

Once on this Island

Book by Lynn Ahrens

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Directed by Jecamiah Ybañez

Choreographed by Jennifer Newman

Music Director Jill Brunelle

Character Breakdown

Cast of 20 – 3 Narrators/Storytellers; 9 principles; and 8 Ensemble/Storytellers

Storyteller/Narrator 1/Small Child (she/her/hers) – (5 - 8) a young, cis-gendered, black, girl of Haitian decent. She has never lived on the island of Haiti; she's grown up in a more metropolitan place - Paris, New York, Montreal, or even Miami. She is a bright, intelligent girl with a gift for writing.

Storyteller/Narrator 2/Parent 1 (she/her/hers) – a 30+ year old cisgendered, black, women of Haitian decent. She is one of two primary caregivers for the small child. She lived on the island of Haiti as a child until her family migrated. Today, she and her husband reside in some major metropolitan - Paris, New York, Montreal, or even Miami. She loves her child deeply and feels a responsibility to care for them.

Storyteller/Narrator 3/Parent 2 (he/him/his) – a 30+ year old cisgendered, black, man of Haitian decent. He is one of two primary caregivers for the small child. He lived on the island of Haiti as a child until his family migrated. Today, he and his wife reside in some major metropolitan - Paris, New York, Montreal, or even Miami. He loves his child deeply and feels a responsibility to care for them.

Mama Euralie (she/her/hers) – a 40+ year old cis-gendered, black, Haitian women. She has a generous, loving spirit that magnifies her inherent beauty. Over the last 20+ years, Mama Euralie has been in a loving partnership with Tonton Julian. They live in a humble home in a rural, costal village on the island of Haiti. She may run a small café or work as a seamstress. Mama Euralie and Tonton Julian do not have any biological children but, together, they adapted Ti Moune. They love Ti Moune deeply and have a strong desire to protect her from the uncertainties of the world. They have a strong relationship and deep respect for the Gods.

Tonton Julian (he/him/his) – a 40+ year old cis-gendered, black, Haitian man. His openness, stability, and strength characterize his personality and his many roles in the

world. Tonton Julian may have had experiences that took him away from his humble village, possibly on the other side of the island or further away. However, for the last 20+ years, Tonton Julian has been in a loving partnership with Mama Euralie; and they have lived in a rural, coastal village. Today, he might hold an important position in the community, perhaps he is a part of the collective that addresses any civic issues of the village. He most likely works as a fisherman but could also earn a living in a different way. He and Mama Euralie have not had any biological children but, together, they adapt Ti Moune late in life. They love Ti Moune deeply and want to ensure her safety. However, Tonton Julian also empathizes with Ti Moune's desires to grow. Like his wife, Tonton Julian has a strong relationship and deep respect for the Gods.

Ti Moune (she/her/hers) – (16 - 17) or Desirée Dieu-Donné, (God-Given Desire) is a black cis-gendered girl who grows into a young woman. She spends her entire life on the island of Haiti. She is an inspired, passionate person with intense desires and ambitions for an existence that surpasses her current circumstances. She is knowledgeable in the practice of herbal healing. To Moune's birth parents died in a great storm. She, however, managed to survive by finding shelter in the basket of a tree. The next morning, Ti Moune is found by Tonton Julian and Mama Euralie who take her in as their own child. To Moune has never left her humble village.

Daniel Beauxhomme (he/him/his) – (17 - 20) a cis-gendered, light skinned or brown, grand homme young man. He is the great grandsons of the original owner of the Hotel Beauxhomme. He has lived on the wealthy side of Haiti all his life and has many more educational and economic opportunities than the people who work in his family's hotel. He comes from generational wealth and lives a life of leisure. He probably spent time in Europe. The circumstances of his life have pushed him to find moments of agency and freedom, such as zooming down the road in his white car. He has grown up alongside Andrea and their families have pre-arranged their marriage.

Andrea (she/her/hers) – (17 - 18) a cis-gendered, light skinned or brown, grand homme young woman who has been immersed in French culture and education. Her family has been friends with the Beauxhomme family since before she was born. She, also, has had many more educational and economic opportunities than others who surround her. Andrea and Daniel spent their childhoods together. She has been promised to Daniel Beauxhomme since she was a child.

Asaka (he/him/his OR she/her/hers OR they/them/theirs) – the Haitian Voodoo God of Earth. They are abundance, they are giving, they are earthy. They are big in spirit and energy. They look upon Ti Moune with great affection. They are responsible for the vegetation on the island. This God could be played by a person who is cis-gendered, gender non-conforming, or trans-gender.

Agwe (he/him/his OR she/her/hers OR they/them/theirs) – The Haitian/Voodoo God of Water. They are big, they are powerful. They are responsible for the rains, rivers,

oceans, and storms that come to the island. This God could be played by a person who is cis-gendered, gender non-conforming, or trans-gender.

Erzulie (he/him/his OR she/her/hers OR they/them/theirs) – The Haitian/Voodoo God of Love. They believe in Ti Moune greatly. They believe that love has the power to triumph over death. They are nurturing, supportive. People ask them to send them their romantic partners. This God could be played by a person who is cis-gendered, gender non-conforming, or trans-gender.

Papa Ge (he/him/his OR she/her/hers OR they/them/theirs) – The Haitian/Voodoo Demon of Death. They are cunning and sly. They are feared by the people of Haiti. This demon could be played by a person who is cis-gendered, gender non-conforming, or trans-gender.

Storyteller 1/Armand (he/him/his) – A community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune’s Village. The founder of the Beauxhomme. He came to the island of Haiti from France during the time of Napoleon (late 1700s). Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.

Storyteller 2/Little Ti Mouse (she/her/hers) - (5 – 8) A community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune’s Village. Also a small orphan girl whose parents die during a great storm. She is spared by sheltering in a tree. She is discovered by Mama Euralie and Tonton Julian who take her in as their own child. Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.

Storyteller 3 – a community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune. Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.

Storyteller 4 – a community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune. Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.

Storyteller 5 – a community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune. Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.

Storyteller 6 – a community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune. Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.

Storyteller 7 – a community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune. Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.

Storyteller 8 – a community member who lives in the same village as Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, and Ti Moune. Performers with strong movement skill and/or dance experience would be valuable for this role.