Manager