

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Character Descriptions

ENSEMBLES

We are starting our character descriptions with the ensemble because this story cannot be told without strong ensembles! If cast in one of these ensembles, know that you are a vital piece of our storytelling and our success!

The Storytellers: The Storytellers act both in and out of the story, as narrators and as players in the story itself (peasants, gossipers, general ensemble). This ensemble will feature solo opportunities as well as strong ensemble work. They are the backbone of this story and will be called to a majority of rehearsals

Peasant Ensemble: Poor workers of the island. They pray to the gods for their very survival and are looked down upon by the Grand Hommes. Despite hardship, they are generally happy and family and love is at the center of all they do.

The Grand Homme Ensemble: The wealthy people of the Island. They are descended from the French and consider themselves to be above the peasants and look down upon them with disdain. They surround themselves with material things and frivolous parties, lacking the community and heart of their peasant counterparts.

THE HUMANS

Residents of the island watched over by the gods. Some are peasants, some are wealthy. The wealthy folks have a distinct dislike of the poor folks, and consider themselves above the peasants.

Mama Euralie: *Alto*. Peasant farmer. Euralie harbors a strong belief in the gods, and believes that Ti Moune was spared by the gods for a reason. Her adoptive mother, She supports and loves Ti Moune, but she also wants Ti Moune to see things the way they are in the real world and stop living in a fantasy.

Tonton Julian: *Baritone*. Peasant farmer. Sterner than Euralie, but has just as much affection for his adoptive daughter, Ti Moune. Like all the peasants, he believes in the gods, but he is more skeptical of their involvement than Euralie. He is proud of his simple life, and wants Ti Moune to keep her head out of the clouds and also be proud of her simple life.

Little Ti Moune: A young version of Ti Moune, She is found in a tree and adopted by Mama and Tonton. She is stubborn, strong willed and sweet. As the show starts she is a girl who is scared by the storm and the reason they start to tell this story.

Ti Moune: *High belt*. Peasant girl who keeps her head in the clouds. She loves Euralie and Julian but she does not want the life they have. She spends her days dreaming of a different, more glamorous life riding around in cars and not having to work hard and do chores. She believes very strongly that the gods saved her life when she was a small girl for a reason, and that they have grand plans for her. She falls blindly in love, and makes a promise to the gods to save the injured man, Daniel Beauxhomme, though she does not realize the true power of the gods. She truly believes that she and Daniel are meant to be together forever, and that he will ignore the fact that she is from a

much lower social class than she is. She is naïve about the world, and stubbornly refuses to listen to wisdom of gods or her family.

Daniel Beauxhomme: *Tenor*. Rich heir of a hotel chain. He is grateful to Ti Moune for saving his life, and loves her in his own way. He wants to keep her by his side, but he never plans to marry her, despite what she thinks. However, he does not consider any peasants to be in the same class as he is. He is not a cruel person, but he suffers from the self-absorbed privilege of the very wealthy, and does not see how his carelessness can hurt Ti Moune, who loves him so. He is engaged to Andrea.

Armand: *Baritone*. Armand is the ambitious but careless Frenchman who first came to the island. He built a great fortune and had massive wealth. However, he treated the peasants as playthings. Eventually, one of the peasants bore him a son, who became the first Beauxhomme. Armand was driven out during the war.

The Gatekeeper: He works at the Beauxhomme hotel, keeping the peasants out. He enjoys driving peasants away, and he distrusts Ti Moune immensely and would be only too glad to be able to throw her out of the hotel.

Daniel's Father: A stern and commanding presence who insists that Daniel marry Andrea and live up to the family name. He does not like the peasants.

Andrea: *Mezzo*. The well-to-do fiancée of Daniel Beauxhomme. She hides her coldness and disdain for peasants behind niceties. She does not much care for Ti Moune, though she is willing to let her stay as a servant and a dancer because Daniel likes her. She considers all peasants to be far beneath her, as if they are not even from the same world.

Madame Armand: A featured soloist in 'The Sad Tale of the Beauxhomme', Armand's wife.

Daniel's Son: A young boy.

THE GODS

The gods are forces of nature worshipped by the island's peasants. They have taken a special interest in Ti Moune after hearing her prayers, and help her (or hinder her?) through the story, though their motivations are varied, and none of them are always kind. They often bicker with each other about how to accomplish something, as each of them have different methods for affecting the lives of the island inhabitants. These roles are NOT necessarily gender-specific, we will consider any actor of any gender for any of the gods. Gender pronouns used in the following descriptions are based on the original Broadway production.

Papa Ge, God of Death: *Tenor/baritenor*. Papa Ge takes pleasure in death and suffering. He is a wily, cruel demon-god. He plans to take Daniel Beauxhomme's life, but he is stopped for awhile by Ti Moune and her promise to the other gods. He watches the relationship between Ti Moune and Daniel like a greedy vulture, waiting for his chance to take Daniel's life. He considers all lives to belong to him, as eventually rich and poor alike will have to die. He does have a soft side, though it is seldom seen. Many peasants are afraid of him.

Asaka, Goddess of the Earth: *Mezzo/soprano*. Asaka provides the rich earth to grow crops and is considered a generous god by the peasants. She and Agwe do not get along very often, and they are at odds with each other much of the time. She does believe that people are much better off when they have sense and do not live in fantasy as Ti Moune does, but she finds Ti Moune and her love for Daniel "amusing."

Agwe, God of water: *Bass/Baritone*. Agwe is the unpredictable god of water, responsible for flooding the island and often destroying the crops that Asaka helped create. He takes pleasure in being cruel, but he also takes pleasure in being helpful, depending on his mood. He is as playful as he is malicious,

creating the conditions that cause Daniel to crash his car. Agwe finds Ti Moune and her plight “interesting.”

Erzulie, Goddess of Love: *Soprano*. The nicest of the gods by far. Erzulie takes a special shine to Ti Moune because of how in love she is. She is the one who gets the other gods to agree to answer Ti Moune’s prayer, wanting to show the girl (and the other gods) what true love can accomplish if it is, in fact, as true as it seems.