

“IT’S TOO HARD TO HATE”

pakwatitowin

c AlixBabiak, October 14, 2017

WORKING SCRIPT

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Gwon

Cheyane

Ruth

Director's Notes: The songs: "One Life" by Hedley and "Showdown at Big Sky" by Robbie Robertson are politically correct as of this day and age. The song: "Bloodstream" by Ed Shiran has a few changes to make it politically correct. Just use person or the names. In order to do these changes, you need permission of the Artist. It is necessary to contact SIGA for music rights in Canada unless you are a non-profit organization.

OVERTURE

(Music from Carlos Nakei's Earth Spirit then lights go up on Cheyane & Gwon – like a cameo centre stage) (PAS DE DEUX)

ACT 1

SCENE 1 – CITY SCENE

(Lights go up on Gwon in street clothes, drunker than a skunk with a bottle. He is caught by a person passing by shooting up with cocaine - ALL DONE IN MIME.) (Ruth passes by, looks at Gwon shaking head and exits)

(Dancer dances to a Solo, "Bloodstream" by Ed Sheran)

Scene 2

(Lights up on Gwon and Ruth sitting on two chairs centre stage – very uncomfortable)

Ruth: Are you alright?

Gwon: (half asleep) Spent too long in the city. Just heading home . . . I left a pregnant partner.

Ruth: Have you had anything to eat? Do you want some water. (pulls out bottle of water)

Gwon: Thank you. (guzzles down the bottle of water)

Ruth: Where is Home?

Gwon: Norway House.

Ruth: It's a long way to go. I am just waiting for my partner to pick me up. I was on my way to Flin Flon and my meeting got cancelled. So we both can't win today. Listen, I know you aren't feeling well today, so let me tell you a story:

"I was waiting in the parking lot for my car pool person to arrive. A native person quite loopy and aggressive approached me and asked for a cigarette. It was like he was going to punch me out . . . and then came his partner. The partner was just as loopy and aggressive. I gave them both cigarettes and left yelling 'YOU WHITE FOLKS CAN ALL F-OFF'. So, I guess what I am trying to say is I am afraid of you as you are afraid of me. I also passed the St. Regis Hotel one afternoon and there was a big fight between Native People and a Native Person. So there is a big problem here in Canada."

(GWON WOKE UP)

Gwon: It's bad on the Reservations too. The Chiefs try to bring in programs like Alcoholic Anonymous, Anger Management, Suicide Prevention and Drug Rehabilitation. It's the Whites who started us drinking and a lot of us in the city can only afford rubbing alcohol.

Ruth: I took a course and in my class was a beautiful young person and two older People from various Reservations. We were studying to become Social Workers and the Native people in my class are going to be the ones who make a difference to you and your People. Have you ever gone to school and is there anything you love to do?

Gwon: I got my Grade 12 and would really like to become a teacher. I love to fish and trap but most of all I love to learn and work with young people . I also really love History.

(Lights go Down)

(Lights go back Up) (Gwon is eating a Hamburger, has a Coke and has cleaned up) (Ruth is sitting facing him with a Hamburger)

Gwon: Thank you for the Hamburger. (They are both smiling and laughing)

(They calm down)

Ruth: I used to take three week canoe trips around Lake of the Woods. At Rushing River we met an Elder. The Elder was Cree.

Gwon: So am I.

Ruth: What a cool person. The person talked of Medicine People and how lived off the land . . . in a cabin. . . trapped and fished and then he talked of his partner with sadness in the eyes. How the person must have missed the partner. How long has it been since you have seen your partner?

Gwon: (With Sadness in the Eyes) 7 months.

Ruth: I bet you are looking forward to seeing your partner.

Gwon: I am a little scared. I don't know if there is any love left at all.

Ruth: I bet your partner is a beauty!

Gwon: (With a Smile) Beautiful with a big fat belly by now.

(Lights go Up with Ruth and Gwon sitting and waiting)

Ruth: I totally lost it a number of years ago. I don't need Alcohol or Drugs to lose it. I was walking down Portage Avenue giving out cigarettes to everyone as long as they gave me matches. This landed me in the Victoria General Hospital. I was out late at night there and Security threw out and a drunken native person out of Emergency that needed help. The next morning I talked to that person about the Native Problem and gave that person \$20.00 for some food. That person was skinny and weak and nobody would help that person . Kinda like you.

You know, I think you are going to be o.k., you are going to find the funds to go back to school and become that teacher. Just remember, don't take that partner of yours for granted and treasure that little person of yours. Remember you come from Canada's First Nation.

(They dance and mime to Hedley's "One Life".)

BLACK OUT

SCENE 3 – RESERVATION SCENE

(Lights go up on a very pregnant Cheyane, Posed Hugging Gwon) (lights dimmed and the lights up) (Gwon and Cheyane holding hands walk to Centre and Cheyane Says to Gwon)

Cheyane: There is so much I have to tell you about what has been going on here on the Reservation (Mime talking then Gwon takes a pose and then Cheyane says) I was sitting in the middle of a field. I looked up at the sky and saw all the stars on a clear night. Suddenly the Northern Lights appeared. I know God is watching over us, always watching us. Yes, God’s miracles(Gwon walks up to Cheyane Centre Stage and Cheyane says) May I tell you a story that deals with sadness and how to cope with it. If you don’t make yourself happy, you will live in sorrow and pain. It is dark days on our reservation and our world. It is like “Dancing with the Wind” (nimihotwakkithowiwohai)

Gwon: You May (Gwon Exits)

Cheyane: I was sitting on a park bench by the river and the trees were blowing with the wind. The wind came up like an ocean and pushed me to the north, to the west, to the east and to the south. It was a rush . . . and then the rain set in. I always look at the trees. Yes, blowing with the wind. I pick a branch to dance with and gently move my head. It gives a sense of freedom and comfort, that love should always surround you and that love wins everytime.

As I dance a pirouette in front of the mirror. . . every time I face it, I realize I have to make a change in my life and the way we are all inside. Always to become kinder always to be good to each other. Yah, the person in the mirror tells all our secrets . . .I was looking out my window and felt there was so much hate and prejudice out there. People dying while others are laughing and yes, a tragic comedy. We have to stand together to change all of this and bring love into the world again . . . the world changed in a minute with the World Trade

Towers in New York blowing up. The world blew up that day. What I mean is everyone would be afraid of terrorism, war, hate, discrimination, crime, technology, oil spills, climate change and big brother forever more. It is all in God's and your hands. Who's hands is it really in now?

When your World Come to an End, Is there Hope?

You still have your own circle of people you love.

When you make them happy

It brings a sense of Contentment and Peace within Your Heart.

Yah, there is hope in your little circle

If you don't have anybody, be careful . . . Reach out and touch someone if you can.

Talk of yesterday and figure out in your own way

How to fix things for yourself and then for Everyone.

Without Pain, Without Glory

Only Love.

BLACKOUT

Scene 4

(Lights go up on Gwon and Cheyane walking on stage and are Carrying a fake little person. She is no longer pregnant. Cheyane put down the little person and takes position with Gwon to dance to Robbie Robertson's "Showdown at Big Sky" (finish dance with Gwon and Cheyane holding the baby, crosslegged and facing eachother)

Gwon: When I was in the city, the Elders discussed something very interesting. . . “The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms” (pulls out paper from pocket Section 15.1 goes like this . . .

Every individual is equal and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or physical or mental disabilities.”

Cheyane: (shaking her head) This just doesn’t happen in this supposed to be Free Country. Not just to our people, but look what they do to the disabled.

Gwon: It is too bad that this Charter isn’t true to us.

(Lights go down with Cameo of Gwon and Cheyane with music from Earth Spirit)