

The Boy Who Didn't Believe

The Mushuau Innu Natuashish School Players

Synopsis

This play is based on a true story. This is a story of a boy who loved his family, his culture and his values but struggled to believe in the stories his grandmother tried to pass down to him. His vision of the world was different from his elders. As he grows older and had his own children, he begins to realized just how different each generation's view of the world is getting.

Cast

Narrator.....	Yura LeMaire
Boy/Man.....	William Rich
Grandmother/Child.....	Eve Rich
Mink/Atshen.....	Latifa Rich
Keaukashu/Tshakapesh.....	Leanne Rich
Nine Tailed Fox.....	Hannah LeMaire

Narrator: This is the story of a boy. A boy who loved his family, loved his culture but wasn't ready to understand the powers of his cultures stories and spirits.

Opening Scene:

Stage right- lights turn on over a boy and grandmother. They are in a tent sitting on bows. Grandmother is talking to the boy, showing him things with her hands and the boy is not paying any attention, just fiddling with his moccasins and bows.

As the grandmother tells the story, the story is acted out on the other side of the stage.

Grandmother: Listen carefully my boy, as I tell you of how the earth was made. Long ago, Keaukashu the wolverine took all the creatures on earth in his canoe. When he was out in the water in his big canoe, he told Mink to dive down to the bottom and gather some mud and rocks. Mink did as he was asked and Keaukashu told him, that is good, we need something more. Mint dove again and came back up with moss and sticks. Eventually, Keaukashu had enough materials. He balled the materials up and began to blow on them. As he blew, the ball began to grow. By doing this, he was able to create a giant island. He let everyone go free on the island to live. But remember, while he is powerful, Keaukashu is an irritable and silly fellow. He may bless you one day and curse you the next.

Boy: Grandmother, did Keaukashu really make the earth? The earth is so big and full. It seems like its too big of a job for just one creature...

Grandmother: You don't believe the story I tell you? I would be careful with what you say. These stories are very important and it's important for you to listen carefully so you can pass the stories down to your children one day.

Boy: Okay... I'll start listening better Grandmother.

As the grandmother tells the story, the story is acted out on the other side of the stage.

Grandmother: Next, I will tell you of Atshen. Atshen is a bad creature who was fouled by tasting human flesh. They were once Innu it is said, but not anymore. There was a hero once, named Tshakapesh, Tshakapesh found a way to defeat Atshen. He saved his people then he went and grandson, are you listening?

Narrator: The grandmother struggled to get the boy to listen. She couldn't understand why the boy refused to believe in the stories she told.

Grandmother: Well, what do you believe in anyways?

Boy: (Smiles) Easy grandmother, I believe in Love!

Narrator: The grandmother laughed and began telling him of the story she was once told by a traveler from the east.

As the grandmother tells the story, the story is acted out on the other side of the stage.

Grandmother: If it's love you believe in, then I will tell you of the dangers of love. The Nine Tailed Fox is part woman, part fox. It presents itself with such beauty that men would always fall in love with her. The Nine Tailed Fox would use her beauty to charm boys. But when they were least expecting it.... she would eat their hearts from their body! The only way to defeat the nine tailed fox was to get the marble that laid in her stomach. This marble was what gave the Nine Tailed Fox supernatural powers, and if it was gone, she would die.

Boy: EEEEE, why would she want to eat their hearts? Grandmother, now you just made me afraid to find a girlfriend. Now it may be FOREVER before you get any great grandchildren!

Grandmother: (Laughs) So, you believe in that story?

Boy: Well, no.. it just makes me worried that's all.

Narrator: The grandmother was pleased that she scared the boy a little. She didn't want to ever cause he grandchildren harm but she knew that fear was a better reaction than nothing at all. She knew that deep down the boy was listening but she wasn't sure if he was also listening with his heart.

Boy: I know.. I can be stubborn. I just have a hard time believing in stories. But I will promise you one thing grandmother. Even though I do not believe in the stories I promise to listen carefully and tell each story to my own children one day just like you are telling me now.

Lights go out

Narrator: And the boy stuck to his word. The years went by and the boy grew older, fell in love and had children of his own. One evening the man brought his children into the country to tell them the stories his grandmother told him.

Scene II: Many years later, Lights up, tent, bows, children and man in tent

Boy: Get close, its time I told you of the stories your great grandmother told me when I was a child. You great grandmother was a very special woman. She was strong willed and could pair every moment in your life with a good story. She was a believer in magic and spirits and told me many stories of them. First I'll start off with the story of how the world was created. Long ago, Keaukashu, the wolverine took all the creatures on earth in his canoe...

(He notices his children are looking at their cell phones and not paying attention to him)

Boy: (clears throat) As I was saying...When he was out in the water in his big canoe, he told Mink to dive down to the bottom and gather some mud and rocks!

(he stops again because the cell phones)

Narrator: Just as his grandmother grew frustrated with him as a child, he grew frustrated with his own children's unwillingness to listen to the stories. He began to get angry and decided he would go outside for some fresh air to calm down. The boy steps outside of tent and listens to the wind, the trees and night,

*Boy lights up a cigarette and takes deep breath.
Northern lights above (green light)*

Boy: Ahh wow, the uastuskapau are so bright tonight. I remember grandmother telling me stories of them. I wish I could have those times back but with my own children..

Lights change and boy hears something. He looks offstage in the distance.

Boy: Hello? Who's there? Come friend, we have a warm tent with tea and hot food inside. Show yourself.

Silence

Boy: Come on, I know I'm not imagining things. Show yourself. I know you are real.

Out of the darkness the spirits revealed themselves. The boy was shocked and terrified. The circle the boy and begin to speak.

Keaukashu: So you finally believe that we are real!

Nine Tailed Fox: We knew one day you would.

Mink: Your grandmother always knew in her heart that you would believe on day.

The boy was speechless. He stutters.

Boy: I...I ..I cant believe its you!

Keaukashu: Aw c'mon don't start with that again! We are here.

The spirit pokes the boy in the chest and he falls over, the other spirits catch him just in time.

Boy: Would you please help me? Come in the tent and show yourselves to my children. They are too busy on their cell phones to listen to our stories. I don't want them to make the same mistake I did... Living in doubt for their whole lives.

Nine Tailed Fox: We will show ourselves to your children one day, when the time is right.

Keaukashu: But its your job to tell them stories of us so that when we arrive, they will know who we are.

Narrator: The boy agreed. The spirits then said goodbye to the boy and disappeared. But before they went, one spirit clapped his hands and all of the children's cell phones batteries died.

Children complaining and yelling from tent about phones.

Boy: (laughs and returns to tent) Alright, so now are you guys ready to hear of our stories?

Lights out

The End

