

(STORYTELLERS take their original positions around the fire as the lights dim, and the storm rises again.)

STORYTELLER(PAPA GE)

Once on this island, the gods sent a storm even worse than this one.

STORYTELLER(ANDREA)

But out of that terrible storm, there came a story.

STORYTELLER(MAMA)

The tale of a peasant girl who fell in love with a young grand homme.

STORYTELLER(ASAKA)

A girl chosen by the gods for a magical fate.

ALL

The Story of Ti Moune!

(DANIEL exits and TI MOUNE follows HIM)

STORYTELLER(ARMAND)

The story begins on the night of a flood!

(The LITTLE GIRL is lifted up into a flood created by STORYTELLERS. Now playing the part of LITTLE TI MOUNE, SHE paddles for dear life.)

STORYTELLER(ARMAND)

Many huts washed away! Many peasants drowned by Agwe's angry waters!

STORYTELLER(ANDREA)

But one small girl caught his attention.

LITTLE GIRL

Mama!!!

AGWE

And she was spared. An orphan, plucked from the flood by Agwe.

(HE takes the LITTLE GIRL out of the arms of the flood.)

ASAKA

Sheltered in a tree by Asaka.

(SHE takes the LITTLE GIRL from AGWE.)

ERZULIE

And sent on a journey by the gods. A journey that would test the strength of love...

PAPA GE

Against the power of death...

PAPA GE, ERZULIE,

On this island of two different worlds!

(THE STORYTELLERS form a tree with
THEIR bodies, and LITTLE TI MOUNE
climbs up into it. SHE sobs with terror)

ONE SMALL GIRL

STORYTELLERS (EXCEPT LITTLE TI MOUNE)

ONE SMALL GIRL
IN A TREE
TORN FROM HER MOTHER
CRYING IN FRIGHT
ONE SMALL GIRL
TOSSED BY SEA
AND LEFT TO FACE
THE STORMY NIGHT
ONE SMALL GIRL
HOLDING TIGHT.

(THE STORM ceases and morning arrives. The
STORYTELLERS who will play MAMA EURALIE and
TONTON JULIAN come down the road.
They are not yet in character.)

STORYTELLERS

At last, the the storm subsided.
And the morning sun glowed.
And two old peasants
Came cautiously down the road.

(Reminded by the OTHER STORYTELLERS
that THEY are now supposed to be playing
older people, MAMA and TONTON assume
more elderly postures.)

TONTON(To Mama)

Mama Euralie.

MAMA(To Tonton)

Tonton Julian.

MAMA

Asaka is smiling again, Julian.

TONTON

This morning, she smiles. Last night she tried to blow our
heads off.