

The Ancestors Visit

By: Michael Piwas, Garfield Rich, Matshiu Rich, Nick Rich, Terence Rich, Steve Rossignol,

Set: Volleyball net, volleyballs and chairs for Innu Gym, Stop sign, phone and bushes for Roadside, Elder's Gathering, wood, lighter,

Opens in the Innu Gym, volleyball net and volleyballs around, people talking sounds plays. Character A is centered in the scene sitting on a chair tying their shoes, a second empty chair is next to them, the sound of people talking fades the narrator begins to speak

Narrator: Gus is the last person to leave the gym, as he ties his shoes someone appears.

Ancestor appears out of nowhere, startling the character

Gus: Who are you?

Ancestor: I am an Ancestor, I was a leader in my camp many years ago. We always followed the caribou when they were plentiful, but as their numbers grew smaller, there was little to eat and I passed on.

Ancestor sits on the chair next to Gus

Gus: Oh, are you a spirit? Why are you here?

Ancestor: I am a spirit, I have come to make sure our culture is still practiced. It seems to be slowly disappearing. I want to make sure our culture stays alive.

Gus: We are working on it, many people are trying to strengthen our culture.

Ancestor: Okay then, what kind of sports do you guys play nowadays?

Gus: Volleyball and ball hockey have become a huge part of our community. It is a way to have fun together through competition.

Ancestor: We used to play Innu baseball and have canoe races, we also loved competition!

Gus: We still play those sports too, we also do target practice to improve our hunting skills! Maybe things are not as different as you thought!

Ancestor: That might be true but things still seem so different from when I was alive. I still need to see more.

Narrator: The ancestor leaves to go find some other people to talk to.

Lights go dark. Music comes on. Lights turn back on showing Tyrone standing center stage, on the side of the road near a stop sign, there are a few bushes around him, he is looking at his phone, music fades.

Narrator: Tyrone is on his way home from Gus' house having just learned of Gus' experience with seeing an Ancestor.

Ancestor appears and walks toward Tyrone, stopping to stand at the stop sign next to him

Ancestor: What is that you are holding?

Tyrone: Woah! This is an iPhone. Hey you are the ancestor Gus was talking about!

Ancestor: I am! What does it do?

Tyrone: It does everything! You can talk to people, watch videos, play games and so much more!

Ancestor: We did not have those little boxes, if we wanted to talk to people we would have to walk to them and talk in person. See I knew culture was changing.

Tyrone: Hold on a second, with a phone I can look up things about our culture wherever I am. I can call my Nuhum and learn her stories even if she's miles away.

Ancestor: I guess I can see how that's useful, but on that box you are not using our language, do we still have our language?

Tyrone: I speak Innu-aimun at home with my family and when I visit my uncles, aunties and cousins. We also have Elder's Gathering, where Innu from every community in Quebec and Labrador come together and set up tents. We even have live bands come and play Innu music.

Ancestor: It is good to hear about how you still gather together to practice culture, this reminds me of the old days. I am starting to think that culture is not disappearing as much as I once thought. I would like to check out this Elder's Gathering.

Narrator: The Ancestor decides that he must check out this Elder's Gathering for himself and heads off in the direction of it.

Lights dim, music plays, lights turn back on, to Brad starting a campfire, music fades.

Narrator: Brad is setting up a fire at the Elder's Gathering when the Ancestor appears.

The Ancestor appears, walking on stage, he comes up behind Brad startling him and pointing at his lighter.

Ancestor: What's that?

Brad: It's a lighter and we use it to make fire. Hey, are you the Ancestor? I heard about you from my homies Gus and Tyrone!

Ancestor: Yes I am. I am here to check out the Elder's Gathering that Tyrone told me about.

Brad: Welcome! Everyone is enjoying the gathering, it is so peaceful out here. You are just in time for the Sweat Lodge! We are also going to see some live traditional music and feast on caribou, geese, rabbit, salmon and partridge.

Ancestor: It is not all exactly as it was, but it feels very familiar to me.

Brad: Of course throughout the years we have mixed in other cultures and languages, things have changed but we are trying our best to keep culture intact.

Ancestor: I can see that you are keeping our culture alive despite the modern day changes. I am so happy to see that our culture is still strong. I can go back to Uashku and tell the other ancestors they don't need to be worried.

Narrator: Feeling at peace, the Ancestor returns to Uashku knowing that Innu culture remains strong.

Lights close, curtain closes

Cast

Narrator : Steve Rossingol

Ancestor : Terence Rich

Gus : Michael Piwas

Tyrone : Matshiu Rich

Brad : Nick Rich

Crew

Stage/Music Manager: Garfield Rich

Directors: Ralph Clarke, Ava Provencher

Prop List:

Volleyball net with poles

Volleyballs

2 Chairs

Stop sign

Bushes cut outs

Phone

Lighter

Wood